

*The
New Voice*

O F N E B R A S K A



The New Voice

DECEMBER 1985

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THE NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA

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The New Deadline for The New Voice is the 15th of each month. Articles and Advertising must be received by that date. Deadline for Classified Advertising and Camera Ready Ads is the 20th of each month.

Do you know of an event that The New Voice should cover. Is your organization working on a special project. Let us know by calling 475-7740 or write to Sandy-TNV, P.O. Box 80819, Lincoln NE 68501

Upcoming Themes-
January- Legal Concerns
February- Relationships
March- Health Concerns
April- Older Gays

Cover- Photograph taken by Greg Bourne of Omaha depicts religious service being conducted By Pastor Jan of The Metropolitan Community Church. The M.C.C. is Nebraska's oldest gay/lesbian religious center. It is located at 420 So. 24th in Omaha. The M.C.C. will celebrate its 12th anniversary in the near future. The New Voice congratulates the M.C.C. on their success and we give them a special salute during this holiday season.

Contact the following staff of The New Voice for advertising, classifieds, subscriptions, and articles:

Jerry Peck, Omaha
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Our Turn

Comments and Opinions from The New Voice staff

Recently seven men were arrested in Omaha and Lincoln on charges involving child pornography and sexual assault on children. More arrests may occur.

Laws in the state of Nebraska are perfectly clear. You don't have sexual relations with persons under 16 years old. A new law recently passed by the Legislature that went into effect in September also makes it unlawful to have in your possession sexually explicit materials depicting children under 16 years old. It is also unlawful to distribute, sell, or make sexually explicit films or material.

The Omaha and Lincoln police as well as the FBI recently conducted a lengthy investigation involving individuals engaged

in these unlawful activities. The most notable of the arrests involved Jerry High who has been charged with first degree sexual assault on a child and generating child pornography. High was the previous owner of a Lincoln gay bar called Moleno's, which had not been open very long. However, the fact that a gay businessman has been arrested for exploitation of children has tarnished the gay community to a small degree. This is all homophobes need who already boast that gays are child molesters who spread AIDS.

The New Voice supports the efforts of the police to arrest and convict individuals who use and abuse children.

...Larry Wiseblood

This issue of The New Voice is special to me, because it is the last issue of The New Voice to be published while I am an Associate Editor. By the time you read this I will already have attended my last Steering Committee meeting.

I am gradually giving up all of my responsibilities in gay/lesbian organizations, which include Community of Grace, Coalition, Third Culture and Metropolitan Community Church, for two reasons. One is that I am planning to move away from Lincoln in June, 1986 and am already preparing for it. The other is that my volunteer work has kept me from a number of personal projects, including my first book.

When I moved to Lincoln Christmas weekend, 1983 I only knew one person in the

entire city. Not quite two years later I have made dozens of friends, many of whom have come to mean a great deal to me.

I have thoroughly loved my work for The New Voice-- the deadlines, the fights with Larry over policy, the hurry at the end of each month to get every issue out no later than necessary. Most of all, I have enjoyed being able to write, something I love to do. I know that some people will miss my columns and others think they should have stopped months ago. No matter; the joy is in the creating.

So take care, everyone, and talk to me before I leave.

Love,

Mei Dahl



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Recent television coverage on AIDS and a newspaper article on Paul Cameron demonstrate the homophobia or lack of knowledge that exists in the Nebraska press corps. Recently I watched a Channel 6 (Omaha) interview concerning AIDS. The major question posed to the director of the state health department was whether homosexuals who knew they had AIDS were going to spread the disease.

I was also dismayed and shocked when the Sunday Lincoln Journal-Star legitimized Paul Cameron by giving him a full page feature favorable to him and his organization. Cameron, a Lincolnite, has been breeding fear and hate against homosexuals across the country in his disguise of being a psychologist.

...Larry Wiseblood

EVENTS & ORGANIZATIONS

River City Chorus Announces Holiday Concerts

Sunday, December 15, at 2:00 p.m., the River City Mixed Chorus will present its holiday performance, "Strike the Harp and Join the Chorus," at The Max, 1417 Jackson, Omaha. All proceeds beyond Chorus expenses from this presentation will be donated to the Nebraska Aids Project.

The concert will include popular, traditional, and sacred holiday music, plus a sing-along. The name of the concert comes from the fact that the Chorus will be joined by Omaha Symphony Orchestra harpist Mary Walter.

Tickets for the December 15 event are \$5.00, available at the door.

Sunday, December 22, at 7:30 p.m., at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street, Omaha, the concert will be repeated, harp and

all! This will be a "Public Performance," advertised in the Omaha newspaper. (This is the Chorus's first major public concert.) Suggested donations will be \$3.50 for adults, \$2.00 for children 12 & under and for seniors.

In addition, the Chorus will be joining other area choirs at Omaha's Western Heritage Museum, Friday, December 20, at 6:30 p.m. Plans call for caroling through the Old Market area after the 30-minute concert at the Museum.

The River City Mixed Chorus will be auditioning interested voices in January for the next Concert season. Also, the Chorus is always looking for non-singers interested in helping. For more information, write P.O. Box 315, Omaha, 68101-0315, or phone 455-2334.

Imperial Court News

In starting, we would like to thank all of the organizations and bar owners who helped make Labor Day weekend a success. Many goals were realized; by working together, you can accomplish many things.

On October 20, a "Safe Sex" Seminar was held at The Max and was sponsored by I.C.O.N. About 50 people heard presentations by Dr. Jonathan Goldsmith, Jerry Copeland, Don Flowers, and Kevin Gallagher. It was a

continued on page 7...



strike the harp
and join the chorus

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Sunday, December 22, 1995, at 7:30 p.m.

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wonderful, informative seminar. Be aware of upcoming seminars.

During December, the Imperial Court will have barrels at the various bars for our "Toys for Tots" and "Food for Thought" campaign. This will continue all month. If you know of any

families needing food, please submit their name to Rev. Jan Kross at M.C.C. Omaha.

Sincerely,

Emperor V Gary
Empress V LauraLee

Halloween at the Max

During the month of October, I took vacation time, but unable to afford to travel, I pursued a proper costume for Halloween. I had worn a dress twice before and came out plain UGLY. This year, my goal was not to be pretty (Mary Kay can only do so much), nor to be ugly--just old. I made a banner (lavender with black vinyl lettering) which declared me to be "Miss Gay Nebraska 1945." Grey wig, polyester frock, silver shoes, bag and cane (with a tassle attached with a lavender band) made me a spectacle--to say the least.

After two hours of preparation, I entered The Max--met with horse laughs, and with the summoning of a uniformed officer. Without my glasses, I had no idea who this was, or why he was summoned. After some verbal abuse, he saw the "1945" and recognized me, and I him. Miss Gay Nebraska 1985 (Velvet/Vince) as a Security Cop instructed me to register for the contest as "Velvet's Mother."

Dancing in heels was made easier with the use of my cane, and finally nearly 80 registered contestants paraded past the judges being introduced by Ms Flowers. There were two categories--costume and drag. I was registered in costume.



Winners were announced. Costume winners were: 3rd--Spider Man, 2nd--Bird Man, and 1st--a couple in an elephant suit. I hadn't made it into the money, my feet hurt, and my glitter eye shadow had run. I had headed for the door when they announced 3rd place in drag--"Miss Gay Nebraska 1945." In the excitement of the applause, collecting my \$25, and having Ms Flowers curtsy and kiss my hand, I failed to catch who won 2nd and 1st place. Does this make me a drag queen? The entire evening had been the most fun I have had in years, and to win a prize put me on Cloud Nine. How do I top it for next year?

--Jerry Peck

The Birth of the P.A.G.E.

A number of months ago, several of the gay/lesbian bars and organizations met to coordinate the activities and special events in the Omaha area. At the November meeting at the Stage Door, representatives from The New Voice, MCC Omaha, Stars Restaurant, Stage Door, Chesterfield and Run bars, Imperial Court of Nebraska were represented. Gregory Bourne, new staff member of The New Voice, was introduced. He in turn presented the idea of a monthly publication which would be distributed in the Omaha area detailing Planned Activities and Gay Events (P.A.G.E.). The single folded 8 1/2 X 11 sheet will provide a list of routine activities and events (weekly worship services, organizational meetings, etc.), special events (drag shows, fund raisers, etc.)

and a directory of bars and organizations. The P.A.G.E. will cover a five-week period and list what information we are able to obtain.

The December meeting of gay/lesbian bars and organizations will discuss the response to the P.A.G.E. as well as making plans for the Gay Pride Parade for 1986. It is also hoped that as the P.A.G.E. develops information will come in as to dates of upcoming events, and we will be able to avoid having everything happening on one night or week-end. If you belong to an organization that has events taking place that are not listed, contact The New Voice or MCC Omaha.

Jerry Peck

Announcements of *The New Voice*

The November meeting of the Steering Committee of The New Voice of Nebraska was held in Lincoln on November 14. Welcomed as new staff members were Gregory Bourne and Rick Horrigan from Omaha and Vic Jedlicka of Lincoln to the Steering Committee as a layout person. The resignation of Howard Gunn as Treasurer was accepted. We presently have the following vacancies on the Steering Committee: Treasurer, Associate Editor-News and Events,

and Advertising. If you are willing to donate some hours to assist in the publication of The New Voice of Nebraska and are willing to attend decision-making meetings once a month, contact someone from The New Voice. The Steering Committee is presently limited to eleven members. Presently there are five women on the Steering Committee from Lincoln. There is only one person on the Steering Committee from Omaha. As we attempt to represent the vocal gay/lesbian community of Nebraska, we need your help.

Out & About in Lincoln

On December 5, members of the predominately gay volleyball team The Flamingos finished third place among 5 teams in the YMCA Co-Ed Volleyball League. The team is sponsored by The Board-Walk and The Club. The team is comprised

of 10 members. Last year the same team finished first in the league. Check out the trophies at The Board-Walk.

Everyone enjoys a change of season. Moving the furniture around can

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be a nice change. But do you ever go to your local bar and wonder why it has once again changed owners, names, and is again remodeling. This has happened at 200 So. 18th. Kelly's recently opened and is offering specials, entertainment, and Christmas prizes to draw the crowds back. Kelly is working to establishing a positive image and changes will continue to occur to upgrade the bar. Kelly has shown the ability to manage and provide a nice atmosphere as she has managed Cherchez la femme for quite some time. Give Kelly's a try. You can also reminisce about Mollenos, Imaginations, and The Sanctuary

I enjoy unwinding after work and going to The Club to so-

cialize in a quiet atmosphere is a nice way to start the evening. Then later in the evening dancing is on my priority list and I enjoy the music and light show at The Board-Walk. Don't miss the shows and entertainment on Sunday evenings at The Board-Walk.

The New Voice is sponsoring The Big Lip Sinc Contest and preliminaries will be held in February and March at The Board-Walk and Cherchez la femme in Lincoln and at Stars Restaurant in Omaha. The top 5 contestants from each show will be eligible to compete in the finals held at The Max on Sunday, March 23. Look for upcoming announcements.

...Larry Wiseblood

Out & About in Omaha

I get out and about less and less as the protective covering of the trees and shrubbery has fallen to the ground and the phobia about AIDS blossoms all around me. I see the bar scene in Omaha changing as there is less cruising, more fear of being open and, per chance, making contact with the "wrong type."

We have been warned against casual sex with unknown partners, and there are so many who do not know or practice the art of conversation or making friends. I realize that this is difficult with the music blasting you off the dance floor, but it seems that it must be done. It is not easy to ask a stranger if they believe in safe sex when you don't even know their name. A recent report in The Wall Street Journal (October 24) shows a strong correlation between the use of drugs (IV, pot, poppers, speed and so forth) and the devel-

opment of AIDS. Since most drugs other than poppers, and booze is either against the law or prescribed by doctors, we don't normally know a person's drug intake on a first meeting. It is just another reason to get to know a person before bedding them.

On October 20, I attended a "Safe Sex" Seminar at The Max. I learned something there: We have been told of the warning signs, but did you know that when they refer to night sweats, they mean sweating to the point of needing to change bed clothes on a nightly basis over an extended period, and that elevated temperature refers to a continual reading of 101 degrees for a period of more than a week. That puts a different setting on my panic button. The seminar was interesting in that three people brushed the subject of Safe Sex and seemed to hedge on the graphic descrip-

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tions of any sex act, safe or unsafe. They need a real potty mouth like myself.

An eagerly anticipated event, "Mr. Gay Nebraska" Contest was postponed. No reason has been learned as to why, but at least it was postponed and not canceled due to a lack of beefcake. Let's hope we will still see some buns and pecs in the near future.

Congrats! Don Flowers of Omaha has been appointed to the Advisory Board of The Gay Rights National Lobby and has been nominated to sit on the Board of Directors.

Seasons Greeting and may the coming year find us all out and about, making friends and getting to know one another better.

--Jerry Peck

Lincoln Group Seeks Community Center

A gay/lesbian community center in Nebraska? That is almost unthinkable. But the Third Culture in Lincoln is thinking big and is hopeful that a house can be purchased near 29th and R to serve the community. The property would provide space for housing, group and individual counseling, office space, and a group meeting area.

To help fund the project,

which requires an initial investment of \$4,000, Lambda, Inc. was created. Lambda, Inc. is a for-profit real estate and leasing corporation whose stock sales would be used to buy properties of interest to the gay and lesbian community. Stock is presently being sold by the corporation to fund the project. More investors are needed if a dream is to become a reality. For more information call 474-1205.

NEWS & FEATURES

Union College Gives Lesbian Ultimatum

Union College (my alma mater) is at it again. Recently, through a series of events, the administration discovered a student's Lesbian identity. Becky (not her real name) was given an "alternative" concerning her sexuality: she would have to go through a 'homosexual rehabilitation' program designed to cure homosexuality, or she would be expelled, in which case she would receive no credit for the courses she was taking. At the same time, she was pressured to confess her sexuality to her parents (which she did), and when/if she chose to stay at Union College, the issue would be discussed at the Deans' Council. While Becky was trying

to decide what to do, she was called in to see the Women's Dean, who wanted to know the names of other female students she'd had sex with and the names of other Lesbian students on campus. (Can you imagine?!!)

Becky spent several days away from Union trying to evaluate other alternatives. Her friends gave her a lot of support and a place to stay during that time. Even so, Becky suffered a great deal of anguish and finally decided to go home. It is not known what she faces there.

This kind of thing has happened before at Union College, but I

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have no idea just how many students have been expelled or subjected to psychological manipulation because of their sexuality (or problems related to it). One thing is certain: there will be more in the future.

The Union College Seal of Office proclaims, "Erunt omnes docibiles Dei" -- "They shall be all taught of God." Isn't it a shame what some people do in the name of God?

af-9

Terry Taylor Receives Life Sentence

On December 21, 1984, a tragedy occurred that has affected the lives of many people, including those in the gay community. Ben DeBeats, Jr. was brutally murdered. DeBeats' body suffered 51 stab wounds and was found in the trunk of his car. Soon after the discovery of his body, DeBeats' former lover, Terry Taylor, was sought and apprehended by Lincoln police. Initially he was charged with manslaughter, but the charge was changed to first degree murder. Approximately three months ago in an apparent plea bargain, charges were once again changed -- to second degree murder. At that time a pre-sentence investigation was initiated to help the judge determine sentencing. On November 27, Lancaster County District Judge Jeffrey Chevront sentenced Taylor, 22, to a life sentence after a 90-minute hearing was conducted.

The human toll is immense and the scars will be felt for many years. Never has the gay community of Lincoln witnessed such a tragedy since the murder-suicide of two male lovers in the late 1970s. Many people knew of, or saw, Terry Taylor and Ben DeBeats, Jr. in the bars or gay social sphere of Lincoln. Those who knew Terry were shocked and bewildered because it was felt that he was incapable of any kind of violence. He was known as a friendly, non-aggressive individual. Taylor's father, John Taylor of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and his grandfather, Dr. Bowen E. Taylor, testified that Terry was quiet, caring, and hardworking.

The DeBeats family has suffer-

ed a great amount of grief. Mrs. DeBeats said her son had confided in her that he was homosexual, and she and her husband had accepted that. Ben, 18 years old, had received a grant before his death and he had planned to study interior design at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Earlier testimony had revealed that Ben met Taylor in the summer of 1984 and the two eventually became lovers. They moved into an apartment at 610 S. 17th on September 1, 1984.

Taylor expressed regret and remorse before the sentencing. Terry stated, "I loved Ben very much. I cared for him. All I ever wanted was to be with him. Things changed. It created a situation that neither one of us was experienced in handling. It led to arguments once in a while. If one of us had the guts of leaving that night this would never have happened. I take full responsibility. At times I wish I could take his place. I realize there is pain and anger against me. I can't express how sorry I am about everything. I don't ask their forgiveness (DeBeats' family). I know how they feel. I know I have hurt my family. It is hard for them to deal with it all and me to deal with it all. I hope that sometime I can be forgiven, at least by my family. I love them very much. I realize that I will spend a lot of time. There is nothing anyone can do. I loved him very much. I'm sorry."

...Larry Wiseblood

State Health Department Minimizes AIDS Problem

The Nebraska State Health Department in recent announcements has minimized the serious problem of AIDS as well as shown irresponsible conduct in their reporting. On November 25 the Department suddenly announced three more cases of AIDS, bringing to seven the total number of cases in 1985. It has been known since late 1984 that statistics were underestimated and not reported correctly. Why, suddenly, did three cases get reported in one day?

The State Health Department reported that the first case of AIDS in Nebraska was reported in 1983. Two cases were reported in 1984 and seven have been detected so far this year. All 10 cases reported involved males between the ages of 28 and 69, with an average age of 38.7 years. Nine of the cases occurred in the state's metropolitan areas. Eight of the men were homosexual or bisexual and the remaining two cases resulted from blood transfusions. The Department reported that no transfusion-related AIDS cases have been reported in Nebraska since blood banks began screening

donated blood for the AIDS-related virus this spring.

The State Health Department also minimized the problem by stating that Nebraska remains a low incidence state. The State Health Department director, Dr. Gregg Wright, stated that AIDS was a severe public health problem but he did not say what the department was doing as far as education and research. It is apparent that the Health Department is doing too little, too late. The word epidemic was never used in the press release but has been used nationally by public health officials.

It was also reported recently that Lancaster County had its first case of AIDS. Earlier the State Health Department stated an unwillingness to release county-wide statistics, apparently fearing that persons in smaller counties would react hysterically.

Lastly, the Department asked individuals in high risk groups to take steps to lower their risk but did not outline what these steps were.

...Larry Wiseblood

Nebraska Wesleyan S.A.S. Support Protection of Gays

On Monday, November 18, 1985, the Student Affairs Senate (SAS) at Nebraska Wesleyan University, in a move to reflect their concern, passed, nearly unanimously, Senate File 9-85R. The primary portion of this bill states:

1) This Senate shall not discriminate in any way against any minority group which organizes itself for the purpose of dis-

cussing circumstances of and consequences faced by that group because of that group's or its members' sex, race, creed, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, national origin, or handicap.

It also contains an important statement in item 4 when it says:

4) No group meeting as a minority for purposes of discussion of that minority's concerns, if that group is a minor-

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ity group because of its members' sex, race, creed, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or national origin, shall be defined as or categorized with groups formed by, of, or for persons with abnormal behaviors or physical, mental, or emotional ailments or disabilities by this Senate or any of its committees. All members of the campus community are urged to avoid such definitions and categorizations.

At the time of this writing, it was not certain whether the President of Nebraska Wesleyan University, Dr. John White, would sign this bill. Any bill passed by the SAS must be signed by the President. Should he not sign it, the SAS may then appeal it to the Board of Governors. It is this writer's opinion that Dr. White will sign this legislation, because it is only binding upon the Student Affairs Senate and is not in conflict with existing Administrative guidelines.

Congratulations to the Senators

at Nebraska Wesleyan University for the evidence of their concern that all persons be guaranteed their rights with "all humans of sacred worth" ("Administrative Guidelines for Gay and Lesbian Support Group," 1984). As one alum said, "Great! Sounds like Nebraska Wesleyan University is moving into the twentieth century!"

In addition to this legislative action by the SAS, the Nebraska Wesleyan Student Group continues to be alive and well. This group has also reflected its compassion and ability in reaching out to other suffering people. Recently members of this group reached out to a woman in need and ministered to her. I would like to publicly thank those who helped--for their willingness to reach out to another person of worth.

Continue to watch us. We at Nebraska Wesleyan University may not be as vocal as others, but we are working!

Howard Gunn

Gay Couples—Holidays

Have you ever wondered what other couples do for the holidays? Thanksgiving and Christmas are considered family holidays. This can bring up issues about our own families and holiday rituals. It can also be a time of feeling alone and depressed. The holiday rituals that we experienced as children linger with us as adults. It is important to respect and remember those traditions.

Rituals are behaviors that we repeat over and over again. They incorporate behaviors that are meaningful to each individual and possibly communicate meaning to other people. A Christmas ritual might be you and your partner having oyster stew together on Christmas eve and making a toast to each other. This might be followed by sitting in front of the fireplace and opening special presents from each other. It has meaning, because the two of you are doing it

together, and it incorporates the warm feelings you had as children when your families had oyster stew. It is a special time that the two of you set aside and do not allow other people to interrupt. When you think of Christmas later in the year you might conjure up the feelings you had with each other in front of the fireplace. The more you repeat this ritual, the more it has meaning.

The holiday rituals we experienced as children were neat, but we did not have much to do with creating them. Gay couples do not think much about creating rituals, but it is important to do just that, especially at this time of the year. Rituals that you repeat each year help bond the two of you to each other. There are no formal rituals for gay couples, like there are for straight couples. This may be an advantage, because the rituals you create with your partner will have far more meaning than the ones created by tradition.

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ON DASHER, ON DANCER,
ON FRANCER, ON VIXON,
ON COMET, ON CUPID,
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It is helpful to look at the rituals you had as a kid and incorporate some of those into your adult rituals. Couples come from two different families, so creating new rituals means taking something from each person and trying to combine them. If one of you celebrated Christmas on the eve and the other one celebrated on Christmas morning, take time to create a new ritual that combines both traditions that were important to you both as children. Talk to each other and compromise. For example; some couples celebrate Christmas eve by opening presents from each other, and then have a great brunch the next morning with friends to open presents from other folks.

What about your families? Many of us have lost contact with our families because of being a gay couple, being gay or for some other reason. Other families are accepting and are willing to include both of you in their holiday plans. Sometimes one family is accepting and one family is not. I think it is important to respect yourselves in this situation. Each family is important, but so are you and your partner. Even if both of your families are accepting and you spend your time going back and forth between them, you still need to take time to observe your own rituals.

Happy holiday rituals until next time.

—Mike Fitzpatrick

Violence Against Wimmin —Part 2

(The following is Part 2 of a two-part editorial submitted by H. Moore and the counselors of the Rape-Spouse Abuse Crisis Center. Part 1 was published in the November issue.)

The recent opinion in State v. Hunt vacating the sentencing of Robert Hunt, Jr. communicates to the women of Nebraska a whole set of misogynist messages through the application of the law. Understand from the outset, the imposition of the death penalty is not the focus. We must set that aside because many women among us feel that the death penalty is applied in a discriminatory pattern nationwide (as are murder charges). Instead, we must challenge the messages included in the formal opinion of State v. Hunt and reiterated in public by Chief Justice Krivosha at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln on September 12, 1985.

The majority of the Court denied that aggravating circumstances were involved in the death of Beverly Ramspott. They argue that the murder was not committed to conceal the commission of a crime, but was an act of "sexual gratification." They further assert that "There is no evidence that acts were performed for the satisfaction

of inflicting either mental or physical pain or that pain existed for any prolonged period of time." Many details of the case have been presented in public media, and Krivosha has stated publicly that Mike Royko and other critics have not read the opinion or have misrepresented the legal "hair splitting" that occurs in this case.

The above quotes--from the Nebraska reports--and the general media coverage of this issue send the following messages to us:

1. That any rapist who kills or renders unconscious a victim first, and then rapes that victim, has established a "not especially heinous, atrocious or cruel enough" scene for the crime of murder.

2. That sexual assault is sexual gratification. By drawing a parallel between these two acts, the motivation for sexual assault is obscured--that motivation being domination, power and the degradation of women. By using the term "sexual gratification" the justices imply that a reciprocal relationship exists between the victim and the assailant. This is patently

continued on page 26...

Gail's Hit List

December

1. You and Me
The Flirts
2. Perfect Way
Scritti Politti
- *3. Who's Zoomin' Who
Aretha Franklin
- +4. Gambler
Madonna
- +5. I Miss You
Klymaxx
- +6. One of the Living
(remix)
Tina Turner
7. You Wear It Well
Debarge
- +8. Lock and Key
Klymaxx
9. Seduction
Val Young
- +10. Sisters are Doin' It
For Themselves
Eurythmics/Aretha
Franklin
- +11. Conga
Miami Sound Machine
- +12. Say It Again
Danse Society
- +13. Roses
Haywoode
- +14. Everybody Dance
TA Mara & The Seen
- +15. Slave to the Rhythm
Grace Jones

* = #1 last month

+ = New Entry

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false--no woman is gratified by rape.

3. In Krivosha's public comments, he states that ". . . the reason for the slaying was sexual gratification." This equates murder with sexual gratification--another dangerous idea to reinforce in our paternalistic society.

4. That the unconscious state of the victim somehow mitigates the acts surrounding a murder. The use of the victim's unconscious state as a "mitigating circumstance" is not accepted in Nebraska as an excuse for sexual assault (e.g. if the victim is drunk, not competent or conscious), why then should it be a mitigating circumstance for murder?

More to the point, we have no proof of Janet Ramspott's unconscious state throughout the sexual assaults and murder. The only evidence we have is the lack of water in the victim's lungs, which places her death at any time before she was held under water by her murderer. Note that the court depended upon the convicted murderer's testimony for the time of her death (though he noted that he felt a pulse after sexually assaulting her, and then tried to drown her) and for the time of her loss of consciousness (within one minute of entering her house). The burden of proof should be upon the defendant to prove that his victim was not conscious up to and until he dragged her to the bathtub. She may well have been conscious during each of his assaults against her; bound and gagged, she could hardly struggle in any way that would give physical evidence of her not suffering. Janet Ramspott cannot speak to the especially heinous, atrocious and cruel acts carried out against her, but we can and must.

Judicial and community energy should be put into challenging the vague statute created by State v. Stewart. Arguing against the "especially heinous" victimization of Janet Ramspott increases the burden against all women victims of sexual assault. As elected officials, the State Supreme Court Justices must attend to the community standards of all Nebraskans. Our agreement or disagreement with the death penalty per se cannot be used to stifle our outrage at the opinions expressed by a majority of the court. The Supreme Court engaged in legal denial of a victim's "experience" of a painful death and sexual assault, which led them to unproveable and dangerous conclusions.

The week of October 5-11 was a statewide focus on Violence Against Women Awareness. Women in Lincoln organized a series of educational and political activities concerned with sexual assault and violence on the job, in the legal system, in schools, and in the lives of women of color. The justices of the courts were sent a copy of this editorial and invited to attend a Community Symposium on Violence Against Women. None attended. Each of us must decide where and how we will work for women victims of violence--in our courts, at the voting polls, at our centers and crisis lines or in our own personal recoveries.

To contact the Rape Spouse Abuse Crisis Center, call 475-7273.

(An earlier version of this editorial was printed in the Women's Journal Advocate)

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Religion

A Pastoral Chat

Recently, I was reflecting on the Christmas season and thinking about what life might be like if there were no Christmas--no celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. If Jesus had not been born into this world--to come to reveal, once and for all time, the God of creation, the God of eternity, the God of love to all people--think how different our world would be. Even for those who do not profess belief in Christianity or in God, life would be very different.

One of the joys of Christmas for many of us is the anticipation, the hope, the looking forward to; and, yet, because our world is not perfect and because of a variety of circumstances, for many the Christmas season is a time of de-

spair, depression and seeming hopelessness.

Whether Christian or not, Christmas has come to be a time for sharing and caring, for "peace on earth, good will to all." I pray this Christmas season that we will all be especially sensitive to one another's need for warmth and love and sharing. Please reach out to one another with a caring, compassionate love. That is why Christmas is with us.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Pastor Jan

note: M.C.C. Omaha will be having a Christmas Tree Decorating Party on Saturday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m. Our Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:30 p.m., December 24.

Nebraskans Attend National Affirmation Meeting

More than 60 people from at least 17 states, including 4 from Nebraska, participated in celebrating Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns' 10th birthday held this past September 20-22 at Wheadon United Methodist Church in Evanston, Illinois.

The work of the weekend included regional organizing with an emphasis upon more grassroots activities. Nebraska is only one of several local groups to have organized in recent months. In addition, the Reconciling Congregation Program now includes 15 local congregations who have chosen to be intentionally supportive

and inclusive of lesbians and gay men. Inquiries about the Reconciling Congregation Program continue to be received from all over the country.

The national meeting next turned its attention to the AIDS epidemic. While the population most affected is the gay male community, AIDS is a danger to all people--regardless of gender, race, class or sexual orientation. Affirmation is working on a more detailed statement to be released after its Coordinating Committee meeting in February of 1986. Work began for selecting a new Coordinating Committee to take office in the spring of 1986. Pledges in the amount of \$10,000 were raised to underwrite Affirmation's work.

continued on page 31...

Kelly's

hours - monday thru friday 3-1am

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sunday 6-11pm

sundays →→→ movie nites (free popcorn)

mondays →→→ \$1 bottle beer

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On Saturday night, Affirmation held a birthday dinner-dance at Hemenway United Methodist Church in Evanston. Sunday morning worship was a joyful celebration with the Wheadon congregation. An Affirmation choir sang, and greetings were brought by both Bishop

Jesse DeWitt and District Superintendent Donna Atkinson.

The next national Affirmation meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, April 4-6, 1986. For more information about Affirmation, call 476-9911 or 474-1205, or write Box 80122 in Lincoln, NE 68501.

Living with Dignity in Omaha

Lesbian and gay persons are full members in Christ's mystical body, whole persons God made in a self image. This is a basic tenet of DIGNITY International, a lay organization of Roman Catholics which has more than 90 chapters across the U.S. and Canada with other affiliates throughout the world. The organization was founded in 1969 by an Augustinian priest working with gay and lesbian Catholics at San Diego, CA.

DIGNITY has four areas of concern in its Statement of Position and Purpose. Foremost is spiritual development where the organization strives to help its members attain Christian maturity through various means, notably Eucharistic celebration.

Another concern is educating the gay and lesbian community in the realization of self-worth. Social involvement, to demonstrate to both the gay/lesbian community and the community at large that gay and lesbian persons truly are children of God and do contribute to a community of love, is another part of DIGNITY's concern. The group also aims to work with other homophile groups for the cause of justice in the gay community and to promote

a sense of solidarity, and aims to work with other religious and secular groups to help them understand gays and lesbians and to recognize present injustices.

Finally, DIGNITY strives to arrange social and recreational activities in an atmosphere where friendships can develop and mature and where the gay's/lesbian's sense of acceptance and dignity may be strengthened.

DIGNITY/Omaha just recently became a "chapter in formation" --something of a "mission" under tutelage of the DIGNITY regional office at Chicago. The Omaha chapter's aim is to grow and take an active part in the Christian and specifically Roman Catholic community, providing a place for encouraging Catholics to retain their faith in God and ties with the Church.

The Mass arranged by DIGNITY/Omaha is the second Sunday of each month at 7 pm at St. John's Church on the Creighton University campus. The "Celebration Room," a smaller chapel at the north end of the church's lower level, provides a setting especially conducive to prayerfulness and sharing. DIGNITY/Omaha is affiliated only with DIGNITY International and

continued on page 35...



Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha

"If you haven't seen us lately, you haven't seen us!"

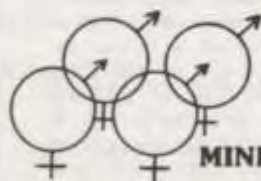
Sunday Worship Services — 10:30am and 7:00pm

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This is my commandment, that you love one another."

— John 15:12

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The Gathering is the fourth Sunday monthly, and rotates among members' homes. The member in whose home The Gathering meets chooses the evening's topic or plans the program, thus giving each member a chance to

address specifically personal concerns.

Further information about DIGNITY/Omaha can be obtained by phoning in Omaha either Russ (341-1460) or Dan (345-9426). Although predominantly Omahans, the group has members from Lincoln and outlying communities

A Choice

With the onslaught of news about AIDS patients and victims, I have become oppressed by the frustration of how to channel my energies to best help the gay community. I have learned to engage in safe sex, and promoted it in various ways. I have read extensively about people with AIDS from Rock Hudson to porno stars to infants. I have supported various fund raisers for AIDS research. I have read a book on spiritual gifts to help recognize my gifts that might be helpful at this time, as well as Elizabeth Kubler-Ross's book On Death and Dying.

My faith in my God has been helpful to me as I know that I do have eternal life, and that I am neither condemned to hell or to have AIDS because of my sexuality. I have looked for and found fellowship with other believers. I know the principles of Christian Love which are set forth in the scriptures, and I attempt to incorporate these into all of my inter-personal relationships.

Having recently read On Death and Dying, I am overwhelmed by the common thread of despair in the various case studies. None were done with a gay person with AIDS. The studies did re-

flect the loneliness during dying by people with strong genetic family ties.

I recall the Biblical account of Jesus as He prayed alone in the Garden when He knew that He was to die, and His anger at His disciples as they slept through His hour of despair. However death comes to me, I choose to have people around me that share my Christian philosophy of Love.

I will still have my hours in the garden when I must face death alone, but I will also have times such as the Last Supper when friends gather in communal love.

We cannot choose our genetic family; however, we can choose our friends. If you hold to the Christian concept of Love, and have not become a part of a congregation (Church family), I urge you to do so. You don't have to have AIDS to need people, and becoming a part of a church will not guarantee that you will not get AIDS. People who know their need for people are the smartest people in the world. Scripture records in the story of creation God's first revelation, "It is not good for man to be alone."

--Jerry Peck





Peace on Earth and good will towards gay men and straight men and straight women and lesbians and gay children and straight children and black gay men and black straight men and black lesbians and black straight women and black gay children and black straight children and hispanic gay men and hispanic straight men and hispanic lesbians and hispanic straight women and hispanic gay children and hispanic straight children and oriental gay men and oriental straight men and oriental straight women and oriental lesbians and oriental gay children and oriental straight children . . .

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Film Depicts M.C.C.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches has prepared a documentary which is available on video tape. I have had the privilege of viewing this film twice. Both times, I was moved at the concern expressed by those in leadership positions within the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC).

This film is primarily about the history of UFMCC, but also reflects a portion of our history as Gay men and Lesbians. It was begun in the late 60's prior to Stonewall and was incorporated in 1970 as the International Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Primarily a religious organization, the UFMCC is also a political force to be dealt with.

There are over 200 churches worldwide, in ten countries with approximately 30,000 members. The UFMCC was the first Christian denomination to be organized around sexual orientation. The sexual orientation of members is not the main focus of UFMCC. The message is that God's love is for

everyone. About 20% of the members are not Gay.

This film was especially moving to me, because it caused me to remember some things I had forgotten. It tells of those churches which were mysteriously destroyed by fire, of those that have been vandalized, and those that have been destroyed. But more importantly, it brought back to my memory that there have been lives lost in these acts of violence against a group attempting to bring God's love to a suffering community.

M.C.C. of Omaha has a copy of this film which it will be showing at various functions within the community. MCC Omaha and UFMCC are attempting to raise funds necessary to show this film on television. Your contributions toward this end, or your inquiries concerning this film may be directed to:

MCC Omaha, P.O. Box 3173
Omaha, Nebraska 68103

Howard Gunn

Poetry

They are children
of God.
they seek love in the dark.
They struggle for dignity.
they are hated without being
known.
Reaching out to brush the hair
from
a child's face -
they are forbidden to be with
children.
They are some of the most
beautiful
people I know
and some of the worst -
but they are.
and they carry a core of pain
which is forever present and

forever burning.hurting.killing.
alive.
protection comes only from
their arms around each other.
their arms around each other
calls down the wrath of the
Christians.
Comfort is found in being
and being allowed
to be.
but they are not often allowed
to be;
alone,
together,
in love,
at peace. at God.
just - to be.
faggots in america.

--Dave

FACING FACTS

We hope for cures, remission and prevention of AIDS. Until these hopes are realized, we must deal head-on with the problem that is haunting us daily.

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The Women's Bar

Letters

Larry Wiseblood, Editor
The New Voice

Dear Larry,

Since the first issue of The New Voice, I have read with some interest your magazine. I have never thought that your articles were terrible, but not great either.

But now it seems to me that with 20 pages of advertising and more pages of the staffs' comments and opinions,

you might not have room for all the articles that much of the public wants.

Try getting into some areas you're not touching. How about more on groups and events. Even a little more about the bars in Lincoln and Omaha. Please.

Scott Marcus,
Omaha

Classifieds

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Love Phill

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How to Choose Condoms

There are many kinds of condoms --latex, sheep gut, lubricated, unlubricated, long, short, wide, narrow, thick, thin, smooth, ribbed, ruffled, mushroom topped, receptacle tipped, round-ended, clear, opaque and brightly colored--they also have different tastes and smells. The main thing to remember when choosing the right condom for you is to EXPERIMENT!

Try out lots of different kinds using safer sexual activities such as masturbation, and intercourse between the thighs. Be sure to BREAK SOME while you practice so you know how much stress you can reasonably put on rubbers and what it feels like when one breaks.

* LATEX OR SHEEP GUTS?

Some users prefer condoms made from the appendix of sheep--often called "natural" condoms. However, latex is more durable and provides better protection. Both rubber and sheep intestines are highly impermeable, but the animal fiber condoms have walls of unequal thickness and thus tend to leak or break more easily. They should be used with those occasional people who are allergic to rubber, or who have such an aversion to latex that it's sheep guts or nothing.

* LUBRICATED OR UNLUBRICATED

There is evidence lubricated condoms do not break as easily as unlubricated ones. Lubricated rubbers also give that moist natural sexual feeling next to the skin that is missing in the dry, powdered ones. And because they are a little more slippery, lubricated condoms provide greater sensation to the wearer.

Rubbers are lubricated with gels or silicone based products. These are injected into the condom package just before sealing it. Gels tend to coat the rubbers unevenly inside the package, while silicone products (because of their molecular properties) lubricate all parts of the condom equally. This means there is less goo when you open the package and that the rubber is less likely to break from grabbin' on dry spots during use.

* DIFFERENT SIZES

Most large manufacturers make at least two condom sizes--Class I: (7.1" x 4.2") and Class II (6.4" x 3.6"). Some manufacturers also make narrower condoms as well. These are usually advertised as "snugger for extra sensitivity." And for those who are "hung humongous," there are a few condoms which are longer and wider than the above sizes. So when picking a brand SHOP AROUND and remember, RUBBER STRETCHES to fit many sizes!

A point you may wish to consider about condom size is that rubbers which fit snugly at the bottom create a slight tourniquet effect on the superficial veins. This makes a harder erection and increases the power of the orgasm--much like a cock ring works. If you like this effect, GO FOR IT! The researchers say it's safe fun -- if not, pick a rubber which does not slip too much.

--Clark Taylor, Ph.D.
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A stylized illustration of a woman with short red hair and bangs, wearing a red, long-sleeved, draped dress. She is posed with her right arm raised and hand near her head, and her left hand on her hip. The background is black. A red arc above her head contains the text "MISS MAX 1986" in white, sans-serif capital letters.

MISS MAX 1986

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