



the

GAYZETTE

Lesbian and Gay Couples in San Francisco Are Granted Marriage Licenses

SAN FRANCISCO -- The City and County of San Francisco today became the first government in the United States to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples. City officials followed a directive set in motion by Mayor Gavin Newsom. Advocates heralded the move as the most significant moment in the fight for equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

"For many Americans, their wedding day is one of the happiest days of their life," said Geoffrey Kors, executive director for Equality California, the state's leading gay rights advocacy group. "For these San Francisco couples, it is no different with one exception. Yesterday, they couldn't get married. Today, they can. To suggest that these couples are experiencing a profound sense of happiness is an understatement."

Dorothy Ehrlich, executive director of the ACLU of Northern California, added: "Just as we told the state in 1974 when they passed a statute limiting marriage to a man and a woman, that kind of discrimination against same-sex couples violates the California constitution's promise of equality. Discrimination in marriage was wrong then and it's wrong now."

Lesbian and gay couples began gathering late this morning at the County Clerk's office following an announcement by the mayor's office indicating that they would begin issuing licenses. In total, four couples were granted marriage licenses.

Among the first to be married were Del Martin, 83, and Phyllis Lyon, 80, who have been together for more than 50 years. Martin and Lyon met in Seattle in 1950 and began dating in 1952. They moved to San Francisco in 1953. The two women founded the Daughters of Bilitis, the first national lesbian rights organization. "Phyllis and I demonstrated our commitment to one another more than half a century ago," said Martin. "Today, San Francisco has demonstrated its commitment to us through equality and fairness."

"Gay and lesbian Americans are part of the American family," said National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendell. "We pay taxes and contribute to society and therefore desire and deserve the same rights and protections as other Americans."

On the same day, State Assembly member Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) introduced the Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act (MLNDA), sponsored by Equality California. The bill would end discrimination in the issuance of marriage licenses statewide, allowing same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses anywhere in California.

Newsom told the San Francisco Chronicle on Tuesday, "A little more than a month ago, I took the oath of office here at City Hall and swore to uphold California's Constitution, which clearly outlaws all forms of discrimination. Denying basic rights to members of our community will not be tolerated."

Editor's Note: As of printing, more than 1000 licenses have been issued with most of those same sex couples getting married on the spot.

February 20, 2004—March 5, 2004

Published every two weeks by the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center
1719 Leavenworth St., Omaha, Nebraska 68102 (402) 341-0330
www.rocc.org email GAYZETTE: news@rocc.org email Resource Center: rainbow@rocc.org



Now N'JOY them twice as much!

**Starting Wednesday
March 3rd
9pm**

1516 Jones St.
Omaha, NE
402-341-7337
www.omahajoy.com

Many of you have requested that we do the N'JOY Show more than once a month. Well, your wishes just came true! Starting Wednesday March 3rd, the N'JOY show will be on the 1st Wednesday and 3rd Friday of every month. Make sure you come down to see the girls in their very first Wednesday night show!

Friday March 5th

Chi Chi LaRue Star
Chad Hunt

...because size does matter!



Cats is coming to the Orpheum Theater

An Interview by Jon Owens

The show that revolutionized musical theatre is coming to the Orpheum in Omaha for five performances, February 20-22, 2004. What began as a musical about cats after Andrew Lloyd Webber picked up T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, a book of poems purchased in an airport bookshop, has become the longest running show in Broadway's history. Winner of seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, Best Lighting and Best Costumes, **CATS** features 20 of Andrew Lloyd Webber's timeless melodies, including the high song, "Memory."

Now that it's been seen by over 8,250,000 audience members, it's time to introduce **CATS** to a new generation. Midnight. Not a sound from the pavement. Suddenly an explosion of music and lights reveals a larger than life junkyard. Probing car lights tear across the darkened landscape of bottles and boxes, briefly catching the darting image of a running feline. Tonight is the one special night each year when the tribe of Jellicle Cats reunites to celebrate who they are. This is the story of **CATS**.

Two kittens appear as trouble makers, who enjoy talking and playing around, while they burglarize houses. One of these playful kittens is Mungojerrie, who is played by gay cast member Mario Martinez, who took the time to talk to "The Gayzette."

"This is my first tour and it has been fun the past year and half traveling with **CATS**," said Martinez. "I enjoy the show, because it has tough choreography and great music."

Martinez graduated a year ago from the Boston Conservatory with a degree in music theatre.

"I started getting into dance in high school and ended up loving music theatre. I really enjoy **CATS**, because of the good energy it has. My character is fun, because I crawl and play around with other cats. This character fits me, as I can be a little crazy."

Some of the more challenging aspects of the show have been pointed out by Martinez, with moves such as a double cartwheel that is partnered.

"The show is an eye-filling, huge spectacular for all ages. People see different things each time they see the show. Each cat has a different personality and is different thing to bring every performance, different casts portray it differently. Every cast has a different energy. The audience participation, makes the audience feel a part of the show."

This will be Martinez's first time to Omaha, in which he is prepared to go out and hit the clubs. Aside from clubbing, Martinez loves to read Novels (Including the classics), and listen to about any type of music especially pop. "Anything that will keep me entertained."

Future plans for Martinez are to take another tour, do commercials, or make it onto Broadway.

Other facts about **CATS** include:

On May 11, 1981, **CATS** opened at the New London Theater in the West End. Eight years later it celebrated its first important milestone: after 3,358 performances **CATS** became the longest running musical in the history of British Theatre. **CATS** played its final performance on its 21st birthday, May 11, 2001.

In 1982 **CATS** opened at the Winter Garden Theater in New York City and continued to live up to its motto "Now and Forever." On June 19, 1997, **CATS** became the longest running musical on Broadway. It ended its 18-year run on September 10, 2000.

Tickets are now on sale by calling 402-422-1212 in Omaha or 402-475-1212 in Lincoln, at the Omaha Auditorium box office, and all Ticket Master Outlets. Tickets also available on line at www.ticketmaster.com. Groups of 20 or more call 888-255-2200 for discounted group tickets. Tickets range from \$27 to \$57, depending on dates and time of show and location of seat.



GAYZETTE AD RATES

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

All ads must be camera ready. Payment must accompany ad, Checks payable to Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center. 10% Discount for on-going ads of any size. Payment and ads should be delivered to the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center 1719 Leavenworth St. on or before the deadline or emailed to news@rocc.org. Please call ahead to reserve space.

Ad Deadlines **Friday, Feb 27** for Publication March 5 **Friday, March 12** for Publication March

Perspectives

By Jon Owens

This past week I was fortunate to get a letter back from Senator Chuck Hagel's office on the federal marriage amendment. I had written him on behalf of opposing the federal marriage amendment. Here is a glimpse of what he wrote in his letter.

"Marriage between a man and a woman is an honored social institution that dates back thousands of years in civilization. It is for this reason I am opposed to same-sex marriages."

He goes on to talk about the Massachusetts ruling. He then goes on to say he supports a states right to choose. He is in favor of the defense of marriage acts, which congress passed in 1996. He then says his beliefs run along former Congressman Bob Barr who has the same opinion.

There are some issues with Hagel's way of thinking. 1) Yes marriage is an old institution, but originally it was a uniting of a man to his property. (Women were property.)

Hagel does not understand the history of marriage so allow me to inform you. According to "Liturgy for Living," the Episcopal Church's teaching series, Marriage was not a sacrament of the church until 800 AD. The issue was that marriage was a government function not recognized by the Church. People would get authorization by the state and then receive a blessing from the church. Then the Roman Catholic Church started to become the political power of Europe. This merged politics and religion making marriage a church/state joint recognition.

According to John Boswell's book "Same-sex Unions in pre-modern Europe, within the confines of Christianity there were same-sex unions in the church. There were even popes in the past that are buried next to the same-sex lovers. The problem with the evidence is that these documents are sealed by the Vatican and denied by the Church that they exist.

Same-sex unions are a part of history, but we have failed to recognize them.

The other issue at hand is that the Constitution is there to give rights, not take them away. We as GLBT people should have our rights protected. We live in a society that still does not give full rights to women. There are laws, but no amendment protects women and only considers legal pay $\frac{3}{4}$ to that of a man.

The other issue of why the majority should be able to dictate to the minority is the thought that our love is not equal. They tried that with banning inter-racial marriage. Eventually the courts had to step in. There are many problems with marriage in our country and homosexuals are not it. How does my marriage with a guy hurt heterosexuals? The truth is, it does not. But the truth is that not allowing same sex marriage hurts homosexuals.

I am a man of God as I work for the Church. I think in light of it all, it is time we stand up to the religious right and clear the name of Christianity politically. I am tired of these calls from fellow Christians that make the rest of Christianity look oppressive.

Perhaps the best action in figuring out what is good for our country would be a challenge to Senator Hagel and all those who are involved politically, to decide the issues based on five criteria:

Does it facilitate justice? The answer is yes, equality is justice; oppression is not. People may not agree with our unions, but homosexuals deserve protection, from losing jobs, from being bashed, and respect for their families.

Does it affirm the value and dignity of human life? The answer is yes. Allowing us to marry is affirming our dignity. Telling us no is not respecting us and our ability to love and be in a committed relationship.

Does it produce a positive systemic impact? It is very positive for gay people to be given the right to marry. Hold them to the same standards as heterosexuals. The responsibility to not just run away when the relationship gets tough. Tell them they are married now, affairs are not ok. It may not be positive to the radical right, but it hurts them not at all.

Does it provide a fresh connectedness to what has gone before? The answer is that homosexuality has been around since the beginning of time. We see people like Matthew Shepard who lose their lives, because of who they are. We see a second mother who cannot visit her son in the hospital because legally the child is not hers. Hate is going on everywhere it is time to change. Homosexuals are not going to go away.

Lastly, does it keep the door open to the future? If we amend anything federal or state we are closing the door.

Hagel may very well keep the door open at the federal level, but he is allowing the door to be closed at the state level. Nebraska has shut the door on homosexuals and their rights.

I challenge all of us to get involved. We have a story to tell and we need to tell our story to people so they understand. We need to share our love with the politicians to let them know we are people that deserve equality. For anyone who claims that marriage is a sacred honored institution between a man and a woman really does not know their theology, they are merely reading the issue for face value, they are not theologians or historians, but people who have trouble thinking beyond an instruction booklet.

Jon Owens

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

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Website - www.kylecomics.com

E-Mail - KylesBnB@aol.com

This Space is available for your ad.

Low rates and high visibility.

Call 341-0330 for details.

Just Imagine it.....
You can sponsor Kyle's Bed & Breakfast.
Call the Outreach Center at 341-0330 for more information today !!

BILL COSBY RETURNS TO OMAHA FOR TWO SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

TICKETS NOW ON SALE FOR FEBRUARY 29 PERFORMANCES

Broadway in Omaha is pleased to present Bill Cosby on Sunday, February 29, for two performances – 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater. Tickets are on sale by calling (402) 422-1212 in Omaha or (402) 475-1212 in Lincoln, at the Omaha Auditorium box office and all TicketMaster outlets. Tickets are also available on line at www.ticketmaster.com.

Bill Cosby is, by any standards today, one of the most influential stars in America. He has the ability to touch people's lives. His humor often centers on the basic cornerstones of our existence, seeking to provide an insight into our roles as parents, children, family members, and men and women.

The *Los Angeles Times* said, "Cosby is less a comedian than an icon – America's dad."

About his own performance, Mr. Cosby says, "I feel that in-person contact with people is the most important thing in comedy. While I'm up on stage, I can actually put myself into the audience and adjust my pace and timing to them. I can get into their heads through their ears and through their eyes. Only through this total communication can I really achieve what I'm trying to do."



GLSEN Trevor fundraiser

GLSEN-Omaha strives to assure that each person in the Omaha Metro area schools is valued and respected- regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. Therefore, in cooperation with the National GLSEN organization, the first week in March is being promoted as No Name Calling Week in our schools. For more information check out the web site at www.NoNameCallingWeek.org

To conclude No Name Calling Week, GLSEN-Omaha will hold a fundraiser for its scholarship program. The Academy Award Winning Short film, Trevor will be shown at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center at 1313 Farnam on Saturday, March 6. The event starts with a Social at 4:45, with the film starting at 5:40. (The film will be over by 6:15). Tickets are \$10 each. For more information and to reserve tickets check out the GLSEN-Omaha web site at www.glsenomaha.org or call 596-2549. Limited number of tickets will available at the door.

Last year three \$1,000 dollar scholarships were awarded to high school graduates who advocated or have been an agent of change in their schools in creating a safe and supportive school environment for all students.

Feel Like Singing?

The River City Mixed Chorus is currently holding auditions for all voice parts. Auditions are being held at First United Methodist Church, 69th & Cass St. on Monday, February 9 and 16th. Please call our sing line at #341-7464 to schedule an audition time.

The audition process is very informal and stress-free, you do not need to have a prepared piece.

The RCMC is a member of GALA - Gay & Lesbian Association of Choruses.

The Chorus is comprised of gay, lesbian and gay/lesbian sensitive individuals. All are welcome!

Visit us on the web at www.rcmc.org



**MR GAY PRIDE NEBRASKA 2001 & RAINBOW CELEBRATIONS
PRESENTS**

**THE
3RD ANNUAL**

Hooray for Hollywood

**AN ACADEMY AWARD®
EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR NEBRASKA PRIDE 2004**

FEBRUARY 28 - 5:30 PM



**Red Carpet Interviews
by
Miss Ammie Zahn**

**Celebrity
Autographed Items
for Auction**

**Arrive in a Limo &
"Walk the Red Carpet"**

1417 Jackson

The MAX

Stosh's Saloon

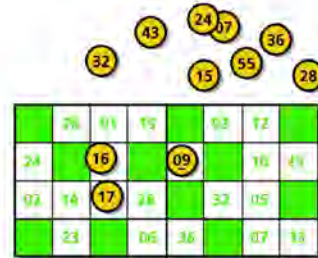
River City Mixed League Standings Maplewood Lanes

Place	Team Name	Won	Lost	Total Pins
1	N'Joyable	67	21	41355
2	D.C's Saloon	65	23	43529
3	Gills Choke Artists	56.5	31.5	40430
4	Omaha Hospitality	54	34	43465
5	Lords & Ladies	53	35	45567
6	Bowler Sisters	49.5	38.5	41330
7	N'Joy R Balls	49	39	40133
8	Cocks & Beavers	48.5	35.5	41100
9	Oh Damn!	48	40	40229
10	Gutter Minds	47	41	40744
11	Lickity Splits	46	42	38971
12	Gilligan's CCB	45.5	42.5	39542
13	Kumaniwann2layya	45	43	38790
14	Omaha Mining Co	44.5	43.5	41033
15	Bowlers Choice	43.5	40.5	42371
16	Max Factors	42	46	40707
17	Beaver & the Boys	42	46	39980
18	The One in The Middle	42	46	38663
19	Gett'n School'd	42	42	36581
20	Omaha Ball Busters	37.5	50.5	37474
21	Chicken & Her Noodles	37	51	38160
22	Red Hot Salsa	37	51	37899
23	Power Puff Girls	37	51	37463
24	Mudd Wrestlers	36	52	38896
25	The Outlaws	34.5	53.5	37665
26	Stosh's Stable	29	55	37981
27	Here 4 Beer	25	63	37164
28	Dirty Butter	21	67	36812

HGRA BINGO NIGHT

HGRA will be having a Bingo Party on February 28th at Connections starting at 6 PM. All proceeds will be donated to help produce this year's IGRA Finals Rodeo, which will be held in Omaha Oct 14-17.

We will be offering fabulous bingo prizes and we will have drink specials throughout the night. Come on out and spend part of your evening with us and let's play B I N G O !!



email:linomabares@yahoo.com
Jerry at 553-6626
Eric at 553-5944

LinOma Bares

L.O.B.
P.O. Box 24547
Omaha, NE 68124



High Averages

High Average Women

180 - R Richardson
177 - N Harrison
173 - P Burch
173 - P Kerres

High Average Men

207- G Schoenfeld
203 - R. Hansen
194 - J Schomer

High Game Team

804 - Lords & Ladies
790 - DC's Saloon
782- Cocks & Beavers

High Series Women

704 - R Richardson
607 - H Kovanda
605 - N Harrison

High Series Men

714 - R Hansen
710 - G Schoenfeld
657 - J Sanders

High Series Team

2320-Lords & Ladies
2166-Omaha Hospitality
2161-DC's Saloon

High Game Women

259- A Reed
254 - N Harrison
253 - R Richardson

High Game Men

299 - R Hansen
278 - G Schoenfeld
253 - M Wierzbicki



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

ROOMMATE WANTED

Gay male 46 seeking roommate to share 2 bedroom duplex in quiet Benson area.

Bedroom can be furnished or unfurnished. Access to kitchen, washer, dryer, and off street parking. Rent \$250.00 plus pay half of utilities.

Non-smoker preferred and must like dogs. Contact Stan at 991-5394 by March 1.

The Metro Omaha GLBT Center A Vision for the Future!

Feasibility Study Survey—www.rainbowoutreach.org

For those of you who do not know, ROC has been our GLBT Resource Center for 6 years now, located at 1719 Leavenworth Street in Omaha. The Board of Directors of ROC have authorized this feasibility study to help determine whether the GLBT and supportive Communities would need and use a new Center in metro Omaha. We encourage you to take a moment to complete the survey with your honest opinions. It only takes a few minutes and can be taken at the web site above or you can stop in at the Resource Center and pick up a paper copy. If you have already received the survey and filled it out, the ROC Board thanks you for your time. If you haven't already done so, please take the survey. Your answers do MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV OR AIDS?

Call the Nebraska AIDS Hotline.
1-800-782-2437
(in Omaha, 552-9255)
Sunday-Friday: 10 am-10 pm

New Day!

Transgendered?
Questioning?
Need To Talk?

A Representative of the
Transgender Community is available
at the Rainbow Outreach
GLBT Resource Center

2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturdays

7 to 9 PM



Monthly Meetings: 2nd Thursday 7:00 P.M.

Location: First United Methodist Church
7020 Cass, Omaha, Nebraska

P.O. Box 390064
Omaha, NE 68139-0064

HELPLINE
(402) 291-6781



MCC

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF OMAHA

Sunday: 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Wednesday: 7:00 PM
Saturday: Alternative Worship 7:00 PM (starts 9/27/03)
819 South 22nd Street (Just south of Leavenworth Street)
Omaha, Nebraska 68103 Phone: 402-345-2563
Web site: www.mccomaha.org

GAYZETTE EVENTS

SUNDAY FEB 22

TURN-ABOUT SHOW, The Max, A night where boys become girls and the girls get to stay boys

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

LENTEN FISH FRY, hosted by Crystal Delight, The Max

WRISTBAND NIGHT AT CLUB JOY

Purchase a wristband for \$6 and get discounted drinks all night long

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

ME JANE LIVE IN CONCERT, 9PM, \$5 cover, Club Joy

SUNDAY MARCH 7

EMPRESS MONROE'S B-DAY, 10 Years Plus Show, Club Joy, Your favorite established entertainers that have been performing for 10 plus years

FRIDAY MARCH 26

80's FLASHBACK, hosted by Crystal Delight, Club Joy, Return to the decade where big hair and mall clothes were king

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

"THE A TEAM" (A IS FOR ACCESSIBILITY) BENEFIT FOR HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY AT MCC-OMAHA

FRIDAY JUNE 18—SUNDAY, JUNE 20 NEBRASKA PRIDE CELEBRATION

SAT. JUNE 19 & SUN., JUNE 20

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS SUMMER PRIDE CONCERT & REUNION WEEKEND, 7:05PM, Strauss Performing Arts Ctr., UNO Campus, For ticket information, call our Singline 341-SING (7464)

SATURDAY, JULY 3

IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA CORONATION 24, Doubletree Hotel

FRJ., OCTOBER 14—SUN., OCT. 17

IGRA FINALS RODEO, Chance Ridge Equine, Omaha; info: www.hgra.net or call 402-203-4680

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICES:

DIETZ METHODIST 1423 S.10, Heartland Casual Coffeehouse 9:30am, Traditional Worship 11am

1ST METHODIST 7020 Cass, 8:30 & 10:45am

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY

CHURCH OF OMAHA 819 S. 22, 345-2563 Worship: 9am & 11am Sunday School: 11am

FIRST UNITARIAN 3114 Harney, 11am
LOWE AVE PRESBYTERIAN 1023 N 40
10am

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

GLBT BICYCLING CLUB OMAHA, For details call Jeri at 614-6145

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

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

WIMMIN'S SHOW KZUM 89.3 12:30pm

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

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

Every Monday

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

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

A A GLBT "RAINBOW GROUP"

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

Every Tuesday

OMAHA MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP,
MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 7:30pm

UNL LESBIAN/BI/QUESTIONING SUPPORT GROUP

7-8:30PM, Women's Center, Nebraska Union, Lincoln, 472-5644

Every Wednesday

WORSHIP SERVICES

MCC OMAHA, 7pm

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

HIV TESTS, 1-4 pm NAP, 139 S. 40

FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK 6:30pm
AkSarBen Lot 5, Omaha

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

KARAOKE W/ STACY 8:30pm DC's

Every Thursday

GLBT FELLOWSHIP, 6:30pm, Trinity Cathedral Clarkson Center, 109 N. 18 Info: 391-1950; dknoxsae@qwest.net.

AA MEETING, NON SMOKING, 7PM, MCC -Omaha, 819 So. 22nd St.

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

KARAOKE 9pm, Connections

Every Friday

LAMBDA TV, Lincoln Cable Ch 13. 9pm

HIV TESTING, 5 - 10 pm, NAP Outreach Center, 1723 Leavenworth

LGBT AA 8pm, Boys & Girls Home Sioux

City, IA (712) 252-4272,

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

Every Saturday

GLBT BICYCLING CLUB OMAHA, For details call Jeri at 614-6145

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE, 7PM, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22nd St

LAMBDA TV Lincoln Cable Ch 13. 3 pm

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

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Tuesday

LES/BI/GAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, Caffeine Dreams, 7PM

1st Friday

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

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

1st Saturday

RIVER CITY GENDER ALLIANCE

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

GAY/BI SUPPORT GROUP HIV+ MEN, 6

-8pm, NAP, 220 S. 17, Lincoln FFI: Mark Giesler 476-7000.

SINGLE LESBIANS, Social and Networking Group, generally meets first Saturdays at 7PM, Call 614-6145 for information

2nd Wednesday

FLAT WATER BEARS 7:30pm, The MAX

2nd Thursday

PFLAG- OMAHA, 7pm, 1st Methodist

2nd Friday

SUDS RAPID HIV TEST, (2 hr results) 5 - 10 pm, NAP Outreach, 1723 Leavenworth

FREE CONFIDENTIAL ANONYMOUS HIV TEST, UN-L 476-0355, 1-3:30pm

2nd Saturday

GLSEN OMAHA Brd 9:30am South High

LEATHER ENGINEERS—OMAHA

Meeting 7pm, Gilligan's

HIV TESTING UNL campus. Cornerstone, 16th & U, Lincoln, 476-0355 or 472-7447. 1:30-3:30pm

LEARNING TO EXCHANGE POWER

L2EP@aol.com 1pm; Leather or Knot,

2nd Sunday

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

OUT SECOND SUNDAY SCREENING

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

3rd Monday

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

3rd Friday

GAY/BI SUPPORT GRP FOR HIV+ MEN
6-8pm NAP, 220 S. 17, Lincoln, 476-7000.

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

COFFEE HOUSE Unitarian Church, 6300 A,
Lincoln

4th Tuesday

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

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

4th Saturday

HIV TESTING Cornerstone, 16th & U,
Lincoln, 476-0355 or 472-7447. 1:00-
3:00pm

LAST Sunday

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

A Changing of the Guard

I wasn't quite sure if I was ready to become the new Gayzette editor but then I thought about it and decided that it was one of my favorite things about the gay community. But if I make a few mistakes along the way, please forgive me. I'm still learning some of the finer points of publishing. I am also the Chairman of the Board of the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center (not to be confused with Rainbow Celebrations, of which I am the Treasurer) which is the parent organization of the Gayzette and I am a GLBT activist in training. I am also an owner of the Yahoo Group GayOmahaNebraska and the current ROCC web master. As you can see, I keep real busy.

In the issues coming ahead I am looking at ideas for regular columns, special GLBT issue stories and some other changes. But to keep the Gayzette in publication and distributed for free we need to be able to pay for it's production. This is done primarily by advertisers, and we have some of the best, most loyal ones around. If you own a business and would like to advertise to a very select group, please give us a try. We are looking for a sponsor for the Kyle's Bed & Breakfast comic strip. Each installment costs us \$50 to run. We want to keep it going but desperately need a regular sponsor to cover that cost and in return they get use of the ad space around it.

I want to say a special thank you to Sharon Van Butsel and Carla Petersen for their dedication to the Gayzette and it's predecessor The New Voice for so many years. It has been truly an honor to know and work with them both. I wish them the best with their new endeavors, their new family members and with their activities in the MCC-Omaha Church.

If you have questions or comments that you would like to make concerning the Gayzette or the Outreach Center, please email me at news@rocc.org or send a message to the Resource Center (address on Page 1) and I will try to answer those questions and concerns. Thanks for reading the Gayzette and supporting it's advertisers.

George Broadway, Editor

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FLIXX	1019 S. 10th St	408-1020
GILLIGAN'S PUB	1407 Harney	449-9147
JOY	1516 Jones,	341-7337
The MAX	1417 Jackson	346-4110
OMAHA MINING CO	1715 Leavenworth	449-8703

LINCOLN BARS

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Q	226 S. 9th St, Lincoln	475-2269

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412 JONES ST, SIOUX CITY 712-258-6922

RAINBOW OUTREACH GLBT RESOURCE LIST

OMAHA BASED

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

Citizens for Equal Protection 1102 Howard St. Suite 2, Omaha NE 68102, 398-3027 www.cfep-ne.org, email to: Michael@cfep-ne.org

Flat Water Bears, Box 3751, Omaha 68103 flatwaterbears@yahoo.com Hirsute men and admirers, 2nd Wed, The MAX, 7:30pm

Front Runners/Walkers, Box 4583, Omaha 68104 (402) 496-3658 Fun Run/Walks 10am Sun, 6pm Wed

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

Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network - Omaha, Box 641676, Omaha 68164, 596-2596 <http://www.glsenomaha.org>

GayLibrary.com, World Wide Resources
Heartland Gay Rodeo Association

Box 3354, Omaha 68103 402-203-4680
Ice Bowl Invitational Bowling Tournament (IBIT) P.O. Box 31838, Omaha, 68131 R. Hollendieck (402) 556-5556

Imperial Court of Nebraska, Box 3772, Omaha 68103 556-9907, Board Meets 3rd Monday, 819 S. 22 www.icon.impcourt.org

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

Leather Engineers of Omaha (LEO) Box 8101, Omaha, 68108-8101 Gay men in leather lifestyle, Mt 2nd Sat Gilligan's 7pm

LinOma Bares, Box 24547, Omaha 68124 Nudist/ Naturist Club for gay/bi men Info: Eric (402) 553-5944; Jerry (402) 553-6626

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

Men's Support Group-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563; Tuesday 7:30pm <http://mike2tom.home.radiks.net/msgomaha/>

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 819 S. 22 St., Omaha 68108 345-2563, mccomaha@radiks.net Website: www.mccomaha.org Sunday Worship 9 & 11am, Sunday School 11am, Wed Evening Service 7pm

Nebraska AIDS Project, 552-9260 Watanabe Wellness Ctr, 139 S. 40, Omaha 68131, Testing Mon, Thurs Eve, Wed aft
NAP Outreach Center, 1723 Leavenworth, Testing & Counseling: Fri Nights

Nebraska Advocates for Justice & Equality, 1102 Howard, Suite 2, Omaha 68102, 402.346-5960 naje_now@hotmail.com

Nebraska Gay Dads group list exchange emails posted to group list for discussion <http://mike2tom.home.radiks.net/nebraskagaydads/>

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

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

Onyx Images, Box 31026, 68132-9998 Onyximages@hotmail.com Fraternity for African American Men

Out and About in Nebraska, During the summer meets 2nd Wednesday 7pm, Rainbow Outreach Center, 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 2nd Thurs, 1st United Meth, 7020 Cass

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

Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Ctr, 1719 Leavenworth, Omaha, 341-0330, Web Site: www.ROCC.org, email: rainbow@rocc.org

Info Line, Library, Movies, Gayzette
Rainbow Bible Study, Fridays, 6-7:30pm, Lowe Ave Presbyterian, 1023 N. 40 St.

Rainbow Celebrations, Box 8583, Omaha, 68108 402.502.1577 Pride Parade & Festival, National Coming Out Day (NCOD) Event info: info@rainbowcelebrations.org

Pride 2003 Box 8583, Omaha, 68108 pride@rainbowcelebrations.org
National Coming Out Day P.O. Box 8583, Omaha, 68108 NCOD@rainbowcelebrations.org

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

River City Gender Alliance, Box 8076, Omaha 68108, www.genderalliance.com Social/Support Group for transgender/transsexual/cross-dressers and supporters

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

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

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

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

Women's Support Group, Saturday 10am, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563

WomenSpace, Box 24712, Omaha 68124 Newsletter, Concerts

LINCOLN BASED

Boondoggles shop online <http://www.ideviate.net>

GLBT and Ally Programs and Services

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

Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Straight Alliance 2229 J St., Lincoln 68510

(402) 436-1301 ext. 232 Ruth Kupfer
Gay Men's Support Group, UNL Health Center, Counseling & Psychology, Rm. 214, Lincoln 68588-0618 472-7450

Lesbian, Bisexual and Questioning Women's Discussion Group, University of Nebraska, Lincoln Women's Center (sponsor), Room 340, Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588-0446. 402/472-5644.

Nebraska AIDS Project, 220 S. 17th St. Lincoln, NE 68508. (402) 476-7000

Nebraska Coalition for LGBT Civil Rts, 122 S. 11 St, Ste 200, Lincoln 68508 474-8923 nebcoalition@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

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

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


Straight Spouse Support Grp 483-5592
Women In Trades/YWCA, 1432 N St., Lincoln 68508; 434-3494,

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

Youth Support Group, (402) 434-9880
Trevor-24-hour National Suicide Hotline for GLBT and Questioning Youth 1-800-850-8078 or email: <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/helpline.html>

Are You Listed?

If your group or organization is not listed on the Resources Page, or if the information listed is out of date, please send us an email at news@rocc.org so we can include you or update your information.



Tim Reeder
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timreeder@cox.net



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Karen Ripley

If He was MY Father.....

WASHINGTON, DC - A new Web site today thrust US Vice President Dick Cheney's openly lesbian daughter Mary to the center of the nationwide debate over gay marriage. DearMary.com is soliciting public letters to Mary Cheney that will be published on the Web site and in nationwide newspaper and magazine ads paid for by money raised via the site.

"DearMary.com brings the battle home for Dick Cheney, literally," said John Aravosis, creator of the Web site and national co-chair of DontAmend.com, a national civil rights organization opposing any effort to add anti-gay amendments to the US Constitution (DearMary.com is a project of DontAmend.com.)

"If the Vice President thinks gay relationships are such a threat to society that we need to amend the US Constitution, then he needs to explain why a lesbian in a same-sex relationship is running his re-election campaign," Aravosis added. "Are we a threat or aren't we?"

Mary Cheney, 34, has been openly lesbian for years, and worked as a "professional homosexual" advocating for the gay community while working as the paid gay liaison at Coors, and while serving on the board of the national Republican gay rights group, the Republican Unity Coalition (RUC). Mary Cheney has since quit the RUC and now runs her father's re-election campaign where she is reportedly earning \$100,000 a year (source: Washington Post).

"Mary Cheney is a lesbian in a committed relationship," said Robin Tyler, national co-chair of DontAmend.com. "Even though she cannot take responsibility for her father's actions, she can and should take responsibility for her own. Just because her father is the vice president is beside the point. Is it moral for Vice President Cheney to put his boss before the welfare of his family? It is time for the child to have the courage to publicly stand up to the father and say, 'don't do this, it is just plain wrong.' Other children in far less privileged positions have done it. So, where is Mary Cheney?"

During the 2000 election, then vice presidential candidate Cheney said during a debate that he believed the gay marriage issue should be left to the states. Just a few weeks ago in an interview with the Colorado press, VP Cheney flip-flopped, saying he'd now support a federal constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

"Vice President Cheney attacks our families, yet seems to think his family is irrelevant to the debate," said Aravosis. "The vice president is a hypocrite. He is selling his daughter to the highest bidder in the name of 'family values.' The American people have a right to know that this man is no role model for our families or our nation."

DearMary.com is a project of DontAmend.com and the Equality Campaign, Inc. We are a national grassroots campaign devoted to stopping any amendment to the US Constitution that would ban marriage equality for the LGBT community. DontAmend.com was founded by veteran civil rights advocates Robin Tyler and John Aravosis, who also where cofounders of the successful StopDrLaura.com campaign targeting anti-gay radio host Dr. Laura Schlessinger.

Editors Personal Note:

I find it extremely troubling that the Vice President of the United States will not fully support his own lesbian daughter. And she seems to have accepted that. Politics does indeed create strange bed fellows but when it comes to blood relations..... well I just feel sad for both of them. Vice President Cheney has his priorities in the wrong place. His FIRST responsibility is to his family, then to his President and country.

If I were in her shoes and in this situation, I would not be so understanding and forgiving of him. And I would make it well known to all GLBT people in this country.

GeorgeB, Editor

Two Couples Apply for Marriage Licenses on Freedom to Marry Day

Rev. Barbara Sagat and Rev. Sharon Stover were joined by Carla Petersen and Sharon Van Butsel in Omaha's Freedom to Marry Action on Thursday, February 12. The two couples arrived at the Douglas County Courthouse just after 8am, walking past a group of protestors standing in the frigid air. The couples proceeded to the Marriage License Bureau without incident and completed the necessary applications while Channels 7 and 42 filmed their actions. Each couple then stepped to the window and presented their applications along with their identification. Each couple in turn was advised that because both partners were female, the license could not be issued. After advising the staff that they would be back next year and every year until licenses could be issued, the couples stepped into the hall for brief interviews with the TV stations.

As the interviews were ending, the protestors arrived inside, escorted by a sheriff's deputy. The protestors demanded the opportunity to state their views but were initially reluctant to give their names to the media. The two couples left quietly while the protestors were speaking to the media, pausing outside long enough to look at the signs that had been stacked outside.

It was a quiet, low-key event but one that clearly supported the Freedom to Marry Day. Next year the Freedom to Marry Day Action will be held on Monday, February 14 (Valentine's Day). Consider marking your calendar now so that 2005 will see a dozen couples stepping up to ask for equal rights.



Nebraskans Split Over Same-Sex Ruling

LINCOLN, Neb. - Same-sex marriage opponents in Nebraska are calling a Massachusetts court ruling legalizing such unions judicial activism.

Nebraska is considered to have one of the nation's strongest laws banning same-sex marriages.

Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court ruled Wednesday that only full, equal marriage rights for gay couples are constitutional. That clears the way for the nation's first same-sex marriages in the state as early as May.

Nebraska Family Council executive director Al Riskowski said the Massachusetts ruling is a troubling example of courts dictating to legislatures, rather than the other way round. He said the court is tinkering with a social institution of marriage between a man and a woman.

David Bydalek of Family First says the ruling underscored the need for a federal marriage amendment to keep activist judges from redefining marriage.

The executive director of Nebraska American Civil Liberties Union said the court did the right thing in leveling the marriage playing field for same-sex couples. Tim Butz said cultural and anti-gay bias and religious beliefs have clouded what should be a simple issue.

"This is not a tough issue when you just look at treating two people equal (to others)," Butz said.

Butz said the decision doesn't mean Nebraska would have to recognize same-sex marriages performed in Massachusetts. That is because Nebraska has a constitutional amendment prohibiting gay unions.

Nebraska's amendment is being challenged in U.S. District Court in Lincoln by a coalition of gay rights and civil rights organizations.

Plaintiffs in that case are not seeking legal recognition for same-sex marriages, but claim the ban prohibits them from lobbying lawmakers for gay rights.

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ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES AND LENTEN EVENTS AT MCC

Ash Wed. is Feb. 25th this year. Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 810 South 22 Street, will open the season of Lent with a traditional service at 7pm. We will anoint all who would like with the ashes from last year's palms.

MCC will also offer two special programs that will run through Lent. The Wed. night prayer group will be following a study entitled "A Season of New Life" during the Lenten Season. This study will consider the areas of Contemplation, Surrender, Discipline, and Transformation - the major steps in the journey that leads each of us to a New Life. This group meets on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join this informal study group.

On Friday evenings beginning at 7pm starting Feb. 27th, Rev. Sharon Stover and Rev. Barb Sagat will be leading a Film and discussion series. This will be a fun group, viewing contemporary movies and discussing their Christian themes. We will begin by watching 'Monster's Inc.!'

On Saturday Morning, Feb. 28th MCC will have a special Prayer Breakfast and Prayer Summit. Open to Everyone, this will be a time of prayer, worship and fellowship beginning with breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

Where Can I Get One of These?

When NASA first started sending up astronauts, they quickly discovered that ball-point pens would not work in zero gravity. To combat this problem, NASA scientists spent a decade and \$12 billion developing a pen that writes in zero gravity, upside down, on almost any surface including glass and at temperatures ranging from below freezing to over 300 C.

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Dreams to Reality!!!!

We want to invite you to the 8th annual Dreams to Reality, March 12-14, 2004. It is a special weekend full of workshops, vendors, fun and play. It is a time to meet new friends and reunite with old friends.

Dreams to Reality is a novice introduction to the Leather Community. It is a great place for new persons who are interested in BD/SM and never been to an event, or for those involved in the life-style and want to have a fun weekend of workshops, dungeon play Leather Fantasy Show and vendors. There will be lots to hold the interest of most anyone.

If you can't make the whole weekend, we would like to invite you to attend the Leather Fantasy Show on Saturday night, \$5 donation. The Raffle/auction will go to support the NCSF (National Coalition for Sexual Freedom). We also want to let everyone know that Sunday from 10-2 the vendor area will be open to the public. So if you need leather item, bondage items, or a new corset, (yes, we have a corset maker coming this year!) come visit our vendor area Sunday.

For more information visit our web site at **Dreamstoreality.freesevers.com** or contact Susan Abel at PO Box 11341 Omaha, NE 68111

More Info:

When: March 12-14

Where: Omaha Nebraska

This year Jack Rinella will be with us! We are looking forward to his workshops and Sunday morning brunch with him!

We keep this event small so the new people coming in will not be intimidated and will find support and friendship. Our staff go out of their way to insure everyone that comes will feel welcome and a part of the community!

Whether you have been in the Leather Community for years or if this is your first event we want you to feel you are a part of this wonder Leather Tribe.

For further information contact: L2EP@aol.com

Early Registration (before Feb 15)

L2EP Member @ \$65

Non-Member @ \$75

Feb 15 to March 8

L2EP members @ \$75 each

Non-members @\$85 each

After March 8th \$100

(No exceptions) @\$100 each

Where Can You Find The Gayzette?

Omaha:

Aces Bar, 1263 South 16th Street
Body Mods, 61st and Military
Club Olis, 2801 North 16th Street
Connections, 1901 Leavenworth
The Diamond, 712 South 16th Street
DC's Saloon, 610 South 14th Street
Dixie Quix, Restaurant 20th Leavenworth
First Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney
Flixx 1019 South 10th Street Omaha
Gilligan's Pub, 1407 Harney Street
The Joy, 1516 Jones Street
Liquid Courage Custom Tattoo, 2936 South 84th Street
The Max, 1417 Jackson
Metropolitan Community Church, 819 South 22nd Street
Omaha Mining Co., 1715 Leavenworth
Mystery Bookstore, 1422 South 13th St
Nebraska AIDS Project, 139 South 40th St
Next Millennium, 2308 North 72nd Street
Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center, 1719 Leavenworth
Stage Right Coffee and Tea House, 16th and Harney
Youth Emergency Services, 3910 Harney

Lincoln:

Panic Bar, 200 South 18th Street
Q Bar, 226 South 9th Street

Iowa:

Adult Emporium, Council Bluffs & Glenwood
Wilson Resource Center, Arnolds Park, IA

Internet Tidbits

"Embarrassing moment last week for Wesley Clark -- his motorcade was pulled over by Oklahoma state troopers for speeding. Apparently he was charged with going nowhere fast."

- Tonight Show host Jay Leno

"Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming- **WOW- What a Ride!!!!**"
Go fast and the wrinkles won't show.

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Sunday, Feb 22

Emperor Don Is Feeling Pretty! - Join Don & ICON For A Turn About Show

Tuesday, Feb 24 6 pm

What's Cooking Sally? - ICON & Sally Presby Dish Up A Fat Tuesday Feast

Friday, Feb 27

Crystal Delight Is Back ! Is It Fish? - Yes! A Lenten Fish Fry 6 pm

Saturday, Feb 28

Hooray For Hollywood - Rainbow Celebrations Annual Benefit

Sunday, Feb 29

It's Oscar Time At THE MAX - Watch The Awards On The Big Screen And Join Us For Contests And Prizes

For More Information Visit Us At www.themaxomaha.com or Call 402-346-4110