

**FFBC**

First Friday News & Views

Monthly Newsletter of the *First Friday Breakfast Club, Inc.*

June 2019

Volume 24

Issue 6

The next FFBC meeting is
Friday, June 7,
2019
7:00 a.m.



FFBC Meeting Location:
Hoyt Sherman Place,
15th & Woodland,
Des Moines



R.S.V.P.

JonathanWilson@davisbrownlaw.com

or phone (515) 288-2500

or the website

by Tuesday,

June 4.



FFBC Website:
www.ffbc Iowa.org



A Brief Account of the Origins of the First Friday Breakfast Club

by Jonathan Wilson

In late 1995, after I came out publicly at a televised Des Moines School Board meeting and was defeated in my re-election bid, I came up with the idea of a gay men's breakfast club. I was inspired by my own experience earlier at a California Men's Gathering [see the companion article about Saggy Baggy the Elephant].

I called a couple of gay acquaintances that I thought, collectively, knew every gay man in central Iowa that would be worthy of knowing. One of those was John Schmacker who is still today a member of FFBC. Together, we came up with about a dozen names. We divided up the list and called them to invite them to join us for drinks after work. They agreed.

Over drinks, the idea of a gay men's breakfast club was shared and well-received. As we were wrapping up, the question was asked (almost as an after-thought), did any of them know anyone else in central Iowa that might be similarly interested? To our mutual surprise, everyone there could think of two to three other gay men that might be interested.



Again, a list of names was made, divided among us, and invitations extended. The first meeting of FFBC took place on November 3, 1995. About three dozen men showed up. We'd learned our lesson; before concluding the meeting, we asked the group to identify anyone else they knew who might be interested. Sure enough, almost everyone there could think of at least one other gay man who would be interested.

I did the legal work to create the corporate entity and obtain its nonprofit, tax exempt status. A Board of Directors was formed. That original Board of Directors included myself and John Schmacker. Only one other person now living in Des Moines was on that original Board of Directors. One is deceased, and the others have moved from Des Moines in pursuit of their careers.




[continued on page two]

The Board of Directors developed the focused mission of supporting education that would reduce homophobia and educate about LGBTQ issues. The scholarship program was born of the desire to reward courageous things done throughout Iowa by high school seniors who are going on to further their education. The mission was also to create a safe space for men coming out of the closet and wanting to have the experience of walking into a room full of people and having it assumed that they are gay. That safe space represented (and still represents) one of the largest gatherings of gay men anywhere without the presence of smoke, alcohol, or loud music.

The FFBC database now includes literally hundreds of gay, bisexual, and trans men. FFBC publishes a monthly newsletter read by scores of members and subscribers. FFBC has awarded (as of 2019) over \$275,000 in scholarships. FFBC has met on the first Friday of every month since that first meeting back in 1996 with only two or three exceptions in twenty-three years. We have sent members to the far corners of Iowa to present the scholarship awards at high graduation ceremonies, often in front of audiences who thought they'd never seen a real, live gay person before. FFBC has interesting speakers at every meeting who educate our members and guests, and who are also educated by the experience. The first guest speaker was Dennis Ryerson, Editor of *The Des Moines Register*. Before the meeting began, he leaned over and asked me, incredulously, "Are all of the men here gay?" I replied, "Everyone except you, supposedly." It was eye opening, even for someone as aware and enlightened as he was.

Among other milestones, FFBC prompted protests by "reverend" Fred Phelps. When it was known that he and his ilk planned to protest FFBC, the Phelps Helps fundraiser was initiated. The community was asked, rather than counter-protesting, to pledge some amount of money from a penny on up for every minute Phelps was in town protesting. We raised over \$25,000 for the scholarship program; to this day the largest single contributor to our scholarship program is Fred Phelps. The lord works in mysterious ways.



 **Mark Your Calendar**

June's Speaker:

Chasten Buttigieg



You are invited

For two reasons, this is going to be a **VERY** special meeting. We will have our current crop of scholarship recipients and their families there. Our speaker will be Chasten Buttigieg, spouse of Pete Buttigieg (openly gay candidate for President). There are going to be **LOTS** of people in attendance.

So, you **MUST** RSVP in order to be assured of a seat. Repeat. You must RSVP.

RSVP TO THIS EVENT!

You are encouraged to go to the website (www.ffbc-iowa.org) to pay in advance. In addition to a separate registration table for scholars and their families, we will have **TWO** registration tables – one for those who have prepaid and one for those who have not paid in advance. You will speed your entry if you have prepaid. You can also RSVP on the website.

Media may be there – members of the media will be confined to the foyer during the meeting. Media will be instructed that there are to be no photographs published without permission of those in the picture, and no names used without prior permission.

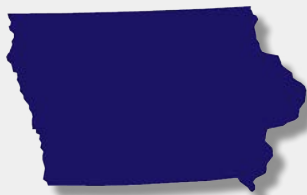
You are encouraged to arrive early. Attendees will be asked to start through the food line as soon as the caterer is ready. There will be some reserved seats for scholars, their families and their FFBC host. Other than those, it'll be open seating. This is going to be a wonderful, exciting meeting. Prepare to be inspired and to leave with a terrific sense of hope!!!!

You must RSVP in order to be assured of a seat – there is every possibility that we will hit the fire code limit on total permissible attendance, so RSVP ASAP. You are encouraged to prepay at the website. RSVPs should be received by no later than Tuesday, June 4, 2019.



FFBC Scholarship Recipient Makes Good

by Bruce Carr



Our guest speaker on Friday morning, May 3, 2019, was State Senator Zach Wahls, now in his first term representing Iowa Senate District 37, which includes Coralville, western Iowa City, and Solon in Johnson County; all of Cedar County; and the City of Wilton in Muscatine County. Zach was introduced by FFBC member and former Senator Matt McCoy who said of Zach, “the best thing that happened in the Iowa Senate this year.” Zach then began his remarks by noting wryly that “that was a pretty low bar....”

Indeed, when the teenage Zach Wahls first spoke before the FFBC eight years ago and was asked about his future plans, he actually said: “I hope I never have to stoop to the level of being a politician.” Well, he’s getting grown-up now, and becoming a pretty successful activist-leaning-toward politics. Among this former Eagle Scout’s more impressive accomplishments so far is founding Scouts for Equality to get rid of the Boy Scouts of America’s (BSA) ban on gays and lesbians as scout leaders. But being elected from the “People’s Republic of Iowa City” had fully not prepared him for the cowardly and cynical workings of the majority of the 88th Iowa General Assembly.

“There is so much more we could have done,” he said. “The Legislature did nothing to fix the Governor’s privatized Medicaid mess.... I’m disappointed that Senate Republicans stopped a bipartisan effort to restore voting rights for felons who have served their time. Beyond missed opportunities, some of the legislation passed this session is bad for Iowans and the future of our state. I voted ‘no’ on a misguided effort to politicize Iowa’s courts ... I also voted against bills that will hurt Iowa’s growing renewable-energy industry and restrict popular energy efficiency programs.”

You can hear, or re-hear, a complete audio recording of Zach Wahls’ talk and the Q&A following, by going to our Website, <ffbc-iowa.org>, and clicking on the “Speakers” tab.



Zach Wahls was raised by his two mothers from the age of five. His biological mom, Dr. Terry L. Wahls, an internal medicine physician at the University of Iowa, gave birth to Zach and to his four-years-younger sister with the aid of “Donor 1033” in the 1990s. The family moved from rural Wisconsin to Iowa City in 1995, where Terry met Jackie Reger; the pair’s commitment celebration in 1996 was but the first of three wedding ceremonies on their way to becoming legally married once that became possible in Iowa, in 2009. Also in 2009, Zach graduated from Iowa City West High School, where he was a quarterback on the football team and participated in speech and debate. He entered the University of Iowa that fall, withdrawing shortly thereafter to promote his book *My Two Moms: Lessons of Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family*, which was written with Bruce Littlefield and published in early 2012.

Returning to school, Wahls completed his bachelor’s degree at the U of I in May 2016 and enrolled in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. He was a delegate for Hillary Clinton at that summer’s Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. At the end of 2017, Zach announced that he would run for the retiring Robert Dvorsky’s Iowa Senate seat, focusing on issues of healthcare, education, and workers’ rights. Wahls traveled between New Jersey and Iowa City during his Senate campaign, and he received his master’s degree in public affairs from Princeton on June 5, 2018 -- the same day that he won the primary election, on the way to victory in November.

Zach Wahls lives in Coralville, where he can be reached at 319/499-7408. He’s on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, all the usual suspects; his e-mail at work is <zach.wahls@legis.iowa.gov>.



Photo by Gary Moore

TOO CUTE
♥ TO BE ♥
STRAIGHT

“The single best thing about coming out of the closet is that nobody can insult you by telling you what you’ve just told them.”

-- Rachel Maddow

Mark Your Calendars! FFBC Speakers Announced:

August 2:

Bruce Koff

(International Rainbow Railroad)

September 6:

Suzanna DeBaca

(CEO of Business Publications)

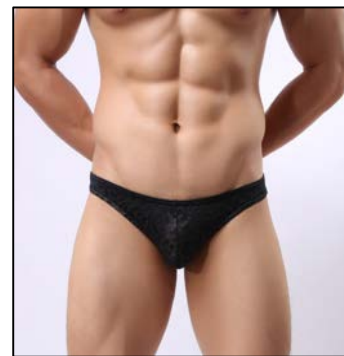
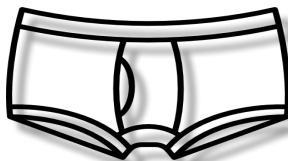
October 4:

Jerry Foxhoven

(Director of Iowa Department of Human Services)

Calendar

Briefs & Shorts:



Thanks to **Matt McCoy** for introducing our May speaker, newly minted Iowa State Senator, **Zach Wahls**. Thanks also to **Jordan Duesenberg** for his work on the FFBC website. Thanks to **Wade Petersen** for his work as our newsletter production editor. Thanks to **Ryan Weidner** for his work as our technology guru. *Thanks to all our contributors to the monthly newsletter!*

A special thank-you to those FFBC members and friends who have chosen to designate FFBC through the Donor Direct program of United Way. The contributions through United Way are tax deductible. Those who have chosen this means of supporting FFBC have gone to the trouble of completing their United Way campaign worksheet by designating FFBC as the beneficiary of their generosity. FFBC is an eligible recipient of such funding designations.

The next copy deadline for the FFBC newsletter will be **June 17, 2019**. If you have something on your mind, put it on paper and get it to me by the copy deadline. It'll be interesting, good therapy, or both. Caring is sharing.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Be sure to peruse the front table for a book you might like to read. **Book donations are always welcome**. Thanks to **Scott Kuknyo** for helping coordinate the book exchange.

Consider a tax-deductible contribution to the FFBC scholarship fund, or a tax exempt testamentary gift, or both. We awarded eight scholarships this year. We've awarded more than **\$275,000** in scholarships to deserving Iowa high school students. Our annual fundraising drive is currently in progress.



THIS IS **CAPITAL CITY PRIDE**
2019 Pride Fest · June 7-9 · Des Moines, Iowa

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Time to Step Up for the Trans Community

By Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy

The final hours of the Iowa Legislature were marked by mean-spirited legislation that attacked two groups. The first group, no stranger to GOP attacks, was Planned Parenthood, whose funding was eliminated for age-appropriate sex education to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. It is important to note that the fastest growing segment of the population where STD's are exploding is youth ages 15-24. While this group makes up just 25% of the sexually active population, it accounts for more than 50% of all sexually transmitted diseases.

In perhaps one of the cruelest efforts to marginalize an already abused group of individuals, the GOP attacked transgender Iowans. In the Health and Human Services budget bill, Senate and House Republicans eliminated and banned funding for gender reassignment and hormone therapy under Iowa's Medicaid budget. This followed a recent ruling by Iowa's Supreme Court where the Court ruled that Iowa's *Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses* of our State's Constitution protected these medically necessary services.

In the days following these GOP legislative enactments, I have detected a ho-hum attitude even among some of my most progressive friends. I have heard comments that clearly demonstrate a lack of knowledge and understanding of our transgender brothers and sisters. For example, "Why should our taxpayer-supported dollars be used for cosmetic surgery?" Or "There are a lot of good companies that already cover these services; they should find work in the private sector." Or simply, "I don't know if I am for this; honestly I don't know much about these people."

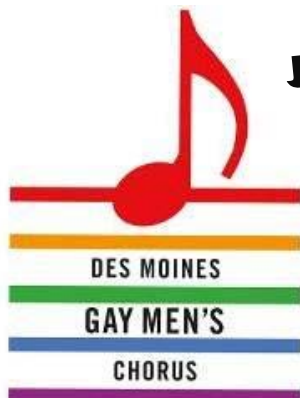


Well these people are just like you and me. They were born the way they are. Just like a person who is born gay did not have a choice in that decision, neither did a person who was born in an anatomically incorrect body. The nurture or nature arguments are over. It is 100% nature, and last time that I checked we did not have much control over that.

If there is one group of people that I expected to understand this issue it is the larger LGBTQ community. I have now had an opportunity to speak to individuals in the mental health field that have said that this legislation will have devastating impacts on transgender youth. The message that was sent by the GOP is clear; you are not welcome in Iowa.

I believe Iowa must do better for transgender Iowans. Statistics indicate that transgender youth have a much higher rate of teen suicide. Some studies indicate more than 40% of transgender youth attempt suicide at least once. In terms of violence, 35% of trans youth were bullied physically at school and 28% were bullied over social media.

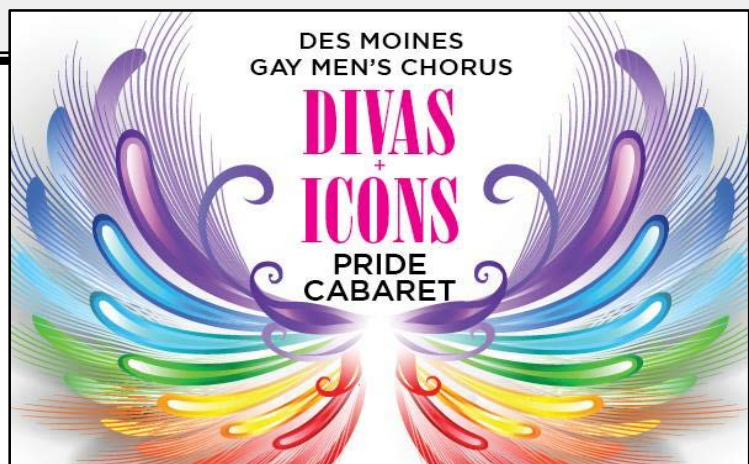
The Republican attack on transgender Iowans will further stigmatize and isolate these Iowans. This policy is bad for Iowa and bad for the LGBTQ community at large. Governor Reynolds indicated she would not support legislation that was discriminatory. She clearly misled Iowans and has done just that by signing this hateful act into Iowa law.



**June 6 & 7
7:30**

**June 8
5:30**

**Temple
Theater**



The Des Moines Pride Center Presents:

Evolution of the Revolution

50 Years Since Stonewall

The exhibition is presented by the Des Moines Pride Center and displays articles and artifacts from the last 50 years that shaped the modern Gay Movement in America and Iowa.

**LIMITED
TIME
ONLY**



Many believe the NYC Stonewall Inn Riots in the Summer of 1969 were the beginning of the modern Gay Rights Movement, but there are historical events that occurred before and after the riots that brought about the revolution also. In Iowa, the appearance of Anita Bryant in the Summer of 1977 changed everything for gays and lesbians that lived across the state. Her appearance ignited local organizing that remains to this day. The AIDS epidemic and the murder of gay men, lesbians, and transgendered Americans placed a spotlight on bigotry.

In 2019 the landscape of the world has changed dramatically with the emergence of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer/Questioning, Intersexual, and Asexual/Allied (LGBTQIA+) minorities. Today the world is still breaking forth with newly discovered gender and sexual diversity that finds a place in the emergence of sexuality and gender in human nature.

This unique heritage exhibit weaves together the U.S. and Iowa historic moments with similar and divergent realities. They randomly and collectively create the heritage of the LGBTQIA+ community. This gallery has exhibition displays of local and national events, but cannot adequately provide the depth and diversity of the whole gay right's movement. Opposition forces often highlighted the bigotry in Iowa and America in the prevalence of heterosexual privilege.

Cultural and organizational contributions were integral to the success of the modern LGBTQIA+ movement, and its incredible creativity and intellect moved the electorate through compassion and understanding. The Pride Center would like to thank these organizational displays that helped make this exhibit possible. Diversifying, morphing, and integrating LGBTQIA+ groups from 1977 until today created dynamic synergy in organizational structures over the years in Iowa and the US.

Exhibit:

May 13 – June 21
Open 11:00 – 4:30
Monday – Friday

**Curated
by:
Rick
Miller**



Reception:

Friday, May 31
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Polk County
Heritage Gallery**

**111 Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA**

**Check
it Out!**

AMAZING

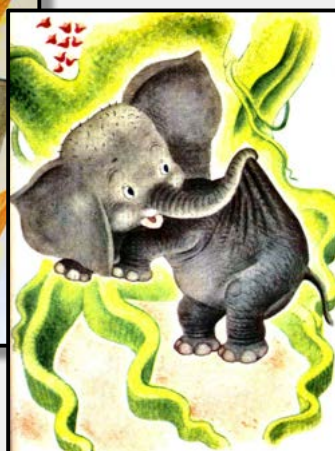
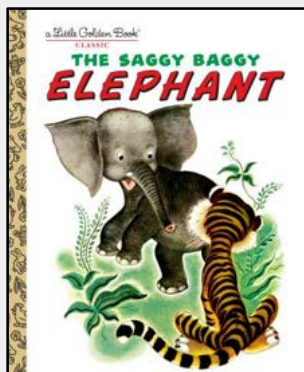


The Saggy Baggy Elephant

by Jonathan C. Wilson

When I was a youngster my parents bought and read to me a Golden Book entitled **The Saggy Baggy Elephant**. It was the story of an orphaned little elephant that was made to feel insecure about his appearance by other animals that made fun of his saggy, baggy skin, thus the name of the book. After confirming his appearance using his reflection from a pool of water, the little elephant undertook a series of efforts to cope. First he tried to change his appearance to conform better to the expectations of others, like eating lots of food and drinking lots of water so that his stomach would stretch his skin and make it less saggy baggy. That was all pretty entertaining to me as a kid.

When those efforts proved to be only a temporary solution, however, the little elephant tried his best to hide in shame. As it happened, along came a hungry lion that fancied making the little elephant into lunch. The frightened little elephant began to run with the hungry lion hot on his heels. And just before the little elephant was about to be caught and eaten, he stumbled and went roly-poly through a thicket into the midst of a huge herd of full-grown elephants. They made short work of the hungry lion and sent him on his way to search for other prey. Then, after the little elephant had picked himself up, dusted himself off, caught his breath and realized that he was safe, he ventured to look up to see the beautiful, majestic, full-grown elephants who had saved him. It was then that he was able for the first time to realize that he was an elephant and that he was exactly the way he was supposed to be. He could finally be happy and proud of being the way he was. My parents could not have imagined the prophetic importance of the message in that Golden Book.



My “Saggy Baggy the Elephant” experience occurred at a California Men’s Gathering (CMG) now several years ago. The CMG is held twice each year and involves a hundred men or so, 80% of whom are gay or bi-gender oriented. The rest are supportive or confused. Thanks to a series of events I won’t take time to explain here, I learned about the event and made arrangements to attend. I was among those in the confused category. I had grown up being taught that gay men (*nés* “homos”) were effeminate, wanted to wear dresses, and basically wished that they were women. That was not the way I saw myself, so whatever my attraction for some men it was not because I was a homosexual. The stereotype permitted me to define myself out of the “problem.”

But the CMG changed that for me. There I met all these wonderful, mature, responsible, accomplished, mentally healthy and secure men, and they readily acknowledged that they were gay. That is not something that a man then or now would typically acknowledge if it weren’t true. I was bowled over. I was able to debunk the stereotypes once and for all. I could genuinely feel good about who I am. It didn’t mean that some men who are gay are not more effeminate or want to cross-dress, but I no longer saw that as a prerequisite for being gay. Same gender attraction had nothing to do with those stereotyped characteristics. My masculinity, my manhood, my maturity as a healthy, well-adjusted man had nothing to do with my sexual orientation. Being isolated from fitting role models had kept me ignorant, afraid, and trying vainly to conform to a false image of how I thought that I was supposed to be.

My point is not so much to recount my experience at the CMG and its impact on my coming out process as it is to reinforce the active involvement of our members in the First Friday Breakfast Club. Ours is the largest private breakfast club in the state of Iowa. But our gathering is not just for breakfast and an opportunity to hear from interesting speakers, even though those are both important. Our purpose is not just to fund scholarships, despite the importance of that endeavor. The fact is that there are first-time attendees at almost every meeting, some who are introduced and some who choose not to be. Every single meeting, therefore, is potentially a “Saggy Baggy the Elephant” experience for someone, and everyone else there is an important, even indispensable (even if unwittingly), part of that experience. We are blessed with a regular attendance of around 60 openly gay, unapologetic, well-adjusted, mentally healthy and secure, *real* men. *Real* men aren’t straight, necessarily. Our meetings provide a rarified environment and the spirit there is utterly contagious. Remember the important role you have to play when that alarm goes off in the morning on the first Friday of every month. Truth be known, the only way that any of us can really thank those who have gone before us and helped us in the coming out process, is to help others.

The following is a letter to the FFBC from one of this year's scholarship recipients. Not only is it well written, but it puts into words the impact that the scholarship program can have.

Dear First Friday Breakfast Club Members:

As one of the recipients of the 2019 First Friday Breakfast Club Scholarship, I am honored to receive this scholarship and am grateful for the opportunities it will provide me.

I will be a freshman this fall 2019, majoring in Apparel Merchandising at Iowa State University. I do believe Iowa State is the best place suited for me to grow as an individual, both personally and professionally. Iowa State has the most prestigious program for Fashion Merchandising in the country.

My goal is to work someday as a buyer for Barneys New York, Bloomingdales, or Bergdorf Goodman. I realize that this is the equivalent to college athletes trying to make it into the professionals. I am, however, confident that Iowa State will give me a leg up on the competition. I believe I can utilize my experience during my four years of college to position myself in a job at a reputable retail or fashion brand that will give me a professional path to my dream job. Through my consistent passion and drive, coupled with the skills I have acquired along my educational and professional journey, I am confident I am setting myself up for long-term success with my ideal career.

Without a doubt, this scholarship will play a key role in achieving my educational dreams. Because of your generosity, the financial burden placed on me to pursue my education will be reduced. That means I can spend more time on my studies, research, and extracurricular activities and less time worrying about my finances.

Thank you for your investment in the futures of students like me.

FFBC



First Friday Breakfast Club Scholarships



FFBC awards annual scholarships to outstanding Iowa high seniors who fight homophobia and educate their schools and/or communities about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues. Academic excellence, extracurricular activities, and community involvement also factor into the awards. The scholarships are \$3,000 each. Eight scholarships will be awarded at our June meeting! Come meet our winners and their families on Friday, June 7.

Applicants must be Iowa residents and plan to pursue post-secondary education. There is no restriction on the type or location of the institution where post-secondary education is obtained. Scholarships are awarded without regard to sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, transgender status, race, religion, marital status or employment status of the prospective recipient.

The Media's Portrayal of Millennials

by Jordan Duesenberg

I work in finance, and one thing that I pay close attention to is key differentiators of different generations. While the majority of my client base is Baby Boomers (those born between 1945-1964) and older members of Generation X (1965-1980), it's important for me to know how to work with Millennials (1981-1996) and Generation Z (1996-today). I'm a Millennial myself, and it's not hard to notice that Millennials have never been treated fairly in terms of the media (which I realize sounds like the most stereotypical thing a Millennial would say). But think about it, when you think about a Millennial, you probably are going to think of someone in their late twenties and early thirties (even though the oldest members of the Millennial generation are close to turning 40) who's an entitled narcissist, that's deep in debt, and addicted to technology.

Why wouldn't you? Here are just some articles about Millennials that I've noticed throughout the years: "Millennials Want Money, But Not Hard Work" (news.com.au), "Millionaire to Millennials: Lay Off the Avocado Toast If You Want a House" (via CNN), "Here's What Millennials Can Do To Fix Their Terrible Manners" (via New York Post), and "5 Industries That Millennials Are Killing" (via Forbes) among many, many more. It's honestly hard to find articles about Millennials that have positive headlines, and it's been this way since I've been aware of the word and concept of "Millennial."

Normally I don't really care about these types of things; in fact, a lot of it is kind of funny to me. But something I've noticed lately is that there have been more and more articles popping up basically pitting Millennials against Gen Z, lifting up Gen Z and continuing to talk about Millennials in a negative light. Here are a few examples: "Gen Z Started Building Wealth Earlier Than Millennials" (via Business Insider), "Millennials Tried To Kill the American Mall, But Gen Z Might Save It" (via Bloomberg), "Gen Z is Likely to Temper Aging Socialist Millennials" (via Bloomberg), and (while not pitting Millennials against Gen Z, it's still important in showing the difference in how the media engages with his generation) "Why Boomers and Gen Xers are Wrong to Bash Gen Z" (via Pacific Standard), etc.

These are just simple observations on my end, and I have zero problems with anyone from Gen Z or from any generation for that matter. And why would I? I'm just wondering why Millennials have always been talked about negatively. A lot of our perceived negative traits are either a result of how and when we were raised and came of age – which were mostly prosperous times growing up, and then entering the workforce during the Great Recession or its early stages of recovery, which greatly impacted our employment opportunities. Gen Z, on the other hand, mostly grew up during the Great Recession, and developed smarter money habits as a result of watching their parents' hardships. They are now graduating and entering the workforce in prosperous times.

Personally, I'm happy for Gen Z and I hope to work with many of them in the future. I just think it's odd that there have been so few critiques of that generation, while my generation has always faced the opposite. Or maybe I'm just an entitled, aging Millennial, who's jealous that the media hasn't been praising me and my peers this whole time.



"Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself."

Harvey Fierstein



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The Threat: How the FBI Protects America in the Age of Terror and Trump

By Andrew G. McCabe

A Book Review by Steve Person



I purchased *The Threat* for one reason—my intense dislike of Donald Trump. This pea-brain president, foisted upon us by the insidious Electoral College, had the equally unqualified Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, fire Acting Director McCabe from the FBI on March 16, 2017, just twenty-six hours before his scheduled retirement. Such petty behavior meant that McCabe, after decades of service to the FBI and our country, would be unable to collect his much-deserved retirement income from the United States government. I felt the least I could do to help Mr. McCabe was to purchase his account of his time in the FBI.

McCabe chronicles his rise in the FBI from his initial application, interview, and background check to his becoming Acting Director of the FBI after Trump's firing of Director James Comey. By his own admission on national television, the corrupt and unqualified president said it was because of Comey's investigation into "this Russia thing" that the director had to go.

I learned quite a lot from reading this book about how the FBI operates. McCabe discusses cases that he worked on over the decades. In his early years, while in the New York field office, McCabe became an expert on how the Russian mafia operates in the United States. His work on the subsequent Russia investigation relating to the Trump campaign riled the erratic president whose infantile bullying resulted with the president making the absurd claim that McCabe benefited from a \$700,000 donation to his wife's unsuccessful Democratic bid for a senate seat in the Virginia Assembly. On page 173, McCabe says, "I removed myself from any involvement in cases that had anything to do with Virginia politicians." During a face-to-face meeting with Trump, the President asked McCabe how it felt to be married to a loser. So much for dignity.

One of the curious things about the book is the lack of quotation marks. I am not sure why the publisher didn't use them. Whenever McCabe quotes someone he begins the quotation with a capital letter but does not make clear when the quotation is finished. FBI agents take copious post-interview notes after interrogating an individual, so it would have been helpful to know for sure who said what. Also, the use of many acronyms used by the FBI made for constant re-reads of sections of the book.

By the end of the book, McCabe states that he has instituted a lawsuit to regain the retirement income that is so obviously his due. I hope he wins. I am in favor of anything that makes Trump look worse than he already is.

