

**FFBC**

# First Friday News & Views

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

March 2020

Volume 25

Issue 3

The next FFBC meeting is  
Friday, March 6,  
2020  
7:00 a.m.



FFBC Meeting Location:  
Hoyt Sherman Place,  
15<sup>th</sup> & Woodland,  
Des Moines



R.S.V.P.

[JonathanWilson@davisbrownlaw.com](mailto:JonathanWilson@davisbrownlaw.com)

or phone (515) 288-2500

or the website

by Tuesday,  
March 3.



FFBC Website:  
[www.ffbciaowa.org](http://www.ffbciaowa.org)



## The Imperative of Empathy

by Jonathan Wilson

No candidate for public office -- any public office -- can personally embody all the diversity that exists in our country and gives our country unique opportunities to lead the world by example. Our country is diverse in gender, race, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, background, experience, age, education, gender orientation, gender identity, familial history, cultural traditions, and political party. We are rural; we are urban. Some of us are veterans and some are not. Some have a variety of challenging circumstances -- physical, emotional, or otherwise. You name it.

There is strength in diversity and weakness in blind conformity. That's an inescapable fact.

The thing that bridges those two is leadership; a special kind of leadership. A leadership that is uniquely characterized by *empathy* -- the ability to put one's self into another person's shoes -- the willingness, figuratively, to walk a mile in their moccasins.



We should be looking for candidates for public office who are genuinely committed to listening, learning, *empathizing*, and only then leading. We need office holders who are willing to listen to diverse perspectives, to learn from them, to *empathize* with what is learned, and then endeavoring to lead.

That does not mean that any candidate or office holder can or should be all things to all people. That's not possible. Decisions do have to be made, balances must be struck, and choices must be chosen among competing interests. That is also an inescapable fact.

What is possible is for a candidate or office holder to be able to speak knowledgeably to those diverse voices and articulate a vision going forward that will show respect for those diverse perspectives. That is the highest calling of real leaders and carries the highest hope of unifying an otherwise polarized citizenry. Disparaging "political correctness" is a copout; it's the same as saying that I'm comfortable with my ignorance on a topic and don't intend to do anything about it. When I hear such disparagement, I use it as a litmus test for identifying a poor leader or potential leader.

[continued on page two]

We should be scrupulously winnowing out those who seek to polarize us and look for those most likely to listen, learn, *empathize*, and only then seek to lead. This guiding principle should abide whether we're talking about school board candidates, candidates for city council, candidates for county supervisor, candidates for state office, candidates for federal office, or candidates for President of the United States.

Right now we have a President who purports to exercise leadership, but who is lacking in the requisite willingness to listen meaningfully to diverse voices, learn from the experience, and to *empathize*. Lacking those three prevents him from communicating a unifying message or achieving the true potential of the United States Presidency in this country and in the world.

We can do better.

**Mark Your Calendar**

**FFBC March Speaker:**  
**Troy Price**



Our speaker in March will be Troy Price, the former chair of the Iowa Democratic Party. You won't want to miss this. You are also encouraged to invite some of your friends to attend!! Provide the name(s) of any anticipated guest(s) so we can have name tags for them at the registration desk.

## LGBTQ-Informed Healthcare Providers and Pathways for Access to Healthcare

by Brett Burk



**oneiowa**

The World Health Organization defines health as "not only the absence of infirmity and disease, but also a state of physical, mental, and social well-being."

LGBTQ individuals often stay "in the closet" with their healthcare providers, employers, local communities, and/or families owing to the fear of being "outed" and losing relationships, income, and other important resources. Mistrust of mainstream institutions is compounded by generational trauma. In addition, public opinion and general awareness of LGBTQ Iowans is low throughout the state. This all culminates in huge healthcare disparities for LGBTQ communities.

LGBTQ individuals need informed, affirming, and trusted healthcare providers, but a lack of pathways to find those providers paired with a shortage of informed and affirming providers is creating a serious problem for LGBTQ people, especially for those living in rural areas and small towns. For transgender individuals, finding an informed healthcare provider is especially challenging. One Iowa staff members report that transgender community members who reach out to them seeking services oftentimes must drive for over an hour and a half to find an informed provider.

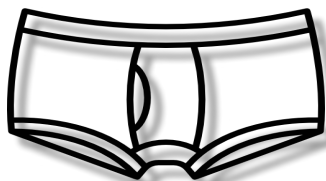
So what can we do to overcome this problem?

At One Iowa, we are simultaneously taking a top down and bottom up approach. We provide inclusivity and policy guidance training to a wide array of employers and healthcare providers to help them improve the physical, social, and emotional well being of LGBTQ community members. At the same time, we provide opportunities for LGBTQ community members to interact with inclusive providers to increase system navigation knowledge and leverage existing community resources.

One Iowa is creating more pathways to LGBTQ inclusive healthcare services by sponsoring The LGBTQ Health and Wellness Conference at Des Moines University that was held on Saturday, February 22.

This year's conference theme was Promoting Physical, Mental, Social, and Spiritual Health in the LGBTQ Community. Presenters from both healthcare and LGBTQ communities presented about intersectional topics such as health advocacy, spiritual needs, policy, reproductive justice, and more. Throughout the conference we encouraged networking and community building between providers and LGBTQ community members to create equitable pathways to affirming and inclusive resources.

## Briefs & Shorts:



Thanks to **Gary Moore** for introducing our February speaker, One Iowa Executive Director Courtney Reyes. 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 **Nicholas Williams** for managing our website. *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.

**Our annual fundraising effort is underway to fund our scholarship program. To date we have raised over \$250,000 for scholarships that are awarded to Iowa high school seniors who have done remarkable, courageous things to reduce homophobia and teach about LGBTQ issues in their schools and communities. Please consider a contribution on line or by sending a check.**

The next copy deadline for the FFBC newsletter will be **March 16, 2020**. 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.

## Caucus Chaos

by Jonathan Wilson



I served as one candidate's team captain at one of the Iowa caucuses. I am not surprised by the glitches in tabulating results. We had new rules for inclusiveness and transparency, AND there were three data points that had to be collected and properly reported. All new to caucus goers. The Iowa Democratic Party was operating, out of necessity, through volunteers – rather like running 220 volts through Christmas tree wire.

The party leadership could not turn to an army of volunteers and simply give orders out about what to do, how, and by whatever deadline, "or else?" The "or else" would be a volunteer saying, "I'm too busy to do that by your imposed deadline, so put me down as un-volunteering."

Caucuses do play a unique role in evaluating candidates. Candidates have to meet with voters in person. Candidates have to inspire strong enough support that a voter will be motivated to spend hours on a cold February night caucusing out in the open and with no anonymity, touting the virtues of their preferred candidate to their friends and neighbors. In states with primaries, candidates need only inspire strong enough support to motivate someone to spend 15 minutes during daylight hours going to a polling place and casting an anonymous ballot.



Perhaps a solution would be to keep the caucuses, but have the first to go be a collection of diverse states (Iowa included) all caucusing simultaneously.



**I didn't realize who I was until I stopped being who I wasn't.**



# Our Lady at the Helm

by Bruce Carr

Our guest speaker on Friday morning, February 7, 2020, was Courtney Reyes, newly appointed executive director of One Iowa. Her enthusiasm and charm, as she outlined One Iowa's current projects and goals, enlivened an otherwise cold winter morning in Iowa.

In this new year, One Iowa's concerns are four, Reyes said: workplace culture, healthcare access, leadership institutes, and legislation. One Iowa provides workshops and other resources for businesses who need help raising diversity awareness and skills in their operations. It works with hospitals and clinics to connect LGBTQ people with sympathetic, aware medical personnel – usually rare entities in rural settings. It provides LGBTQ Leadership Institutes in all kinds of venues across the state, for developing skills and networks among people of all ages. And, these days especially, it monitors the sprouting of ugly legislative initiatives at the State House. This last point led to a lively Q & A, recounting some of the really appalling, current Republican proposals being offered to oppress transsexual youth in particular.

Reyes closed with a plea for One Iowa's perennial needs, preaching (as she said) to the choir for volunteers, votes, and money.

***You can listen to a complete audio recording of Courtney Reyes's remarks, and the following Q&A, by clicking on the Speakers tab at our Web site, <[ffbc Iowa.org](http://ffbc Iowa.org)>.***



***Gary Moore introduces the January speaker***



***Photos by Gary Moore***

Courtney Reyes grew up the granddaughter of a Mexican immigrant in Bloomfield, Iowa, about 20 miles south of Ottumwa. The first in her family to go to college, she graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in child, adult, and family services, and worked at the House of Mercy rehab facility in Des Moines for some years. Reyes's journey into activism was sparked by two life-shaping events: the first was her mother's death a decade ago when Reyes was 25. "That was a moment in my life where I knew that I didn't want to grow old not giving it my all and speaking out," she says. She came out as a lesbian a few years later, and in 2016 when Donald Trump was named winner of the presidential election, "I went to work at the spa the day after the election, and I was putting away lipsticks, and I was just – it was awful, the feeling in the pit of my stomach knowing that someone was coming after my people." She resolved to do more to fight for LGBTQ people – and went to work for One Iowa the following summer.

Already during her time at One Iowa, Reyes has organized several LGBTQ Workplace Culture Summits around the state, and last April she ran the most successful annual Gala fundraiser in the organization's history. In August, she was promoted to assistant executive director, and in December she was named executive director upon the resignation of Dan Royer due to a sudden health concern. "We are delighted to have Courtney step into the executive director role," said Jenny Smith, chair of the One Iowa board of directors. "Her vision, leadership skills, and experience ensure a seamless transition and will help us grow in our mission to advance, empower, and improve the lives of LGBTQ Iowans statewide."

Courtney Reyes lives in Des Moines with her wife, Des Moines attorney Kate Lyon, their two almost-teen sons, and their black Lab. She can be reached professionally at the offices of One Iowa, 950 Office Park Road, Suite 240, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265, telephone 515/288-4019 ext. 4, [courtney@oneiowa.org](mailto:courtney@oneiowa.org).

# My Coming Out Story

By Dr. Larry Schlatter

Born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1945, I grew up in a family direct from Switzerland. All four of my grandparents were born there and were part of a very strict Swiss Anabaptist Church. I had four much older sisters, ranging in age, at the time of my birth, from 20 to 8.

COM  
ING  
OUT



My introduction to sex was through the church, where some of my cousins and I would get together at our homes and mess around with one another. The group was always all male. We were all between 6 and 10, at that time. The play was mostly touching. In retrospect, I find it interesting that we learned we could have orgasms but no ejaculate. Physiology does take its time, I guess. This went on, for me, until an older cousin and I were playing around. I found that I was having trouble breathing, and I wanted to stop. He refused. After that experience I stopped having anything to do with same-sex intimacy, and I went through the rest of my school years, including college, dating, and being sexual only with women. In looking back, I can see that I was not terribly successful with women because I seemed to feel that if they, in any way, said "That's as far as we're going," I said, "Okay." I can recognize now that most straight guys would not have backed off that easily. I eventually had sex with a couple of women with whom I was not romantically involved, so it was easier. Kind of like a bizarre form of masturbation.

Having played, sexually, with cousins when young, I learned a great deal more about sex than many young men. That ended when my older cousin, essentially, raped me. At that point, I slammed the door on my earlier same-sex exploration and was thereafter very hetero. I married a woman, we had kids together, and eventually divorced. Then, in my 30s, I discovered adult bookstores and thought, "No big deal," until the first time a grown man came on to me there and I was accommodating. The rockets/sirens went off! THIS IS WHO YOU ARE!!! And I was off and running. My next thought, however, was that this was the last secret anybody will ever know about me, and I dove into the closet with a vengeance, living a dual life for decades. In 1998, I had a debilitating stroke. After the recovery was well on its way, I joined the Unitarian Church in Des Moines, having been a closeted Unitarian my whole life - there's a theme here, isn't there? One day, at coffee hour, a friend, out of the blue, said, "Larry, do you really want to die in the closet?" I thought, "NO!!," rather than, "How did he know?" So, I came out, breaking all the how-to-out-yourself rules.

The one highlight of that was when I went to Columbus, Ohio, to tell my son. It was a Saturday morning, and he was focused on going car shopping, so we went. At one point I asked him to pull over -- I had something to say. He pulled over and said, "WHAT??!!!" I told him I was gay. He sat a moment and finally said, "Okay, up here are some car dealerships I want to visit." I said, "Wait a minute, this is a big deal." He replied, "Are you still my father?" I said yes, to which he replied, "Okay, now let's go car shopping!" There are reasons why he is my biggest hero.

Now, living in central Ohio with my husband Robert, I am able to see the grandkids at least once a week. What is also nice is that my ex, their grandma, takes care of them so we see her also. I guess I've learned that things can get better when you get older. When I worked at Kemin Industries, my employees gave me a plaque that was hung on my wall, that they loved to point to when I started pushing. It read PJP, which stood for "Patience, jackass, patience."

My best to all of you at First Friday.







# Country Music's Gay Past, Present, & Future

By Jordan Duesenberg



Of all genres of music I thought I would never see true representations of the LGBTQ+ community, it was country music. Of course we've always had American treasure Ms. Dolly Parton to worship, who continually provides enough camp and fierce looks to make any queen happy, but country music never seemed like a genre that would accept the gays to me. There's that muscle queen Steve Grand that came out a couple of years ago with his song "All American Boy," but beyond good looks, the music was lacking. The whole "first gay country star" schtick he had going for him, pretty much garnered attention to him from our community, that only stayed around to drool over his Instagram pics of his six pack and other assets he parades around in his teeny tiny speedos he likes to wear. Then, seemingly out of nowhere the world was gifted with Orville Peck (who will be playing at this year's Hinterland Music Festival in Iowa in August). If you watched the Grammy's or read any gay media, you may be familiar with the name or image of Orville Peck. He always hides behind a mask and is decked out in campy old country western wear. But beyond the aesthetics of Orville Peck, also happens to be a phenomenal musician, who's making country music about gay subjects that has garnered him acclaim from both the gay and straight worlds, and even more impressive regular country music fans.



Orville Peck has a level of mystique that makes the world want to know and more importantly hear more. If you ask me, the perfect way to sum up Orville Peck's sound is 70's outlaw country music meets Lana Del Ray meets 90's shoegaze meets Sondheim Broadway. In other words, he's hard to put in a box. Listen to his 2019 album *Pony*, and especially check out his song most popular song "Dead of Night" (and the music video) to get a good feel for him. Although my personal favorite songs of his are "Queen of the Rodeo," "Kansas (Remembers Me Now)," and "Nothing Fades Like the Light." Beyond his incredible music, what I find most impressive about him is that he doesn't market himself as a gay musician, it just happens to be a part of him. When you hear his songs, the sentiment is relatable to anyone no matter your sexuality. What I also love about him is when media praises him for being one of the first queer country musicians, he makes it a point to educate people about early LGBTQ+ country pioneers – most prominently *Lavender Country*.

If you've never heard of *Lavender Country*, you're not alone. They were a country music band formed in 1972 that released their one and only eponymous album in 1973, which is known today as the first gay-themed country music album – very much in line with the outlaw country that was popular in the decade just with very gay subject matter. With song titles like "Back in the Closet Again" and most prominently "Cryin' These C\*\*\*sucking Tears," you can get idea just how unashamedly gay they were. As a result of this, they were pretty much banned from the radio and after only pressing 1,000 copies of their album, they quickly fell into radical obscurity. However, thanks to the Internet, *Lavender Country* rose again from the dead. Someone randomly uploaded "Cryin' These C\*\*\*sucking Tears" to Youtube, which eventually led to Internet acclaim and then a reissue of the album in 2014 (so you can easily stream *Lavender Country* on Spotify, Youtube, Amazon, etc. if you're curious). It's great to listen to if you have any interest in Orville Peck, because you can clearly see just how much he was influenced by this band.

What I love most about all of this, is now I'm more curious about country music. We have people like Orville Peck, Lil Nas X (to same extent), and even Kacey Musgraves (definitely a Dolly Parton situation – not a queer musician, but definitely has major Queer appeal) leading the way into country's future, which is now making country's past more interesting. If *Lavender Country* was the first known gay themed country album, there must have been other gay country musicians who never quite got their shine, or perhaps there are well known country musicians from the past who were closeted yet still made coded songs.

Only time will tell what we find more of, but I'm extremely grateful to now be interested in a genre of music that I never thought would welcome our community with open arms.





# Parasite

A Film Review by Mark Turnage

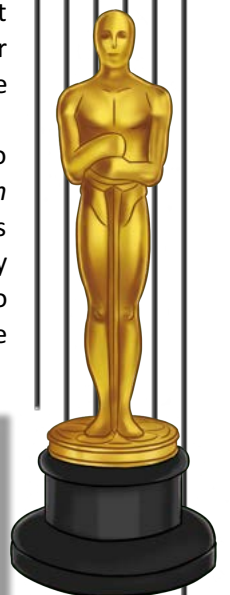
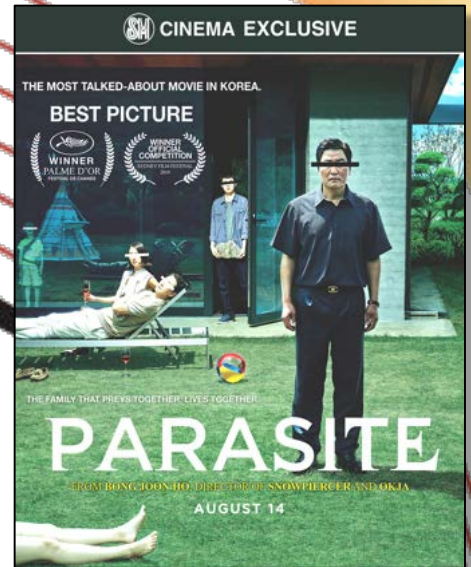
The week before the Oscars, I had the pleasure of seeing Bong Joon-ho's *Parasite*, the first ever international film to win Best Picture. If you aren't much for international films or subtitles, I urge you to reconsider for this one movie alone. In the words of the director himself in his Oscar acceptance speech for Best Picture: "Once you overcome the 1-inch tall barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films." A smart, timely and gripping South Korean dark comedy thriller, *Parasite* speaks volumes on income disparity and class stratification without ever compromising its premise, pace, or setting.

*Parasite* follows two families on opposite sides of society. The Kim family consists of optimistic father Ki-taek, practical mother Chung-sook, and their two college-age children, daughter Ki-jeong and son Ki-woo, who all scrape by on odd jobs and con artistry in a cramped basement apartment of the inner-city slums. A school friend recommends Ki-woo for a job as an English tutor with the wealthy Park family, comprised of entrepreneur Mr. Park and socialite Mrs. Park and their two school-age children, who live in a gated house in the hills and employ servants for most of their day-to-day tasks. After experiencing both the affluent lifestyle and the gullibility of Mrs. Park, Ki-woo begins to formulate a plan to replace the Park's house staff with his own family members by recommending their services. But for a couple of the Parks' long-term employees, the Kims must employ more dubious (yet darkly funny) tactics to get them to leave their jobs. As more of the Kims become employed by the Parks and enjoy their lifestyle, a seemingly innocent complication with an employee they displaced reveals a secret in the Park household the Kims could never have expected, and shifts the tone of the film from a dark comedy into a thriller seamlessly.

This tonal shift should seem out of place, but making the film a dark comedy in the first act lays the seeds for the desperation and urgency that color the background in the second act. Bong Joon-ho's artistry is underscoring events that may be everyday and innocuous for the Parks, but are devastating fights for survival for the Kims. It's a powerful metaphor for class inequality, with clear life-or-death consequences. It would be easy for Joon-ho to caricature either the Parks or Kims as exaggerated representatives of their respective classes, but instead, he chooses to give each of them scenes that speak to their humanity, while also consciously aware of each family's flaws.

The cinematography and set design of the Park house, where most of the film takes place, is also stunning, and deserves a place among cinematic set piece hallmarks as the Van Damme House from *North by Northwest*. A particularly beautiful transition occurs between the second act and the third as the Kims surreptitiously flee the Park house at night in the middle of a downpour. The cinematography as they descend from the wealthy estates in the hills to the slums far below evokes a fantasy film aspect that is also a visual signal that the tone of the film has shifted to something more ominous: the human cost of class warfare.

If you want a dark social satire that encapsulates the economic disparity between rich and poor in a funny, thrilling, and epic battle of wits, look no further than *Parasite*. See it, and see why it's worthy of more than just a golden statuette.





**Scholarship  
Donor  
Appreciation  
Party**

Friday, February 7  
(photos by Gary Moore)



**THANK  
YOU**





# Following the Money

By Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy

As your 5<sup>th</sup> District representative to the Polk County Board of Supervisors, I want to share with you how our grant program impacts our community. I promised that I would be transparent with how funds are spent and that they are dedicated to worthy causes.

In distributing over \$100,000 last year, I prioritized issues such as culture, neighborhood, family, and health. These are just a few examples to share with you how those funds are used to help worthy causes.

Over the years, we have been successful in revitalizing downtown Des Moines to attract new business and a vibrant workforce. Now our attention must turn to revitalizing our neighborhoods. That is why this past year I invested \$23,680 for **neighborhood improvements** that help drive economic growth and create a welcoming community. Following are a few examples of projects that I supported.

- 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Urban Neighborhood Main Street Program
- SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor and Drake University Corridor revitalization
- Civics, Citizenship, English courses and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Community Garden
- Ingersoll Live featuring vendors, artists and streetscape improvements



The issues impacting the **LGBTQ community** has been a priority of mine throughout my career. The fight for equal rights and protection continues. That is why I have supported spending \$13,500 this past year to help those organizations fighting for equality in our community. Following are a few examples of projects that I supported.

- Capital City Pride promotion and street banner program to celebrate Pride
- Des Moines Gay Men's Chorus Community High School Outreach
- Matthew Shepard Scholarship Programs for deserving high school Polk County residents



Any community that hopes to remain relevant must offer a strong **commitment to the arts**. In 2019 I helped advance the cultural vibrancy of our community by providing \$11,500 in grants to organizations who share this mission. Following are a few examples.

- City Sounds: installation and maintenance of outdoor street pianos
- Impactful art education for at-risk youth via Edmonson Art Foundation
- Annual Latino Heritage festival



Our community's greatest asset is our **youth**. It is a priority of mine to ensure area youth receive education, nourishment, and opportunity to thrive. That is why the majority of my community betterment funds, totaling more than 36,000 dollars, were spent on youth initiatives.

- Big-Brothers and Big-Sisters community-based and school-based mentor programs
- Central Campus High Adventure wilderness experience
- Friends of Des Moines Parks "learn to swim" program for low-income children

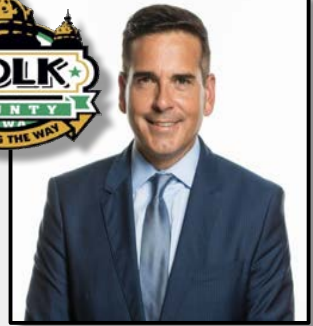
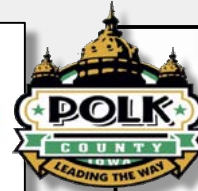


Central Iowa is fortunate to have many great **human service providers**. These organizations provide services to those who are homeless, food insecure, or need educational resources. Following are some examples:

- Immigrant entrepreneurs Summit providing learning resources for immigrant business owners
- Assistance for JOPPA to help feed and provide temporary shelter homeless
- YMCA Supportive Housing for affordable living



Finally, mental health and substance abuse will be my priorities in 2020. I hope to be able to help with establishment of a sobering center with dedicated beds that offer substance abuse treatment for those struggling with addiction.



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## The Last Lecture

By Randy Pausch

**Commentary on an Old Book  
by Steve Person**

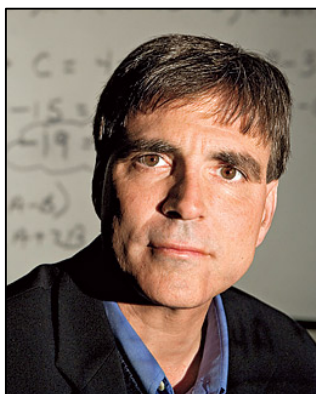
Sometimes it is helpful to pick up an old book and realize that what transpired a dozen years ago can contrast so vividly with today's world. Randy Pausch's *The Last Lecture* became a national best seller when it came out in 2008. It is a book filled with hope and joy, even though its author was dying from the spreading cancer throughout his body.

Pausch taught computer science at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. His classes attracted students from differing disciplines within the university, from drama geeks to biology majors. The gist of his book calls on students to recall their childhood dreams and make them come true. A part of his last lecture before dying listed the dreams he had as a boy: being in zero gravity; playing in the NFL; authoring an article in the *World Book Encyclopedia*; being Captain Kirk; winning stuffed animals; and being a Disney Imagineer. He did make those dreams come true in his adult years.

A portion of the book is directed to his young children so they will have a record of the father they likely won't remember with the exception of the eldest, Dylan, who was six when this book came out. Another chapter is dedicated to his wife, Jai, who would soon be the head of a single parent household. His dreams for his kids and soon-to-be widowed wife are filled with a zest for living and striving to be the best people they can be.

Pausch admits that tears sometimes overwhelmed him and his wife when various diagnoses revealed that he would have somewhere between three to six months to live. He died at age 47, but his last days were filled with events he wanted to achieve while his body would still let him.

I couldn't help but think what an optimist like Pausch was compared to the pea-brain president we have who is engineering this country to revel in corruption, take glee in vicious retribution to those who lawfully did their duty in testifying against him in the impeachment process, and destroying the Constitution with his continuing interference into federal prosecutors and judges. What a sad, pathetic man he is.



Pausch's last lecture can be seen at **[www.thelastlecture.com](http://www.thelastlecture.com)**. The author delivered his last lecture to an overflow crowd at Carnegie Mellon. He called his wife on stage and brought out a huge cake to celebrate her birthday of the day before. I think the word "celebration" is a fitting one for this book, for the author celebrated his and his family's life at every opportunity. Sad, yes. Compelling, definitely. Let's hope that our lives will soon return to a time of decency and generosity instead of greed and retribution so prevalent today.

