



The show must go on!

Even a winter storm couldn't stop the afternoon performance of the POPS Concert. The evening session was cancelled.



The senior group performed, "Be Okay." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



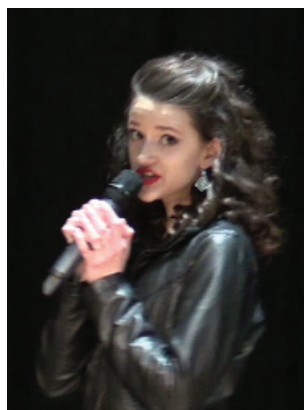
Hailey Monson and Kayla Jensen were the masters of ceremony. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Tylan Glover sang, "I'm Yours." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Jenifer Fjelstad sang, "Invincible." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



AnneMarie Smith sang, "Still Into You." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Alexis Hanten sang, "Dream A Little Dream." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)



Superintendent Joe Schwan even got out the snow shovel to move snow prior to the afternoon performance of the POPS Concert. The area received about 7 inches of snow which amounted to 0.33 inch of moisture. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Jazz Band performed, "Summertime," "Here, There and Everywhere" and "How High The moon." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

Groton Area schools ranked fourth in the state

The Mount Rushmore State is no slouch when it comes to public school education, placing in the top 20 in both college readiness and NAEP math scores in U.S. News & World Report's ranking of the fifty states in Pre-K-12 education. South Dakota's finest school districts compare favorably with the best in the nation.

Chester Area, Parker and Warner come in the top three places.

At #4 is Groton Area School District, comprising one elementary school and one combined middle school/high school in Groton, SD. Groton's two schools regularly deliver a high level of academic excellence, with Groton Area Elementary taking home the National Blue Ribbon School Award in 2012.

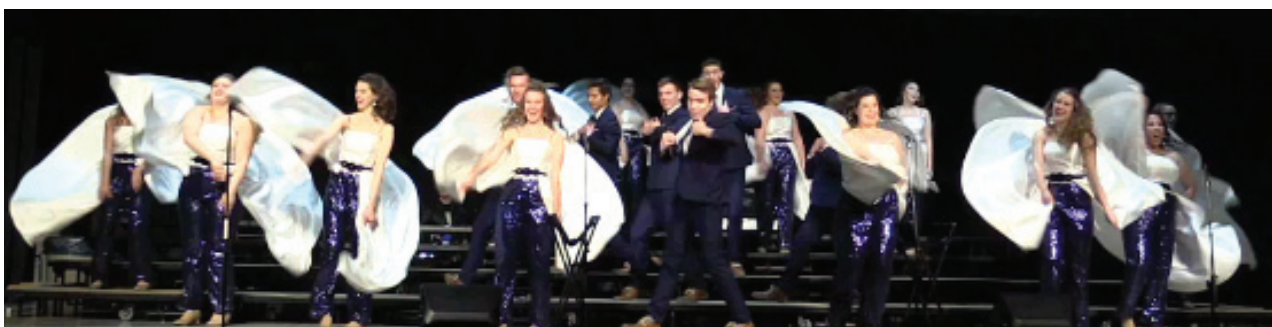
The following contributed to the ranking: student performance (math and reading test scores), dropout rates, school funding, and area poverty rates. Data was collected from a total of 9,577 school districts.

The report was formally released on April 10, 2018.

Backgroundchecks.org is a public safety focused organization committed to increasing public safety, community involvement, and education.



Aleaya Worlie sang, "Next to Me" with the back up singers and musicians in the background. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

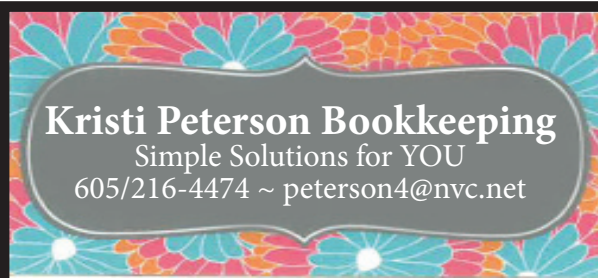


The show choir performed, "This is the Great Adventure." (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM)

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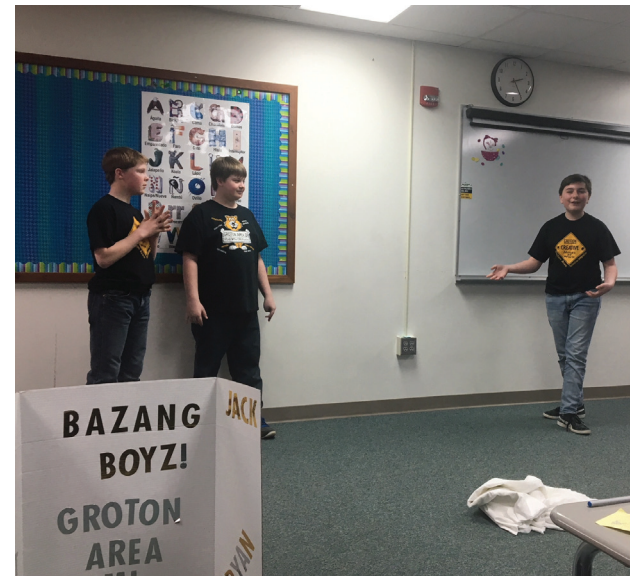
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 Theatre opens at 7 pm with movies starting at
 7:30 pm, Friday through Monday.
4/14 I can only imagine PG
4/21 a wrinkle in Time PG
4/28 GODS NOT DEAD 3 PG



Boiled Dino Dumpling
 Guys take third at state
 The Boiled Dino Dumpling Guys placed third in the elementary division of the State Destination Imagination Tournament held Saturday in Pierre. In back, left to right, are Axel Warrington, Jacob Tewksbury, Corbin Weismantel and Winston Clark; in front, left to right, are Nicholas Groebelinghoff and Lincoln Krause. (Photo by Joni Groebelinghoff via Facebook page)



The DIsfunctional Nonsense team participated at the State DI Tournament. Pictured left to right are Alyssa Fordham, Hailey Monson, Kayla Jensen, Sage Mortenson, Julianna Kosel and Rylee Rosenau. (Photo by Robin Jensen via Facebook)



Bazang Boys participated at the State DI Tournament held Saturday in Pierre. They competed in the Improv division. Pictured are Ryan Groebelinghoff, Jackson Dinger and Carter Barse. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Recycling Trailer is Gone
 The Groton Destination Imagination sponsored Recycling Trailer south of the football field, is gone, permanently. According to Joann Donley, co-director of Groton DI, the contracting company has pulled the trailer because there was not enough weight on the trailer and that Groton is too far away from its recycling headquarters, Mason City, Iowa. Groton is the only town to have its recycling trailer removed.
 Donley said that she called the company to see if Groton could have a trailer, but only have newspaper in it instead of cardboard, but they company representative has not returned her call.
 Meanwhile, there is still the recycling trailer located at the City Shop. That one is temporarily gone while it is being emptied.

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Free agency is mostly over for the Minnesota Vikings, so the front office will be switching their focus to the NFL draft. The draft will be held in Arlington, Texas at AT&T Stadium – which is the first time the draft will be held in an NFL stadium. The first round will begin Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m. CT. Rounds two and three will be the next night at 6 p.m. CT, and the final rounds will begin Saturday, April 28 at 11 a.m. CT. The Vikings have eight picks in the draft, but General Manager Rick Spielman is known to move up and down the draft, so it's very possible the team ends up with more.



The Vikings' biggest weakness on offense is undoubtedly the offensive line. The line has been an issue for the Vikings for many years, and although the team tried to fix it last year by signing offensive tackles Riley Reiff and Mike Remmers in free agency, there is still some work to be done.

Here are some names to look for if the Vikings spend a top pick on an offensive lineman:

Will Hernandez, guard, Texas-El Paso. Hernandez is the most commonly mocked player to the Vikings. He is 6'3", 327 lbs, and is viewed by many as an instant starter at left guard in the NFL. He would be an upgrade and would immediately solidify the left side of the Vikings offensive line.

Billy Price, guard/center, Ohio State. From his redshirt freshman year through his junior season, Price started 41 games, playing both left and right guard. He moved to center his senior year (after Pat Elfli was drafted by the Vikings) and proceeded to start another 14 games and win the Remington award for best center in college football. He can play any interior position.

Connor Williams, tackle, Texas. Williams is a prospect that might have been better served by going back to school for his senior season. He started all 12 games at left tackle as a freshman and 11 of 12 games as a sophomore. Heading into the 2017 season, Williams was heralded as one of the best tackles in college. Unfortunately, a knee injury caused him to miss all but five games his junior season. NFL scouts have questions about his health.

Mike McGlinchey, tackle, Notre Dame. McGlinchey played his first two seasons at right tackle before moving to the left side for his junior and senior seasons. He has a high football IQ and displays quick footwork and great technique. The question surrounding him will be whether he can add weight and avoid getting bull rushed by NFL caliber defensive linemen.

The Vikings don't have many holes on the offensive side of the ball besides offensive line, but they could possibly add another tight end, wide receiver or running back. If they do, they will likely draft those players in the later rounds. The Vikings won't pass up value though, so if a player slips in the draft expect the Vikings to pounce, even if it's not at an area of need.

Dallas Goedert, tight end, SDSU. If Goedert is available when the Vikings pick, they will likely consider him. He is 6'5", 255 lbs, very fast and makes circus catches look normal. The knock on him will be his level of competition. Scouts don't know if he will be able to block NFL defensive linemen or get open against NFL linebackers and safeties.

Calvin Ridley, wide receiver, Alabama. Wide receiver isn't an area of need for the Vikings, and the 2018 draft doesn't have the "elite" wide receivers in the first round. However, Ridley is considered by most to be the best WR in the draft, and if he somehow slipped to

the Vikings, they would certainly consider him.

Derrius Guice, running back, LSU. Sony Michel, running back, Georgia. With Dalvin Cook coming back after his injury last year, the Vikings likely won't take a running back early in the draft. However, if either of the two backs listed above fall in the second round, the Vikings might make a move for one of them.

Make sure to check out next week's article, as we take a look at the defensive side of the ball. Skol!

As always, if you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@SkolJWright)

Classifieds and Card of Thanks

The following rates are for Classifieds published in both the Groton Daily Independent and the Groton Independent, and posted online at www.grotonsd.net. Cut rate in half if you just want it in the GDI or just the weekly.

1 Week: \$9 for first 30 words, 20¢/word thereafter
2 Wks: \$17 for first 30 words, 38¢/word thereafter
3 Wks: \$24 for first 30 words, 54¢/word thereafter
4th consecutive week is free

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BRIDAL SHOWER

A bridal shower for Holly Carlson, bride-to-be of Tyler Candor, will be held Saturday, April 14, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton.

CARD OF THANKS

Thank You

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all our family and friends for the love and support given us through cards, prayers, memorials, flowers and your attendance at the prayer service and funeral. A special thanks to the clergy for their support and kind words at this difficult time. He will be greatly missed but is now "Free" and in a better place.

Family of Billy Vander Vorst

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Plans develop for this year's 7th and 8th grade students to take trip to Washington, D.C.

Mary Johnson and Carly Wheeting came before the school board Monday evening to discuss a middle school trip to Washington, D.C. in 2019. Brett Newton from World Classroom, Aberdeen, gave the sales pitch to the school board. The district would assume no liability and would not have to be involved with keeping track of the funds. Johnson said that the first group that could sign up for the trip would be this year's seventh and eighth graders. There are 60 schools from across South Dakota that take part in the educational trip. A charter bus would pick up the students/parents/chaperones from the Groton School and take them to Minneapolis where they would fly out to their destination. After the presentation, the board offered no objection to the trip.

The Groton Area School District has been reaffirmed of its A+ rating by the Standard and Poor Rating system. However, the rating would be reviewed in two years. If the district can maintain a stable general fund balance, the rating could go to an A++; however, if the district was not able to do that, the rating could drop to an A.

Business Manager Mike Weber reviewed the

long term debt that the district currently has.

The \$2.7 million Arena project had an original interest rate of 5.07 percent in 2004. It was refinanced in 2009 with an interest rate of 3.52 percent and it was refinanced again in 2016 with an interest rate of 2.06 percent. The final pay-off for the Arena loan is December 2020.

The East Side addition of \$2 million was financed at a rate of 5.85 percent in 2010. With some payback of interest and refinancing, the final interest rate will be 3.80. The final payment will be in December 2020.

The Elementary Project has an interest rate of 3.19 percent and is less than \$1 million. The final payment is December 2036.

Middle/High School Principal Kristen Sombke reported on the peanut butter/jelly project. Ashley Seeklander, Jodi Sternhagen and Jodi Schwan are spearheading this project where people can drop off unopened peanut butter and jelly jars at the high school. They cannot be dropped off at the elementary school due to the peanut allergy issue. The jars of peanut butter and jelly will be distributed to families in need during the summer. The project is in its third week.

the last day of school for the students will be May 25 with the faculty having contact hours on May 29 and May 30. The seniors last day is scheduled for May 11. If the storm forces a cancellation, the board will have to revisit the final dates at the next school board meeting. Schwan said he is opposed to bringing students back for one day after Memorial Day; however, if it goes to two or three days, that could be a different situation.

The food service program received glowing remarks from the recent food inspection. The high school cafeteria received a perfect score of 100. Schwan said he's only seen that score one other time. The elementary score was a 99. The only deduction was a thermometer that the inspector could not find. The staff was busy with lunch and was unable to point the inspector to the thermometer. It has been moved to a more conspicuous place.

The food service fund balance is one item that the district has to keep an eye on. This balance is \$21,498.91, which is about \$36,000 less than last year at this same time.

Current job openings in the district are MS/HS Special Education Teacher, head girls' soccer coach, senior class advisor and athletic director.

There has been no solution to the elementary kitchen floor issues. The district, along with ICS Consulting (formerly Foster Jacobs and Johnson (FJJ)), will begin discussion on the next option and begin to seek alternate contractors to make the repairs after school is out.

Items coming up according to the principal's reports:

Last day to order a yearbook is Friday, April 20. Cost is \$55.

Any student interested in modeling their prom dress in the FCCLA Style Show should contact Lindsey Tietz. The Style Show is set for Thursday, April 26.

Prom is set for Saturday, April 14. The Grand March will begin at 7 p.m. The post-prom party will begin at 11:30 p.m.

The PAC School Carnival is set for Friday, April 13, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the elementary gym and commons areas.

Smarter Balanced Testing will begin the week of April 16. Fifth grade science testing will begin on April 10.

The Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for April 20. Kindergarten visitation is set for May 7 and 8.

Elementary Track and Field Day is May 18 starting at 12:30 p.m. There will be a grill-out so families are invited to eat with their children that day.

- Paul Kosel



Lions Club donates to Trinity Church Roof Fund

The Groton Lions Club recently donated \$1000 toward the re-roofing of Trinity Episcopalian Church, a building over 100 years old that is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Lions Club is challenging all other local citizens, service organizations, and businesses to step up and help preserve this beautiful old building. Pictured in back, left to right, are Bev Frohling, Ryan Quiggle, Nancy Larsen and Alfred Tastad; in front, left to right, are Groton Lions Club President Dave Pigors presenting the check to Groton Community Historical Society Treasurer Marcy Blackmun. (Photo by Dorene Nelson)

The district's health insurance will see no increase in premiums for next year. The insurance pool is dropping the \$500 and \$750 deductible plans, which only two staff members are using. Two higher premium options will be added - \$2,500 and \$3,500. A vision insurance policy will also be added to the insurance offering with the premium paid fully by the staff member.

Every body is wondering when will be the last day of school. Superintendent Joe Schwan said he has been fielding phone calls from a number of patrons. He said it may be too early to make a final decision with the impending storm scheduled to hit the area Friday. But as of now, the district agreed that

Claremont Town Feb. 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The Board of trustees of the Town of Claremont met in regular session on 2-14-18 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. President Johnson called the meeting to order with Spencer and Rasmussen present.

On a motion by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen, the minutes of the January meeting approved as read.

On a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Specner, the

following warrants were approved:

General:
First State Bank, loan pay x 2, 1660.26; NWE, lights and Christmas Lights, 440.41; James Valley, Phone x 2, 172.56; Groton Independent, publishing, 451.71; SD Assoc. Towns and Townships, annual dues, 221.75; Jason Spencer, Excavator and tractor hours, 109.38; Charla Rye, wage, 350.00.

WSSW:
BDM, water used, 833.90; NWE, water and sewer, 537.21; DPC, service call/sewer lift, 2663.27; Melinda Spencer, meter

reading, 138.52; Rural Development, loan, 576.00.

Residents with delinquent water bills will be receiving notices via mail.

Board of Equalization will be held the third Monday of March.

Reminder to all residents and others: No semi loaded or empty on Sixth Avenue and Sixth St.

With no other business before the board, a motion to adjourn made by Spencer and seconded by Rasmussen. Motion carried.

CRye, FO
Published once at the total approximate cost of \$13.66. 15787

2018 Groton Area Elementary Kindergarten Roundup (Screening) for children turning 5 on or before September 1, 2018

When: Friday, April 20


Parents of children who will be turning 5 on or before September 1, 2018, in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time.

***Students currently attending Junior Kindergarten will not be screened at this time.**

Packets will be sent home shortly with a scheduled time and additional paperwork that will need to be completed.

Kindergarten Roundup will take place at the Groton Area Elementary School. Please check in at the office.





Blood Drive!

**Monday, April 16
Noon to 6 p.m.
Groton American Legion**

To make an appointment, call
Carol Osterman: 397-8498
or June Ackman: 397-8369

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Living Stations of the Cross

The youth of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church held its annual Living Stations of the Cross Wednesday evening at the church. In case you missed it, you can watch at 397news.com, click on Video Archives on the left hand side of the black bar, then 2017-18 and Other Events.

Front Row: Hannah Lewandowski, Grace Wambach, Megan Flihs, Alexis Hanten, Maddie Bjerke, Alexa Herr, Kelsie Frost and Wyatt Locke. Back Row: Luke Thorson, Ashley Flihs, Nicole Marzahn, Anne Marie Smith, Jackson Cogley, Alexis Simon, Isaac Smith, Austin Weiser, Erica Herr, Trey Gengerke, Jessica Bjerke, Korbin Blackmun, Garrett Schroeder, Jordan Bjerke, and Evan Nehls. (Photo by Renee Marzahn)

Robotics compete in final tournament of the season

Two GT Robotics Teams Participated in CREATE U.S. Open Robotics Championship at Council Bluffs, G.A.T. Wrenches, Noah Tullis, Tyler Iverson and Adrian Knutson and Geek Squad, Isaac Smith, Andrew Marzahn and Jacob Lewandowski. The Create US Open is an invitation only robotics tournament with teams coming from all over the US and the world. The high school VEX Robotics competition was divided into two divisions of 91 and 93 team which will join together during the elimination section of the tournament with 32 three team alliances battling for the high school championship. G.A.T. Wrenches were not in the same division as Geek Squad. We had a third team qualify for the Create US Open but Galaxy, Travis Townsend, River Pardick and Alex Dutchuk, was not able to compete because the tournament was full.

Besides the VEX high school level, there was a 89 team VEX middle school tournament and a 60 team Open tournament which play the same game but the robots may be more powerful. Lots of robots!

How did our robotists do? It was not our best tournament. The robots were plagued with problems the first day. But the kids worked on the robots and fixed the problems but not in time to move up in the rankings enough to be selected for the elimination rounds. G.A.T. Wrenches ended the qualifying rounds in 58th place of 91 and Geek Squad in 89th of 93.

This was GT Robotics last tournament of the 2017-18 season. We did have one team qualify for the 2018 VEX Robotics World Championship but we will not be attending. Now we need to prepare for the next season! On April 28, we will find out what next year's game will be. And we start determining our new robots' designs and build, test, redesign, build and test.

Thank you for your support during this past year! Raffle tickets will be on sale until April 16th at 6 P.M. when we will draw for the greenhouse, 55" TV, I-Pad Mini and \$50 Dairy Queen Card. Find a GT Robotics member or call or text Jim Lane at 397-7013.

Rankings of GT Robotics Teams at the end of qualifying rounds for each tournament.

Tournament	Groton	Mitchell	Harrisburg	Rapid City	Groton	Chamberlain	State	US Open
Teams in Tourney	15	13	22	22	22	18	30	93
9050A G-Force	10	12	8	19	7	1	22	NA
9050B Gear Heads	10	11	17	20	12	16	26	NA
9050C G.A.T. Wrenches	7	1	3	11	4	7	8	58
9050D Geek Squad	5	10	20	3	16	NA	28	89
9050E Galaxy	4	6	16	18	21	3	7	NA

How far did GT Robotics teams get in elimination rounds? (think sports playoffs)

Tournament	Groton	Mitchell	Harrisburg	Rapid City	Groton	Chamberlain	State	US Open
9050A G-Force	Final	Semi	Final	Final	Semi	Semi	Semi	NA
9050B Gear Heads	Qtr		Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	Qtr	NA
9050C G.A.T. Wrenches	Semi	Champ	Final	Final	Semi	Semi	Qtr	
9050D Geek Squad		Semi	Qtr	Qtr	Semi	NA		
9050E Galaxy		Semi			Qtr	Champ	Semi	NA

Groton receives Twins Fields for Kids Grant



BALL FIELD RENOVATION GRANTS

The City of Groton was the recipient of a \$10,000 matching grant for the renovation work at the Groton Baseball Complex.

According to Jarod Flihs, the money will be used to replace the four dugouts on Nelson and Falk Fields.

Stephanie Johnson, Senior Manager, Community Relations | Minnesota Twins Baseball Club, said, "In the first round of grant applications this year, 28 grants were awarded totaling \$211,651. The South Dakota communities of Clark, Groton and Parkston each received a grant in this review period."

According to the Twins Fields for Kids web site, "The Twins Community Fund's Twins Fields for Kids program provides financial support to improve baseball and/or softball facilities for youth in the Upper Midwest and Southwest Florida. The program makes matching grants to nonprofit organizations and local government units that operate baseball and/or softball programs.

"The Twins Community Fund and its grant programs are supported in part by Target, US Bank, Treasure Island and Delta.

"The Fields for Kids grant program is sponsored Cenex."

Johnson said, "The program was established in 1999, and since that time 772 Fields for Kids grant have been given, totaling more than \$4.3 million."

There is also a second round of grants for 2018 with a deadline of May 11.

- Paul Kosel



Freeland's 50th Anniversary

John and Shari Freeland of Houghton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 22, 2018. They will be honored with an open house celebration on Saturday, April



Groton's seventh and eighth grade girls' basketball team placed second in the Freshman bracket of the Y basketball tournament this weekend. Pictured left to right are Allyssa Locke, Maddie Bjerke, Madeline Flihs, Ani Davidson, Trista Keith and Brooke Gengerke. (Photo by Tricia Keith)

Facts and Rules About Sexual Relations

By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Some people may be offended by considering issues of sexuality, but sexual health is an important medical topic. Here are my opinions of available medical/scientific data and ethical rules about sexuality. If what follows runs counter to your beliefs, please don't be hurt or offended. Instead, let it be a springboard for discussion.

Sexual function is necessary for our species to survive and is a good and natural thing, but there's more to it than that. Sexual activity, as well as any non-sexual social friendship, promotes emotional connections which improve families and societies. Every relationship and communication (sexual or not) is fraught with vulnerability, miscommunication, and risk. Because of the tremendous value of human relationships, every effort should be made to play fair, follow rules, and avoid betraying an agreed upon trust.

Scientific and anthropological data across cultures strongly indicate heterosexuality AND homosexuality (LGBTQ) are defined by prenatal chemical, hormonal, physiological, and genetic causes. Human sexual interest is not a choice but a consequence of powerful, complex, internal messages which are as of yet a mystery. Although sexual interest may not be a controllable

choice, actions that would disgrace or dishonor another ARE chosen. Psychologists point out that people who discredit another for differences in race, age, culture, economic status, or sexual orientation are not only choosing to harm others and delay societal advancement, they are, more destructively, harming themselves. Hate is most poisonous to the one who harbors it.

Ethical rules about sexuality work for non-sexual relationships too. To pattern them after medical ethic principles: first, be kind and considerate of your partner. Listen to them. Second, do not harm. Being hurtful with a sexual act or otherwise, when it betrays a mutually agreed upon trust, spreads unhappiness to the harmed AND the perpetrator. Never put your partner at risk of disease, and don't harm yourself or others by avoiding precautions. Seek regular health care and every sexually active person should regularly check for AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

Third, be honest. Determine what is expected before any relationship of any kind. If it involves a promise to have no other sexual partners, then do not betray that trust. However, it is not fair to expect a sexual partner to avoid having other (non-sexual) friends of the same or opposite sex. Finally, respect your partner and friend's choices. Never force sex or try to control any other person's choices. This is called abuse

and should not be tolerated. An abused person should know they can always call for help.

A sexual relationship, like a friendship, is built on kindness, trust, and respect for choices.

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