

The GayZette



Published by the Rainbow Outreach Metro Omaha GLBT Community Center

Westboro's Tires Slashed at Funeral

By Advocate.com Editors

When members of the Westboro Baptist Church finished protesting the funeral of a fallen Army sergeant Saturday, they returned to their car only to find their tires slashed.

The protesters were unable to find anyone in McAlester, Okla., where the protest took place, who would repair the front and back passenger-side tires that were damaged, according to the Tulsa World. Eventually, a truck from AAA was called to tow the van to a nearby Walmart for repairs.



An estimated crowd of 1,000 counter-protesters met the small group from Westboro, who were confronted by chants of "USA, USA" and motorcyclists revving engines to drown out the sound of the Westboro protesters.

The funeral was for Army sergeant Jason James McCluskey.

The antigay church is known for protesting the funerals of fallen military personnel and spreading their message that God hates America because of the country's tolerance of gay people.

Transgender Candidate Wins Judicial Race

By Advocate.com Editors

The first openly transgender judge in US history has officially been elected.

Victoria Kolakowski, a 49-year-old patent attorney, won with 51% of the vote over deputy district attorney John Creighton, the Associated Press reports. The November 2 race had been too close to call because provisional and absentee ballots had yet to be counted.

"We are absolutely thrilled that the people of Alameda County, California have elected Victoria Kolakowski to be their next superior court judge," Transgender

Law Center executive director Masen Davis told The Advocate Tuesday. "We're fortunate that the voters judged Vicky on her merits."



Prior to her election, Kolakowski served as an administrative law judge for the California Public Utilities Commission (administrative law judges are under the legislative branch of the government, not the judiciary). She was also cochair of the Transgender Law Center's board of directors.

Kolakowski was one of several LGBT candidates supported nationwide in this election cycle by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund — candidates who included David Cicilline, the Providence, R.I., mayor who will be the fourth openly gay representative in the next congressional session.

PRIDE 2011

Yes, it IS just around the corner! More information about dates and locations will be coming out very soon. In the mean time, we are reaching out to those who are interested in merchandise, organizational, business or personal use booths for Pride 2011.

Please email us with your information and we will add you to our email list that will keep you up to date and informed on what we are doing and when both rental information is ready. Please send your name, email address and who/what you are representing to pridetaskforce@gmail.com

November 19, 2010 - December 3, 2010

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All ads should be emailed to Gayzette@cox.net. Checks should be made payable to Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center. 10% Discount for on-going ads of any size. Payment and ads may also be delivered to the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center, P.O. Box 8583, Omaha NE 68108 on or before the deadline. We reserve the right to refuse any ad which we deem to be inappropriate.

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Marriage Equality Secure in Iowa after Election

By Mike Yowell, President, Council Bluffs Community Alliance

Although the three Iowa Supreme Court justices who were up for retention were removed from the bench, there is good news from the election. First, the Iowa Senate will stay in Democratic hands. Thanks to our allies in the Iowa Senate including Council Bluffs own Senator, Mike Gronstall, that means a constitutional amendment can't be put to a vote of the people anytime soon. The earliest an amendment could conceivably go to voters would be in 2016...if ever. That's at least six more years of educating the public about marriage equality. And time is on our side.

Secondly, the conservative extremists blinked. They took their eye off the ball. They decided to go after the three Supreme Court judges for revenge rather than promote a constitutional convention. Iowa voters get to decide once every 10 years if they want a constitutional convention or not. If conservatives had pushed for and passed a vote on a constitutional convention, it would have happened later this year and there is a good chance marriage equality would have been the central issue of the convention. However, the call for a constitutional convention failed by a margin of 2 to 1. So, that proverbial convention has now been kicked down the road 10 years. It will no longer be an issue for us.

And, finally, district court judge Robert Hanson was retained on the bench with 66% voting in favor of retention. Judge Hanson was the first judge to rule in favor of marriage equality in Iowa, doing so in his district court. After one gay couple was married, he put a stay on his decision until the Iowa Supreme Court could rule. The conservatives didn't go after him and, without the negative attention of a multimillion dollar hate campaign, Iowans voted to retain him in office. This means that without the influence of the out-of-state hate groups, the Supreme Court justices would have survived as well.

So, although other election results might look less than positive, we still have marriage equality in Iowa. And we will continue to have marriage equality in Iowa. It's not going away!

Teacher Stood Up Against Antigay Comments

By Advocate.com Editors

A Michigan high school teacher suspended for telling a student to leave his class says he felt compelled to act because of antigay comments.

Jay McDowell, an economics teacher in Howell, Mich., was suspended for a day without pay for kicking out the student, who said he "[doesn't] accept gays" because of his religion, according to the Associated Press.



(Continued on page 6)

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(Teacher Stood Up Against Antigay Comments, Continued from page 4)

"The classroom discussion was heading in a direction I didn't want it to head," McDowell said.

But McDowell received support from students last week at a school board meeting: Fourteen-year-old Graeme Taylor urged the school board to reverse McDowell's suspension and grant him his pay.

"This teacher, whom I fully support, finally stood up and said something," Taylor said. "I've been in rooms — in classrooms — where children have said the worst things. The kinds of things that helped drive me to a suicide attempt at only 9 years old."

A video of Taylor's comments to the school board has been pulled from YouTube due to a copyright claim but can be found at the Livingston County Press & Argus website.



Comfortable Complacency or Full Equality?

by Marcus Fender

June 28, 1969: Police raid the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village. Transgender activist Silvia Rivera removed her high heel and threw it at Police starting the Stonewall Riots, the start of the modern LGBT rights movement.

January 8, 1978: Harvey Milk was sworn in to public office and became the first openly gay man in the United States to win election for public office.

November 27, 1978: Harvey Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone were murdered in San Francisco City Hall by former Board of Supervisors member Dan White.

October 11, 1987: National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights drew over 500,000 people.

December 1, 1993: Luke Sissy Fag (Montgomery) interrupted a World AIDS Day speech by President Bill Clinton stating "Talk is cheap, and we need action. While I and my community are dying in ever increasing numbers, all you do is talk."

December 31, 1993: Brandon Teena, a transgender man was repeatedly raped and then murdered in Humboldt, Nebraska.

May 7, 1996: Representative Bob Barr of Georgia introduced the Defense of Marriage Act to Congress; in September of that

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same year, President Bill Clinton signed DOMA into law.

October 7, 1998: Matthew Shepard was robbed, pistol whipped, tortured and tied to a fence and left to die.

October 12, 1998: Matthew Shepard was pronounced dead at Poudre Valley hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado.

March 6, 2000: Civil Unions are approved in Vermont.

November 2, 2000: Initiative 416 passed with 70% of the votes in favor of banning same-sex marriage and civil unions in the state of Nebraska. It became Article 1 Section 29 of the Nebraska Constitution which states "Only marriage between a man and a woman shall be valid or recognized in Nebraska. The uniting of two persons of the same sex in a civil union, domestic partnership, or other similar same-sex relationship shall not be valid or recognized in Nebraska."

February 28, 2008: In an open letter to the LGBT community, Barack Obama stated that he supports the complete repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act and Don't Ask, Don't Tell. He also said that he would place the full weight of his administration behind the passage of the Matthew Shepard Act and a fully inclusive Employee Non Discrimination Act

June 16, 2008: Same-sex marriage became legal in California.

November 2, 2008: Same-sex marriage was put to a vote of the people and defeated by a majority vote.

April 3, 2009: Same-sex marriage becomes legal in the State of Iowa when the State's Supreme Court found that denying the right to marry to same sex couples was incompatible with the Equal Protection Clause of the US Constitution.

October 11, 2009: LGBT March on Washington draws a crowd of 250,000.

November 2, 2010: Three Iowa Supreme Court Judges were voted out of office by voters because they ruled in favor of same-sex marriage.

Today: We still wait for President Barack Obama to sign a stop loss order to bring an immediate halt to the discharges of LGBT Military personnel.

Today: We wait for the passage of a fully inclusive Employment Non Discrimination Act that Mr. Obama advised he would "place the full weight" of his administration behind.

Today: We wait for the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act

Today: We wait for equality in housing and employment after the Omaha City Council cowardly denied our rights to both. Do we continue to wait? Do we stay in this place of comfortable complacency because we have accept the mediocre "favors" that have been provided to us by politicians in this country? NO! We must stand up, raise our voices and fend off the evils of complacency in order to have a shot of receiving the full equality that we so badly want and deserve. We can no longer

(Continued on page 8)

allow ourselves to be made the victim because we are afraid or because we accept the “small favors” that some politicians feel they have provided us just to quiet us down or make us happy.

I am no longer happy with where our community stands when it comes to equality and you should no longer be happy with the lack of full equality for our community either.

Today, in the words of Harvey Milk, “I ask my gay sisters and brothers to make the commitment to fight; for themselves, for their freedoms and for their country. We will not win our rights by staying quietly in our closets. We are coming out to fight the lies, the myths and the distortions.”

The Impact of Foreclosure Moratoriums on LGBT Home Sellers

Over the past several weeks many of the nation’s largest mortgage companies and banks – including Bank of America, J.P. Morgan, and others – have imposed temporary moratoriums on foreclosures. The decision to halt those proceedings against borrowers came about abruptly and was directly prompted by one of the most unusual twists in the ongoing mortgage crisis. This time it involves potential fraud and forgery that has helped some foreclosure attorneys make a lavish fortune off of contracts with lenders – while resorting to questionable legal tactics that resulted in evictions and foreclosure repossessions. The shocking revelations of highly unethical and seriously erro-

neous foreclosure procedures that left huge gaps in legal documentation could wreak havoc on lenders across the nation. Meanwhile officials in all 50 states have launched investigations into the mess and professional mortgage investors around the world are threatening legal action against banks and other lenders. But what most LGBT home sellers want to know is how this bizarre new chapter in the continuing saga of America’s foreclosure crisis might affect their own efforts to market and sell property.

Although it remains to be seen how this current legal situation will unfold, many real estate experts predict that the short-term impact on sellers may be positive, not negative. That is because despite the many unanswered questions regarding how banks and other lenders provided justification for their foreclosures, one thing is absolutely certain. Removing the vast inventory of foreclosure properties from the housing market – even if it is only for a short period of time – means that LGBT home sellers have less competition for their own listings. Both individual home shoppers and professional property investors will have no distressed properties to bid on as long as the foreclosure moratorium remains in place, and that means that there will be a larger pool of potential buyers for other homes. Heading into the colder months of the year there are usually fewer properties on the market anyway, and it now appears that with the majority of foreclosures in legal limbo there will be even less inventory to choose from for those who want to purchase between now and springtime.

There is also the possibility that the court system will treat the oversights and mistakes of lenders and their lawyers with leniency and that these moratoriums may not last very long. In that case LGBT home sellers may soon find lots of foreclosures

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back on the market – even in their own neighborhoods. Whenever that happens it tends to weigh down prices while it also creates a drag on appraisal valuations. But this time around those distressed properties may pose less of a threat since buyers shopping for foreclosures are going to be a lot more wary, hesitant, and skeptical. That's because there is still the possibility that courts may rule in individual cases that a foreclosure was done illegally or fraudulently. When that happens the title to the property reverts back to original owner and turns into a huge legal and financial mess for everyone involved. Title companies in some parts of the country, for instance, are already refusing to offer insurance of clear title on some foreclosure homes. Thanks to so much lingering uncertainty and growing nervousness the foreclosure markets will likely cool off considerably for the next year or so, leaving LGBT sellers with much less seller competition.

Regardless of which way the current scandal breaks, LGBT sellers need to be intelligent and pragmatic about their pricing. Unrealistic pricing is the main reason why sellers are having trouble finding buyers these days, and when there are comparable homes on the market that are selling at more affordable prices those will always sell first. But for those LGBT sellers who are keeping tabs on local prices and have their properties listed in a reasonable price range, there is some encouraging news.

According to a recent CNN report, for example, the average time on the market for homes in California – one of the states hit hardest by the bursting real estate bubble and spike in foreclosures – shrank to approximately 44 days in July. That was long before the foreclosure moratoriums were put into place, and this time last year the average time on the market around the nation was about 10 months – or 300 days. Typically any-

thing less than 40 days is the sign of a healthy market, and when the time on the market shrinks to less than 30 days in the wake of a deep recession it is a bullish signal. Meanwhile interest rates on safe fixed-rate mortgages recently fell to their lowest levels in history, offering an almost irresistible incentive to qualified buyers throughout the entire USA. In October 30-year rates fell below 4.20 percent, for instance, and homebuyers can also find 15-year fixed rate loans for about 3.65 percent. That's a fantastic boost for LGBT home sellers everywhere.

To find real estate professionals devoted to serving the LGBT community, visit www.GayRealEstate.com, or call toll free 1-888-420-MOVE (6683). The site is home to the largest online network of LGBT Realtors in the world.

NO ONE MY AGE IS ATTRACTIVE

Michael Kimmel
[beyondtherapy@cox.net]



Real intimacy is scary. While we all think we should want it, it's a lot of work: it forces us to look at ourselves and see the dark side (the Darth Vader in us all) as well as the well-adjusted face we show to the world. One way to avoid real intimacy and all the work it requires is by choosing unsuitable partners. Many people say they want a long-term relationship, but have never had one. How could this be? From my work as a psychotherapist, I've seen a lot of clients who are split down the middle in the relationship department: one part of them likes to keep it light and sex-based, and the other part of them wants more. There's a tug-of-war going on in their brain and they tell me they feel "stuck". Sound familiar?

Another good way to never find a partner is to find people your own age unattractive. Let's call it, "Ageism". For us LGBT folks, ageism is so easy to buy into that most of us don't give it a second thought. Both gay and straight media make big bucks by pushing youth in the form of predominantly white, hairless, slim but defined, perfect-looking young men and women with no fat, no wrinkles and no maturity. These idealized beings (often photoshopped to death) are used to sell us products that we think we need to stay desirable and attractive. While these amazing looking young people may be beautiful fantasy objects, with rare exceptions, they're not good potential partners. Psychologically, someone 21-27 (the age of most fashion models) is in a very different place than someone in their 30's, 40's or older. In general, this developmental stage (early to late 20's) is about experimentation, having fun, getting laid, discovering who you are, what you like and beginning to spec out a future path for yourself.

As we LGBT men and women approach the end of our thirties, most of us are looking for something more meaningful than mere experimentation: we've done the bars, the clubs, the parties and we want more. We've had fun sex and been out all night more than we can count, but now we want something with depth and meaning. We want to connect with another person and see if we can create a good life together. From my work as a psychotherapist, this is what most people in their thirties and forties are after: a good healthy relationship where each person helps the other to become the man or woman he/she wants to be. This is wonderful, productive but hard work. It takes real commitment and maturity, and most young people just aren't there developmentally, emotionally or spiritually.

For some folks, being with a much younger lover is about control. It is a reaction to an earlier time in their life when they felt out of control (and probably were). These men and women enjoy playing the "older, wiser" lover who may want to help or even mentor a younger person. But are there strings attached? You betcha! Usually the strings are about being in control of the relationship and not threatened or challenged by the younger partner. Someone your own age may scare the shit out of

you, because they're playing the game at your level (or above). Picking much younger partners is one way to avoid acting your age. It lets you avoid having a partner who challenges you to be the mature man or woman you can be, will call you on your shit and kick your ass when it needs kicked.

Some of my clients say that they like the youthful bodies of young people: smooth, sleek, and slim with perfect skin. Well, honestly, who wouldn't like to look like that? But few of us have ever possessed the look of youthful perfection. And if we did, we couldn't hold onto it, no matter how much plastic surgery or personal training we bought. Many young people are beautiful, you can get lots of agreement for that. But what about the beauty of 30-, 40-, 50-, 60- and 70-year-old men and women? And let's be real about the ageism in our community. It's used to sell sexy underwear, skin supplies, magazines, porn...and it can destroy our self-esteem.

If you find that it's impossible to be attracted to someone around your age, it may help to talk with a therapist about this. It may take some work to find out where your "twink" obsession comes from and how to free yourself from it. There's nothing wrong with finding young people attractive, but this kind of "obsession" can prevent you from hooking with someone hot, beautiful and more mature - someone who could potentially be a good lover/long term partner for you.

Zoo to Gay Culture: You Will Mate

By Advocate.com Editors

Officials at a zoo in Germany are planning to separate two male vultures who have spent the last several months making a nest together so they can mate one with a female.

Gay groups are protesting a decision by the Allwetterzoo in Münster to take one of the males and mate him with a female vulture at a Czech zoo.

Allwetterzoo curator Dirk Wewers says the zoo is in need of baby vultures.

"They weren't happy as a gay couple anyway — the other vultures picked on them and stole their nest materials," Wewers said.



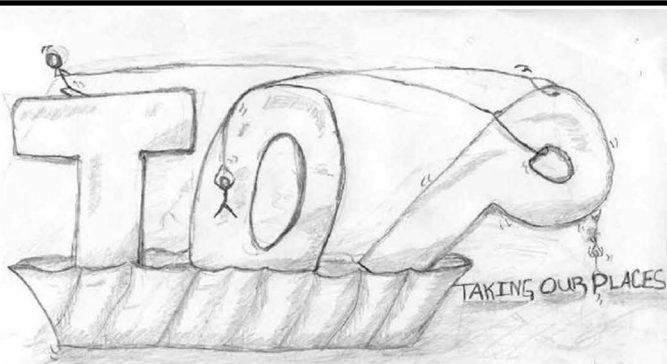


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A Midwestern DADT Repeal Effort

By Advocate.com Editors

With the clock ticking on repealing "don't ask, don't tell" during the congressional lame-duck session, representatives with Servicemembers Legal Defense Network are pushing for public support in Ohio and Indiana, seeking to influence senators who may be key votes for a legislative end to the policy.

Indiana senator Richard Lugar and outgoing Ohio senator George Voinovich are among 14 senators identified by SLDN as lawmakers crucial to repealing the 1993 law as part of the defense spending bill. On Tuesday, Maj. Gen. Dennis J. Laich and Maj. Mike Almy, who was discharged under the policy in 2006, spoke at a Dayton, Ohio rally; Laich will speak at another rally in Bloomington, Ind., on Thursday.

"Sen. John McCain wants repeal language stripped out of the defense bill so he is not forced to take an on-the-record vote against funding the troops, and he wants the Democrats to give in to his outrageous demands," SLDN executive director Aubrey Sarvis said in a statement.

"We have to stand up against this bullying. Repeal advocates must urge their senators to call up the defense bill as reported out of the Armed Services Committee and pass it before the Senate goes home for the year, and it is important that repeal supporters in Ohio and Indiana do so this week," Sarvis said.

Bagel Protest Plans to "Schmear" NYC Mayor

By Julie Bolcer

New York City HIV/AIDS activists plan to protest the annual World AIDS Day Bagel Breakfast to be held by Mayor Michael Bloomberg next month with a "schmear" campaign.

According to Housing Works, "dozens of outraged bagels," or activists, will picket the breakfast on December 1 outside the Brooklyn Public Library. Then the "bagels" will join the 24-hour vigil in City Hall park, where New Yorkers read the names of those lost to AIDS.

The angry activists intend to "schmear" the mayor, they say, for professing commitment to AIDS funding for the past three years at the breakfast, only to propose budget cuts shortly afterward that disproportionately threaten low-income New Yorkers living with the disease.

"Mayor Bloomberg is like Marie Antoinette. His attitude to poor people with AIDS is 'Let them eat bagels!'" said Housing Works CEO and president Charles King, who provided the middle name of "Sesame." "We bagels refuse to be implicated in the mayor's World AIDS Day hypocrisy. I invite all New Yorkers to join us on December 1."

Among their grievances, the activists say that Mayor Bloomberg pressured Gov. David Paterson this year to veto a bill that would have ensured that low-income people living with HIV

spend no more than 30% of their salary on rent. The mayor and governor argued the city could not afford the measure. Activists, joined by out state senator Thomas Duane, staged a die-in last week to protest the veto.

Don't Touch Peter LaBarbera's Junk

By Advocate.com Editors

Peter LaBarbera, president of the antigay group Americans for Truth About Homosexuality said Tuesday that gay Transportation Security Administration workers should be barred from performing airport screening pat-downs for fear they might overindulge in frisking passengers of the same sex.



A seasoned antigay activist, LaBarbera said that rules prohibiting airport screeners from doing pat-downs of opposite-sex passengers should go further — for starters, that gay employees be barred from such screening activities altogether. "The reality is, most traveling men would not want Barney Frank to pat



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them down at the airport security checkpoint," LaBarbera said. "Neither would it be fair to assign Ellen DeGeneres to pat down female travelers."

"To allow homosexual agents to conduct same-gender pat-downs is tantamount to a new form of discrimination that must be recognized and prevented," LaBarbera said.

Cindy McCain Named to "The Ridiculist"

By Julie Bolcer

Cindy McCain earned a position on "The Ridiculist," a new hypocrisy-exposing segment on CNN's Anderson Cooper 360, for an about-face on "don't ask, don't tell" that Cooper called "one of the most brazen flips-flops we've seen in years."

Cooper pointed out Mrs. McCain's recent appearance in an ad for the No H8 campaign, where she stated her forceful opposition to the military ban. The announcement created buzz because her husband, Sen. John McCain, has vowed to lead a filibuster to prevent the discriminatory policy from being repealed during the lame-duck session of Congress, which started this week.

Shortly following her appearance, however, Mrs. McCain tweeted to clarify that while she supports the No H8 campaign, she stands by her husband's position on the military policy.

"What happened between the video taping and that tweet?" asked Cooper. "We have no idea, but it can't have been too pretty," he said.



Four Years in Jail for Spreading HIV

A Michigan man faces four years in jail and a \$5,000 fine if convicted on charges of having sex with multiple women and not telling them he is HIV-positive. Cordlin Comer of Grand Rapids was arraigned Monday on two counts of sexual penetration with an uninformed partner, according to WWMT News. The charges stemmed from encounters in April and June of 2009.

Earlier this month another HIV-positive man in Michigan accepted a plea deal for biting his neighbor on the lip. The HIV-positive man, Daniel Allen, previously faced bioterrorism

charges.

Gay Couples Wed on Frontierville

By Michelle Garcia

The CEO of the online gaming company behind Facebook favorites like Farmville, Mafia Wars, and Frontierville said there are 650,000 same-sex marriages between Frontierville users internationally.

Zynga CEO Mark Pincus touted recent successes by his expanding empire of 1,300 employees and 320 million overall users at the Web 2.0 Summit in San Francisco.

Speaking about the high number of gay and lesbian couples registered on Frontierville alone, he said, "That's amazing, that's probably more than any country in the whole world," according to Tech Crunch.

The 2000 U.S. Census shows 594,391 gay and lesbian couples living together in the United States, but the census did not signify whether those couples were married, in domestic partnerships, or in civil unions.

Gay Texas Couple Holds E-Marriage Via Skype

By Advocate.com Editors

Marriage for same-sex couples is not legal in Texas, so Dallas couple Mark Reed and Dante Walkup married via teleconference with Skype in a wedding officiated from Washington, D.C.

According to the Dallas Voice, Reed and Walkup, who own a lighting business, married last month in front of 80 people with a screen behind them. They received their marriage license in the mail shortly after the wedding.

"It's called 'e-marriage,' and it's a sort of high-tech version of the proxy wedding traditionally held when one of the parties can't be physically present — because, for example, they're in the military stationed overseas," reports the Voice.

However, Reed and Walkup did have to travel to D.C. to register before the wedding, and they said the validity of the e-marriage procedure could be challenged in court. They are also fighting the Dallas Morning News to publish their announcement in the "weddings," and not the "commitments," section, the Voice reports.



(Continued on page 17)

GAYZETTE EVENTS

Rainbow Outreach
Metro Omaha GLBT Center
1719 Leavenworth, Omaha
 (mail address: PO Box 8583 Omaha NE 68108)

NEW WALK-IN HOURS

Saturdays 4:00PM - 11:00PM
 Sundays 4:00PM - 6:00PM
 Thursdays 7:30PM - 9:00PM
 Fridays 6:00PM - 11:00PM

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

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

CHURCH OF OMAHA 819 S. 22nd St., 345-2563 Sunday Worship 9am and 11am & Wednesday Worship at 7pm

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

RIVER CITY II MIXED BOWLING, 3pm, Maplewood Lanes, starting again after Labor Day

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

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

WIMMIN'S SHOW, KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

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

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

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

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS REHEARSALS, 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 anderson@hastings.edu or Judy Sandeen at jsandeen@hastings.edu for further information.

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

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

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

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

KARAOKE W/ STACY 9:00 pm, at DC's Saloon

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 4:00pm, Thursday and Friday Walk-In from 5pm to 9pm, & at the Respect Clinic walk-in from 5:30pm to 7pm

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

WORSHIP SERVICES
MCC OMAHA, Bible Study, 7pm

Every Thursday
CONNECTIONS THIRSTY THURSDAYS
 Club Passion Party

DANCE LESSONS WITH GORDON 7pm, free, DC's Saloon, Classes run from Sept 9th thru May 20th annually

KARAOKE W/ STACY 9:00 pm, at DC's Saloon

NAP HIV TESTING 5pm- 9pm walk-in, 250 So. 77th, Same day results

OMAHA GLBT SPORTS LEAGUE, playing Softball every Thursday 6-10pm, at Churchich park (50th and C). Games will be played through August 12th

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 information call 402-384-8014

DJ & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT at Connections Bar, theme nights and shows

GLBT CENTER YOUTH NIGHT, 6PM to 11PM, for ages 13 to 23. Youth sponsored and organized activities, under adult supervision. Every Friday, excluding holidays. 1719 Leavenworth Street, snacks, soda's provided

NAP HIV TESTING 5pm- 9pm walk-in, 250 So. 77th, Same day results

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

DIXIE AFTER DARK, Enjoy Breakfast at Dixie Quicks Restaurant, 12AM to 4AM, every Saturday night, 1915 Leavenworth St., Proceeds benefit local GLBT organizations

DJ MUSIC AND DANCING 10PM, Connections Bar (open Thurs., Fri., Sat. nights from 6PM to 2AM)

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

Every Other Friday

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 ANONYMOUS 4pm, Augustana Lutheran Church 3647 Lafayette Ave., Info call Mark 639-3055

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

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

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY

CBCA SOCIAL GET-TOGETHER at
Broadway Joe's (34th & Broadway in CB)
starting at 5:15pm every other Friday

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Tuesday

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

1st Wednesday

FREE RAPID HIV TESTING, 8pm to 10pm
at Flix 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: GOglbt@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 Saturday

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

RIVER CITY GENDER LLIANCE, at 7:00
pm . See www.rivercitygenderalliance.org

2nd Thursday

PFLAG- OMAHA, 7pm to 9pm, First United
Methodist Church

2nd Saturday

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

TOP TRANSGENDER DROP-IN, 6 to 9pm
at Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center, 1719 Leav-
enworth St.

3rd Monday

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

PFLAG SOUTH CENTRAL (HASTINGS, NE)

Meeting on 3rd Mondays at First Con-
gregational United Church of Christ, 7th and
Marian St., 7PM, email to
jsandeen@inebraska.com or call 402.462.2961
or 402.460.8696

3rd Thursday

COFFEE HOUSE Unitarian Church, 6300 A,
Lincoln

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

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

4th Tuesday

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

YOUTH HIV TEST Lighthouse, 2530 N, Lin-

coln, ages 13 to 18, FFI: 475-3220. 3-
5:30 pm

4th Friday

**LEO - LEATHER ENGINEERS OF
OMAHA**, Not currently meeting.

**Email Your Event to:
GAYZETTE@COX.NET**

TEXAS BEER JOINT SUES A CHURCH

In a small Texas town, (Mt. Vernon) Drum-
mond's bar began construction on a new build-
ing to increase their business.

The local Baptist church started a campaign to
block the bar from opening with petitions and
prayers.

Work progressed right up till the week before
opening when lightning struck the bar and it
burned to the ground.

The church folks were rather smug in their
outlook after that, until the bar owner sued the
church on the grounds that the church was
ultimately responsible for the demise of his
building, either through direct or indirect ac-
tions or means.

The church vehemently denied all responsibil-
ity or any connection to the building's demise
in its reply to the court.

As the case made its way into court, the judge
looked over the paperwork. At the hearing he
commented, 'I don't know how I'm going to
decide this, but as it appears from the paper-
work, we have a bar owner who believes in the
power of prayer, and an entire church congre-
gation that does not.'

Big People Words

A group of kindergartners were trying very
hard to become accustomed to the first grade.
The biggest hurdle they faced was that the
teacher insisted on NO baby talk!

'You need to use 'Big People' words,' she was
always reminding them.

She asked Chris what he had done over the
weekend.

'I went to visit my Nana.'

'No, you went to visit your GRANDMOTH-
ER. Use Big People words!'

She then asked Mitchell what he had done. 'I
took a ride on a choo choo.'

She said 'No, you took a ride on a TRAIN.
You must remember to use 'Big People'
words.'

She then asked little Zach what he had done.
'I read a book,' he replied.

'That's WONDERFUL!' the teacher said.
'What book did you read?'

Zach thought real hard about it, then puffed
out his chest with great pride and said,

'Winnie the SHIT.'

Senile Seniors

An elderly couple was celebrating their
sixtieth anniversary. The couple had
married as childhood sweethearts and had
moved back to their old neighborhood
after they retired. Holding hands, they
walked back to their old school. It was
not locked, so they entered, and found the
old desk they'd shared, where Andy had
carved 'I love you, Sally.'

On their way back home, a bag of money
fell out of an armored car, practically
landing at their feet. Sally quickly
picked it up and, not sure what to do with
it, they took it home. There, she counted
the money-fifty thousand dollars!
Andy said, 'We've got to give it back.'
Sally said, 'Finders keepers.' She put the
money back in the bag and hid it in their
attic.

The next day, two police officers were
canvassing the neighborhood looking for
the money, and knocked on their door.
'Pardon me, did either of you find a bag
that fell out of an armored car yesterday?'
Sally said, 'No'.

Andy said, 'She's lying. She hid it up in
the attic.'

Sally said, 'Don't believe him, he's getting
senile'

The cops turned to Andy and began to
question him. One said: 'Tell us the
story from the beginning.'

Andy said, 'Well, when Sally and I were
walking home from school yesterday'
The first police officer turned to his part-
ner and said, 'We're outta here!'

GLBT RESOURCE LIST

OMAHA BASED

Alphabet (ABC) Soup at UNO,
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uno_abcoup,
Phone Student Organizations at 554-2711.

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

Diamond Foundation, making a difference through music and education, call 877-87-DIAMOND/www.diamond-foundation.org

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

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

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

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

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

Flat Water Bears, (group disbanded)

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

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

GayLibrary.com, World Wide Resources

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

Heartland Gay Rodeo Association, see www.hgra.us for information

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, Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center, www.icon.impcourt.org

Inclusive Life Care & Service Group 105 S. 49th Street Omaha 68132
Spiritual-Interfaith-Secular Care & Service for all Individuals, Couples and Families www.inclusivelife.org 402-516-8475

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, not currently meeting

LinOma Bares, for more Info email linomabares@yahoo.com or mail to P.O. Box 24547, Omaha NE 68124

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 819 S. 22 St., Omaha 68108 345-2563, mccomaha@mccomaha.org
Website: www.mccomaha.org Sunday Worship 9am and 11am, Wed. Worship at 7pm

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., testing Wed from 1:30-4PM by appointment only, Thurs & Fri 5PM-9PM with 20 minute results Call 402-552-9255 for info

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

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

Nebraska Pride IDOL, PO Box 241733, Omaha NE 68124, 866-4-NE-IDOL, 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., Contemporary service Saturday night at 5:30pm

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

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

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

Omaha GLBT Professionals, Contact omahaglbtprofessionals@cox.net for more info.

Omaha Metro GLBT Sports League, See www.omahaglbtsportsleague.org 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

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 at 7pm, 1st United Methodist Church, 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 Celebrations, PO Box 8488, Omaha, 68108, call 866-NE-PRIDE toll free, sponsors of annual Gay Pride & National Coming Out Day, for complete info see www.rainbowcelebrations.org

River City Gender Alliance, for info see www.rivercitygenderalliance.org

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

SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH, 3012 South 119th Street, 402-334-0537, www.secondunitarianomaha.org, GLBT 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

TOP, Taking Our Places, meets 2nd Saturdays at 6pm at Rainbow Outreach Center

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

WomenSpace, no current info is available

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

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>

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

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

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

Nebraska AIDS Project, Lincoln, 1921 S. 17th St. (402) 476-7000

Omaha Women's Riverboat Cruise, 4949 N. 73rd, 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/>

Planned Parenthood, F2M and Questioning Support group & Partners of FTM Support Group, meet monthly at 10am Saturday, for info call Ryan Sallans at 441-3321 or email sindu.s@gmail.com

SAGE, Box 22043, Lincoln 68542 Coffee House 2nd Sat, 6 - 9pm, Lesbian Videos

7:15pm, 3319 S. 46

Straight Spouse Support Grp 402-429-6094

TriCity GLBT, serving Central Nebraska, web site at <http://www.tri-city-glbtc.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 Community Alliance

www.councilbluffscommunityalliance.org

Council Bluffs Pride, www.councilbluffspide.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>

Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

Omaha:

Broadway Joe's Bar, 35th & Broadway	Council Bluffs IA
Connections, 1901 Leavenworth	933-3033
DC's Saloon, 610 South 14th Street	344-3103
Dixie Quick's Restaurant, 1915 Leavenworth	346-3549
Flixx, 1015 South 10th Street Omaha	408-1020
The Max, 1417 Jackson St.	346-4110
Metropolitan Community Church, 819 South 22nd Street	
Mystery Bookstore, 1414 South 13th St.	342-7343
Nebraska AIDS Project, 250 South 77th St	552-9260
Omaha Mining Co., 1715 Leavenworth	449-8703
Rainbow Outreach Metro Omaha GLBT Resource Center, 1719 Leavenworth St. (home of The Gayzette)	341-0330

Lincoln:

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

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

(New Yorkers Hail Cuomo Win. Continued from page 13)

Mormon Church: Same-Sex Attraction Not a Sin

By Advocate.com Editors

Same-sex attraction is not inherently sinful, according to a new policy change by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In a new edition of its leadership guidelines, the Mormon Church removed previous language calling for gays to repent of their "homosexual thoughts or feelings."

But LGBT Mormons must remain celibate in order to participate in temple rituals and receive church assignments known as "callings." Acting on same-sex attractions or marrying a same-sex partner remains against church policy.

In a Tuesday statement, the Reverend Harry Knox, director of the Human Rights Campaign's Religion and Faith Program, said, "We continue to disagree with the Mormon Church about fundamentally important issues like full respect for the marriages of same-sex couples, but we are encouraged that our advocacy has paid off with real movement that will help save young lives."



The new edition of the Church Handbook of Instructions eliminates an assertion that gay relationships "distort loving relationships."

Such revisions "will bless people by making it easier for them to come forward," said David Pruden, president of Evergreen, a Salt Lake City-based "ex-gay" organization. Pruden is also spokesman for the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, of which George Rekers was a board member until May, when the Miami New Times reported that the proponent of "reparative therapy" for gays had traveled to Europe with a young male escort.

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

HEY, PRICE... WE NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

IF IT'S ABOUT A THREE-SOME, I'M KIND OF BUSY TODAY.

DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF. WE WANNA' TALK TO YOU ABOUT ALL THESE CRAZY NEW POLICIES AND FEES YOU'VE CREATED AROUND HERE...

...EVER SINCE YOU BECAME KYLE'S "FINANCIAL ADVISOR".

THAT'S RIGHT. WE DON'T LIKE IT. WE WANT THINGS BACK HOW THEY WERE.

OH, DO YOU?

LOOK, PRICE... THE ONLY REASON YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH ALL THIS IS 'CAUSE KYLE'S MOM HAD HEART SURGERY LAST MONTH...

...AND HE HASN'T BEEN AROUND TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO.

YEAH. BUT ONCE HE GETS BACK... AND WE TELL HIM ABOUT ALL THE CRAP YOU'VE BEEN PULLIN'...

...HE'S GONNA FIRE YOUR ASS. AND MAYBE BOOT YOU OUTTA' THE B&B, TOO!

I HAVE TO SAY... RARELY HAVE I SEEN A MORE SELFISH COUPLE OF INGRATES.

"SELFISH"? WHAT...?

I AM TRYING TO HELP KYLE SAVE THIS B&B FROM FINANCIAL RUIN...

...AND ALL YOU TWO CARE ABOUT ARE YOUR PRECIOUS SELVES!

KYLE NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE B&B HAVING MONEY PROBLEMS.

OF COURSE NOT. HE DIDN'T WANT TO WORRY YOU OVER THE FACT THAT HIS BUSINESS IS HEMORRHAGING MONEY.

HOWEVER, THINGS ARE TURNING AROUND NOW... BECAUSE OF THE CHANGES I INSTITUTED TO KEEP THIS B&B AFLOAT.

BUT, IF YOU WANT TO RUIN THAT, THEN GO. COMPLAIN TO KYLE. DESTROY HIS BUSINESS.

NO, UH... WE WON'T SAY ANYTHING. YOU DO WHAT YOU NEED TO... TO HELP KYLE.

YEAH. WE ONLY WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR HIM.

AS DO I.

IT'S JUST TOO EASY WITH THESE MORONS...

Fitness Corner

By Ron Blake



A Christmas tree just isn't complete without the star on top. The birthday cake just isn't complete without the frosting and the candles on top. The latest thrilling novel just isn't complete when it's only read halfway. The snowman just isn't complete without the corn cob pipe and the button nose. There are plenty of things in life that lack sufficient follow through. Many of our fitness goals fall into this classification of abandon too.

The end of the year is a great time to complete those year-long New Year's resolutions. You've worked so hard and you're so close to finishing what you started. You could come up with 38 excuses and you might even be able to convince everyone that they are all legitimate. However, you know the truth and you know they are just that...excuses.

The excitement of setting a goal is visualizing the completion of that goal. When in doubt imagine others congratulating you. When in doubt imagine the look of satisfaction upon your face. When in doubt imagine it was worth the hard work and sacrifices.

Call on your friends and family and have them assist you on your last leg of your journey. It is so much better to have that wingman on your mission. Call upon these people when you are weak, tattered, and listless. These sidekicks are your black coffee that can get you moving again.

Don't ever forget your past accomplishments and all the goals you've already attained. Success begets success and there's nothing better than using those former achievements as your muse for continued accomplishments. Your goals could have been as simple as emptying the dishwasher by the end of the day or as complex as graduating high school. If you set these goals and completed them; they are now yours.

Life always has been and always will be about setting goals and either achieving them or not achieving them. The cave man was hungry and set forth a goal of finding food. The inability to attain this goal and Darwin's survival of the fittest took care of the rest. It is the same with the modern day man who is morbidly obese. He sets forth with the goal of losing 200 pounds in one year. The inability to attain this goal and Darwin's rules sound the trumpets once again.

The most difficult part of a goal is just setting the goal and starting on the journey to complete that goal. If you are nearing the end of your respective goal then it's quite likely you've made it past the most difficult part of your pathway to success. Keep pushing forward with this understanding.

Even a rose had to withstand the vicissitudes of life to emerge as a beautiful flower. It withstood the drought, the insects, the strong winds, and the late frost to become a sight to behold. Your health and fitness goals can make it to the end too. Your bouquet of roses is just around the corner. Don't give up now! This health and fitness article is brought to you by that man with precision timing. That metronomic guy is Ron Blake and he can be reached at rblake5551@hotmail.com.

Oprah and Whoopi Friends Again

By Julie Bolcer



Oprah Winfrey and Whoopi Goldberg had not spoken in years because each mistakenly thought the other was mad at her.

Goldberg appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, where the two tearfully discussed seeing each other for the first time in years recently at Tyler Perry's house. Goldberg appears in his new film *For Colored Girls*.

Oprah began to cry as she described "a divine moment" when the two women figured out there were no hard feelings between them, only mistaken assumptions. They met when both starred in *The Color Purple*, a film in which Goldberg's character, Celie, flirts with a lesbian romance that is more pronounced in the book by Alice Walker.

And the lesson from the misunderstanding? Oprah says that if you are unsure how someone feels about you, "You should just call them."

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