



Franklin Graham Backs N.C.'s Amendment One

BY Trudy Ring.

The evangelist asks North Carolina voters to support "God's definition of marriage."

Evangelist Franklin Graham, unsurprisingly, has come out in support of North Carolina's anti-marriage equality Amendment One.

Graham released an audio message Friday urging voters to "take a stand on God's definition of marriage" as a union between a man and a woman, The Christian Post reports. His sister Anne Graham Lotz, also an influential Christian leader, is supporting the measure as well.



They are the children of famed evangelist Billy Graham, and Franklin Graham is president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, based in Charlotte.

North Carolinians will vote May 8 on Amendment One, which would change the state's constitution to ban legal recognition of same-sex marriage as well as civil unions or any other type of relationship except heterosexual marriage. The state already bans same-sex marriage by statute, but constitutional bans are harder to overcome.

Some religious leaders have voiced opposition to the measure, among them Jay Bakker, the son of Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker. He is pastor of a church in New York City, but he grew up in North Carolina.

The Bully Backlash: How the Christian Right Is Attacking Efforts to Help Kids

By Katherine Stewart

Even as states and schools try to put in place anti-bullying policies, the Christian right is mobilizing to undo them.

For four years at his Tennessee high school, Jacob Rogers was bullied for being gay. He repeatedly appealed to school administrators for help, but didn't get much. Around Thanksgiving of last year, it got so bad that he quit going to school. In early December, not long after turning 18, he killed himself. Jacob, who lived with his grandmother, left her with passwords to his phone and email accounts, so that she and investigators might understand why he chose to take his own life.



In the recently released film *Bully*, filmmaker Lee Hirsch reminds us just how much cruelty young people are capable of displaying toward one another. The documentary records the grief and the determination of the parents of Ty, a boy who committed suicide at the age of 11, as they fight to change the system that served their son so poorly. It follows Alex, who faces daily torment on the school bus. And it tells the story of Kelby, a one-time star athlete in Tuttle, Oklahoma, who comes out as a lesbian – only to be kicked out of the school sports team amid an outpouring of hate.

Thirteen million children are bullied every year, says Hirsch. According to the American Psychological Association, approximately "40% to 80% of school-age children experience bullying at some point during their school careers." Suicides like Jacob's take place somewhere in America every single month. According to a Yale University study, children who are bullied are two to nine times more likely to end their own lives. Kids are bullied for all sorts of reasons: for being fat, shy, poor, rich and for no reason at all, although everyone familiar with the phenomenon knows that sexual orientation is a common ex-

(Continued on page 9)

May 4th, 2012 - May 18th, 2012

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Deadlines: Tuesday, May 15th, for Publication May 18th Tuesday, May 29th for Publication June



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MCC Omaha Congratulates Pastor Tom Emmett On Receiving A Grant For His Sabbatical From the Lilly Endowment

From June 1 Until Sept 7 Pastor Tom
Will Be On God's Time
Reading, Praying, & Meditating in Isolation in
the Mountains of Colorado.
He will study Spanish and live with a family in
Mexico. He will travel in Spain, visiting
museums, churches, and holy places.
This will be a time for renewal and reflection.



MCC Omaha Welcomes Pastor Stephen Sinclair As June Interim Pastor During Pastor's Sabbatical



Greetings, my brothers and sisters!

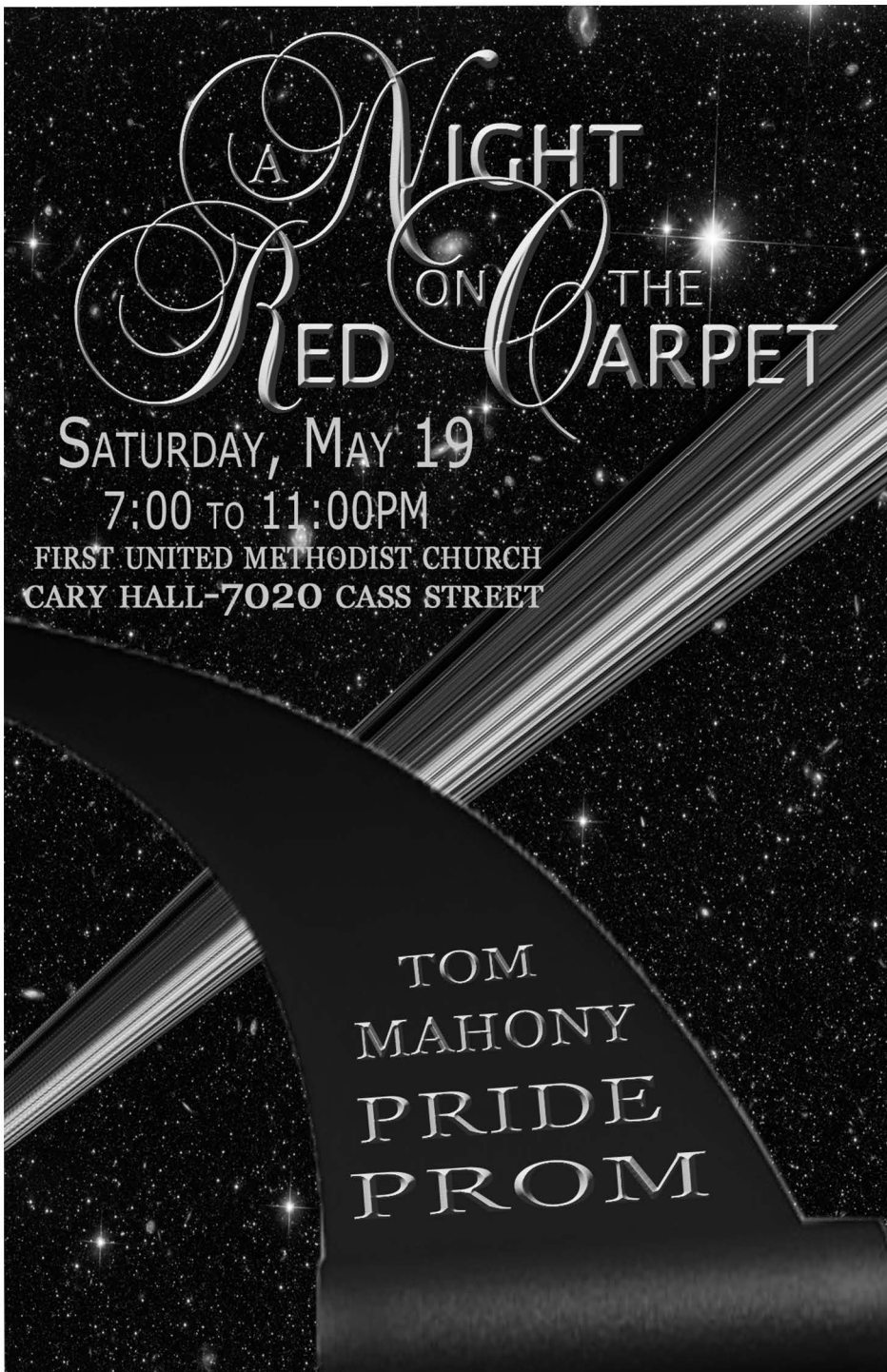
I am so looking forward to being back in Omaha to spend the first five weeks of Pastor Tom's sabbatical with you. MCC Omaha sustained me the two years I lived in Omaha and helped me in the ongoing discernment of my call to ministry. For those of you who don't know me, I'm ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry and was the interim minister at Second Unitarian on the west side of Omaha....My spiritual quest started in the country church that my grandparents founded in the farming community in northern Wisconsin. I went from United Methodism to Roman Catholicism to Hinduism to New Age to Nothing to 12 Step Spirituality back to Roman Catholicism and then returned to Hinduism before settling in with the Unitarian Universalists. I've always had God in my heart and felt the Holy Spirit working in my life, but it's been only in the last five years that I've gotten to the point where I've allowed Jesus to be sitting up front in the driver's seat again. I'm currently working towards credentialing in the United Church of Christ while I serve the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis where I was called as parish minister two years ago.

Peace be with you always! Pastor Stephen Sinclair

Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11:15AM
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Support the 2012 Tom Mahony Pride Prom!

This year's Tom Mahony Pride Prom is fast approaching. Every year the prom gains popularity and attendance has continually grown. Attendance over the last few years has been 300 youth or more. Prom organizers are hopeful that this year's turnout will continue that wonderful trend.

The Pride Prom will be held Saturday, May 19, from 7-11 p.m. in Cary Hall at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass

Street, Omaha, Nebraska. It's the eighth annual prom for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth and their straight allies ages 13-23.

The dance will have a DJ, photographer, security officers and refreshments. The theme is A Night on the Red Carpet. Admission is payable at the door and is \$6.00 per person or \$5.00 with a can of food donation. The food will go to the Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha's pantry, which provides services to the Nebraska AIDS Project and the community.

The event is one of the few places LGBT youth and allies can go and be themselves. Prom planners provide a safe and fun environment, and the youth dance the night away. Every year organizers hear how much the youth enjoy the prom.

We take pride in having this wonderful event. Each year the community has supported the Pride Prom and organizers once again are asking for support. If you would like to help keep this wonderful tradition going, please consider making a financial contribution. Donations may be sent to Proud Horizons, P.O. Box 390064, Omaha, NE 68139-0064. Please make checks payable to Proud Horizons.

A committee made up of members of Proud Horizons; Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG Omaha); the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN Omaha) and the metropolitan Omaha Gay Straight Alliances plan, staff and chaperone the prom. Donations to Pride Prom are tax deductible.

All donors will be recognized at the prom. If you wish to donate anonymously, let us know. For more information about Pride Prom, email Carrie Spencer at proudhorizons@yahoo.com

Visit the Tom Mahony Pride Prom Facebook page to stay up to date on all the

prom plans.

Proud Horizons, sponsored by PFLAG Omaha, is a youth support group for LGBT youth and their allies and provides a safe space for youth to discuss life's issues with their peers and to create a social network. To learn more about Proud Horizons go to: www.proudhorizons.com or e-mail proudhorizons@yahoo.com

SPRING AWAKENING

Winner of 8 TONY Awards / Omaha premiere

The BLUEBARN Theatre will close its 2011-2012 Season - "The Rebellious One"- with SPRING AWAKENING, book and lyrics by Steven Sater, Music by Duncan Sheik, based on the play by Frank Wedekind. The show opens Friday, May 11th for an extended six week run which closes Sunday June 17th. Producing Artistic Director Susan Clement-Toberer will direct, with scenic design by Martin Scott Marchitto, costumes by Jennifer Pool, lighting design by Carol Wisner, and Scenic Painting by Craig Lee.

Shows run Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. (no show Thursday June 7th) and Sundays June 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 6 p.m. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults; and \$20 for students, seniors 65+, TAG members, and groups of 10 or more.

About SPRING AWAKENING

Spring Awakening is an electrifying rock adaptation of Frank Wedekind's expressionist play of the same title. Set in 19th Century provincial Germany, the story centers on a group of teenagers coming of age in an uncomprehending world. Wedekind's play explores the difficulty of finding a place of equilibrium in a world that, round about 14, starts to look strange and terrifying through the distorting prism of puberty. Banned when the production first premiered in 1891, this contemporary musical is still provocative in its uncompromising gaze at the trials, tears and exhilaration of the teen years.

About BLUEBARN Theatre

The BLUEBARN Theatre has been bringing professionally-produced plays to area audiences since its inception in 1989. Since that time, BLUEBARN has produced over 80 plays and has established itself as Omaha's premier contemporary theatre company.

Striving to bring artistically significant scripts and professional production values to Omaha and the surrounding region, BLUEBARN is known for high quality entertainment and the fearless pursuit of stories that challenge both theatre artists and patrons.

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How to Make Fashion Your Friend

Harriet Gill, a friend of mine, died recently at the ripe old age of 94. At her memorial, her daughters gave a book of her "essays" to anyone who wanted one. Harriet was a commentator on public radio for many years and often spoke about "authentic dress" for men and women. Here's Harriet on fashion:



"Fashion can be charming, seductive, a means of self-expression, a consumer of time, effort and peace of mind . . . We may be apathetic to fashion, pay minimum attention to what we wear, or we may feel excited by the beauty of clothes. We may be absorbed by the image that fashion wants us to emulate, or we may be rebellious and say, 'I'll do it my way'."

Regardless of how you feel about clothes, are you open to seeing them differently? If so, let me share some ideas for your consideration: to me,

- Clothes are meant to be fun and functional.
- Clothes are not meant to do anything but amuse us and let us do what we want to do in them.
- Clothes exist to serve us, not vice-versa.
- Clothes are benign, but...
- We often project our entire future onto our clothing's ability to "impress" other people, e.g., a hot date or important job interview..

Clothes just sit there on their innocent little hangers, unaware of all we expect them to do for us. How did clothes become such emotion-laden "tools" of seduction, manipulation and competition?

When you go shopping for clothes, shoes or other fashion stuff, what happens? When I used to work as a personal shopper, I saw totally competent men and women become scared little kids when they had to dress themselves. What happened to their confidence? Why didn't they trust themselves?

To help find your own confidence in choosing clothes for yourself, try this experiment the next time you go clothes shopping:

1. As you go into a clothing store, notice your emotions: just notice. If you are hyperventilating because everything's on sale, notice it. If you are hyperventilating because you're totally confused and feel helpless, notice that. This is your fashion baseline, and it is malleable (so relax and breathe).

2. Just walk around the store or mall and give yourself permission NOT to buy anything. Take the pressure off yourself. Just look at the clothes. Notice what you find yourself drawn to. Don't judge, just observe. You may surprise yourself.

3. Give yourself permission to try some things on, knowing that you do not have to buy anything, it's just an experiment, remember? Before you look in the mirror, see how the clothes feel: comfortable, or not? Then look in the mirror, do you like what you see? Even if you shock yourself (e.g., I could NEVER wear THAT in public), just notice if it pleases you.

4. Leave the store and walk around. Don't buy anything yet. Get a coffee or soda. Then see how you feel about what you tried on. Do any of those items "beckon" you back to the store? If so, go back and try them on again.

5. Give yourself permission to buy 3 items- no more - knowing you can return them if you freak out tomorrow. Remember, this can be FUN and playful, it's just an experiment.

6. Go home and don't try them on. Not yet. Wait until the next day. See how they feel. If you decide to keep the clothes you brought home, don't feel a need to wear them right away. Let them "sit" a bit. You might wear them around the house to see how you like them (oh, glamorous you!).

If your attitude towards clothes has been negative, why not change it and begin to use clothes to express yourself, amuse yourself, and feel good. Even if you have to buy a business suit, which suit pleases you the most? How can you make it "your own"? Even if the suit is kind of boring to you, is there anything you can wear with it that you feel good about? Like shoes, cuff links or ties?

Don't treat fashion magazines as the bible. It is their job to push clothes that are trendy and expensive. Don't fall for it. Many magazines portray fashion in a way that encourages social and sexual competition. They hook us by calling into question our feelings of belonging and of being good enough.

Stick with the wisdom of Harriet Gill:

"I vow to learn from fashion, but not to collapse into it, to adapt its best ideas, ignore its absurdities and find and keep my own way... fashion is a wonderful servant and a most difficult master."

Amen.

cuse.

Solutions to the problem of bullying aren't easy. They have to do more with changing the culture than changing the legal codes. Families bear the chief responsibility for teaching their children to respect others. Schools can help, though, by educating students and teachers about the problem, setting up clear and effective policies for dealing with cases and establishing accountability, and fostering a safe and welcoming environment for all students. State legislators in New Jersey, Michigan, and Illinois, among other places, have taken important steps in this direction with useful anti-bullying bills. The merits of specific policies, and the money and time they will consume, can be debated, but we can all agree that bullying is a bad thing and that we should be looking for solutions. Right?

Wrong. A number of groups that claim to represent the "Christian viewpoint" have come out in vigorous opposition to anti-bullying initiatives, and their opposition has to do with a fundamental question about exactly what we think bullying is.

In Arizona, for example, legislators had their anti-bullying bill teed up for passage in March. But then, Cathi Herrod, chief of a lobbying group associated with Focus on the Family, decided that the bill was really part of an effort to "force cultural acceptance and affirmation of homosexual lifestyles". Although the bill doesn't refer specifically to any one victimized group, Herrod successfully pressured lawmakers into rejecting it. Senate minority leader David Schapira, a sponsor of his Senate Bill 1462, called her a "legislative terrorist". Cathi Herrod, an une-

lected lobbyist, killed a bill that would protect all Arizona kids purely because of her intolerance of gay kids," he said.

In Michigan last year, the "anti-anti-bullying" lobby went on the offensive with some legislation of their own. In a bill dealing with the bullying issue, they inserted a provision that would have exempted bullies who acted out of "a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction". With an irony that seems more than usually cruel, the bill was named for a Michigan teen who had committed suicide after years of bullying.

A national outpouring of disgust at the Michigan legislature's attempt to legitimize faith-based bullying ultimately resulted in the removal of the provision from the bill. But now the lawmakers of a Tennessee plan to make good on the loss. In what must count as an extraordinarily perverse way to mark the suicide of Jacob Rogers, they have introduced a bill that follows the trail blazed by the Michigan lawmakers, with some inconsequential changes in language, to open up a loophole for verbal bullying that is motivated by religious prejudices. Given that the Tennessee legislature approved Bill 368, which is intended to bring "creationism" into the state's biology classrooms, on 26 March, the prospects for this anti-anti-bullying bill have to be considered good.

In Washington, Senator Al Franken and Representative Jared Polis have put forward the Student Non-Discrimination Act, which would add sexual orientation and gender identity to anti-discrimination law. The legislation recently won the signed backing of 70 civil rights and educational groups, ranging from the ACLU to the American Federation of Teachers. But the Christian right is up in arms. According to rightwing pundits and bloggers, the nefarious purpose of Franken's and Polis's bill is the so-called "homosexualization" of students. Concerned Women for America says it aims at "promoting acceptance of LGBT behavior".

Many people will undoubtedly conclude that these efforts by the anti-anti-bully lobby are lacking in Christian charity or common sense. But their proponents do have a point that we should carefully consider. To be sure, the notion that the anti-bullying initiatives are driven by "the homosexual agenda" – a phrase that conjures the vision of gay hordes aiming to seduce children into lives of abomination – is preposterous. But the sense that anti-bullying initiatives involve teaching children "acceptance" of LGBT peers, to use the word of the Concerned Women of America, is not. If you want the school to tell students to stop harassing kids like Jacob Rogers because they are gay, you have to let them know, at some point, that the school thinks it's OK to be gay.

As Americans, we all like to believe that we can establish laws and policies that are neutral with respect to religious belief. But the truth is, we can't, and we don't. Sometimes, we have to make a choice. We have already made such choices – obviously, the right ones – with respect to race or ethnicity. No state or school would or should entertain for a moment the notion that it is acceptable for students to tell those of another race or ethnicity that they are inferior and degenerate because their religion teaches them – as some religions in America did, until quite recently – that certain races are less worthy before God than others. Maybe, it's time to come clean about sexual preference.

We can spend long hours parsing the complexities of social and cultural influences on human sexual behavior, and we can de-

(Continued on page 12)

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

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
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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 & Wednesday Worship at 7pm

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

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

SECOND UNITARIAN, 9:30 & 11:30am Sunday service, Vespers Service 4th Sunday at 5pm, 3012 South 119th St., Omaha NE 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

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A A GLBT "RAINBOW GROUP"
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GAY/BI/STRAIGHT SUPPORT GROUP
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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.

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

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

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

NAP HIV TESTING, 250 South 77th St., by appointment only on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30pm, Walkin from 5pm to 8pm

UNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA, 7pm

WORSHIP SERVICES

MCC OMAHA, Bible Study, 7pm

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

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

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

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

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

Every Other Friday
BCBA SOCIAL GET-TOGETHER at Barley's, 114 West Broadway in CB) starting at 5:00-7:00pm every other Friday

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Wednesday
FREE RAPID HIV TESTING, 8pm to 10pm at Flix Show Bar, STD testing also available for \$10, call 552-9260 ext. 113 or 142 or visit www.nap.org for more info

HEARTLAND PRIDE, Pride Planning Meeting- 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at D Dale Clark Library, 215 S. 15th St. 6pm-8pm, Email: info@heartlandpride.org, or find us on Facebook

1st Thursday
GLBT PROFESSIONALS, meeting at 5:30pm in various locations. Email at: GOg-1bt@cfep-ne.org or see www.GOg1bt.org for

info

1st Friday

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE HOUSE 8pm,
Musicians, poets, open mic, First Unitarian
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1st Saturday

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

1st Sunday

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 Saturday

Ecumenical Catholics of Omaha, 5pm –
6:30pm, A progressive community in the Cath-
olic tradition, Meets in the MCC sanctuary
Phone: 402.953.7656
Email: ecuomaha@live.com
Web: www.ecuomaha.org

3rd Monday

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

3rd Wednesday

HEARTLAND PRIDE, Pride Planning
Meeting- 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month
at D Dale Clark Library, 215 S. 15th St. 6pm-
8pm, Email: info@heartlandpride.org, or find
us on Facebook

3rd Saturday

Ecumenical Catholics of Omaha, 5pm –
6:30pm, A progressive community in the Cath-
olic tradition, Meets in the MCC sanctuary,
Phone: 402.953.7656
Email: ecuomaha@live.com
Web: www.ecuomaha.org

3rd Sunday

CBCA MEETING 5 PM until about 6:30 PM
is our monthly meeting with potluck. We meet
at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Council Bluffs

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

4th Friday

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

**SMART A\$\$ ANSWER
OF THE YEAR 2012**

A college teacher reminds her class of tomorrow's final exam. "Now class, I won't tolerate any excuses for you not being here tomorrow. I might consider a nuclear attack or a serious personal injury, illness, or a death in your immediate family, but that's it, no other excuses whatsoever!" A smart-ass guy in the back of the room raised his hand and asked, "What would you say if tomorrow I said I was suffering from complete and utter sexual exhaustion?" The entire class is reduced to laughter and snickering. When silence is restored, the teacher smiles knowingly at the student, shakes her head and sweetly says, "Well, I guess you'd have to write the exam with your other hand."

The Pharmacist

Upon arriving home, a husband was met at the door by his sobbing wife.

Tearfully, she explained, "It's the druggist. He insulted me terribly this morning on the phone. I had to call multiple times before he would even answer the phone."

Immediately, the husband drove downtown to confront the druggist and demand an apology. Before he could say more than a word or two, the druggist said, "Now, just a minute. Listen to my side of it. This morn-

ing, the alarm failed to go off, so I was late getting up. I went without breakfast and hurried out to the car, just to realize that I'd locked the house with both house and car keys inside and had to break a window to get my keys.

"Then, driving a little too fast, I got a speeding ticket. Later, when I was about three blocks from the store, I had a flat tire."

"When I finally got to the store, a bunch of people were waiting for me to open up. I got the store opened and started waiting on these people. All the time, the damn phone was ringing off the hook."

He continued, "Then, I had to break a roll of nickels against the cash register drawer to make change, and they spilled all over the floor. I had to get down on my hands and knees to pick up the nickels, and the phone was still ringing.

"When I came up, I cracked my head on the open cash drawer, which made me stagger back against a showcase with a bunch of perfume bottles on it. Half of them hit the floor and broke."

"Meanwhile, the phone is still ringing with no let up, and I finally got back to answer it. It was your wife. She wanted to know how to use a rectal thermometer."

"As God is my witness, all I did was tell her."

Communications Network

After having dug to a depth of 10 meters last year, Danish scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Danes, in the weeks that followed, Swedish scientists dug to a depth of 20 meters, and shortly after, headlines in the Swedish newspapers read:

"Swedish archaeologists have found traces of 200 year old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the Danes."

One week later, "The Klub", a Sunburg, Minnesota newspaper, reported the following:

"After digging as deep as 30 meters in corn fields near Games Lake, Ole Johnson, a self taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Ole has therefore concluded that 300 years ago Norwegians were already using wireless."



**IF THEY SMOKE,
YOU SMOKE.**

One smoker is all it takes for an entire building to be affected by secondhand smoke. Even with air filtration and ventilation systems, the hazards remain.

One neighbor's decision can affect your family's health. Choose smoke-free housing.



A better choice for everyone.

RentSmokeFree.org

This project is supported in part by Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare through funding provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/Tobacco Free Nebraska Program as a result of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

(The Bully Backlash, Continued from page 9)

vote still more hours to lamenting the reductive crudeness with which human sexuality is coralled in tidy categories. But the fact is that for most people, sexual orientation is no more a matter of choice than place of birth or color of skin. And even if we were to suppose that, for some of the people, some of the time, it is a matter of choice, the fact remains that it is not the kind of choice that breaks anybody's leg or picks anybody's pocket. It is OK to be gay. And it's time to let the bullies know that.

Dan Savage Under Fire After Challenging Bible Talk

BY Michelle Garcia.

Gay activist and journalist Dan Savage caught the ire of right wing LGBT organization GOProud, which condemned a speech Savage gave at a conference for high school journalists earlier this month.

Savage devoted a few moments of his speech to his thoughts on how people and pundits use the Bible to condemn homosexuality at a conference titled, "Journalism on the Edge" for the Washington Journalism Education Association. Several students walked out on Savage, the founder of the It Gets Better Project.

"We can learn to ignore the bullshit in the Bible about gay people," he said on April 13. "The same way, the same way we have learned to ignore the bullshit in the Bible about shellfish,

about slavery, about dinner, about farming, about menstruation, about virginity, about masturbation. We ignore bullshit in the Bible about all sorts of things. The Bible is a radically pro-slavery document. Slave owners waved Bibles over their heads during the Civil War and justified it."

After the students walked out in protest, Savage retorted, "It's funny, as someone who's on the receiving end of beatings that are justified by the Bible, how pansy-assed some people react when you push back."



GOProud executive director Jimmy LaSalvia said in a statement Saturday, that Savage should apologize to the high school students in attendance.

"Dan Savage's outrageous anti-Christian tirade hurts -- not helps -- the fight for gay rights in this country," LaSalvia said. "There is nothing incompatible between being a Christian and believing that all people should be treated equally, and Dan Savage's attacks on Christianity only fuel those on the extremist fringe who oppose gay rights."

The Top Five Special Interest Groups Lobbying

To Keep Marijuana Illegal

By Lee Fang

Last year, over 850,000 people in America were arrested for marijuana-related crimes. Despite public opinion, the medical community, and human rights experts all moving in favor of relaxing marijuana prohibition laws, little has changed in terms of policy.

There have been many great books and articles detailing the history of the drug war. Part of America's fixation with keeping the leafy green plant illegal is rooted in cultural and political clashes from the past.

However, we at Republic Report think it's worth showing that there are entrenched interest groups that are spending large sums of money to keep our broken drug laws on the books:

1.) Police Unions: Police departments across the country have become dependent on federal drug war grants to finance their budget. In March, we published a story revealing that a police union lobbyist in California coordinated the effort to defeat Prop 19, a ballot measure in 2010 to legalize marijuana, while helping his police department clients collect tens of millions in federal marijuana-eradication grants. And it's not just in California. Federal lobbying disclosures show that other police union lobbyists have pushed for stiffer penalties for marijuana-related crimes nationwide.

2.) Private Prisons Corporations: Private prison corporations make millions by incarcerating people who have been imprisoned for drug crimes, including marijuana. As Republic Report's Matt Stoller noted last year, Corrections Corporation of America, one of the largest for-profit prison companies, revealed in a regulatory filing that continuing the drug war is part in parcel to their business strategy. Prison companies have spent millions bankrolling pro-drug war politicians and have used secretive front groups, like the American Legislative Exchange Council, to pass harsh sentencing requirements for drug crimes.

3.) Alcohol and Beer Companies: Fearing competition for the dollars Americans spend on leisure, alcohol and tobacco interests have lobbied to keep marijuana out of reach. For instance, the California Beer & Beverage Distributors contributed campaign contributions to a committee set up to prevent marijuana from being legalized and taxed.

4.) Pharmaceutical Corporations: Like the sin industries listed above, pharmaceutical interests would like to keep marijuana illegal so American don't have the option of cheap medical alternatives to their products. Howard Wooldridge, a retired police officer who now lobbies the government to relax marijuana prohibition laws, told Republic Report that next to police unions, the "second biggest opponent on Capitol Hill is big PhRMA" because marijuana can replace "everything from Advil to Vicodin and other expensive pills."

5.) Prison Guard Unions: Prison guard unions have a vested interest in keeping people behind bars just like for-profit prison companies. In 2008, the California Correctional Peace Officers Association spent a whopping \$1 million to defeat a measure that would have "reduced sentences and parole times for nonviolent drug offenders while emphasizing drug treatment over prison."

SNAP! Productions to mount Two Premieres for this season's SNAP! fest 2012

After more than eight years, SNAP! Productions is bringing back its New Works Festival. This June, SNAP! fest 2012 will host the Premieres of two great shows. Making its Omaha Premiere at SNAP! fest 2012, is Joshua Conley's comedy MilkMilkLemonade which is an unusual telling of childhood growing pains. Making its World Premiere at the Festival is Frank Anthony Polito's comedy Band Fags! which is based on his award winning novel that was banned on Facebook.

MilkMilkLemonade is the story of 11-year old Emory, who dreams of being a singer and a dancer. His plans to ribbon dance his way to television's "Reach For The Stars" are thwarted by his Nanna, who is determined to mold Emory into a normal American boy, and erase his days of Jazz hands and Nina Simone covers. A children's play definitely not for children, MilkMilkLemonade is a queer pondering of gender, identity, and the need to dream up a world where you can be who you are.

Band Fags! tells the story of best friends since seventh grade, Jack and Brad, as they come of age in suburban Detroit during the mid-1980s.

As Jack and Brad make their way through junior high and high school, their friendship grows deeper and more complicated. From stealing furtive glances at Playgirl to discussing which celebrities might be "like that," from navigating school cliques to dealing with crushes on girls and guys alike, Jack is trying to figure out who and what he is.

Alas, life is not a John Hughes movie. And sooner or later, Jack must choose which path to follow. But will his decision come at the expense of his friendship with Brad?

MilkMilkLemonade is being directed by Robert Williams and has a five person cast. The cast includes Michael Martinez, Matt Uehling, Catie Miller. Band Fags! is being directed by SNAP! board member, Thomas Lowe, and has cast that includes Joey Galda and Predrag "PJ" Sudar.

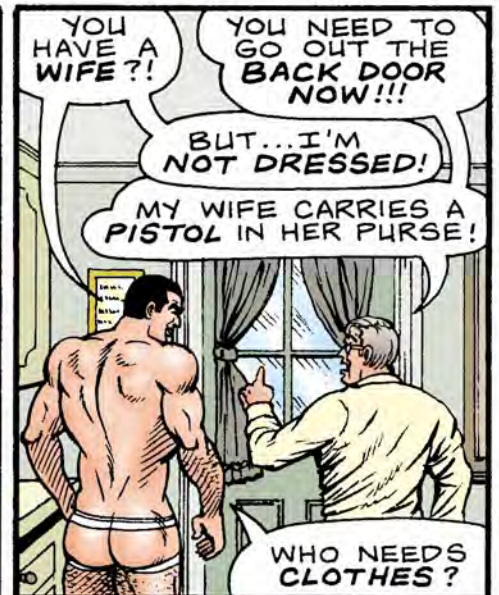
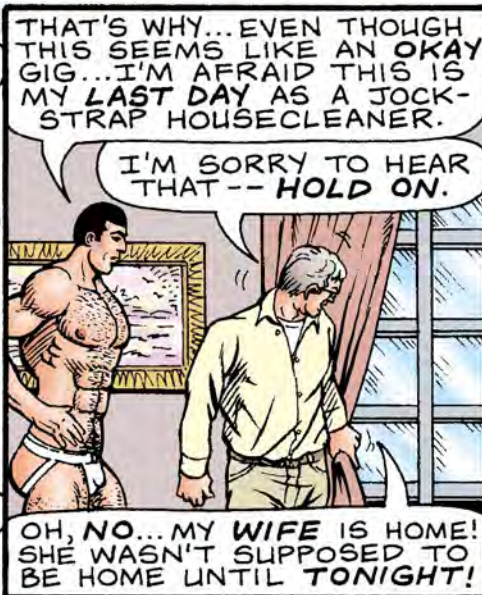
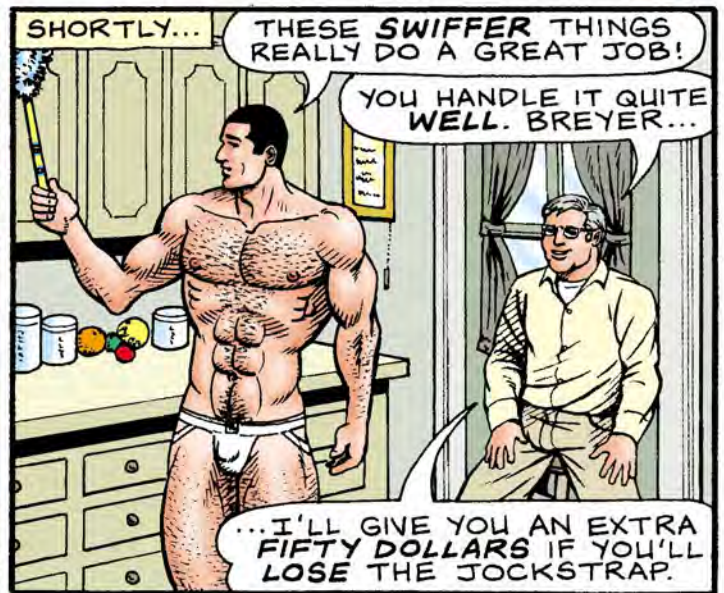
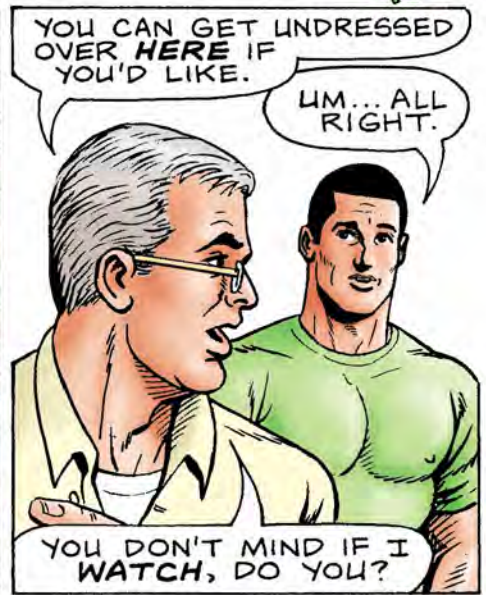
Producing the festival this year are Echelle Childers and Michal Simpson.

Buy your tickets now for SNAP! fest 2012. MilkMilkLemonade will run May 31-June 3 and June 9-10, 14-15. Band Fags! will run June 7-8 and June 16-17, 21-24. SNAP! Productions is located at 3225 California Street. Curtain times are 8:00 pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 6:00 pm on Sundays. The Sunday, June 24th show will start at 2:00 pm. The theater opens a half hour before curtain time. Reservations must be made on-line at the SNAP! Productions website: www.snapproductions.com. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$12.00 for Senior, TAG and Students.

SNAP! also offers \$10.00 Thursday pricing and a Festival Bundle price of both shows for \$20.00 anytime.

Kyle's Bed & Breakfast by Greg Fox

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Fitness Corner

By Ron Blake



Why could an interrogative help your fitness? When could an interrogative help you with your health? Where could an interrogative help you with your wellness? What the #%@ is an interrogative? They are the pronouns that are often known as the five W's in grammar. Who, what, when, where, and why are ready to get some answers from you about achieving your healthy state.

Who should you exercise with? Some people are individualistic and prefer only the company of their musical ear buds. An alone workout can be an excellent escape from all the daily rigors of your mortis. However, you might just want a pal to push you toward those fitness goals you set in motion. A partner can get you motivated to find that sometimes elusive entrance to the health club. The synergy from attaching to a friend can also leave you with much more than you expected.

What should you do when get to the gym? It helps if you know the reasons for your exercising intentions. A marathon in three months has you on the treadmill. A postpartum panic has you burning the calories and trimming those thighs with the Zumba class. A desire to join the rugby team has you building solid muscle with the gridiron goliaths and all their free weights.

When should I expect to see you at the health club? Mornings can be a good way to get that fitness routine in the books. Early workouts can give added energy to your day. They also can get your workout out of the way so you can plan other activities for evenings. The rise and shine option can give you that confidence that comes with completion of a job well done. The rise and shine option also means that you will need to actually get up an hour earlier for work. That doesn't appeal to the masses usually. Late afternoon workouts will still get 'er done!

Where are you going to exercise? It's not likely you will have a treadmill, full set of dumbbells, and an indoor swimming pool at your homestead. If you want a lot of variety and numerous options then I'd go with the health club membership. On the other hand you can make it happen at 123 Anywhere Street with a little resourcefulness. You could get a good workout in with resistance bands, an exercise ball, and a few sets of dumbbells. These items are easy to store and can be used in almost every room in your apartment, house, or condo.

Why are you working out? This open ended question can bring forth a myriad of possible retorts: companionship, preparation for the charity walk, your doctor's request, the challenge of it all, or to stay alive to see your kid's graduation day. You should have a goal to guide you around the bases and get you to home plate. Goals are amazingly powerful when used properly!

The more preparation that is involved in your endeavors, the more likely you will have something positive to show for the efforts. This translates to more fun and who doesn't want that. Take some time to answer these basic five questions and see how beneficial the results can be for your health and wellness.

This health and wellness article is brought to you by that guy

who likes to answer questions with yet more questions. That guy of quantum queries is Ron Blake and he can be found in perplexity at SmallTownBigCityRadio.com



A benefit for the
Nebraska AIDS Project's
Prevention, Outreach & Education
efforts.

Calling all designers...
If interested in
participating in this
year's event, please
contact Gary or Nakia
at
402-552-9260.

**Project Condom
Fashion Show
2012** 

Wednesday, June 27th, 2012
Downtown Doubletree Hotel




NEBRASKA AIDS PROJECT

250 South 77th Street, Suite A
Omaha, NE 68114
(Located behind McDonald's at 77th & Dodge Street)

www.nap.org
402-552-9260

Free anonymous or confidential rapid HIV testing.
Chlamydia & Gonorrhea testing also available for \$10.00

NAP: 77th & Dodge St.	Wednesday 1:30 to 3:30 pm (appointment only) 5:00 to 8:00 pm (walk-in)	
	Thursday 1:30 to 3:30 pm (appointment only) 5:00 to 8:00 pm (walk-in)	
Flix Lounge: 10th & Pacific St.	1st & 3rd Mondays of each month 8:00 to 10:00 pm (walk-in)	
RESPECT Clinic 50th & Ames Ave. (Located in Baker Square Plaza)	2nd & 4th Mondays of each month 5:00 to 7:00 pm (walk-in)	

Know your status. GET TESTED!

Call 402-552-9260 to schedule an appointment or with any questions.
www.nap.org

**SATURDAY, 5TH
4PM**

“It’s All About The Hat,
A Kentucky Derby Event”

7PM

“Cuffs & Collars” Male Strippers

SUNDAY, 6TH - 10PM

“Emperor Turnabout”
presented by Emperor 31
Todd Pacas

SATURDAY, 12TH - 7PM

“Prince & Princess Royal Ball”

SUNDAY, 13TH - 9PM

“Fresh Fish”
presented by
Chandler Chubbs

SATURDAY, 19TH - 7PM

Madame X Cancer Benefit Show

SUNDAY, 20TH - 10PM

“Dirty Thirties”
presented by
Mister Max MI Phil Latio

FRIDAY 25TH 8PM

Jason & deMarco
presented by MCC

the max

1417 JACKSON ST, OMAHA, NE 68102 (402) 346-4110