

*The
New Voice*

O F N E B R A S K A



Our Turn

Views and opinions by *The New Voice* staff.

About the Cover

This month's cover is a photograph taken by Jan H., a commercial artist and photographer here in Lincoln. Her first cover, "Victim, #2," appeared on the November Womyn's Issue of *The New Voice*.

Although Jan has not titled the photograph, she sees it as symbolic of remembrance. The young woman in the photograph is looking back at where she has been and forward to her future.

Changing of the Guard

Like any other organization, *The New Voice* is constantly going through changes in format, design, and volunteer staffing. The most recent change is a staff realignment. After three years of dedicated service as Editor of *The New Voice*, I have regrettably submitted my resignation.

I have already received several calls from staff and supporters of the publication who have expressed concern that my resignation could lead to the demise of *The New Voice*. I would like to assure readers and advertisers that the future of the magazine will be left in stable hands.

I will remain on staff in a different capacity. After three years of dedicated service to the community, I feel a change of leadership will be in the best interest of the community, and will enable me to change some of my priorities. I have a special interest in promoting safe sex and working on AIDS projects. I have not had the time to do this in the past.

I wish to thank everyone who supported this publication and all the encouraging letters over the years. This kept me motivated, even during hard times. It hasn't always

been easy. The most difficult time was being hit by a lawsuit from *The Voice News*, which tried to force us to change our name. Even though we won that lawsuit, other battles have occurred within our own community. Gay men and lesbians have disagreed over a number of issues that have almost split up the staff. Pornography and censorship have been especially sensitive. There are also persons in our community who can only criticize and tear down efforts. This is especially discouraging. I am very proud of *The New Voice* and will stand by my comment that we are one of the best looking and creative gay publications in the country.

--Larry Wiseblood
Editor

Need for Positive Growth

With the resignation of Larry Wiseblood on January 31, the Steering Committee of *The New Voice* accepted and approved my nomination as "Acting" Editor. I will serve in this capacity until March 17, at which time the title of Editor will be divided into a co-editorship. The Steering Committee is now in the process of screening nominations for a Co-Editor, and I will seek the other Co-Editor's position.

I know that I have undertaken a tremendous responsibility. Few people realize just how much time and work is involved in publishing this magazine. I am ready to meet the challenge with new ideas and cautious optimism. My primary objective is to fairly and accurately represent various interests in our diverse community. In order to achieve this, however, the community must communicate with the magazine. We cannot be expected to know what all of your needs are unless you express them. The magazine will then better serve the entire community.

I am looking forward to working with the staff and the community to make this a successful transition. I hope I can count on your support!

--Sandy
Acting Editor

Taking Responsibility

As many of you know, *The New Voice* is undergoing a dramatic transition with the resignation of Editor and founder, Larry Wiseblood. I have mixed feelings about his decision to resign, but I can certainly understand some of his reasons. The entire staff has been under fire lately and a few of us are very frustrated.

No one should doubt that Larry has done his best for *The New Voice*; his intentions have been sincere, though not always successful or popular. I think he has learned a lot about gay/lesbian politics, responsibility, advocacy, and human nature. Unfortunately, some of it has been a bitter lesson.

If there is one thing we have all learned, it is the futility of trying to separate our personal politics from everything else published in *The New Voice*. For example, some womyn in the community still refuse to believe that most of the womyn on the staff are strongly Feminist. They obviously have never witnessed the heated arguments at Steering Committee meetings over adult bookstore advertising, sexist language, and overall, "good taste" policy. The Feminist womyn on staff don't always agree on controversial issues and sometimes we don't support each other. In any case, no one can make assumptions about a staff member's politics based on *The New Voice* content. (Unfortunately, too many readers do exactly that).

Working within the gay/lesbian
...continued on page 2

community has not been easy. Though most of the staff members would like to believe in community harmony, the truth is: our community is basically no different from any other. Some of us get along and some of us don't. There are gays and lesbians who do all of the community work and others who sit back and criticize. Worse yet, even our community has a few members who consistently take advantage of other gays and lesbians. Sometimes we get caught up in the criticism and bickering and we lose sight of the positive aspects of our community.

Organizational leaders in our community suffer a fairly high burn-out rate. Obviously it is impossible to please everyone. I hope that anyone who feels qualified to criticize will step forward and take part in the decision-making. We need your input -- we are more than willing to share the responsibility.

--AF-S

A Texas Clarification

A reader from Corpus Christi, Texas, has expressed concern over the article "Jerry Does the Valley" in last month's issue. He understood that I had referred to Corpus Christi as having no organizations and that there was only one bar in the city.

I was aware of other bars, but did not visit them on the one evening in Corpus Christi. I was aware of the MCC and the Imperial Court. I was glad to be informed of a group working on AIDS, a motorcycle club, and other organizations in Corpus Christi.

The McAllen area was the place that I found no organizations and they do have two bars, and a spirit of community even in the absence of formal organizations.

Corpus Christi: sorry for the misunderstanding. I didn't intend to "put down" your community, or McAllen's. I was treated well, and hope to someday return to both areas.

--Jerry Peck

The Coalition Works for You

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- ★ Statewide Physicians List
- ★ Educational Activities
- ★ Annual Community Meeting/Quarterly Newsletter

For details on Membership and a Copy of our last newsletter write to:

Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights
Box 94882, Lincoln, NE 68509

A Correction

Jerry Peck conducted an interview with the Rev. Troy Perry, president of MCC, a few months ago. He was not properly credited for the interview. *The New Voice* regrets the mistake and thanks Jerry for doing an outstanding job.



February 1987

THE NEW VOICE STAFF

EDITOR—Sandy
 ASSOCIATE EDITOR—Anita Freeman-Soltisyk
 COPY EDITOR—Gary Carey
 TREASURER—Jodi
 SECRETARY—John Arnold
 DISTRIBUTION—Randy Sowards
 TYPESETTING—Randy F., Steve H.
 PHOTOGRAPHERS—Sandy, Larry Wiseblood
 Jerry Peck

OTHER STAFF—

Larry Wiseblood	Dave Michael
John Riley	Jerry Peck
Gary Griffith	Pam
Randy J.	

PHONE CONTACTS—

LINCOLN 475-7740 Larry Wiseblood
 OMAHA 453-6550 Gary Griffith
 345-2181 Jerry Peck

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The New Voice of Nebraska

P.O. Box 80819 P.O. Box 3512
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Letters

Covers Disturb Reader

Dear Editor:

I don't understand what it is, but it seems that some gay men have an incredible need to be tasteless. The December and January covers of *The New Voice* are good examples.

If the Editor's selection for the December cover, "Mr. Noel," was meant to insult those of us who still recognize Christmas as a deeply significant, *religious* holiday, it did. The January cover, "Within Myself," may be symbolic of sexual oppression and coming out, but the photograph looks more like something Paul Cameron would use on the cover of one of his anti-gay pamphlets (perhaps the one on "Mental Illness and Homosexuals").

I wish more gay publications conveyed a sense of dignity and pride rather than overt sexuality and unnecessary controversial ambiguity.

Unfairly so or not, we have to clean up our image if we want to be accepted as well-rounded, healthy individuals. More gay men need to get their minds out of the bedroom once in a while. We should celebrate our sexuality, not exploit it. There is more to life than youth and sex, boys!

--name withheld

Politically Correct

Dear Editor:

I have some advice for the young woman who wrote a letter to the Editor asking what it means to be "politically correct."

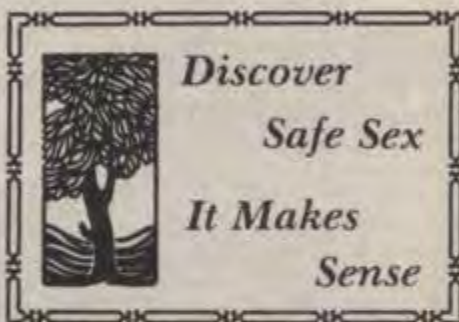
You can spend every waking minute trying to think and act "politically correct" around your feminist sisters, but I think you'll find it's just not worth it. You can try to say all of the "right" words to all of the "right" people, but there will always be someone who criticizes you behind your back.

To be truly "correct" in this town,

you might be better off not getting involved at all. Then you'll have a lot more in common with the majority of lesbians in Lincoln: you won't have to lift a finger for your community, you won't have to be concerned about important womyn's issues, and you can criticize everyone else.

I suggest that you not worry about the opinions of other feminist womyn. Be true to yourself and follow your own beliefs. You can't win if you try to please everyone, and you'll be disappointed if you expect too much from them.

--name withheld



2nd ANNUAL QUICHE-OFF

Quiche Making Contest and Dinner
Saturday, February 14, 1987
Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church
1023 North 40th Street, Omaha

Enjoy quiche dinner served from 6-9 pm
Admission \$5 advance, \$6 at door
\$25 first prize to the best quiche
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LINCOLN, NE

Local Events

"Women's Words and Music" Event

Margaret Sloan-Hunter Speaks

To commemorate Black History month, the University Program Council's Women's Words and Music Committee of the WRC is bring Margaret Sloan-Hunter to the UNL campus.

Sloan-Hunter has been actively involved for the past twenty-five years in the liberation of oppressed people. She is one of the founding editors of *Ms. Magazine*, as well as the founder and first chairwoman of the National Black Feminist Organization.

A writer and poet, Sloan-Hunter has been published in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Ms. Magazine*, and *The Civil Rights Digest*.

She has appeared on numerous television and radio programs including the David Frost Show, the Today Show, and AM San Francisco.

Sloan-Hunter will present a discussion on Racism and Sexism on Friday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Culture Center, 333 N. 14th.

This discussion is open to the public, child care will be provided. Signing for the hearing-impaired will also be provided.

--Jeanne Proctor

Bring your own snacks and don't miss this special event.

Showing is *Desert Hearts*, starring Patricia Charbonneau and Helen Shaver. This highly-acclaimed film involving the romance of women in love is adapted from the novel by Jane Rule.

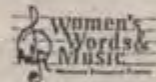
Also showing is *Out and About*, an exhilarating and affirming sound/slide show put together by lesbians about lesbians which offers a vital counterpoint to the homophobic hysteria of the 1980's.

Valentine's Day Event at YWCA

Two exciting films are a part of Valentine's Day Special, an event for women at the YWCA in Lincoln at 1432 'N' street. The films will be shown at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 14. Admission is \$3.00 at the door.



WOMEN'S WEEKS '87



UPC



JUDY GRAHN

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
Thurs March 5th
7pm
Centennial Rm

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:
Fri March 6th
noon
Rengency Rm

COFFEE HOUSE poetry/prose

(with local writers)
Friday March 6th
6 - 8pm
The Crib

BOOKFAIR

BOOKS & CRAFTS
Sunday March 8th
1pm - 5pm

VIDEOS:
Women & Jazz
Billie Holliday
Documentary

INTL. WOMEN'S PANEL AND FOOD FESTIVAL!!

Monday March 9th
11:30am - 1:30pm
North Lobby

VIDEOS

An Interview with
EUDORA WELTY
Tues March 10th
noon

An Interview with
TONI MORRISON
Thurs March 12th
noon

JEB

"Out of Bounds: A
Lesbian Journey"

Wednesday March 11th

LOCATION & TIME TO BE
ANNOUNCED!!

CONCERT

Linda Tillery

Lucy Blue Tremblay

FRIDAY MARCH 13th

8pm
EAST CAMPUS STUDENT UNION

UNLESS NOTED, ALL EVENTS WILL BE IN THE CITY CAMPUS STUDENT UNION
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 472-2597 (UNL WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER)

Chorus to Sponsor 2nd Annual "Quiche-Off"

It'll be sealed with a quiche for the second year from the River City Mixed Chorus. And this time, the popular event will fall right smack on Valentine's Day!

The Quiche-Off, a quiche-making contest and dinner, is Saturday, February 14, at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street, Omaha.

Dinner will be served from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with a suggested donation of \$6.00 in advance (tickets available from any Chorus member) or \$7.00 at the door, to enjoy a dinner of quiche, salads, and beverage.

At 6:30 p.m., celebrity judges will select the best quiches of the entries, with a first prize of \$25.00. This year's judges are Pat Phalen, Emperor VI of the Imperial Court of Nebraska; Becky Vohoska, of Omaha Tourism; and Dave Wingert, from KFFM Lite 96 Radio.

Quiche entries are limited to the first 20 received. For entry information, phone 342-4775. Love and quiches from the River City Mixed Chorus!

Bridget & Friends to Perform at The Max

Bridget and Friends, a local comedy troupe, will perform at The Max on Sunday, February 22, beginning at 9:30 p.m. The show is also a benefit for *The New Voice* magazine. This will be Bridget and Friends' first performance at The Max.

Bridget and Friends offers funny, mad-cap routines, lip sync, and a famous midget named Bridget. Beth Buelin formed this group about two years ago. The troupe uses original material as well as a variety of props and costumes. Several of the skits are done in group fashion, rather than solo fashion on stage.

It is not easy to describe this group on paper. You will have to see Bridget and Friends to full understand their brand of entertainment; so mark your calendar for February 22 at The Max.

Correction

Last month *The New Voice* incorrectly called Bridget a puppet. Bridget is a midget, but no small fry, so don't miss this event.

Chesterfields to Hold Auction

The Chesterfield bar at 1951 St. Mary's in Omaha will hold an auction on March 22 at 5:00 p.m. Proceeds from this auction will be donated to organizations dealing with AIDS. Alma said that she is in desperate need of donations of any kind to auction for this worthwhile benefit, so search through your basement, garage, attic, storage shed, and even under the bed to bring those priceless items to the Chesterfield before the auction. Questions? Call the Chesterfield at 342-1244.

Spring Chorus Concert Set for March 29

Make your plans now for the second of three exciting concerts during the Third Performing Year of the River City Mixed Chorus!

The Chorus, under the direction of Judith Bieker, presents its Spring concert, "Something Familiar ... Something Peculiar," at the Strauss Performing Arts Center Recital Hall on the UNO campus, Sunday, March 29, at 3:07 p.m. (Yes: 3:07 p.m.)

This third Spring concert for the Chorus includes a wide variety of music, ranging from classical to popular works. According to Ms. Bieker, "We guarantee this concert will be anything but boring!"

Tickets will be available in advance from any Chorus member, or at the door.

Successful T.W.O. Auction Benefits AIDS

A benefit auction for the Nebraska AIDS Project was held New Year's Eve and raised \$1250.21. While the auction was sponsored by the Two-Wheelers of Omaha, they credit the entire community for making the function a success. They acknowledge that the auction would not have been possible without the support and donations received and extend their thanks to all who participated.

The proceeds were turned over to the Nebraska AIDS Project following a public audit of the auction records.

President Tony Z. thanked the officers of CENTER Project in Green Bay, Wisconsin for their help with the auction. CENTER Project is an alternate HIV testing, education, and referral facility.

The auction was held at the Diamond Bar in Omaha in conjunction with TWO's New Year's Eve Pig-Out Buffet.

--Tom Winfield
Road Captain

Chili Feed Proves Successful

Kelly's was the scene of the third annual *New Voice* Chili Feed on Saturday, January 24. The event raised \$51.75 for *The New Voice*, and was well attended. This year, ribbons were awarded for the three best chilis, of which there was a good variety (including a vegetarian chili), ranging from hot to mild.

John Riley won first place, Larry Wiseblood took second place, and Kelly Erisman placed third with her extra-hot chili. Judging the event were Pat, Vaughn, Debbie, Joe, and Del.

Condoms are Erotic
and Fun!

The Ultimate in Bad Taste 3-D

I laughed and was sick to my stomach. So was most of the audience. The ultimate in "Bad Taste 3-D" was performed at Kelly's on January 22 to a very squirmish crowd. Now you're probably saying what is this crazy writer talking about? Well, for starters, seeing goldfish being eaten alive by a blender is not the most pleasant sight in the world. Or the Ku Klux Klan performing a hanging of a black woman?

Several mad cap skits and sick gags continued all evening. Peaches LaRue took off her dress and became the butch, Apples LaRue, (with a very, very hair chest). Then there was Kinko the Clown who (sic) molested little children.

Audience participation was also encouraged. The crowd was in stitches as four wimmin were eating pink cotton candy and four men, including myself, were sensually

eating hot dogs. Scott narrowly beat me in the men's category. Beth took first in the wimmin's segment.

My favorite routine was when Paul did a seductive number using the names of different candy bars.

I'm very thankful this event is only once a year. How much can a person take?

--Larry Wiseblood

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FRI. & SAT.
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475-4697

Absolutely "The Max"

Miss Gay U.S.A. or Bust

On December 28th, Miss Dietra Snow and Miss Anne Marlowe hosted "Miss Gay USA or Bust," a fundraiser to help send them to The Miss Gay USA pageant. Performers from all over the Midwest entertained with them to show their support of this prestigious event. Having gone myself to a national pageant, I'm aware of the expenses and the time involved in preparing for such a competition. We here at The Max would like to wish both Dietra and Anne great success. Good luck!

--Vince (Velvet) Percy

Elite Review Male Dancers



Male Stripper of the Elite Review

On Sunday, January 4, 1987, The Max limited its clientele to men only (except for the velvet personality of Vince for emcee purposes). The men of The Elite Review performed sometime after 10:00 p.m. Seating was minimal by 9:30. So many men -- so little time!

A special "pre-show" was a real treat for all of us. The dance floor cleared, the room vibrated with the space age sounds of *Star Wars*. The light show, including several new laser lights, first used on New

Year's Eve, transformed us into an almost "out of body" experience. (It gave me goose bumps -- and I loved it!) And to think some people use drugs to have such an experience.

We were soon reminded that we were not "out of body" as Velvet came to the dance floor to the music of "Oh You Nasty Men" and introduced the men of The Elite Review. Four men with moves that would make a chiropractor anticipate customers delighted us for the remainder of the night as Velvet roamed the area using one of the new cordless mikes. (Sorry, no more tripping on stage and blaming the mike cord.)

Mr. Lustful with his fur piece was a great success as he demonstrated the recovery of dropped dollars by using his buns! Midnight Delight excited us with leather chaps which came off with the help of several shaking hands of patrons. Mr. Innocence reminded us of some fantasies we have had and created some new ones. Sweet JB was apparently new. He actually teased us, and didn't get down to low rise briefs until the end of his first number.

At one point, you could look on the dance floor and see up to ten men lying on their backs with dollar bills sticking out of their mouths, waiting for the dancers to come and take them out.

Bring 'em back to The Max. We loved it!

--Jerry Peck

Veronica O'Rourke Stepping Down Show



On January 11, Miss Max '85-'86, Veronica O'Rourke, hosted her stepping down show. As the show opened with "Me and Bobbie McGee," Veronica showed everyone that this show will be one to be remembered. The closing of the first half brought three well-remembered songs from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Veronica entered as Frankenfurter (garter belt, fishnets, platform shoes, and all) singing "Sweet Transvestite" to Brad (our own waiter, Jeff) and Janet (Mysti). The next song was the floor show, which featured Brad (Jeff), Janet (Mysti), Columbia (Katrina), and Rocky (myself), which brings us to the "Time Warp", featuring Riff Raff (me, again) and Megenta (Danielle). The case and audience joined in to "Jump to left," -- "put your hands on your hips," etc.

The second half of the show continued with the same high energy with Veronica's rendition of "Why Did You Do What You Did", a unique song to say the least. Just ask Dale. He was bound and gagged with leather while Veronica tore his shirt from his body.

A standing ovation followed Danielle's presentation of "Somewhere," which was dedicated to Stevie, one of our number who is no longer with us. Stevie's lover presented the performer with roses, and there were not too few tears shed. This was truly a show to remember. The Max salutes Miss Max II, Veronica O'Rourke.

--Vince (Velvet) Percy

Miss Max Pageant

A large crowd of over 600 people witnessed the pageantry of Miss Max III on January 25 at The Max. Nine contestants entertained and captivated the audience. The pageant was under the direction of Vince (Velvet) Percy, who also help design the sets. Vince was also the emcee for the evening. The contestants were:

1. Stella Dallas
2. (dropped out)
3. Juanita
4. Tiffany Trade
5. Katrina Cane



Tiffany Trade Wins Miss Max

6. Sable
7. Lafayette
8. Liesa Durante
9. Dorian Drake
10. Danielle Logan.

Crowned Miss Max III was Tiffany Trade, who performed a medley of Janet Jackson songs. Sable was awarded first runner-up with the song "I'm Not Perfect." Second runner-up was awarded to Katrina

Cane who wooed the audience with "Let Me Entertain You." Danielle Logan received the special prize of Miss Congeniality.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the production. Former winners include: Miss Max I - Muffy Rosenberg; and Miss Max II - Veronica O'Rourke.

Bridget & Friends to Perform



Bridget and Friends will be performing at The Max on February 22. This will be a benefit for *The New Voice* and from all of the wonderful things that I've heard about this group of womyn, I strongly suggest that you attend a unique style of entertainment.

--Vince (Velvet) Percy

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**Unique Brand of
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**at The Max
9:30 pm
Sunday, February 22**

"I swallowed eight of my finest cigars," recalls Groucho.

"They made me laugh, scream, and blush and I never blush, if you know what I mean," stated Mae West.

Love and Relationships

I Haven't Cried Yet

I've tried several times to sit down and put the feelings I've had, and am still having now, ever since that day. That day in November while lying in a hospital bed when the doctor told me I had pneumocystis pneumonia. I asked him what that meant and he said, "AIDS." I didn't yell; I didn't scream or even cry. I just looked at him and said, "Oh What now?" I didn't even cry when I told Dana and my family. Sure, there were bits of depression, but no tears.

The fact is, I haven't cried yet, and I don't know if I'm supposed to or not. I've been given a death sentence, but then again, we were all born with one. The big difference is I've been told how it's probably going to happen to me -- through AIDS. Not my exact choice, but then again, nobody asked me. After death there's always heaven. I'm a Christian. My Bible tells me that as a Christian I have a hope or a confidence in what the future holds, and that for a Christian, after death heaven awaits. My fear of dying is pretty small. What is scary is what am I, and the people closest to me, going to have to go through before it's all said and done? The Bible says God will never put on us more than we can handle, but what about Dana? I suppose the same thing can be said for him, but is it fair? It doesn't seem to me to be, but then nobody asked me. Dana is a Christian, also, so while we might get separated early in life down here, we've always got eternity to look forward to together.

One of the things that has been a real blessing and source of strength is the number of people who have expressed care and concern. Some from people I barely know. And offers of help from friends and acquaintances. Those who have helped in some way will never know just how much it really means. To know you're not alone means a lot. Then there's always support groups where you can

compare notes and get your attitude picked up a bit.

So maybe I don't have a reason to cry. As long as I have the two rocks in my life that I need to lean on I don't need to shed tears of sorrow. Rock number one, my God and my faith; and rock number two, Dana, my lover. I haven't said much about Dana but that doesn't mean he hasn't been there. He's my rock that I lean on when it's hard to stand. He's the one I share my heart with when the load needs sharing. I lean on him in every way. I probably lean too much on Dana, but he's always there to share the load. People have wondered how Dana and I can keep such a positive attitude about this whole thing. How Dana does it, I'm not quite sure, but Dana is how I do it.

--Norman Luers

Silent Night

It was one of those times when not only did you have to be there, but one of those times when everything clicked and came into place. This is a recollection of one of those times.

It was Christmas Sunday and I decided to go to church. Garry, my lover for eight, almost nine, years couldn't go with me because of his involvement with the River City Mixed Chorus. Their concert was that after and he had many things to do -- so I went alone.

At church I sat next to Dana and we exchanged the usual "Good mornings" and "How are things going?" kind of comments. I asked about Norm, and Dana responded with his usual positive and cheery comments. Norm and Dana are lovers and have been together for more than a year.

I had returned to my seat after communion and Dana followed a few moments. Shortly after he sat down, Dana started singing "Silent

Night," and as the organist was helping to serve communion, there was no accompaniment.

Silent Night, Holy Night.

After the first two bars, the congregation joined in, and as more people returned to their seats, the words and music became clearer, stronger, and more meaningful.

Christ the Savior is Born.
Christ the Savior is Born.

As I said, it was one of those times you had to be there. It was like I heard the words for the first time in my life.

With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy Birth

I felt so small suddenly. This man next to me was singing so beautifully. I don't think that the familiar words sung to that old familiar tune meant so much as they did then. I thought of the faith both Norm and Dana have; I thought of their courage and I cried a little -- well, it was more than a little. A lump of emotion welled in my throat and I couldn't sing for quite a few moments.

You see, Norm has been diagnosed with AIDS.

Silent Night, Holy Night
Shepherds quake at the sight.

My mind flashed back to the Sunday, not long ago, when Dana told us that Norm had AIDS. Have you ever sung -- or more correctly, tried to sing -- the Lord's Prayer with a lump in your throat?

I went back further in time, back to my early stages of blindness. I remembered the days of fears, frustrations; the days of saying: "Why me, Lord?", and ultimately, my acceptance of being blind. My mind recalled the day I left for Lincoln to begin a nine month period of specialized schooling. God, I never felt

so alone in my life. I remembered the first time I went into a gay bar with my white cane. "Goodbye anonymity," I thought. A lot of pictures flowed through my mind in fractions of seconds. But most of all I remembered the love and support that Garry gave me. When I cried, he held me; when I fell, he gave me support; when I expressed my fears and frustrations, he gave me strength; and yes, when we laughed, we laughed together.

I thought about our relationship, and our feelings for each other, and our maturing together.

My mind was drawn back into the present surroundings.

Silent Night, Holy Night,
Wondrous Star, lend thy light.

Dana was singing in a voice that was unwavering; a voice clear and full of faith, trust, and most of all, love.

My mind started slipping through pictures again. What if the shoe were on the other foot? If I were Norm or if I were Dana, what would I be thinking about? If God does not give you more burdens than you can carry, why worry about how heavy the load?

As I said, you just had to be there. It is difficult to translate feelings into words; maybe even if you were there you would not have felt what I felt. I suddenly felt proud and excited because I had seen a covenant with faith -- the miracle of love. For this I can only softly say: "Thanks."

Silent Night, Holy Night,
All is calm, . . .

--Doug Lane

A House Meant for Two

Tonight I sit alone in a house meant for two. Six months ago I signed the lease, committing myself for a year to a yard that needs mowing and sidewalks that need to be shoveled when it snows. Me? In a house? I always lived in apartments so I could avoid these drudgeries.

But six months ago you were part of my life and the apartment just wasn't big enough. "The house will give us more room --we won't argue so much when we're not all jammed together in this tiny little space." The reasons seemed to be so logical and I was so much in love with you.

So what happened? I don't think I'll ever really know. It wasn't really anybody's fault. I was still a child then. I'd only been out a few months and still had so much to learn. Back then I thought that if making love was so good everything else would fall into place. Now I know better.

I don't cry myself to sleep any more. I've made lots of friends and I'm really busy. Sometimes I still miss you. I remember what it was like to watch you sleep. Your long dark lashes looked like satin threads against your cheek. I would watch your breasts rise and fall under your gown and long to bury my face in them.

I hope you're happy with your new love. Maybe she'll be able to ease the hurts that I couldn't reach.

Meanwhile, I've gotten used to the house. I put up a bird feeder so I can watch the sparrows fight over the seeds. Maybe the house was meant for two but I've grown while you've been gone and now it seems to be just the right size for me ... and a few memories.

--Sharon

A Happy Triangle

Recently I read an interesting article about a "trio" relationship. I could identify with the author, who shares her life and love with two other womyn. Her experience, like mine, has been very positive.

During the past year my lover and I found ourselves involved with a third woman. After developing a close friendship, we became lovers. Our time together, though not always intimate, is warm, tender, and

...continued on page 11

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deeply caring. Sharing our love with another woman has been a very rewarding experience.

We know that our community probably frowns on our arrangement and I am sure it has raised more than a few eyebrows. A friend once questioned our commitment to each other -- actually, there is no question about it. We love and respect one another a great deal.

I won't kid you; we have our differences, but we work them out. We don't live together (by choice), but we spend a lot of time together. We are very happy with our relationship and we have no regrets.

It is too bad that other womyn in the community have a hard time with us. Feminist womyn really should understand an extended capacity to love among womyn. We haven't been able to be more open about our relationship and it feels like being forced into another kind of closet again.

--Z.M.

Gay Relationships Can Improve with Counseling

Having previously been engaged in the pulpit ministry of mainline protestant churches, I have conducted a number of "straight" marriages. In October of last year, I was privileged to supervise the exchange of vows between two women of the gay community. The first straight marriage was done without "pre-marital counseling." Thirty days from the day of the ceremony the newspaper proclaimed an end to the relationship.

It was then that I determined that a relationship must not be entered into in haste, or without investigation into the readiness of each party for a commitment to each other and to the relationship. Some couples were discouraged and chose to wait. One couple was refused. Though they were high school graduates, having taken sex education, neither had any concept of the reproductive process. To my knowledge, only the first ceremony has been dissolved by the courts.

As I talk with gay men and lesbians, I find there is a need for "pre-relational counseling." Gay men and lesbians lack two things in their process of mating: (1) parental and peer pressure to get into a relationship (marriage), and (2) the innocence that allows strong feelings to grow from an adolescent "puppy love" into an emotional, spiritual, and physical love attachment.

Otherwise, gay/lesbian relationships are formed for many of the wrong reasons, just as in straight marriages. What makes these reasons wrong is when they are the sole consideration -- ignoring the rest of the relationship. These singularly considered reasons are: need for sexual satisfactions, or need for financial support, or need to tell people you are in a relationship, or need to replace a past relationship.

A gay/lesbian relationship requires a total commitment with all aspects considered. Gay/lesbian relationships lack the force of legal status and of child responsibility. We are able to walk away, perhaps too easily.

Some gay/lesbian couples celebrate a "Holy Union" with a ceremony and attendants and guests. They seek the sanction of their religious group or congregation and repeat words of vows of commitment. Arrangements for such a presentation are easy to put together. However, the ceremony does not guarantee success in the relationship, nor does showing up for counseling. Consideration of someone for a life's mate requires investigation of all aspects of the lives that are to be put together, and how those lives will blend and complement one another or endure the differences.

Having a trick spend a weekend or living at the same address does not constitute a relationship. Love, and even more so, lust is often blind when it comes to seeing problems that might arise in a relationship. If you are considering entering into a relationship, invest time in counseling with a professional counselor or clergy. The time invested could save you from many more hours of conflict and hurt.

--Jerry Peck

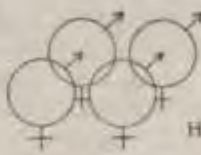
Why Can't We Be Friends?

Can ex-lovers be friends? It is interesting just how many people say "absolutely not!" I have a hard time understanding their reasoning on this unless, of course, the break-up in question was the result of bitter conflict. Relationships end for a variety of reasons and no one can second guess hard feelings. Yet, most of us don't invest our affections lightly -- true love is a powerful venture. When you enter a relationship, you put yourself on the line. You become extremely vulnerable to another person -- a precarious place to be in an imperfect world. Sometimes it just doesn't work. Can we really walk away and deny what we feel? A few of us can, but a lot more of us struggle.

When my first lover left me after three years, there is no doubt about it: I wanted to hate her. I ended up hating myself. When I finally released my anger and allowed myself to love her again, I began to heal. Now we love each other as friends. My ex-lover will always have a place in my life.

All relationships run their course and, unfortunately, some do not last as long as we hope. Though it might take time to heal from a painful break-up, an ex-lover doesn't have to be an ex-love. In a world full of violence and aggressions, we need to nurture and cherish our love experiences.

--AF-S



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Programming Committee Stirs Controversy at UNL

The UNL Lesbian/Gay Programming Committee has stirred up controversy and emotions at UNL with those presenting pro and con views.

The Young Americans for Freedom have distributed a letter and survey to their constituents asking to remove GLSA from its location in the Nebraska Union, fight the funding of lesbian and gay programming, and to raise funds to fight against gay/lesbian concerns.

The University Program Council and the Union Board, at this time, are standing behind the proposed committee and will present the UPC Budget to the Committee on Fee Allocations on January 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. CFA will vote on the UPC budget January 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

The Young Americans for Freedom were successful in the 1970's in removing funding from so called "left-wing radicals" and the Board of Regents dissolved the programming structure at that time.

The latest information is that the Board of Regents would have a tough time removing GLSA's Center, but could eliminate all minority programming committees or the UPC. The current Regent chairperson, Margaret Robinson, had a *Newsweek on Campus* (Gay Student Issue) removed from all *Daily Nebraskans* in the Nebraska Union two years ago.

To help support Lesbian and Gay Programming at UNL, please send letters of support to: ASUN, UNL, Room 115, Nebraska Union, Lincoln, NE 68588 or Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, UNL, Administration Building #305, Lincoln, NE 68588. We cannot afford to be apathetic on gay/lesbian issues any longer. Let's make our voices heard!

PFlag Booknotes— "The Kindness of Strangers"

At times members of our group read books not in our library, but on related subject matter. This month's choice is such a book: *The Kindness of Strangers* by Donald Spoto, 1985, Little Brown & Co., Hardback, \$19.95, the biography of Tennessee Williams. Lois Hansen writes:

Tennessee Williams created riveting theater. His plays, *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Summer and Smoke*, and *Night of the Iguana*, are American classics. In Donald Spoto's scholarly yet moving biography of Williams, *The Kindness of Strangers*, it becomes clear that this great playwright found source material in all the days of his life.

Born into a genteel but hypocritical southern family, Williams bore lifetime emotional scars from experiences with an alcoholic and promiscuous father, a distant yet dominating mother, and later, by the living death of his beloved sister Rose, who survived into old age after being lobotomized at the age of twenty-seven. His maternal grandparents were the only persons, family, or friends who lasted emotionally for him until their deaths. From this lifetime of alienation Donald Spoto derives the title of his biography: *The Kindness of Strangers*.

Throughout his adult life (despite an unrelenting sense of need), Williams was unable to accept love, to trust others, or to maintain relationships. Though he spiraled on a long downward course of alcoholism and drug addiction, his deepest self-rejection and pain appear to be caught in the inability to feel comfortable with his homosexuality. He said of himself, at the age of twenty-nine during his first experience of a sizable gay community, that he was

"obsessively homosexual, compulsively interested in sexuality." Even during the years he lived with Frank Merlo, a warm and caring man who loved him, Williams was fiercely promiscuous and pervasively restless, trying to fill the emotional void he felt by travel and unending pursuit of transitory or anonymous sexual partners.

However, what is remembered, is not Williams' unhappiness but his capacity to universalize it in drama. "The bird that I hope to catch in the net of this play," he wrote of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, "is not the solution of one man's psychological problems. I'm trying to catch the true thundercloud of a common crisis."

Spoto, who teaches at the New School for Social Research in New York City, says, "Williams' compassions never wavered for his family and friends. Tenn was one of the few people I ever knew who felt he had no basis for making judgments in human affairs. The power of his work is testament to that. There is no character anywhere for whom he expressed contempt. It's the breadth of his compassion and his understanding that gives his plays such power."

Williams' own words are the counterpoint: "I have an unfortunate inability to believe in people's admiration or even their acceptance ... that's awful." Spoto comments that after 1961 when *Night of the Iguana* came to Broadway, "he had less to offer because he believed less in himself. The ability for emotional commitment began to be foreclosed as his belief in himself as artist, friend, and lover, diminished."

To suggest that Williams' heaviest self-doubts were founded in his internalized, unwilling homophobia may be too simple. But this biography's carefully documented and tightly woven threads of connection between Williams' live and every drama or story that he wrote, prove that his sexuality was always painful, always a struggle, always near the surface. Those open to under-

...continued on page 14



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standing are given reasons by Tennessee Williams' life, by his art, and by this eloquent book to mourn again the terrible human costs exacted by a homophobic society.

--Lois Hansen
(P-FLAG, 435-4688)

Gay \$ Campaign

The Gay Dollars campaign is patterned after the campaign being done in Chicago, Illinois. Gays and lesbians in Chicago began doing the campaign to show the community's economic clout.

Several students and non-students have taken the lead by presenting money in \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 denominations at UNL, the banks, and local merchants.

--Rodney Bell

Madame Zelda's Horoscope

Due to the fact that there is a slight overlap between Zodiological cycles and the publication of *The New Voice*, this month we bring you two installments of my column.

I would like to take this time to offer my appreciation to Larry Wiseblood and the staff of *The New Voice* for providing me this opportunity to publish this column and commend everyone involved with this publication. We have a magazine that the gay/lesbian community can be proud of.

Aquarius

(January 20 to February 18)

Being the spontaneous individual you are, this year proves to be one of many changes. Whereas appearance is important to you, it will be interesting to see the way you change your physical appearance this year.

You will find success through a new position. Growth in your income will grant you the opportunity to make some investments. Invest wisely and believe in yourself. (I know that you need little encouragement here.) Set aside some cash on a regular basis. Open a savings account if you haven't as yet.

Be assured that that special someone and you are going places. A little vacation in the later summer months will provide you with unforgettable memories. If you're single, don't hesitate approaching that person you've had your eye on. Perhaps sending an anonymous card or flowers will open the door.

Channel your abundance of energy toward positive results. Often you seem to be frustrated that nobody can keep up with you. Remember patience is a virtue. Wait patiently for things to happen, when they aren't happening at all, use your quick wit and strategically make things happen.

Aquarians are compatible with most star signs. Conflicts with Aries and Gemini arise on occasion, but are quickly resolved. You are most compatible with Cancers and Virgos.

Happy Birthday, Aquarians!

Pisces

(February 19 to March 20)

Pisces, you are truly one of my favorite signs. Many influential people in my life have been born under you sign: my father, sister, and that very first special someone. You are one of the most compassionate star signs. Able to see the problems of others as well as your own and offer sound advice. Everyone appreciates the concern and contributions of the Pisces.

Love is one of your greatest motivators. This year, prepare yourself to be motivated. Existing relationships strengthen, new bonds form, and old flames are apt to be rekindled.

Financially this year will have the slow yet steady growth of the last trimester of 1986. Hang in there. A career move sounds tempting and should be thoroughly investigated before you make the move.

Your biggest weakness is neglecting yourself to care for others. I recommend that you set aside a special weekend for you alone. It will not seem enjoyable at the time but once completed, you will realize the benefits. You may find that you would like to do this more often.

You conflict with those born under the star sign of Capricorn and sometimes with other Pisces. You are truly compatible with Scorpions and Sagittarians (though I don't truly understand why!).

This year will be one to remember. Keep a journal and enter your thoughts and ideas. Reviewing this inner part of yourself will provide you insights that you weren't previously aware of.

Happy Birthday, Pisces!

--Madame Zelda

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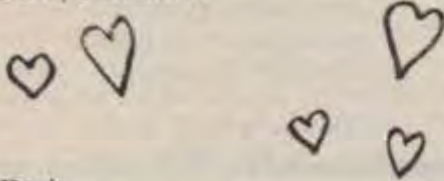


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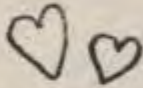
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Valentine Messages

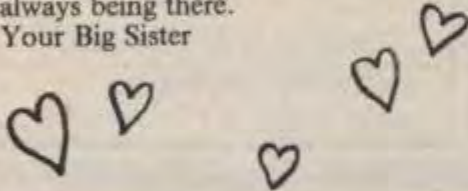
Phil, thanks for 5 great years.
Happy Valentine's Day.
Love, Michael J.



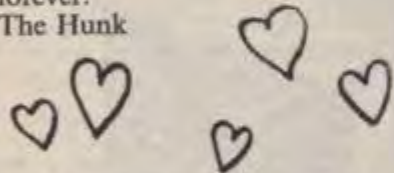
Doris -
Thank you for being such a special
friend. Let's do lunch!



Waddette Woman -
"There's a true winner in you." To
me, *you are the ticket!* Thanks for
always being there.
Your Big Sister

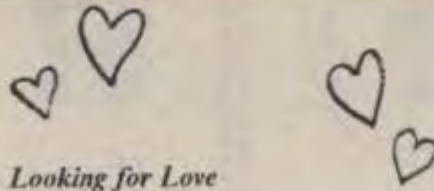


To Huggy Bear:
Happy Valentines Day, now and
forever.
The Hunk



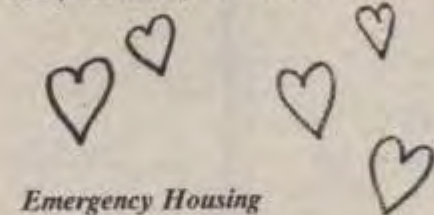
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The Stage Door, 1512 Howard St.,

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The Club, 116 No. 20th St., 474-5692.
Kelly's, 200 So. 18th, 474-9962.

Gay/Lesbian Resource Directory

Nebraska Statewide

Affirmation of Nebraska. Box 80122, Lincoln 68501. United Methodists for Gay/Lesbian Concerns. Meets alternately in Omaha and Lincoln, second Friday of the month. Phone 476-9913.

Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights. Box 94822, Lincoln 68509. Advocacy group which lobbies for lesbian/gay civil rights, provides educational presentations, publishes a newsletter and sponsors cultural and political programs.

Imperial Court of Nebraska. Box 3772, Omaha 68102. Social organization for the advancement of the gay society. Omaha meeting first Monday of each month, except holidays. Phone 733-1924.

Nebraska AIDS Project. Box 3512, Omaha 68103. Center for information, support, and coordination of AIDS related community efforts. Phone Omaha 342-4233 or toll-free statewide, 1-800-782-AIDS.

The New Voice of Nebraska. Box 80819, Lincoln 68501. Monthly magazine serving the gay/lesbian community. Staff meets in Lincoln the first Wednesday of each month. Phone 475-7740 or 345-2181.

UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center. Room 342 (Mail: Room 222), Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588. Hotline: 472-5644. Social activities, AIDS education project, roommate referral, support groups, and library.

Lincoln

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous. Group meets every Friday. Phone AA central office for location, 466-5214.

Capital City Couples. Organization to promote positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships, create stability in those relationships, and to share and socialize with other gay couples. Phone 423-1374.

Community of Grace. Box 6881, Lincoln 68506. Interdenominational worshipping community of gays/lesbians, and those associated. Meets Sunday at 7 p.m. Phone 474-1205.

Gay/Lesbian Information and Support Line. Box 94882, Lincoln 68509. Referral and support phone line staffed by peer counselors. Phone 472-4697 in evenings.

Gay/Lesbian Student Group at Nebraska Wesleyan. Contact Dr. Mary Smith, NWU, 50th and St. Paul Sts., Lincoln 68504. Phone 465-2351.

Lambda Resource Center. 2845 R St. Meeting rooms, outpatient counseling, group activities. Phone 474-1205.

Lesbian Support Group. Contact Women's Resource Center, Room 117, Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588. Informal discussion group for lesbians; all women welcome. Meets weekly. Phone 472-2597.

Lincoln Legion of Lesbians. Box 30317, Lincoln 68503. Lesbian-feminist collective providing a newsletter, confidential referral, and support groups for lesbians. Sponsors cultural and social programs.

Ministry in Human Sexuality, Inc. Box 80122, Lincoln 68501. Non-profit agency providing counseling, education, and supportive action for those seeking growth and understanding in the areas of sexuality and relationships. J. Benjamin Roe, Executive Director. Phone 476-9913.

New Directions Center. Short term individual counseling, support groups, classes, and workshops dealing with coming out, relationship issues, parenting. Sliding fee scale. Phone 476-2802.

Open Door Ministry. To provide orthodox spiritual counseling to all people in need at no charge. Phone 474-3390.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Box 4374, Lincoln 68501. Support group for parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. Meets fourth Tuesday of the month. Phone 435-4688.

Third Culture. Non-residential subculture dealing with issues such as coming out, social behavior, the gay lifestyle, suicide, and drug or alcohol abuse. Phone 474-1205 (Pat).

The Wimmin's Show. KZUM Radio 89.5 and 99.3 FM. 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. every Sunday.

Woman's Journal-Advocate. Box 81226, Lincoln 68501. Monthly feminist publication.

Omaha

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous. Group meets weekly. Phone 345-9916.

Dignity of Omaha. Providing common bonds through Mass and meetings for gays and lesbians and their friends. Regular Mass second Sunday of the month, 7 p.m., St. John's lower level. Phone 341-1460 or 345-9426.

Gay Parents Support Group. Support group for gay parents who have children. Phone 553-2308.

Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon. Group meets Fridays at 8:15 p.m. at MCC. Phone 556-9907.

Lutherans Concerned of Omaha. Society of gay Christians and friends together to foster within a church climate of understanding, justice, and reconciliation among all women and men. Phone 592-1209.

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha. Box 3173, Omaha 68124. Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday Mid-week Program at 7:30 p.m.; Adult Sunday School at 9:10 a.m. Phone 345-2563.

Omaha Business and Professional Club. Box 24973, Omaha 68124. Networking organization of business and professional persons. Meets third Wednesday of each month. Phone 345-2966.

PACT (People of All Races Together). Box 3683, Omaha 68103. A gay/lesbian interracial organization that offers educational, political, and social activities. Phone 895-0865.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG). Box 3173, Omaha 68103. Support group for the parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. Phone 556-7481 (Ruth).

Presbyterians For Lesbian/Gay Concerns. Organization meeting scheduled for February 28. Phone 733-1360 (Cleve).

Project Concerned. Box 3772, Omaha 68102. AIDS related information. Speakers, brochures, posters, and VCR tapes. Phone 455-3701.

River City Mixed Chorus. Box 315, Omaha 68101. Volunteer community chorus for gay/lesbian and gay/lesbian-sensitive men and women with the goal of musical excellence in performance. Rehearsals Monday evenings. Phone 342-4775.

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