



Salt Lake City's First Openly Gay Mayor Takes Office With Fiancée By Her Side



She will lead the capital city of a conservative state where the Mormon Church holds sway.

Amanda Terkel, Senior Political Reporter, The Huffington Post

Jackie Biskupski was sworn in as Salt Lake City's new mayor Monday, becoming the first openly gay person to hold that position. Biskupski, a Democrat, won 52 percent of the vote in November.

"Today is not just about making history," Biskupski, 49, said after being elected. "It is about people. It is about effecting change."

Biskupski was first elected to the Utah state House of Representatives in 1998, becoming the first openly gay member of the state legislature. She was re-elected to six subsequent terms.

Her fiancée, Betty Iverson, joined her at her swearing-in ceremony Monday. The two became engaged shortly after the mayoral election.

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, posted photos of the event on Facebook:

While Salt Lake City is relatively liberal, it is the capital of a conservative state where the anti-gay Mormon Church holds considerable sway.

In November, shortly before Biskupski's win, the church upset gay rights advocates and some of its followers with its new

policy barring children living with same-sex couples from having baby-naming ceremonies and baptisms. It also declared people in a "same-gender marriage" were subject to excommunication.

On Trial for Crime Against Humanity, Homophobe Scott Lively Begs for Cash

BY NEAL BROVERMAN

Antigay Massachusetts pastor Scott Lively is having a hard time — he's currently on trial, facing a lawsuit accusing him of a crime against humanity. Lively is also broke, according to a frantic message he posted on his website last week.



Lively is spending time in a Springfield, Mass. courtroom where a judge is deciding whether to bring a precedent-setting lawsuit to trial. A Ugandan LGBT group called Sexual Minorities Uganda sued Lively over his trips to the nation in the last decade, where, they claim, he convinced local legislators to embrace antigay laws that cost them their freedom, comfort, and privacy.

The Ugandan gay rights group says Lively not only delivered hateful speeches against LGBT people, calling them "brutal," "savage," and harboring a predilection toward pedophilia, he worked with lawmakers to actively take away their rights and put them in harm's way.

In 2009 a bill was introduced in Uganda's Parliament that called for certain consensual gay sex acts to be punishable by death. It never became law; a version calling for life imprisonment did, but it was struck down by the nation's highest court. Still, homosexuality remains illegal in Uganda. Many Ugandan LGBT people live in constant fear of violence, and local gay leaders have been killed. SMUG says Lively is partly to blame for the dangerous environment and should be convicted of a crime against humanity.

SMUG was able to bring the case to court under a statute allowing foreigners to sue Americans in U.S. federal court.

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January 8th, 2016 - January 22nd, 2016

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Lively is trying to get the case tossed out and denies he's responsible for the horrible conditions that LGBT Ugandans live under.

This is how he recently put it to the The Boston Globe: "There are homosexuals who molest children. That's just a fact. But I never said that all homosexuals do that."

On his blog, Lively blames "shameless liars" in the LGBT movement for creating a campaign to destroy him. He claims a leftist cabal made him a scapegoat, before painting himself as a persecuted victim. Then he makes a plea for money.

"My friends, SMUG v Lively is truly a David v Goliath battle. I'm running a one-man office on a shoestring budget of less than \$120,000 per year, provided almost entirely by donations of \$50 and \$100 from average people. Our donor base is small, mostly elderly, and very difficult to expand due to the success of the anti-Lively propaganda. While Liberty Counsel has been funding our legal defense, this lawsuit has nevertheless caused us major financial hardship and seriously threatens our future.

"Frankly, I question whether [Abiding Truth Ministries] will survive the decade without greater support from the individuals scattered across the society who recognize the danger of the LGBT agenda and are willing to stand with us financially against it. That can only happen if the people who already support us encourage their like-minded friends and allies to donate to us."

In another post, Lively pleads for cash again, but also advocates repealing all of the U.S.'s antidiscrimination statutes protecting LGBT people as well as banning future ones. Then, he advocates that the U.S. follow Russia's lead and ban "homosexual propaganda" aimed at children, something he partially takes credit for.

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"The beauty of the Russian law is it cuts right to the heart of the real problem of LGBT advocacy: the recruitment of children. What I mean by recruitment of children is not primarily the sexual exploitation of young people by adult homosexuals, though that represents a dark current within the larger "gay" culture, especially among the men. What I mean is the normalization of homosexual conduct and culture to children and youths, leading them to engage in homosexual experimentation among themselves and subsequently self-identify as "gay." An entire generation of American, British and Canadian children has been enslaved to this corrupt culture and ideology through the very propaganda that Russia has now banned."

The 6 New Years Resolutions Gay Men Should Make

Tyler Curry encourages you to kiss off 2015 with a promise to get it right in the new year.

BY TYLER CURRY

Whether you get into resolutions or think they're total bull, the New Year represents new beginnings and new possibilities. And no matter who you are, everyone has room for improvement. So polish those dancing shoes and get ready to pop some bottles. It's time to say goodbye to 2015 and resolve to get it right in 2016.



These are the six resolutions all gay men should make.

Commit yourself to service.
Maybe it's raising money for your favorite charity or volunteering at the local LGBT youth center, make 2016 less about you and more about how you help others. Get involved in your community and establish connections with the people trying to make a change. If you don't know who your city council member is or what services are provided for the LGBT population

in your area, this is the year to get informed and do something that helps out your fellow man and woman. By doing work that benefits others, you will definitely be helping yourself.

Family

Make more time for your family.

Whether it was the one you were born into or the one you created, your family is your greatest resource and your strongest source of support. But in the chaos of your daily life, the ones you love most can sometimes take a back seat. Make a commitment to schedule more time with your family and invest in the ones who make life matter. Set a reminder to call your mother or plan a reoccurring dinner date with your siblings. No matter what you do, make this year count by making your family feel like the priority they are.

Get into yoga.

The focus on fitness is far too often centered on how you look and not enough on how you feel and how healthy your body and mind are. This year, put down the weights for a little bit and take some yoga classes. The practice of yoga is not only good exercise, but also a physical and emotional stress reliever that you need. The restorative nature of yoga will lead to a more centered you in 2016. Plus, it never hurts to be more flexible.

Trim that damn beard.

It is officially time to bid adieu to the gnarly beards of 2015. No one is saying that you have to be completely clean-shaven, but the lumberjack fantasies are as dead as the bits of meat still stuck in those untamed mops. This year, show off a more polished look by grooming your facial hair and maintaining that mug. A sharper appearance can translate to confidence and competence, and those wild whiskers aren't doing you any favors.

Cut negative people out of your life.

This year, don't sacrifice your own peace and wellbeing just because you're too nervous or intimidated to drop the hammer on toxic relationships. It isn't about the quantity of friendships you have, but the influence they have on your life. If you have someone always bringing you down — and we all do — cut the chord and make room for people who inspire you instead.

Post positive for social change.

(Continued on page 4)

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Facebook is not the place to sort your dirty laundry and posting pics of your food is so last decade. In 2016, keep those posts positive and use your social media clout for the greater good. Your social media has an impact on the folks within your circle, so find people, ideas or organizations that you believe in and make the most of your page. And by showcasing a more positive presence, people will have a greater appreciation for you, both online and in real life.

Metropolitan Community Church Gives Away Record Amount of Food!

In November we held our largest Food Giveaway to date! We gave away 232 turkeys, boxed stuffing, bread & dinner rolls, canned vegetables, potatoes, onions, carrots, soup. We provided thanksgiving dinner for 729 people from our church, our neighborhood and surrounding areas. Pastor Tom was even interviewed by KETV news, to help spread the word so that more people could participate. Five families showed up after the turkeys were all gone, but we still provided them with all the other products.

Approximately 25 volunteers showed up to help; including MCC members, friends and neighbors. I'd like to give a big thank you to all the people who helped out, some of them worked the entire 5 hours.

We are a blessed church, one of our members paid for half of the turkeys. The rest of the money was from our fireworks

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Indiana Lawmaker Introduces 'Pay To Pee' Bill For Transgender People

BY ZACK FORD

If Indiana hopes to overcome its reputation for being an anti-LGBT state, 2016 is not shaping up to be a productive year. The state's top conservative groups are suing to overturn the "fix" tacked onto last spring's "religious freedom" bill in the hope it will allow them to discriminate against LGBT people in



cities where that is prohibited. A Republican-proposed so-called LGBT nondiscrimination bill has so many religious exemptions it wouldn't actually be enforceable. And now a new bill would actually criminalize transgender people for using the restroom.

Sen. Jim Tomes (R) calls his legislation "a simple bill," and he's not wrong. SB 35 does two things. First, it would prohibit schools from ever allowing transgender students from using restrooms that match their gender identity. Students would only be identified by the sex assigned to them at birth as determined by their anatomy and chromosomes, and that sex would determine which facility they can and cannot use.

This would force schools to violate Title IX and discriminate against transgender students. The Department of Education has repeatedly found that schools can not refuse access to transgender students on the basis of their gender identity.

Then, the bill mandates that any transgender person who uses a public sex-specific restroom, locker room, or shower room that matches their gender identity has committed a "single sex public facility trespass," which it deems a Class A misdemeanor. A Class A misdemeanor is the highest non-felony charge in Indiana, punishable by up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000 dollars.

The misdemeanor charge would not apply to a student at a school, a person under the age of 18, or the usage of any private residence facility.

Though his bill erases the validity of transgender and intersex lives by defining individuals according to their chromosomes, Tomes insists his legislation doesn't target transgender people. "Shouldn't we also ask about... what about the other sector of society of people that who have all through the decades women been using women's restrooms and men been using men's restrooms and kind of like that and kind of expect that level of privacy?"

Tomes' bill mirrors similar bills introduced in Texas, Kentucky, Florida, and Nevada this past year — none of which passed. All of the measures suggested in one way or another that transgender people's use of the restroom was a threat to public safety, though all available evidence debunks this myth.

2016 could see a new round of anti-LGBT bills proposed in state legislatures. Despite the backlash for last year's Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), Indiana could be poised to lead the way yet again.

Gov. Matt Bevin Just Removed All Clerks' Names From Kentucky Marriage Licenses

BY ELIZABETH DALEY

Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin followed through on a campaign promise he made to defiantly antigay county clerk Kim Davis and today issued an executive order that revises the state's marriage license forms to remove clerks'



names from them. In a statement on his website, Bevin claimed that his executive order was fulfilling "several commitments I made during my campaign so that we can implement real solutions that will help the people of Kentucky."

Just days after Bevin was elected in November, he announced his plans to amend the state's marriage licenses, which the right-wing legal group representing Davis had long been seeking as a remedy to their client's defiance of federal law.

Davis, who still holds her job as clerk of Rowan County, had refused to sign marriage licenses following the Supreme Court decision for nationwide marriage equality, citing her Christian beliefs against same-sex marriage. She was subsequently jailed for contempt of court.

Davis and Liberty Counsel, the legal nonprofit certified as an anti-LGBT hate group by the progressive Southern Poverty Law Center, have consistently lost in their each legal efforts to defend Davis's actions. Nonetheless, last month they sought to have her conviction for contempt overturned, claiming the judge who sent her to jail was "threatening to hold her hostage indefinitely as a prisoner of her conscience."

The American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky, which represented the four couples (two straight, two gay) who sued Davis for denying them marriage licenses in July, argued that the governor's executive action only added to uncertainty over marriage licensing in Kentucky.

"The requirement that the county clerk's name appear on marriage licenses is prescribed by Kentucky law and is not subject to unilateral change by the governor," said William Sharp, legal director of the ACLU of Kentucky, in a statement.

"Today, however, a new administration claims to have that authority."

He said the ACLU is working with couples "who hold marriage licenses of questionable validity" and "will continue to challenge government officials who disregard the law in favor of promoting their own personal beliefs to the detriment of the rights of others."

Bevin wrote that he issued his executive order "to ensure that the sincerely held religious beliefs of all Kentuckians are honored."

Is It Really Harder To Come Out As Christian Than LGBT?

Christian researcher Ryan T. Anderson claims that it's harder to admit to being an evangelical Christian than it is to come out as an LGBTQ person.

Anderson made the argument at an LGBTQ business summit organized by The Atlantic, according to The Christian Post.

Anderson said: "What I see here is that if you are a conservative Evangelical at a major law firm or at an Ivy League university, you have a much harder time coming out of the closet as a conservative

(Continued on page 6)

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Evangelical than you do coming out as a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

“That’s an empirical question but my experience at Princeton, and that was a decade ago, that it was much more of a contentious subject to say that you were opposed to same-sex marriage than to say that you were in favor of it.”



Anderson made the claims while discussing the need for a national non-discrimination act to address the myriad Christian-owned businesses that are turning away same-sex couples.

He’s opposed to such an act, saying it could criminalize Christians for their views on homosexuality.

“What I would suggest,” he said, “the protections here would be market competition.

“Already 89 percent of Fortune 500 companies have voluntarily enacted non-discrimination statutes on the basis of sexual orientation. This is working its way out on a voluntary basis.”

Anderson has gone on the record as saying he believe same-sex marriage is “based on a lie.”

Earlier this year, in an interview with Sandy Rios of the American Family Association, he claimed that gay marriage advocates are akin to people who opposed interracial marriage:

“In the same way when there were some racists who tried to say that you can’t have interracial marriage, that was propaganda, it was a lie, and it failed. In the same way, trying to eliminate that marriage is about uniting the two halves of humanity, not black and white, because that’s not the two halves of humanity, the two halves of humanity, male and female, husband and wife, mom and dad, you can’t erase that, and in the long run the truth will win out.”

Ted Cruz Says Marriage Equality Ruling 'Will Not Stand'

BY TRUDY RING

Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz has once again denounced the Supreme Court’s marriage equality ruling, calling it “lawless” and “fundamentally illegitimate” during a campaign appearance with Christian right leader James Dobson in Iowa.

At the Monday event in Winterset, Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, said the Supreme Court is “absolutely killing us, especially with regard to what they’ve just recently done to marriage,” and asked Cruz his view of the court and who he’d appoint. With a slightly dated nod to pop culture, Cruz responded, “Let me quote the movie Jerry Maguire: You had me at hello,” then went on to lambaste the June 26 marriage equality ruling as well as one the court made the day before, upholding

federal subsidies for health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act.



“We saw last summer, in a period of 24 hours, two lawless decisions back to back,” said the U.S. senator from Texas.

“First the Supreme Court rewrote federal law, ignored the text of Obamacare, in order to rewrite that statute and force that failed policy, that failed law, on millions of Americans. And then 24 hours later, five unelected judges ignored the Constitution and purported to tear down the marriage laws of all 50 states. Those decisions were fundamentally illegitimate, they were lawless, and they will not stand.”

Earlier in the conversation, Cruz called on evangelical Christians to vote, claiming they failed to turn out strongly in the past two presidential elections, resulting in a government “advancing a secular agenda.”

“We have a federal government that is waging a war on life, a war on marriage, a war on religious liberty,” he said. “We have a federal government that is advancing a secular agenda that puts the ability of Bible-believing Christians to live our faith more and more in jeopardy and that is appeasing radical Islamic terrorism, in fact refuses even to acknowledge its name. And if you look at the federal government, you might say, ‘Why do we have government attacking life, attacking marriage, attacking faith, attacking religious liberty?’ Well, is it any wonder, when a majority of believers are staying home? If we allow non-believers to elect our leaders, we shouldn’t be surprised when our government doesn’t reflect our values.”

Iowa voters will state their preferences for the Republican and Democratic presidential nominees in caucuses to be held February 1st.

What Loving a Married Man Taught Me

Mark Travis Rivera



It’s late at night and I spent the majority of my day traveling from New Jersey to Las Vegas. It was my first time visiting Vegas and I was about to take part in an intensive five-day

leadership retreat that would change my life. That same night I met Tim. I looked a hot mess--sweaty, messy hair, and in desperate need of sleep. Despite all of that, when he and I shook hands, it was the beginning of our forbidden love.

The night we had our first kiss, we stood under the stars and my right leg bent and the spark felt more like fireworks. He and I went back and forth about why we shouldn't kiss. But gravity kept pulling us closer to one another until our lips met. He ran like a middle schooler who had just kissed his crush. We both laughed. Soon the laughter turned into deep breaths and moans.

I have to point out that for years I told my friends that they deserve to be with a man who would make them a priority. That they were worthy of being more than someone else's secret lover. Then I found myself falling in love with a married man. I know what you are thinking, "what a hypocrite!" That's why I am writing this piece, in order to shed light on something that has been considered taboo but so often the case in our society--being the other person is more complicated, nuanced, and less fabulous than Olivia Pope or Mary Jane make it seem.

The affair did not start the night we met. In fact, it would take days of talking about our lives and experiences before either one of us would admit to an attraction. It wasn't just that Tim was married. Tim was also a trans guy who never imagined falling in love with a cisgender gay Latino. There's also a ten-year difference between us and 3,000 miles separating him and me.

For the next few months we would speak daily. Exchanging text messages for hours. The three-hour time difference made it harder but he and I were committed to whatever it was that we had with each other. My close friends told me to cut him loose. I tried several times to break it off with him but my heart and mind were at odds. Logically I could justify ending it with Tim. Emotionally I was invested in him, in someone else's husband.

The next time Tim and I would see one another face-to-face would be in Los Angeles. I was there for a work event and he decided to take a road trip to see me. My friend told me, "it would start with concessions and end with heartbreak." But the time Tim and I spent together were some of my happiest moments of 2015. He introduced me to Jack in the Box, a burger joint--I became obsessed. Tim couldn't believe that we didn't have Jack in the Box on the east coast. I tried to introduce him to Indian cuisine but he wasn't a fan. We walked the streets of LA holding hands and the entire time I felt safe, excited, and

cared for. He made me feel comfortable in a way that no other man had been able to. I could be physically and emotionally naked with him and he would still look at me with those eyes that made me know he thought I was hella special.

As much as he made me feel special, as much as we made each other laugh, the harsh reality was that Tim was torn between two people he loved. He loved his wife, the person who stood by his side during his transition and never stopped supporting him. Tim also loved me, the person he said helped him discover more about himself.

It was after our time in LA that I realized that our love wasn't enough to make whatever we had work. We would talk about the future but deep down I knew he wasn't ready to leave his wife. I also no longer wanted to be his version of Olivia Pope.

Loving a married man taught me that love is as fluid as our sexuality and gender. We can't control who ignites the spark in us but we can set the standard for how we should be loved. Regardless of our marital status, love is complicated. When he told his wife that he was in love with me, I told him to try to make his marriage work.

I was done conceding--my integrity, heart, and spirit demanded that I get back to loving myself. So I stood up from the table and walked away because Tim became complacent with serving me love on a platter of fantasy. He was not willing to face the fact that he would have to make a choice between his wife and me. I was no longer willing to ignore the fact that I was loving a married man.

I came to learn that I was worthy of someone choosing me, even if Tim couldn't.

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Sex, Survival, And Five Things I Learned On The Poz Cruise

by Mark S King, Queerty.com contributor

Each year, several hundred people living with HIV – primarily gay men – embark on the HIV Cruise Retreat (“The Poz Cruise”) for a week of fun and frolic on the high seas. The event started with a group of poz friends and has grown. All the organizing volunteers pay their own way.



The days and nights are packed with exclusive shore excursions, private parties and all the perks of being aboard a large passenger ship — but nothing can compete with the freedom of making new friends without fearing HIV disclosure or stigma.

Queerty contributor Mark S. King returned from the most recent Poz Cruise, October 29 – November 6th, with lessons learned on board.

1. We'll take a party over another medical seminar, thank you
Poz guys are as educated about our condition as ever before, and we're no longer clamoring for the very latest bits of information. Gone are the medical update lectures that were once a staple of the week-long Poz Cruise, replaced with more socials (like the infamous Red Party, right) and events like the Dating Game.
2. When searching for friendship, cast a wide net
Years ago, the Poz Cruise provided separate events for the gay men and the (mostly female) heterosexuals. It just didn't feel right to be kept apart. The gays actually loved the sense of family the women brought onboard, and the women loved our joy and uncanny ability to nail loungewear. The groups joined forces, and today some of the deepest bonding has nothing to do with sexual orientation or any of the other ways in which we often separate ourselves from potential friendships. It's an important lesson for us all.
3. A zip line is the great equalizer
It does not matter if that hunk you have been cruising by the pool puts the mucho in macho. When you have been pushed off a wooden platform a million feet above the ground and are whizzing across a thin steel cable, everyone screams like a girl. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

4. Long term survivors are particularly hungry for community
Growing older is never a picnic – and that goes double for a gay man – but long-term HIV survivors have additional challenges ranging from survivor's guilt to post-traumatic stress disorder. “Long time survivors really love the idea of getting away from it all with friends who really get it,” said Paul Stalbaum, the travel agent who has organized the Poz Cruise for the last 12 years and is a longtime survivor himself. “That may be why so many ‘men of a certain age’ join the Poz Cruise each year,” Stalbaum added. “The older survivors bond over shared histories while the younger cruisers have a ready-made group of mature friends and mentors.” If everyone rallies together for an afternoon of mud masks on the beach, all the better.

5. Sharing our greatest challenge is the very thing that can help someone else

Before I said a word to other cruisers, I already knew them. Or at least, I knew a large and significant part of their lives. Being in each other's company, whether or not the topic of HIV came up in conversation, brought a kind of immediate intimacy that is difficult to describe. It reminded me that the meaning of life is to take that about which we have the most shame or difficulty and use it as a tool to help someone else.

The 2016 HIV Cruise Retreat is a Caribbean voyage from Ft. Lauderdale, generally in late October. Find out more at <http://cruisedesignstravel.com/about-poz-cruise/> or contact agent Paul Stalbaum at 888-640-7447.

Pharma-Bro Ousted From His Own Company After FBI Arrest

from Queerty.com

Even more bad news for pharma-bro Martin Shkreli.

The unapologetic price-gouger was arrested by the FBI and charged with securities fraud. Today, his company, Turing Pharmaceuticals, announced he has officially “resigned” as CEO.

Fired a week before Christmas. That's gotta hurt. Of course, this isn't the first time the 32-year-old douche bag has been ousted from his own company.

In 2014, Shkreli was fired from Retrophin, a drug company he started in 2011, after being accused of stealing money to pay off clients from a hedge fund he also ran. That's part of why he was arrested yesterday. After he left Retrophin, the company filed a lawsuit against him accusing him of stealing money “to enrich himself and to pay off claims of MSMB investors (who he had defrauded).”

In regards to Turing, the company released a statement saying Shkreli is being replaced by interim CEO Ron Tilles, who has served as chairman of Turing's board of directors since late last year. Tilles will also continue serving as board chairman.

Life Beyond Therapy

By Michael Kimmel

Visit Michael's website:
www.lifebeyonddtherapy.com

It's Not the Alcohol; it's You

Dear Michael:

I have been with my partner for several years' now. Our sex life isn't great, but everything else is good. Last week, I was out of town for work, went to a bar and, after too many drinks, ended up going home with this hot guy. I woke up the next morning in his bed, thinking, "If my boyfriend knew I did this, he'd leave me." What do I do now?

Dear Michael:

Everyone thinks of me as this really nice guy, always sweet and patient. And I am...except when I drink. Then, after 3 or 4 drinks, I become really mean and cruel to everyone around me, even my best friends. What's wrong with me?

Dear Michael:

I love my boyfriend and we are good together, except when we go out to the bars. Then, after a few too many drinks, I increasingly want attention from other guys and it makes my boyfriend crazy. Do I need to stop drinking?

People love to blame their problems on sources other than themselves. It's not much fun to take responsibility for our problems, is it? And yet, it's really the only way to make changes that last.

Some people decide that they drink too much, so they resolve to drink less. Sounds good, right? Except, it often doesn't work. Why? Because they haven't figured out why they drink so much. Like the above drinkers, they think that their "normal" (non-alcohol) life is good – or good enough, anyway – but that, for some reason, when they drink, they become these cheating, mean, attention-seeking people.

I would say that all of the above three drinkers are kidding themselves in one way or another: they're pretending that their non-drinking life is just fine, when, obviously, it's not. You may be able to kid yourself that:

Your sex life with your partner is okay (when it's not)

You really are this nice, sweet person (when you're not)

You get enough attention from your boyfriend (when you don't)

You are, in essence, lying to yourself. And alcohol, by lowering



your inhibitions, shows you the truth. And you don't like it.

Sure, you can blame this on alcohol and stop drinking. But, that's just putting a band-aid on a dirty, deep (psychological) wound. That wound will never heal unless you rip off the band-aid and clean out the infection (which, of course, is no fun).

I used to work as a barback when I was putting myself through college and I have clients who bartend in some of the best bars in San Diego. One of the wisest of them recently told me, "Alcohol is like truth serum: it shows you who the person really is beneath their happy, shiny façade."

Wow, that's quite a statement. I don't know if I'd go quite that far, but the man has a point: for most people, alcohol lowers our inhibitions, and – as a result – we allow aspects of our personality to surface that we usually hide, suppress or deny.

Truth serum, indeed.

So what do we do about this? We could start by admitting to ourselves that we're in denial about parts of our life that really aren't going so well.

Perhaps, as drinker #1 writes, he's not happy with his sex life with his partner, and by pretending he is, he's not doing anyone any favors. If he doesn't address this problem honestly and directly, he's on a path to sabotaging his good thing.

I would imagine that drinker #2 wants to express anger about things in his life that aren't okay with him, but he doesn't know how to...unless his old friend alcohol is there to help.

And drinker #3 may not have worked through his need for attention. He may pretend that he has when he's sober, but, when he's not, it leaps out and takes control, much to his (and his partner's) chagrin.

Luckily, this stuff is all very workable. The alcohol is merely showing us the wounds that we're pretending are healed, when, in reality, we've just been changing the band-aids. As the title of this column says: "It's not the alcohol; it's you." It's you that can clean out your (unresolved) problems so they don't haunt you any more. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to have a couple of drinks and not turn into some unpleasant version of yourself?

You can do it. Get help, clean out your old (psychological) wounds and make it a really good new year.



GAYZETTE EVENTS

The Gayzette

(mail address: PO Box 8583 Omaha NE 68108)
(email to: Gayzette@cox.net)

Published every two weeks and distributed in paper copy and online on the web.

To subscribe to the online edition, go to:

www.rainbowoutreach.org

Click on the Gayzette tab and click on the Subscribe link. It's free and we won't give out your email address or send you a bunch of junk email.

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

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 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 Anonymous, 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 aanderson@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 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 (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

Metro Omaha Prime Timers, 4:00-6:00pm Coffee with the Boys at Howlin' Hounds Café, 712 South 16th St. Meet up for coffee and conversation. Many of the guys go out for dinner afterwards. Everyone welcome to attend.

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

Metro Omaha Prime Timers

9am—11am Coffee with the Boys at Paradise Café, Regency Court. Meet up for coffee and conversation. Good food and good coffee too. Everyone welcome to attend.

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 Flixx 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 Sunday

Soka Gakkai International (SGI-USA), Lay Buddhist organization based on Nichiren Buddhism, World Peace Prayer the First Sunday 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 D 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

2nd Sunday

Metro Omaha Prime Timers, Monthly Meeting, Abrahams Library, 5111 North 90th St, Stop by our monthly get-together to hear about the great upcoming events, and spend time with good friends. 3pm to 4:30pm. Snacks and beverages provided. Everyone Welcome !!

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

BCA 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

ICON Board Openings

The Imperial Court of Nebraska currently has an opening on its board of directors. It is a member at large position with full voting rights. The position is currently up for re election in February.

We also are looking to fill the Event Coordinator position as well. This position is responsible for booking all of the events for the current reign. It requires strong organizational skills and planning ability.

If you have any interest in either of these positions, we are looking to fill them at our regularly scheduled meeting in January. The meeting is on January 18th at 6:30 pm at MCC Church. If you would like any further information, you may email the board at: ICONBoard@imperialcourtofnebraska.com

The Monkey Market

Once upon a time in a village, a man appeared and announced to the villagers that he would buy monkeys for \$10 each.

The villagers seeing that there were many monkeys around, went out to the forest, and started catching them.

The man bought thousands at \$10 and as supply started to diminish, the villagers stopped their effort. He further announced that he would now buy at \$20.

This renewed the efforts of the villagers and they started catching monkeys again.

Soon the supply diminished even further and people started going back to their farms.

The offer increased to \$25 each and the supply of monkeys became so little that it was an effort to even see a monkey, let alone catch it!

The man now announced that he would buy monkeys at \$50! However, since he had to go to the city on some business, his assistant would now buy on his behalf.

In the absence of the man, the assistant told the villagers. 'Look at all these monkeys in the big cage that the man has collected. I will sell them to you at \$35 and when the man returns from the city, you can sell them to him for \$50 each.'

The villagers rounded up with all their savings and bought all the monkeys and they never saw the man or his assistant ever again, only monkeys everywhere!

Now you have a better understanding of how the stock market works.

Irish Humor

Paddy the electrician got sacked from the U.S. Prison service for not servicing the electric chair. He said in his professional opinion it was a death trap!

Paddy, the Irish boyfriend of the woman who's head was found on Linoma beach was asked to identify her. A detective held up the head to which point Paddy said 'I don't think that's her, she wasn't that tall!'

Paddy is said to be shocked at finding out all his cows have Bluetongue.

'Be Jaysus!' he said, 'I didn't even know they had mobile phones!'

Mick & Paddy are reading head stones at a nearby cemetery. Mick says 'Crikey! There's a bloke here who was 152!'

Paddy says 'What's his name?'

Mick replies 'Miles from London!'

An Irishman is rowing his boat in a field of hay. Paddy drives past & stops. He looks at the Irishman in the boat & shouts 'Its thick fu**wits like you that give us Irish a bad name! I'd come over there & kick the s**t out of you if I could swim!'

Paddy & Murphy are working on a building site. Paddy says to Murphy 'I'm gonna have the day off, I'm gonna pretend I'm mad!'

He climbs up the rafters, hangs upside down & shouts 'I'M A LIGHTBULB! I'M A LIGHTBULB!' Murphy watches in amazement!

The Foreman shouts 'Paddy you're mad, go home' So he leaves the site.

Murphy starts packing his kit up to leave as well.

'Where the hell are you going?' asks the Foreman.

'I can't work in the friggin dark!' says Murphy.

Heaven

The Sunday school teacher was speaking to her class one morning and she asked the question, "When you die and go to heaven.... which part of your body goes first?"

Suzy raised her hand and said, "I think its your hands."

"Why do you think its your hands, Suzy?"

Suzy replied, "Because when you pray, you hold your hands together in front of you. So God takes your hands first."

"What a wonderful answer!" the teacher said.

Little Johnny raised his hand and said, "Teacher, I think its your legs".

The teacher looked at him with the strangest look on her face.

Now Little Johnnie, why would you think it would be your legs?

Little Johnny said, "Well I walked into daddy's bedroom last night...."

.....and uncle Bill was lying on the bed with his legs straight up in the air, and he was saying, "OH GOD, I'M COMING!"

If dad hadn't pinned him down, by lying on top of him, we would have lost him!"

THE TEACHER FAINTED!

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.firstlutheranomaha.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

Flat 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 Also see the Events list on page 10

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 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@rcga.co or call 402-541-5792, web site www.rcga.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 (MtF, FtM and anywhere in between) and their Partners. Contact info can be found at: NebraskaTransCommunity.com

OUTInc, a nonprofit organization that engages in and fosters the well-being and advancement of the LGBT community, www.outinc.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/cglbte

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

Christmas Brunch Casserole

Ingredients

- 1 lb. bacon
- 1 tbsp. butter
- 2 onions, chopped
- 2 cups fresh sliced mushrooms
- 4 cups frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 pinch dried parsley
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Methods/Steps

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease a 9x13 in. casserole dish. Place bacon in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium high heat until evenly brown. Drain and set aside. In a separate skillet, melt the butter and fry onions and mushrooms until tender. Place potatoes in bottom of prepared dish. Sprinkle with salt, garlic salt, and pepper. Top with bacon, then onions and mushrooms.

In a large bowl, beat eggs with milk and parsley. Pour over casserole. Top with grated cheese. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour or until set. If preparing and baking the same day, cook for 45 minutes.

Makes 6 servings



Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

Omaha:

- Dixie Quick's Restaurant, 157 West Broadway 712-256-4140
- First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney
- 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

Night Before Christmas Lasagna

Ingredients

- 3 lbs. ground beef
- 1 lb. bulk pork sausage
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium green pepper, chopped
- 2 (28 oz.) jars meatless spaghetti sauce
- 1 (10.75 oz.) can condensed tomato soup, undiluted
- 1 (4 oz.) can mushroom stems and pieces, un-drained
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt, divided
- 1 1/2 tsp. pepper, divided
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 1/2 cups small curd cottage cheese
- 1 (15 oz.) container ricotta cheese
- 2 cups shredded Parmesan cheese
- 24 lasagna noodles, cooked and drained
- 12 slices mozzarella cheese

Methods/Steps

In a large skillet or Dutch oven, cook beef, sausage, onion and green pepper over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Add the spaghetti sauce, soup, mushrooms, Worcestershire sauce, Italian seasoning, 1 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. pepper and garlic powder. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

In a bowl, combine the eggs, cottage cheese, ricotta and remaining salt and pepper. Spread 2 cups meat sauce each into two greased 13-in. x 9-in. x 2-in. baking dishes. Layer each with 1/3-cup Parmesan cheese, four noodles, 1-1/4 cups cottage cheese mixture and three slices of mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers. Top with the remaining noodles, meat sauce and Parmesan. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until bubbly. Let stand for 15 minutes before cutting.



Pope Francis on Condoms to Prevent HIV: It's Complicated

BY TRUDY RING

Pope Francis, on his way home from Africa, has admitted that the question of allowing condom use to prevent the spread of HIV is "complicated" for the Roman Catholic Church but he also said there are larger problems to address.



Francis, who was returning to Rome after visiting Kenya, Uganda, and the Central African Republic, faced a query about condoms during a press conference on the papal plane Monday. He allowed that condoms are "one of the methods" that can prevent transmission of HIV, which has devastated Africa, but said the issue is "morally complicated for the church," Agence France-Presse reports.

He also appeared displeased that the question even came up. "When people are dying from lack of water and food ... your question seems too narrow," he told the German journalist who brought it up, according to AFP. "The problem is bigger than that," he added, noting that Africans face numerous difficulties, caused by arms trafficking and economic exploitation as well as the scarcity of food and clean water.

His predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, received widespread criticism for his long-standing opposition to condom use to prevent HIV transmission, and he made a statement in 2009 claiming condoms could actually contribute to the spread of HIV. The church opposes condoms along with all other forms of contraception, and it opposes sexual relations between members of the same sex. But then in 2010, Benedict said using a condom was preferable to exposing a sexual partner to HIV, even if it also prevented pregnancy.

Pope Francis made few references to AIDS during his time in Africa, although he did visit children with HIV in a hospital in Uganda, the U.K.'s Guardian reports. He "kissed each one, listened to moving testimony from a girl born with the virus and thanked the church's healthcare workers for caring for those infected," the paper notes. Francis is shown above at a children's hospital in Bangui, Central African Republic.

Sub-Saharan Africa has 25.8 million people living with HIV, or nearly 70 percent of the worldwide total of 36.9 million, according to the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS.

Italian Priest Accused of Hooking Up With Teen Boys Via Grindr

Antonello Tropea

BY TRUDY RING

An Italian Catholic priest has been arrested on charges of having sex with teenage boys he met through the gay dating app Grindr, and a bishop is accused of abetting him.

Antonello Tropea, a priest in the town of Messignadi in southern Italy, was arrested after a two-month investigation, Italian media reported Sunday, according to Agence France-Presse.

"Police suspicions were raised after officers found Tropea in a car in a secluded spot with a teenager, and the priest not only said he was a physical education teacher but had suspicious objects in his rucksack," AFP reports. It did not say what the suspicious objects were.



Police allege that Tropea was picking up teenagers on Grindr using the name Nicola, the name of the patron saint of his parish, San Nicola di Mira, and having sex with them in his car or at his rectory, according to the report. A prosecutor has accused Bishop Francesco Milito, Tropea's supervisor, of failing to investigate reports of Tropea's inappropriate and unlawful activities and encouraging the priest to avoid the police.

ISIS Murders Teenage Boy for Being 'Gay' in Syria

Daesh militant

BY SUNNIVIE BRYDUM

Militants with the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria have reportedly thrown a 15-year-old boy from the roof of a building in the northern Syrian city of Deir ez -Sor, reports ARA News.

Friday's execution is the latest report of deadly violence targeting those believed to be (or accused of being) gay in the Middle Eastern regions controlled by the terrorist group also known as ISIS, ISIL, or Daesh.

As with other antigay executions, the young man's murder was conducted in front of a large crowd, who watched as militants bound and blindfolded the 15-year-old, before throwing him off the roof to his death. In similar incidents over the past year, victims who have survived the fall have been stoned to death by militants and residents waiting on the ground. Other executions have contained beheadings of people thought to be LGBT or otherwise at odds with the group's radical interpretation of Islam.

ARA News reports that the young boy was allegedly arrested "in the house of an ISIS leader" on Thursday. That leader, identified by the news site as Abu Zaid al-Jazrawi, was also sentenced to death by a Sharia court, but militants convinced leaders to strip al-Jazrawi of his position, and send him to fight on the front lines in Iraq.

According to the militants' interpretation of Islam — which many Muslim clerics have denounced as wholly un-Islamic — Sharia law requires those convicted of the "crime" of homosexuality to be thrown from the tallest building in the city where the victim was arrested.

Although there is no verified total number of victims killed for being "gay" by Daesh militants, an August meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York City reported that militants have executed at least 30 people suspected of being LGBT in the past year.



Are Gays Really Better With Money?

BY DAVID RAE

Statistics can be tricky. On the one hand, you may have seen some of the studies that say “Gays are better with money” (Prudential, Census Bureau, Experian). On the other, there are polls that show that the LGBT community has lower income and lower levels of education (Gallup). Who is right? And can these studies even draw a useful conclusion from the data?

When it comes to being gay, there really is no such thing as “average”; there’s just way too much diversity among us for that to be remotely possible. But with any statistical monetary median there are people who rise above while others fall below. For every uber-earner like David Geffen, Elton John, or Tim Cook in our A-list cities, there are thousands of homeless LGBT youth struggling across this great country.

However, there is a significant urban and educated gay cohort that is more affluent than their urban and educated straight brethren of the same age. (Somebody’s got to pay the armies of personal trainers who deliver all the six-packs running around, right?) As a gay man in Southern California, I definitely enjoy many advantages when it comes to finances (beyond personally being a financial planner and having a fiscally responsible husband), while at the same time face the same challenges prevalent to our community.

Fiscal Potential

It’s no secret that the stereotypical “gay” professions – in media, the arts, design, beauty, and other creative endeavors — have the potential to pay extremely well. However, it must be said that most gay individuals, like most individuals period, have “regular” jobs in decidedly less glamorous professions. So where’s the gay advantage when it comes to money?

Years of being discriminated against and not being afforded the protections and benefits of marriage may have forced you to be proactive and take control of your finances. This may increase your odds of actually implementing a comprehensive financial plan with proper estate planning.

As a community we are also more likely to be educated, have dual-income households, and less likely to have kids. DINK (double income, no kids) couples are a financial planner’s dream, let me tell you. A gay couple with no children will have way more disposable income compared to a family with several children, even if both parents are working. (Estimates say it costs at least \$245,000 to raise a middle-class child. And if he/she goes to medical school, you can count on doubling that.)

Paying the Gay Way

I’ve noted before that our community faces its own financial challenges.

Keeping up with the Gay Joneses can leave even the biggest earners among us with empty pockets. One of my previous posts, “Are Your Gay Friends Making You Poor?” generated a response ranging from hate mail to “OMG this is so spot on.”

But the stereotypical “gay lifestyle” can be a budget buster. A consumer frenzy of first class vacations, ultra-luxury cars, and fancy clothes can easily get you off track financially and have you living from paycheck to paycheck, however large. And don’t get me started on the cost of gyms, Botox, plastic surgery and a million other ways

we “stay young” and “healthy.”

Furthermore, high-earning LGBT people also tend to live in higher-cost metropolitan areas, thereby increasing many costs of living. Housing dollars go a whole lot further in Kansas than L.A., San Francisco, or New York City.

Finally, for those who do choose to have a family, adoption or surrogacy can be quite expensive even before any child-rearing costs enter the picture.

Redefining Success

In my opinion, making more income and having less debt than the general population doesn’t necessarily make you better at handling money. True, generating tons of dough makes you successful on the job front and having less debt is an excellent thing, but neither makes you a fiscal whiz kid either. Nor do these things mean you are rich or even financially secure for that matter.

Ask yourself who’s in worse shape, a factory worker with \$20,000 in credit card debt or a movie star with a \$20 million dollar mortgage? For instance, I’d be willing to bet Lindsay Lohan has been more successful making money than the vast majority of people reading this piece, yet she’s currently broke because her fiscal chops — or those of the people she hired to look after her affairs — were not up to snuff. I’d also be willing to bet that because of this, the vast majority of people reading this piece are in better financial shape than she is.

So what is important? Repeat after me: Becoming a successful money maestro means developing a specific plan for your specific situation to reach your personal financial goals.

One of our journeys as a gay community is to claim our self-respect and assert our place in the world. On a personal level, an excellent way to put your self-respect in action is to take control of your finances and make your own world more secure and a lot more welcoming.

David Rae

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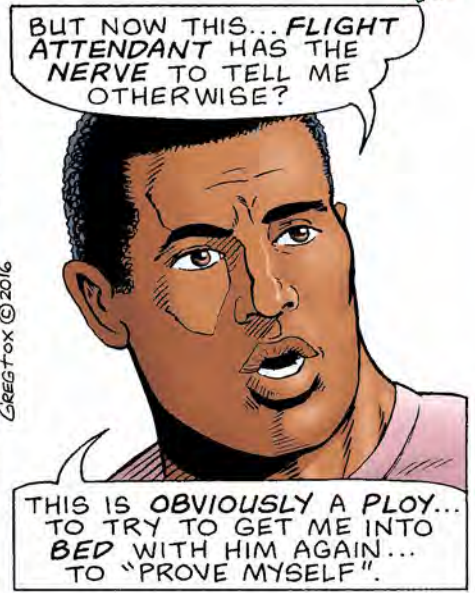
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT JEREMY TRANG?

ACTUALLY ACCUSING ME OF BEING LACKING IN MY SEXUAL SKILLS?!



I'VE BEEN WITH WORLD-CLASS BUSINESSMEN... POLITICIANS... ROYALTY, EVEN!

AND THEY'VE ALL TOLD ME I'M THE BEST SEX THEY'VE EVER HAD!



BUT NOW THIS... FLIGHT ATTENDANT HAS THE NERVE TO TELL ME OTHERWISE?

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A PLOY... TO TRY TO GET ME INTO BED WITH HIM AGAIN... TO "PROVE MYSELF".



I'M TELLING YOU, THAT MAN IS OBSESSED WITH ME!

YEAH. OKAY. MAYBE.

HOLD ON... ARE YOU SAYING YOU AGREE WITH HIM ABOUT MY SEXUAL PROFICIENCY?

NOT EXACTLY.



THEN WHAT, EXACTLY?

WELL...

...YA' SURE AIN'T GOT A LOTTA' WARMTH.



EXCUSE ME?

YA' GOT GREAT TECHNIQUE...

YES, I'M AWARE OF THAT.

... BUT YA' AIN'T REAL BIG ON TENDERNESS, LANCE.



I'M SORRY, DREW, BUT... LANCE POWERS DOESN'T DO "TENDER".

SEE, NOW...

...WHEN YA' GO MAKIN' ARROGANT STATEMENTS LIKE THAT... TALKIN' BOUT YOURSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON...



...THAT JUST SHOWS HOW INSECURE YA' REALLY ARE INSIDE.

IF I'D WANTED YOUR HALF-BAKED PSYCHO-ANALYSIS, COUNSELOR, I'D HAVE MADE AN APPOINTMENT.



I'M GOING TO SLEEP, AND YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT SEX TONIGHT.

THAT'S OKAY. I COULD USE A BREAK FROM THE ROUTINE.

JEREMY TRANG IS A DEAD MAN WALKING...