



THE GOOD- The New Voice begins its third year with this publication. Our volunteer staff is still dedicated to providing the community with an artistic, creative magazine. We have grown from our initial 12 page, 500 circulation issue. Two months ago we changed to a larger format, which will enable us to grow even more. Our circulation is presently 1000 copies, and we are hopeful that we can expand in the near future. The staff is equal in representation between men and wimmin, which gives the magazine a more balanced look and provides for differing political and social ideas. Financially, the magazine is in better shape. Advertising pays for the major costs of printing, which has remained stable over the past few months.

THE BAD- The New Voice needs more support if we are to expand and grow. We have less than 100 subscribers, far less than we expected at this point in our publication. Most subscribers are from Omaha and Lincoln, so we are not reaching people from other areas of the state.

The New Voice has several vacancies on the staff. We need an Associate Editor for Omaha, advertising representatives, writers, persons to cover local events, typists, photographers, artists, etc. As a volunteer group, we cannot always count on people to follow through on promises. Because of our small staff, we have been unable to cover some major events and this has created some hard feelings.

The New Voice has little equipment and we could use typewriters, bookcases, drafting tables, and art & layout supplies. (A typesetting machine for headlines and a computer are other expensive dreams.) Any donations are graciously accepted.

We need more support from organizations and businesses- supply us with your upcoming events, provide press releases before and after events, and help us financially with advertising. Instead of faulting us, give us suggestions and ideas. We accept constructive criticism.

AND THE UGLY- The New Voice had to cancel the Big Lip Sync Contest because of lack of interest. The first two contests had a total of three contestants. The New Voice spent a great deal of time and energy to put together a fund-raiser. We started the publicity several months in advance. However, the response was very poor. Remember

EVERYONE- if you don't support your institutions, don't complain when they're gone.

--- Larry Wiseblood

There's nothing quite like womyn's basketball; in fact, there is something rather inspirational about it. That may sound silly, but think about it. When young womyn play basketball, they are the most "unLADYlike." This means, in essence, that they are uninhibited and competitive; they exhibit the true physical strength and athletic skill that womyn are capable of. More than anything, womyn playing basketball are something that most womyn (especially heterosexual women) aren't; FREE... free from the constraints of male-defined/male-imposed "femininity."

Whether Lesbian, heterosexual, or bisexual, together, they show us the true spirit of womyn--which is usually suppressed by a lot of patriarchal b.s. off the court.

So here's to the womyn who play b-ball. You remind all of us what we can and should be.

Sandy

Contact the following staff of The New Voice for advertising, classifieds, subscriptions, and articles: Jerry Peck, Omaha 345-2181 Larry Wiseblood, Lincoln 475-7740

Legal Concerns Issue

Attorney Gives Advice on Legal Life Planning

Rhonda Rivera, an attorney and Dean of the Ohio State University College of Law spoke at a workshop on Legal Life Planning on October 20, 1985, at the Unitarian Church in Lincoln. The conference was sponsored by the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights. The New Voice thanks the Coalition and Marilyn McNabb for transcribing the talk given by Ms. Rivera. The following information is invaluable to gays and lesbians, especially those involved in relationships.

INTRODUCTION

One of the things I find most excruciatingly depressing in talking to gay and lesbian audiences is the lack of knowledge about our history and about our current lives. To know what's happening in the gay world, especially here in the center of the country

Continued on page 2.

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March 1986

THE NEW VOICE STAFF

EDITOR – Larry Wiseblood
ASSOC. EDITORS –
Anita Freeman-Soltisyk
Sandy
RECORDER — Heidi
COPY EDITOR — Gary Carey
PHOTOGRAPHERS — Sandy
Chamia Brown Schreiber
ART & DESIGN — Vic Jedlicka
The P.A.G.E. — Greg Bourne

OTHER STAFF— Dan Dave Michael Jerry Peck The New Voice is published and distributed each month by a dedicated volunteer staff. The magazine is completely financed by donations and advertising. Copyright 1986 All rights reserved. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of any person, business, or organization in this publication is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual ortencation or preference of such person, business, or organization. Opinions expressed herein by columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The New Yolce or its staff. Subscriptions:

1 year—512.00 classified Ads:
50.00 for 20 words or less. Isc for each additional word. Oisplay rates given upon request.

THE NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 80819 P.O. Box 3512 LINCOLN, NE GMAHA, NE 68103



Rhonda Rivera Speaks at Forum

where we don't get much information, you need to read at least one of three national gay papers. My favorite is Gay Community News, and there is also The Washington Blade and The Advocate.

There are a number of wonderful books on our history. John D'Emilio's book Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities (Univversity of Chicago paperback, \$7.95) is very good. There's also Johathan Katz's book American History (Harper & Row paperback). Another truly wonderful book is by John Fortunato, a psychologist and Episcopalian monk, Embracing the Exile: Healing Journeys of Gay Christians, in paperback by Seabury Press for just \$7.95

The legal system is not set up for gay relationships; you may have noticed this. So there has been a lot of creative lawyering by attorneys who represent gay people.

I'm a great believer in preventative law. Go to your lawyer before there's a problem. For example, see an attorney before you sign a contract to buy a house--the Purchase Agreement. You can have him or her explain the key provisions in a standard purchase agreement and you'll be a much more intelligent homebuyer.

You must have a lawyer whom you can tell that you're gay. Otherwise, they won't know what to protect you from. You need protection from three things: from the government, from—sad to say—your biological family, and from one another. I'd like to say our

split-ups are better than everyone else's--they're not. I had a case when we fought for six months over a Mickey Mouse phone. My client said it was the "sentiment of the thing."

Lawyers are bound by the Code of Ethics. It's a confidential relationship. You can always remind them of it. Most lawyers aren't going to violate confidentiality. They may not want you as a client, but you need to find that out as soon as possible. You have to find a lawyer (and a doctor) whom you can tell you're gay in order for them to be able to do their job. Give them the information they need to help you.

Wills

Wills are basically a protection against the government and against your biological family. If you die without a will ("intestate"), then your property will devolve according to the laws of the state in which you live...which probably means that if you have parents alive or siblings, your property will go to your parents or siblings and not to the person with whom you live. If this is not what you want, I suggest that you have a will.

There are certain things that you must do to protect against the things that are likely to be attacked. If you leave things to your life partner, your family may say that you were overcome by "undue influence"—that you were coerced by your partner.

One way to protect the effictiveness of a will giving your property to your life partner is to specifically disinherit your other relatives. You can do this in a lovely way. You can say, "I specifically have not provided for my dear parents, for whom I have the greatest respect, who have sufficient funds to take care of themselves." That lets the judge know that you have thought about mom and dad.

Another thing that I suggest you do is that in your special bequests, look around for something that is a family heirloom that you have received. Leave that to someone in the family—say, a niece or a nephew. "Aunt Tillie's silver tray to my favorite niece, sally." That shows the judge that you have thought about what is called "the natural objects of your affection"—namely, your biological family.

I also like a clause that says that anybody who contests the

will gets nothing.

I suggest that you do not name your spouse-equivalent as executor. It puts incredible pressure on them. It looks like they have undue influence. And they have to be the ones to fight with your family. Try to find a friend to be the executor. Perhaps a minister. They can be a buffer with your family. If you absolutely must have your partner as executor, have co-executors--get somebody else, too.

When you go to sign the will, make sure you are scrupulous in following all the rules. I always have an extra witness. Your lawyer should know that you want to make the will absolutely airtight.

In Ohio, because of statute, you can prove your will before you die, so it can't be contested after you die. (Editor's Note: A "self-proved" will under Nebraska law (Neb. Rev. Stat *30-2329, *30-2430 (b) (1979) does not prevent someone from contesting it later for undue influence or many other reasons:

In re Estate of Flider, 213 Neb 153, 328 NW2d 197 (1982). Ohio statute also have a "designation of heir" provision that allows you to designate your heir--another adultwho inherits as if they were your child if you die. If your parents are dead and you don't have a spouse, the child gets everything. You can de-designate an heir at the end of the year. The beauty of it is that if you have a will and it should be contested and overturned, it doesn't make any difference because the person is still your heir.

Guardianship of Children

If you are the custodial parent and you and your life partner have been living together and raising this child, your natural inclination, of course, is that you want the child to stay with your life partner. If you appoint your life partner the guardian of the child, unfortunately, most judges in most states will pay no attention to your appointment, but will regard the biological parent, if alive, as the natural guardian of the child.

How can you get around it?
Usually, you can't. One way
is by the same means I advised
in family custody issues: keep
records on the other person
and if you've got something that
will show they are an unsuitable
guardian, be sure you leave
that evidence in a form that
Continued on page 3...

can be used.

You can appoint your life partner as guardian of the child's
estate—not guardian of the
person, but guardian of their
estate...which means that the
biological parent must deal
with your partner for every
nickle. Since most people
prefer children who come with
nickles, they will have to
deal.

The other thing you can do, if you have a blood relative you trust, appoint them as guardian of the person and your intimate other as guardian of the estate. If there's doubt about the other spouse, then the judge has a person whom they can turn to whom they'll like because they're a blood relative. For example, in my will until my son was eighteen, my mother was guardian of the person, and my partner was guardian of his estate.

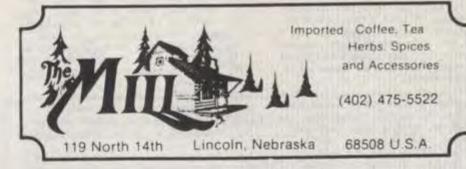
Special Powers-Medical

One of the problems gay people have is in situations of illness. They show up at the hospital and say, "Hi, I hear you have Jane Doe here." And the hospital person says, "Who are you?" And if you're real brave, you say, "I'm her lover." And they say, "That's nice, her mother and father are here, and they're seeing her." And they come out and say, "You can't go in there." And the doctor comes out, and he doesn't talk to you; he talks to mom and dad. And there you are. You have no rights. If you're lucky, the parents won't act that way. But even if there are no parents or other persons around with whom you have to compete, you have no official status with the hospital. Note: some hospitals permit only family members to visit a patient in intensive care.

So what we do is "medical powers" -- a form of the Power of Attorney. There are two forms of the Power of Attorney -- General Powers and Special Powers. This is a form of Special Powers designed by gay lawyers for this use. I call it "creation of next of kin." -- which hospitals love because that's what's on their form: "Next of Kin ___." And we make it look as legal as possible. We have witnesses, we have notaries, and I put it on the fanciest, thickest paper.

I advise my clients to have one copy placed in their doctor's folder for them. Some people carry them in their glove compartments.

Continued on page 4...





So when you go into the hospital, take it with you. Be sure that it's put into the nursing records on your floor--talk to the head nurse and ask for it to be put into the nursing records there, so when a question comes up about who can be seen, it's right there.

Is that legal? It's never been tested in court. I tell my clients, by the time they get around to testing it, you'll either be better, or dead.

It works. It's going to be very difficult to get around it. If it looks official, hospitals will honor it. Hospitals are very bureaucratic institutions, and they're terrified of lawsuits.

Special Powers—Parental

The other kind of medical power-I'll call it "parental power"is for the kind of situation that happened when my son had his arm broken. The hospital needed permission to set it. My partner was there, but had no authority, and they couldn't find me for three hours.

The first part of the parental power is an affidavit by the mother: "I swear I am the mother of _____ born ___ and I swear I am the legal custodian." Then have it notarized. The next part says, "I hereby appoint so-and-so to stand in my place as a parent for those parental duties which arise should I not be available—to wit: with regard to school; to wit: with regard to medical emergencies. .." Then it's signed and notarized like other powers.

What I suggest you do with that is to have a copy put in the kid's school records. And make sure the other person has one. And be sure your family doctor as one. They work, too!

Home Ownership

If you are going to purchase a home, go pay the money and sit down with a residential real estate lawyer, take the standard form for a purchase agreement and learn what it means. Real estate sales are different from other sales. There is this little line at the bottom that says, basically, "If it's not written on this piece of paper, it doesn't exist."

The difference between an abstract of title and title insurance is this: you'll find that every standard agreement says that the seller must furnish either an abstract of title or owner's title insurance. An

abstract is a history of the legal records of the land. And what they have to do under the contract is bring the abstract up-to-date--that is, to send somebody down to the courthouse and make sure that anything that has been recorded against that property is in the abstract. Then they hand the abstract to you and you are supposed to hand it to your lawyer who is supposed to do an opinion letter.

An opinion letter states: "I have examined the abstract and the title is good in X and therefore you can buy it from X." If the lawyer is wrong, you have to sue her. You have to prove she was negligent. Who wants to sue a lawyer? We don't give up easily. And it's real difficult to prove negligence. And it takes time: meanwhile, you're stuck with the house and the title is wrong which means you can't sell it because there's a cloud on the title. Or you can bring a suit to have the cloud removed -and that's more money.

If on the other hand, you have owner's title insurance, it's just like having insurance--an insurance policy. If the title is screwed up, they have to pay, or they have to clear up the cloud. It is more expensive than an opinion letter, but it's worth it, every penny.

I no longer do abstracts. The title insurance company can do it better and faster. That's my opinion.

You handle it this way: where the forms says, seller shall provide--and you scratch out "abstract of title" and you write in "owners' title insurance." Now it may become a bargaining issue where they say, "I don't want to pay that." You can say, "OK, we'll split it."

The other thing you need to know in buying real estate is the difference between tenants in common and joint tennants with the right of survivorship. If you are tenants in common, and one of you dies, the property passes to the heirs of the person who died. If you have joint tenancy with the right of survivorship, and one dies, then the property automatically passes to the owner who is alive. It doesn't go through probate. I'm not saying one is better, but you need to understand the difference and work it out.

Real estate agents shouldn't practice law. I've had lots of clients some to me having been told by real estate agents that because they were of the same sex, they couldn't hold property by joint tenancy with right of survivorship. Which is absolutely not so. Then they had to pay me money to correct the title.

The other thing you should know is: who is your real estate agent. If they are representing the seller, they are representing the seller, they are not your agent. Don't believe a thing they tell you. If you go out and hire a real estate agent, then their fiductary duty is to you. But if they are the agent of the people selling the house, they have no fiduciary duty to you. You can count on it: they want to sell the house; they want their commission.

My clients don't buy a house until they take a contractor through the house. You'd be surprised what you can discover when you send a contractor through a house. This is not a place to get cheap. I pay my contractor \$75 to go through the house. It's one of those deals when being stingy up front will cost you later.

After you've signed the purchase agreement, basically what a lawyer does for you is to make sure, if you have title insurance, that the title binder is correct, that there are no exceptions you should know about. The title binder is the document that binds the title company to insure you.

Your lawyer also examines the deed, for example, for the special words that are necessary to create a joint tenancy with right of survivorship. And in Ohio, the third thing a lawyer examines is called "the seller's affidavit." The seller must make an affidavit that he has done nothing that if "off record"--that is, that was not found by the title people. And if he has, you can sue him on this affidavit.

I tell my clients I can examine the papers ahead of time, and then there's no real need for me to go to the closing. But some people want me there-it's a frightening situation to some people. Sometimes it turns out to be real important to have an attorney there-if there's something that hadn't been resolved.

Having bought the house, if you were to get divorced, and you went down to the court as a nongay couple and said, "We have this house," then they would provide a mechanism for dividing it up. The court could force its sale. However, since we're not allowed to get married, Continued on page 5...

we have problems here. If we don't like each other anymore, what are we going to do? As far as I'm concerned, the only legal remedy -- if you can't come up with an agreement is-common law partition. You have to go down and file some papers. There's a presumption that you own it half and half. If you don't, you have to prove contribution. How many of you keep records? None of my clients ever keep records. When it's all said and done, they'll force the sale and nobody will have any equity left at all. Everybody will be unhappy. It's the worst possible solution.

Therefore, we're back to prevention. People who have me as their residential real estate attorney who closes for them have this nagging bitch, who says, "You're going to have an agreement, aren't you?" Basically, it talks about what you will do if you no longer want to live together. One things I provide in all my agreements is a community arbitration clause, in case there's an argument over the agreement. I want to keep out of the courts. Courts don't understand that this is a divorce.

Now suppose one of you owns the home and somebody moves in--a sure fire way to put a strain on the relationship. The first thing you may decide to do is pay rent. Of course, that rent is income to the owner and is taxable. I've always said the fastest way to get gay people is to use the Internal Revenue Service. It's impossible. We live in relationships that -- in terms of finances -- mirror heterosexual marriage, but we have none of the protections on tax provisions that they do. One thing a lot of people don't know is that you can take your life partner as a dependent if they live in your home and you provide more than one half of their support. When my life partner was in college getting her Masters degree, I took her as a dependent. You don't have to be a blood relative to take somebody as a dependent.

Back to the house in a gay divorce and home ownership. You can sell half to the other party. The problem with that is you create a capital gain. The other problem may be the other party doesn't have enough money to buy you out.

The next thing is, you can give them a gift. That's what I did for our second house. Margaret Continued on page 6...

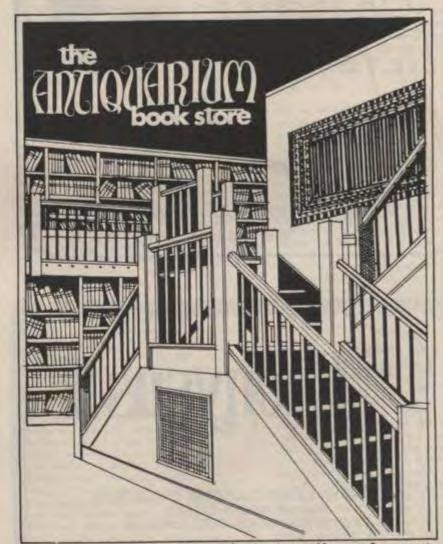






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simply didn't have the money to buy the house with me, so I gave her half of my new house as a gift and registered it as a gift for the gift tax -- that is why I have a tax lawyer. Therefore, it doesn't have tax consequences until I die--it affects my estate. So I gave her something like \$50,000--it isn't just the down payment that you give -- it's the whole value of the house, even though it's mortgaged. Whatever way you do it, you need to think about the tax consequences on all these kinds of transactions. when you set up an agreement, you need to think about the tax consequences if you break up.

The best of all possible worlds is to be able to buy the house together with equal contribution. Then there is no argument about what people get in writing off on their taxes and those kinds of things. But you still need a way, subsequently, to split it up.

Agreements—Relationships

Let me tell you a little about agreements. You've all heard of Marvin vs. Marvin. It said literally nothing that was ever written in the public press. But Marvin did try to say you could have a co-habiting relationship and still make promises with regard to property that could be enforceable.

It used to be that if you were living together in a "meretricious" relationship -- that means living in sin--and you drew up some sort of agreement that deals with your relationship and your property, in the past they were held to be unenforceable because they were "tainted So if you weren't with sin." married to each other, how could you come up with an agreement that would be enforceable? Even today, you need to be careful. You don't include in your agreement things that are of a personal nature -- who takes care of the kids, who's going to wash the dishes. You make it as close as possible to a business agreement. You make the agreement based on money and property. Clients sometimes want to have another kind of agreement -- hearts and flowers and promises to be faithful and loving--which you draw up separately. Then when they have their unions, they sign it, and it's very romantic. But that's not going to be the one you'll use if there's ever a need for a contract. The agreement on property has to be made without the "taint of sin."

Continued on page 7...

Divorce

I represent maybe 500 gay couples. Ethically, I cannot represent any of these people as individuals in a "divorce" because I have represented them as couples. If you're representing a gay person in a divorce, one of the biggest problems can be the other lawyer. If you're lucky, they chose another person who is used to representing gay people. If they chose somebody who isn't gay or gay-supportive, you're going to have hell. They don't understand it's a divorce and they don't treat it that way.

Vengeance is very expensive.
That's a good, practical way to
look at it. It can drag out
forever and cost a fortune.
That should deter you.

Artificial Insemination

There are some important advantages to not having the father know who he is -- if you don't want him in the picture later. Based on Supreme Court cases. there is no way that if a natural father decides to assert his rights you really can get rid of him. If I were going to do it, I'd go through a center where nobody knows who the father is. A man at 25 may say, "If you want to have a kid, great, but I'm not interested." But, at 35, he may show up on your doorstep, saying, "Hi, son!"

In California, they've dealt with this situation in the courtroom. In three cases, the court has treated the nonbiological mother as a psychological parent. She has had to pay child support, but also has visitation rights. They seem to have been rational decisions so far.

The expert on this is Donna Hitchins, now with the American Civil Liberties Union of San Francisco.

Most of this lawyering is creative lawyering. We are creating our own system and manipulating the system to protect our lives. Otherwise, there's nothing in the system that protects us.

Lesbian Mothers: Planning for Child Custody

The New Voice thanks Laura Petovello and Woman's Journal-Advocate for allowing us to reprint the following article: During the Annual Conference of the Coalition for Gay and Lusbian Civil Rights, Rhonda Rivera, an attorney and a Dean of the Ohio State University College of Law offered a workshop on child custody and homosexuality. Rivera is the foremost authority in the country on gay and lesbian law, and is herself a lesbian activist and parent. She has extensive experience in child custody, experience gained primarily from consulting with attorneys across the country who are representing lesbian mothers or gay fathers in custody cases or in divorce cases where child custody is likely to be an issue. She focused the workshop on prevention and pre-trial and negotiation issues.

According to Rivera, prevention is the best policy. She described prevention as creating an image and taking steps to make it less likely that the other parent could gain custody. She emphasized that many of the steps are unpleasant at best, but they are better than losing the child, a likely outcome in cases where the parent seeking custody is gay.

The place to begin with prevention is to NOT tell the truth, to resist the impulse to be honest with your soon-to-be ex-spouse about why you are leaving the marriage. If the child's father does not know that the mother has become a lesbian, then it can't be used during the trial. If confronted by the father, deny the truth. Don't leave love letters lying around.

The prohibition against honesty does not necessarily extend throughout the course of the custody battle. At parent should not take ANY action before consulting with her attorney, but after that, the mother should deal with her family, her children, and her employer. Pamilies need to know and accept their daughter's lesbianism. Rivers talked about several instances where the mother's mother (the child's grandmother) testified on behalf of the father. This is devastating testimony in court, and the mother should take whatever steps possible to forestall this. The children also need to know so that they can respond honestly to questions about who they would prefer to live with. And if possible, the mother's employer should know, so that she cannot be economically blackmailed by the child's father.

While these decisions are being made and acted on, the mother

needs to create herself in the image of the All American Mother -- join a church, enroll your child in lots of activities (girl scouts, piano lessons, etc.), join the PTA, have a good relationship with your child's teacher, be asexual in front of the children, DO NOT have your lover move in. Judges tend to be middle class, old white men, and their values incredibly influence their decisions. If the mother does not present herself as a middle-class supermom, the judge is unlikely to give her custody.

The mother should keep a detailed journal of family life—how often Dad sees the children, if he smokes dope or drinks, who takes the children to the doctor and to activities (and who pays for them) — everything that might have a bearing on who would be the better parent. The journal should be handwritten, every entry should be dated, and any receipts for services, expenses, etc., should be stapled in.

The mother should find a counselor who is not homophobic and who is used to dealing with divorce. A therapist can be a powerful witness, and can testify that most of the problems that the child might experience are typical adjustment problems to divorce and have nothing to do with lesbian mothers. Rivera referred to a study by Mandell and Green that indicates that there is no difference in the adjustment, happiness, success, etc. of children between those who grow up with heterosexual parents and those who grow up with homosexual ones.

Finally, the mother needs to choose the right lawyer, one with whom the mother can be totally honest. During the first consultation, ask how much the lawyer charges. Remind the lawyer about confidentiality, tell her that you are a lesbian, and ask her if she can represent you vigorously or if she has problems with gay people. Ask the lawyer to be honest about this, and if she does have a problem, find another lawyer. Also check out if the lawyer's secretary is going to have problems with a lesbian client.

The lawyer should be able to clearly explain the legal process and what the mother is likely to face in her community. If the lawyer can't do this during the first meeting, it's again time to find another one.

Continued on page 8 ...

Another important consideration is to find a lawyer whose ego will not interfere with the use of consultants. Child custody involving homosexuality is NOT like other custody cases, and if the lawyer sees this as just another custody case, one that does not require special preparation, then the mother is going to be in trouble. Rivera said that, although she likes to be paid for consultation, she will also consult for free. Some resources for locating an attorney are the Lawyer's Guild, NCLU, and NOW.

The next stage is pre-trial activities and negotiation with the father. Although this is hard, the mother should be prepared to trade money for the child. Sometimes, the father will not contest custody if the mother agrees to less or no child support. Rivera said that if the mother is not prepared to face the fact that she may lose her financial status and her child, she is not ready to be divorced. In this case, Rivera suggests trongly that the mother should see a counselor to help her clarify what she wants to do.

A good pre-trial strategy is to let the other side know just how well-prepared and serious this is going to be. One way to do this is to have your attorney file interrogatories along with the complaint. (Interrogatories are written questions that the other side must answer in writing. They are one of the discovery techniques available in all cases.) The attorney can also arrange for depositions. Depositions are done in person with the attorney asking questions and the person being deposed answering under oath. The questions and answers are recorded, and are usually admissable at trial. It is a good idea to line up your character witnesses and depose them before the other side gets to them. The witnesses then can't (and usually don't want to) change their testimony about the mother's good parent-

Next, you and your attorney should find your expert witnesses. The purpose of having experts is to educate the judge and demystify homosexuality. A clergyperson of the same denomination as the judge can also be a useful witness. Any expert witnesses should not be gay.

Finally, the attorney should carefully prepare and be willing to become an expert. She needs to know the studies

about parenting and homosexuality, and also about the nuts who publish and how to discredit them. She must also really know child custody law. If it's obvious that homosexuality is going to be an issue at trial, it's a good idea to submit a trial brief to the court to begin the education process and to deal with the myths from the beginning. The attorney should also be prepared from the beginning to create a thorough record in case the case is appealed.

If you and your attorney are tremendously prepared and the other side has figured out how much a contested case is going to cost, you will often get a settlement and the case will not go to trial.

One of the problems with child custody law, however, is that custody can be challenged at any time. It is better to deal with gay issues up front because in order to challenge custody, the non-custodial parent must show that there has been a change in circumstances. Unfortunately, all cases to date have agreed that having a lover move in is a change in circumstances.

Rivers closed the workshop by mentioning two excellent resources. The Lesbian Mothers Litigation Manual, published by the Lesbian Rights Project in San Francisco, is a must. Sexual Orientation and the Law is also a good reference manual. It's available from the National Lawyer's Guild.

-- Laura Petovello

John Taylor Named New Director of NCLU

John Taylor is the first openly gay Person to hold the position of executive director of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union. He was appointed to the position of executive director on January 1 after DiAnna Schimek resigned to run for state treasurer.

John Taylor moved to Lincoln in 1971.

He spent 8 years as a part-time student at UNL while he worked full-time.

He graduated from UNL in 1978, where he earned a BA in Business Administration. John started working for the Lincoln Action Program in 1978 and continued employment there until he acquired his current position.

He held the position of Fiscal Director when he left the Lincoln Action what an insurant program.

John has been an active member of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, as well as the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights. He continues to be active in the Coalition and is also involved with the Health Concerns Committee. John was recently appointed to the Red Gross AIDS Education Coalition and serves in the postition of Vice Chairman.

John expressed interest in many civil rights issues, especially those involving prisoner rights, prison conditions, censorship, gay rights and and women's rights. He is also opening up dialog with the minority community and sees the NCLU as having a more active role with minority concerns. John sees gay rights as being a major rights issue for the next decade. The American Civil Liberties Union recently established a gay rights project and is currently searching for an actorney to staff the project.

At the present time the NCLU is a watchdog in the wake of the AIDS crisis, and will pursue any action involving discrimination. The NCLU is also still involved in a lawsuit against The Daily Nebraskan concerning self-identifier ads. The case should be heard in the next 2-3 months.

The NCLU always tries to negotiate before going to court. The NCLU helps protect the community when there is an infringement on civil liberties by a governmental entity. They also handle issues of gross discrimination, after other appropriate channels, such as the Equal Opporunity Commission, have been used up.

The NCLU is sponsoring a conference in October 1986. The conference will be held in Omaha, but a location has not been selected yet. Last year the conference was abruptly brought to a close after a fire damaged the Omaha Inn. Gay and Lesbian Issues was on the conference agenda last year and is likely to be on the agenda again this year. John stated the focus of a workshop may involve public policy on AIDS. There is no charge for attending workshops held by the NCLU. The only costs is for lunch. Nonmembers of the NCLU are also welcome to attend the conference.

Basic membership to the NCLU is \$20 a year. John would like to see more gay people involved in the NCLU as it would provide a better voice for the community. Currently, there are 800 members. The two offices of the NCLU are located at 3528 Dodge, Suite 10 in Omaha and 633 South 9th (basement) in Lincoln. The mailing address is P.O. Box 81455, Lincoln, 68501.

Insurance Companies Look at High Risk Groups

If you are a hemophiliac, IV drug user, or a bisexual or homosexual male, you fall under what an insurance company considers a "high risk" for developing ARC (AIDS-related Complex) or AIDS itself.

Continued on page 9 ...

When an individual is suspected of ARC or AIDS, they may be requested to take one of several blood tests to detect the AIDS antibodies.

In the state of California, laws provide confidentiality for individuals receiving blood tests for AIDS. The law also provides that the results of a blood test to detect AIDS cannot be used in any instance for the determination of insurability or suitability for employment.

Wisconsin laws contain similar prohibition, but is more restrictive. It provides inquiry into whether a person has taken the antibody test, forbids conditioning the availability of coverage on whether the person obtains the test and prevents an insurer from using the test results in ratemaking.

Gay Activist groups favor the restrictive provisions as enacted in Wisconsin, and they use for their argument two major reasons: namely, that the tests now available are imperfect (false positive occur) and that even if someone does have the antibody, this does not mean that he or she will necessarily get AIDS.

So far, California and Wisconsin are the only two states that have enacted laws. Lawmakers are certain many other states will soon follow, especially in "high-risk" areas. We, as the gay community, should support our gay lobbyists in their efforts to fight for our rights. It's taken a long time to get this far; let's not give up now.

---Heidi

ORGANIZATIONS

Nostalgia Night at the Chesterfield

Attention, Baby Boomers! On Saturday, January 25, while taking break from that chore we all know and love-known as housecleaning-my spouse started brainstorming. We had been listening to cassettes of the 50s and 60s while cleaning the homestead, and she said, "Alma (at the Chesterfield) should have a 50s and 60s Nostalgia Night! People could dress like they did in the 50s and 60s."

We know that Alma has that type

of thing on Wednesdays, but how many of us Baby Boomers can get there on Wednesday night, at a decent time, to enjoy it? Well, one thing led to another, and my spouse's enthusiasm was contagious. She was practicing the jitterbug and was promising to teach me too! I sure couldn't refuse a deal like that -- even if I do have two left feet. So we got in touch with Alma and laid the brainstorm on her. She agreed to it with one stipulation -- we had to help her promote it.

Well, the only way we know of is word-of-mouth and a written article. So here we are, letting you know well in advance of the planned Nostalgia Night, of what plans have been made so far--which aren't many at this point.

Right now, Alma is going to have a "trial" before March. When will it be? I don't know--sometime in February. But you can call Alma at the Chesterfield to find out the exact date. And after all. Alma has been doing for us, we surely can support her for this.

Yes, it's for us--to enjoy, have fun and reminisce--but it's also for Alma. And the Chesterfield. The lady has a lot of competition out there, and she needs our support. So, come on, Baby Boomers! Get into the swing of things! Brush up on the jitterbug (if I can do it, anyone can!), dress for the era and let's show the "young 'uns" that we still have what it takes!

How about a "bobby-socker" or a "greaser"? There will be a door prize. Don't know what yet, but does it really matter? I don't think so. Let's enjoy ourselves and "turn back the clock" for a night. My spouse and I are game. How about YOU?

See you March 15 -- at the Chesterfield.

---C.L.A.

Spring Concert Planned by River City Mixed Chorus

Plan to spend your Easter Sunday evening with the River Sity Mixed Chorus, as they present their 1986 Spring Concert.

The Concert will be held Sunday, March 30, at 7:30 pm, in the Unitarian First Church of Omaha, 3114 Harney Street. Sug-Continued on page 10...



gested donation is \$4.50 for adults, \$3.00 for children 12 & under and seniors. Tickets are available at Brandeis, TIX, from any Chorus member, or at the door.

The concert will feature "Gloria" by Vivaldi, with members of the Omaha Symphony, and the premiere of an original Disney medley by John Zeigler.

This is the second Spring Concert by the Chorus, returning to the beautiful Unitarian Church sanctuary after the many positive comments received there last year.

Chorus to Host Roller Skating Party

You say there's never anything to do? That's just not true! Here's another example of something fun to do in our community!

Sunday, March 16, is a Roller Skating Party, sponsored by the River City Mixed Chorus. The fundraiser will be from 8 pm to 10 pm at Cheap Skate, 9006 Maple Street in Omaha. \$2.50 at the door includes admission and skate rental. It's being promoted only to the gay and lesbian community, so bring a date!

The event is being held to help raise money for the Chorus's trip to the GALA Choruses Festival in the Twin Cities.

Come on down, have a night of fun, and support your Chorus!!

RCMC Will Participate in GALA Chorus Festival

The River City Mixed Chorus is participating in the GALA Choruses Festival, July 2 through 6 in Minneapolis-St. Paul. GALA Choruses (Gay & Lesbian Association of Choruses) is a nationwide network of 40 gay, lesbian, and mixed choruses. Eighteen (18) choruses will be performing, individually and together, in this once-everythree-years event.

There are seats available for you to ride in the transportation from Omaha to the Twin Cities, and there are spaces available for you to be housed with the Chorus (along with some 1500 other singers) in Minneapolis.

For information on joining the Chorus in this five-day adventure, leaving the morning of July 2 and returning early July 7, please phone 455-2334.

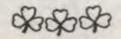
Chorus to Hold Auditions

If you've been wanting to sing with the River City Mixed Chorus, this is your chance to try out.

The Chorus is holding auditions Saturday, March 22, by appointment only. Interested singers may schedule an appointment or get more information by calling 455-2334.

These auditions are for the Chorus performance period of April 1, 1986 through August 31, 1986. Persons interested in performing in the summer concert in Omaha on June 21, or the GALA Choruses Festival in the Twin Cities July 2-6, must audition on March 22.

The Chorus is also looking for non-singers to help. Please call the above number for more information.



Continued on page 11...





Miss Stagedoor 1986 Starring: Anne Marlow, Miss Stagedoor 1985

Special Guest Star: Laura Lee, Empress V

Emcee: Liesa Durat Sunday, March 15, 1986 9:00 p.m. cover: \$2.50

Applications available at the Stagedoor

1508 Howard St. Omaha
Open 8:00pm-l:00am Tues.-Sun.

Planning Underway for Women's Week

In April, UNI, and Nebraska Wesleyan will each sponsor a Women's Week--with workshops and guest panels on issues about women (including lesbianism, non-sexist parenting, and violence against women).

Women's Week at UNL is scheduled for April 7-11 and for April 14-18 at Nebraska Wesleyan. A lot of hard work and careful planning has already been invested in both weeks, so do plan to attend:

Watch for updates and schedules in The New Voice.

For more information, contact the Women's Resource Center, 472-2597 (UNL) and Student Affairs, 465-2224 (NWU).

--Sandy

Out & About in Omaha

MCC Omaha was the gathering place on February 6th for representatives from The Diamond, The Chesterfield, The Stagedoor, The Imperial Court of Nebraska, the River City Mixed Chorus, Dignity, PFLAG, and MCC Omaha.

Among the upcoming events discussed were:

The Miss Stagedoor Contest March 16, Chesterfield's Nostalgia

Chesterfield's Nostalgia Night,

Another AIDS Seminar, A Closet Ball (open to women for the first time),

ICON Coronation in June, ICON representatives going to Denver for their coronation in April, Easter Sunrise Service,

A Newsletter begun by Dignity, MCC District Conference in Wichita in April,

River City Mixed Chorus sponsored roller skating party on March 16,

The Chorus' travel to Des Moines over Memorial Day weekend and to the Twin Cities over the 4th of July,

An Arts Festival at the Canticleer Theatre the weekend of June 20th, and

The Metropolitan Club is sponsoring a "Best of Friends" tea dance with special entertainment at The Warehouse on April 6.

Further discussion regarding Gay Pride Week and a Gay Pride Parade was tabled due to a lack of authorative information from the ICON as to their plans.

The gay/lesbian community of Omaha does have a great deal going for it. It is doubtful that anyone can be a part of everything, but effort is being made to make a wide range of activities available for you to choose from. Perhaps the greatest danger to these activities is a lack of participation. Our meetings are not attended by representatives of several organizations. Imagine how long the list would be if it had been! Being gay can be difficult enough with help from support groups, but for me--being gay in isolation would be unbearable. Support

your gay community--and you will be the better for it.

--Jerry Peck

Out & About in Lincoln

Lincoln has a new spirit of cooperation and togetherness. This
was very apparent recently when
the Boardwalk advertised a
Kelly's event on its marquee.
The bars are now working together and have set up weekly
meetings to resolve differences
and work on common goals. I
hope the new spirit passes on
to other factions of the
community.

continued on page 12...

NOTICE



Prices increase effective March 1st for Happy Hour at all four Lincoln Bars due to the wholesale increase on beer and alcohol.

Happy Hours are from 5 to 7 p.m. Mon-Fri at the Boardwalk, Kelly's, the Club, and Cherchez La Femme, Lincoln The UNL Coming-Out Support Group meets Saturdays at 7 pm. Call 472-5644 for details. UNL-GLSA meets every Thursday at 8 pm in Andrews Hall, Room 338. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The San Francisco-based singers/ songwriters Romanovsky & Phillips will perform in Lincoln on April 18, 1986, at 7:30 pm at the Nebraska Union. Romanovsky & Phillips have been performing their original out-of-thecloset music for over three years. Known for their soaring harmonies, uproarious lyrics and magnetic stage presence, Romanovsky & Phillips have won praise from critics and have established themselves as exciting new voices in the world of Gay Men's music. For ticket information, Call UNL-GLSA at 472-5644.

Amanda Fox, Liesa Durant, and Muffy Rosenberg represented Nebraska in the "Miss Heart of America" pageant held in Kansas City the week of Valentine's Day. The pageant is a Norma Kristie, Inc. franchise and was held at the Starz On Broadway. Even though the Nebraska contestants didn't win, they faired very well in overall competition.

The Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights has presented Special Achievement Awards to two active founding members, Scott Stebelman and psychologist Natalie Porter. Stebelman and Porter have both recently moved from Lincoln, and we will miss them greatly, both for their friendship and for the energy and leadership they have provided. As we explained in the news release announcing the awards, these two individuals, one gay and none non-gay, exemplify the courage, concern, and commitment which have moved the Lesbian/Gay rights movement forward."

The 2nd Miss Max is Veronica O'Rourke

Veronica O'Rourke took top honors in The Miss Max pageant held on January 26 at The Max. Other finalists were Dorian Drake and Jessica Tyler. The pageant was a close affair as only seven points seperated 1st place from 2nd place.

Other contestants included Tiffany Trade, Mysti Leigh and Viktoria Towne.

Categories included male interview, female interview, 1st talent, 2nd talent, costume, swimwear, question & answer, and evening-wear. Kim Meske was the M.C. for the show. Stella Dallas promoted the contest. Dan Osterguard was the pageant coordinator. Dick Brown and Vince Percy helped tabulate the results.

Muffy Rosenberg, last years winner performed during the pageant.

Quiche-Off a Success!

The River City Mixed Chorus came up with a new--and tasty--event for the community. On February 8, the Chorus held a Quiche-Off quiche making contest and dinner. And by all indications, it won't be the last!

Celebrity judges Donald-Bryan Johnson from Lite 96-FM and Steve Millburg from the Omaha World-Herald tasted their way through 19 quiches entered in the contest. And when they made their selections, third place was won by Clark T., second place by Tim I., and first-place quiche was created by Don C.

Hungry diners feasted on a number of different styles of quiches, including dessert quiches, "standard cheese and mushroom" quiches, and the notorious "Cajun Quiche."

Continued on page 13...

WOMEN'S WEEK 1986 Sun. April 6 - Sat. April 12 FEATURING

Margaret Randall
Keynote Speaker Mon. April 7
Judy Sloan
Character Actress Fri. April 11 8:00 p.m.
Madonna Thunderhawk

Native American Speaker Wed. April 10 3:00 p.m.



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT 472-2597



The most common comment was "When are you going to do this again?" but the Chorus plans a lot of other events before again taking to the kitchen.

The event was the first in a series of fundraisers for the Chorus, which needs to raise some \$2000 towards its expenses in attending the GALA Choruses Festival in the Twin Cities.

Lincoln Show Notes

On February 9th, the Boardwalk dance floor, usually crowded with bouncing and twisting bodies, was transformed into a cosy nightclub, complete with romantic lighting and flowers on the tables. The air was filled with excitement as everyone anticipated the "celebrity-packed" show.

The show featured Lisa Durant Empress Laura Lee, Veronica O'Rourke-Miss Max, and Deitra Snow, as well as Lindsey Heart-Miss Gay Capitol City, Miss Jamie, Jennifer and Newcomer Nicole.

Miss Jamie charmed everyone with her witty style as M.C. and thrilled the crowd when she took the stage.

The word that comes to mind when decribing Miss Veronica O'Rourke and

Empress Laura Lee is "class." They both performed with flawless professionalism and style.

Deitra Snow gave a sizzling performance of two upbeat, country numbers as the audience stomped and hollered. There was a respectful silence, on the other hand, as Jennifer gave an intense performance of "Don't Cry Out Loud."

Personally, I'm a dance buff, so for me, one of the highlights of the show was Lindsey Heart's Chorus Line medley. The newly-crowned Miss Gay Capitol City did a fantastic job, thrilling us with an energy-filled number complete with choreography (on high heels, mind you).

The star of the evening, however, stole the show with "Somewhere." Miss Liss Durant received a standing ovation after her stunning performance.

So come on Lincoln, if glamour and glitter is your thing-take in a show. If you're looking for a place to go with a date-take in a show. If you want to escape from reality for awhile-take in a show. I bet you'll enjoy it!

--A.C.S.

Coalition Meetings Open to All

The 14-member Coordinating Council elected by the members of the Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights meets on the third Tuesday of every month in Lincoln. After some low turn-

Continued on page 14...



Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha

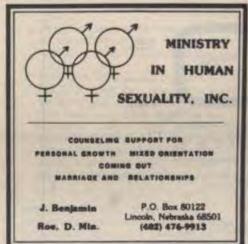
"If you haven't seen us lately, you haven't seen us."

Sunday Worship Services — 10:30am and 7:00pm Monday: Men's Rap Group — 7:30pm Wednesday: Bible Study — 7:00pm and Praise & Healing — 7:45pm

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

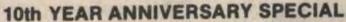
— John 15:12

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outs at our last couple of meetings, the Council pooled its members, and it appears that our best meeting time is still the third Tuesday of the month. You, as Coalition members, are welcome to attend the meetings and to join any of the project groups. We have active groups working on publicity, health concerns, countering Paul Cameron's hate propaganda, truth and beauty (the Speakers' Bureau), and membership. We would love to have you working with us on these issues and could really use the support of new blood. Please try to attend!

Future meeting dates are listed below: if you have any questions about the agenda, call Cheryl at 435-7397:

- 18 March
- 22 April
- 20 May
- 17 June

Health Concerns Committee Needs Volunteers

The Coalition Health Concerns Committee is looking for persons interested in serving on subcommittees in the following areas of interest:

- (1) AIDS
- (2) Lesbian Health Concerns
- (3) Gay/Lesbian Mental Health
- (4) Alcohol & Drug Abuse

If you are able to give time and energy to any of these, call 474-1205. Your help is needed.

NEWS & FEATURES

It Can Be Dangerous to Walk Alone

A few weeks ago, a young gay male friend of mine hitched a ride with me to the Boardwalk. When Sandy and I were ready to leave, we offered to take him to his car (parked at Kelly's). He declined the offer, insisting he would walk. When we expressed concern about this, he laughed and remarked, "I've walked alone in Nepal!"

I am afraid our friend did not realize Continued on page 15... that it can be dangerous to walk alone in Lincoln-especially if someone sees you leaving one of the gay bars. Last summer, I wrote an article about two gay men who were assaulted by a gang of boys right on "O" street. That particular incident reminds me of a summer night two years ago when I found myself in a potentially violent situation.

That night, two gay male friends of ours had a lovers' spat at the Board-walk and left the bar on foot; Because alcohol was involved, Sandy and I followed them, and we ended up near the corner of 18th and "P" streets. While the two of them argued, a carload of young boys pulled up. When they started to get out of the car, I knew violence was likely.

At this point, Sandy and I had two choices: we could run like hell, or we could stay and hope our presence prevented a "queer-bashing." Naturally, the first instinct is to panic and bolt, but we both remained remarkably calm. The boys hesitated as we approached our friends, who were still arguing and oblivious to the situation. Just then, an unmarked police car pulled up and the officers ordered all of us to disperse. I am sure violence had only nearly been averted.

With warmer weather around the corner, I want to remind everyone in the Gay/ lesbian community to exercise caution when walking alone (or even in small groups) especially to and from the bars. Lincoln is a nice town, but it's not immune to violent crime. Once you're in a dangerous situation, it is too late to consider precautions.

af.

Union College Officials Harrass & Remove Gay Students

The following article appeared in the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Newsletter-February issue. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of The New Voice staff. However, some students from Union College have stated that this story is accurate.

The Coalition has recently become aware of an appalling pattern of harassment and invasion of privacy of students at Union College here in Lincoln. We have received first-hand accounts from several former students, describing the way in which they were treated after Union College deans suspected they had "sexual problems." We have specific knowledge of at least a dozen students who were forced to leave the college in the last few years. How many more were also forced to go through similar experiences, we can only

guess. But the accounts we do have show the following:

- * The deans call in students for questioning if they "suspect" the student might be gay because of their "mannerisms, style of dress and/or associating with the 'wrong' kind of people";
- * Students are encouraged and even rewarded for spying and reporting on other students.
- * Students called in by the deans for questioning are asked to name other students whom they think may be gay;
- * The deans use threats ("We'll write and tell your parents" or "We may have to ask you to leave the coilege"), and they use outright lies (telling one student that another student has already confessed to being gay) to pressure students to undergo "treatment" to "rehabilitate" (cure) them:
- Students are told they will be expelled unless they accept "rehabilitation" counseling.
- When the students are ultimately forced to leave, their parents are often told why. And they may lose much of the academic credit they have earned at Union, because many other colleges won't give them transfer credit for many of the classes they have taken.

Needless to say, this type of appalling harassment and invasion of privacy inflicts great pain upon these students. At least one student was driven into such a deep depression, he had to be hospitalized. Left unchallenged, it is only a matter of time before the deans' behavior will be the direct cause of a suicide. And the students who are brave enough to want to form a support group must meet in secrecy, with little way to reach out to others and with the constant fear that the college administrators may send someone in "undercover" to spy on the group.

The Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights asks the community to CONSIDER WRITING LETTERS to the

Acting President at Union College, Robert Manley 3800 S. 48th Street

and protest the deans' activities. And if you are a supporter of KUCV Fine Arts Hadio, you might also want to write to them.

On February 19, Larry Hallock, a representative of the Chicago chapter of S.D.A.
Kinship met with Union College
officials. Even though the
meeting did not lead to the
changing of policy, it did lead
to opening up dialogue for the
first time, which is a positive
step. Further action is planned
with Union College officials.

Look for updates in upcoming issues of The New Voice.

Restaurant Review— El Sitio

Imagine a Mexican restaurant that serves good Mexican food at reasonable prices—without the nauseating jingles and "McFast-Food" atmosphere. Interested! El Sitio (The Place), 321 North Cotner, is the place to go.

El Sitio offers quite a variety of Mexican foods as dinners or as single items. Their prices are reasonable and the portions plentiful. Here are a few of the dinners:

Chimichanges (Flaute): a flour tortilla stuffed with beef and refried beans, deep fried and topped w/sour cream and cheese sauce_ \$3.95

El Sitio Dinner: 1 beef/bean tostada, 1 beef enchilada covered w/chili, 1 beef taco served w/beans & rice. \$4.25

Mexican Dinner: 1 beef taco, 1 beef/bean tostada served w/refried beans & rice; Quesadillas as an appetizer and a basket of Bunuelos for dessert. \$5.25

Acapulco Dinner for 2: 1 beef taco and 1 beef enchilada covered w/chili plus refried beans & rice; nachos supreme !w/blended cheeses, refried beans, sour cream and black olives on crisp tortilla) as the appetizer and Sopapillas !w/honey or cinnamon) for dessert. \$8.95

Most dinners are \$3.95 ~ \$4.95 and are very filling. If you aren't interested in a complete dinner, tacos, enchiladas, burritos or tostadas alone (each less than \$1.95) are just as satisfying. For the vegetarian, El Sitio's has a vegetarian dinner: quacamole tostada, cheese enchilada w/cheese sause served w/refried beans & rice—\$3.95.

American dinners and Italian pasta are also available, but I haven't given them a try. After all, you go to a Mexican restaurant for Mexican food, right?

El Sitio serves standard specialty drinks: margaritas, dacquiri, pina colada, sangria, and various cocktails. For the most part, the prices are reasonable. One complaint, however--the margaritas taste like liquid sweet-tarts,

El Sitio's atmosphere is very simple: authentic to a point and unpretentious. It's a great place to meet with friends for quiet conversation and pretty good Mexican food.

Toni

Aunt Izzie

never dressed in drag. Nor have I entered any bodybuilding contests. I have an androgynous nature that lets me live life to its fullest.

How I got My Name

Aunt Izzie received his roots in college. I could only be described as the preppie version of a Castro Street clone. I was one of the first students to wear 501's. I had short hair, always wore tennis shoes, and of course all my shirts had that funny little alligator on it. I was given the name Izod but later this changed to Izzie. The Aunt was added by my closest friends who were amazed at how much I knew about their sexual activities and local gossip. I was always giving advice and liked to help those who were discovering their sexual orientation. Aunt Izzie has





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Lincoln, Nebraska

The Man Without a Fantasy

One night, at a local private party, several acquaintances started a discussion about sexual fantasies. Fantasies included having hopes and aspirations of having sex with athletes, truck drivers, policemen , motorcycle gangs, military men, forest rangers, and one man wanted to have sex under water with a scuba-diver. Locations were just as interesting as men described fantasies of having sex in laundrymats, airplanes, movie the-aters, caves, beaches, locker rooms, cars, and on a disco dance floor. One man, however, sat quietly and later acknowledged that he had no sexual dreams or fantasies. The group couldn't believe that Mike (his real name won't be used to protect the innocent, I also refuse to call him Herb) had no fantasies and kept prodding him to come up with one. Mike, however, stood firm and said his closest thing to a fantasy was having a wonderful man enter his life and then living happily ever after (Gag me with a spoon). Mike never recalled having had any fantasies and felt he was normal in his thoughts and feelings. Some suggested that Mike see a shrink or said that Mike couldn't be a gay man but instead, was possibly a eunuch. Since Mike was such a gorgeous hunk, I suggested we make up some fantasies for him and then act them out with props and costumes in my basement. Oh well, another one of my fantasies that will probably remain unfulfilled.

Who Designed the Penis of the Plains

I have been curious for a long time as to the identity of the architect who designed the Nebraska State Capitol. I have always suspected that the architect was gay, as I have never seen a more symbolic representation of the penis anywhere. Note the high columns close to the top with its small dome. Meanwhile a red light blinks on top as a sower throws seeds across the fertile plains.

I went to the library to research the topic (Yes, Aunt Izzie does occasionally read) and discovered that the Capitol was designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue of New York. The third and present Nebraska Capitol was constructed by a Capitol Commission created by an act of the Legislature in 1919. The Commission completed the building in 1932. The Capitol is described in a book, called The Nebraska Capitol as follows: "The Capitol symbolizes the inherent power of the State of Nebraska and the purpose of its citizens. The base, in the form of a rectangle, four hundred and thirty-seven feet square and two stories high, typifies the wide-spread openness of the plains. The central tower, serving as the chief architectural feature of the building, and rising triumphantly to a height of four hundred feet, expresses the aspirations and ideals of the citizens, reaching upward to the highest and noblest in civilization. The vertical lines of the tower with its semi-classical dome harmonize with the more lofty dome formed by the skies, which seems to descend and

Continued on page 17...

touch the prarie land on every side."

By the way, Christopher Street reported that Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, had a "special male companion," and even though he was married, may have been gay or bisexual.

Next month discover the agonies and frustrations of being a gay, married Ito the opposite sex) male in Nebraska and what one man purchased after he sold his wedding ring. Also Aunt Izzie will share some of his mail with everyone. Until next month...
Toot-a-loo.



Here & There Across the Country

Australian Army Purchases Condoms

The Australian army recently purchased 500,000 condoms. On the surface that sounds admirable, a real decent way of getting down under, so to speak. But the condoms weren't bought for you-know-what. They were actually bought to provide waterproofing for gun barrels. Sen. Gareth Evans, the Minister of Resources and Energy, said that "The contract for the purchase of these condoms was placed after independent leakand-burst tests in which the condoms were inflated to a volume of more than 12 liters, or 5 1/2 gallons."

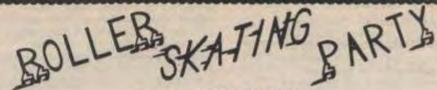
-- Gay Community News--Massachusetts

Homosexual Anonymous

There is Alcoholics Anonymous. There is Overeaters Anonymous. And now, there is Homosexuals Anonymous (HA). Homosexuals Anonymous claims to help gay people take the 12 steps necessary to "un-gay" themselves. According to Colin Cook, a "recovered" homosexual, there will be a "large and dramatic" decrease in the number of gay people in the next decade. HA has expanded in five years from one chapter in Reading, PA to 25 chapters, some of which are located in Canada and New Zealand.

-The Tulsa World -- Oklahoma

Continued on page 18...



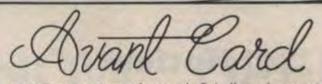
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Sanitary Kits Issued

Pt. Wayne, Indiana, police are being issued sanitary kits that include surgical gloves, antiseptic towlelettes and disinfectant spray to protect themselves from sick prisoners with communicable diseases, including AIDS. Pt. Wayne Police Sargeant Keith Butts said that he devised the program several weeks ago when he found several boxes of surgical gloves while he was cleaning out the department's old crime laboratory.

-- The Works -- Indiana

Gay Life Ends Operation

Gaylife Newspaper, which Rev. Grant Ford and Abe Olivo began publishing 11 years ago just prior to Gay Pride Week, suspended publication on February 7 citing "an untenable financial condition." Gaylife was the Midwest's oldest newspaper directed to the gay and lesbian community.

-- Gay Chicago -- Illinois

Texas Health Official Backs Off

Responding to public pressure exerted by medical experts and leaders of the Texas Gay Community at a public hearing held in Austin on January 13, Texas Commissioner of Health, Dr. Robert Bernstein announced on January 16 that he has asked the Texas Department of Health to drop consideration of an order

which would have placed AIDS on the state's list of quarantinable diseases.

-- The Calendar -- Texas

Man Killed for Acting Like a "Fag"

A 22-year-old man in Rutland,
Vermont, was killed by a total
stranger for "acting like a fag."
Ronald Amadon was stabbed by
John Kugler, 25, who said in a
police affidavit, "I killed
somebody last night. I
stabbed him. He was walking by,
acting like a fag." According
to officials, Kugler has previously undergone treatment for
mental problems in New York
state, where he lived until
recently.

-- Out Front -- Colorado

Gays Outraged at Governor Dukakis

Gays and Lesbians in Boston are outraged again at Gov. Michael Dukakis and the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. New evidence shows the state's attitudes toward homosexuals may have led to extreme child abuse against two little boys by heterosexuals. According to the Boston Herald, the two little boys were abused in their new home in New Bedford, Mass. The abuse was allegedly committed by the foster mother, her 31-year -old son and a woman who was a former foster placement in the same home. There are allegations that the man had a history of child molestation.

In May of 1985, two brothers, aged two and one-half and four were taken from the home of David Jean and Don Roberts after a Boston Globe article pointed out that the children were living with two gay men.

-- Boston Globe -- Massachusetts

First Gay Rights Organization

Did you know that the first U.S. gay publication, Friendship and Freedom was printed around 1924 by the first gay rights organization, the Chicago Society for Human Rights? Henry M. Gerber, inspired by the active gay rights movement in Germany in the 1920s, founded this shortlived organization whose files and equipment were destroyed in a raid by Chicago police.

-- Gay Chicago Magazine--Ill.

Notice

Lincoln Bars Announce New Door Policy

For quite some time, the Lincoln gay Bars have admitted gay persons under the age of 21. This was done with the understanding that at no time would persons under 21 purchase or consume alcohol. Unfortunately, many have disregarded this and have chosen to do otherwise. In addition, some have been drinking alcohol in the parking lots, bringing bottles into the bars' property. Some have also mixed liquor with soft drinks from the Bar.

The State Laws clearly forbid this activity. It is with much regret that we must put an end to this activity because the risks are greater than what we, the owners of the four Lincoln Bars can deal with. It is unfortunate that a small group of people have placed at risk one of the few places in which gay people can meet without fear. We are not willing to risk our business over broken promises by a few individuals. So Stop It Nowl Or we will change the age limit to 21 years of age. You must carry a current Photo ID if you are 17 years or older at all times when you are in the four Lincoln Bars—

The Boardwalk Kelly's The Club Cherchez la femme

Gay Married Couple Leave Country

After 10 years of battling the U.S. courts, America's most famous married couple have given up this country for life in Europe. Anthony Sullivan, an Australian, and his American lover, Richard Adams, left the country. The pair was married by a Colorado clergyman in 1975, but the Immigration and Naturalization Service refused to recognize the marriage.

-- Bay Area Reporter -- Cal.

Gail's Hit List

GAIL'S HIT LIST-MARCH 1986

- 1. ROCK ME AMADEUS -- Falco
- *2. NO PRILLS LOVE
 --Jennifer Holiday
- 3. ANOTHER NIGHT (remix)
 --Aretha Franklin
- 4. HIT THAT PERFECT BEAT --Bronski Beat
- 5. BOTH SIDES NOW -- Viola Wills
- 6. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY --Janet Jackson
 - --Janet Jackson
- 7. YOU LOOK GOOD TO ME --Cherelle
- 8. IF YOU SHOULD EVER BE LONELY --Val Young
- 9. AFTER THE LOVE IS GONE --Princess
- 10. GOOD TO THE LAST DROP --C Bank
- 11. RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES
 --Pamela Stanley/ Paul
 Parker
- 12. I'D DO IT ALL AGAIN
- 13. LEGION
 --Mark Shreeve
- 14. POWERDRILL
 --Goon Squad
- 15. SECRETS
 --Natalie Cole
- --- * = No. 1 last month

Gail's Hit List is a monthly courtesy of the Boardwalk/ The Club, Lincoln

Letters

Exploitation of Children?

Dear Editor:

Having read Larry Wiseblood's editorial and Bill Brygger's reply concerning child pornography, I feel constrained to write. I, too objected to Larry Wiseblood's editorial, not because he didn't check his facts, but because it was based on emotion rather than reason.

Reason tells us that, while it would be nice if every teenager came equipped with two loving

parents and no financial worries, that is not reality for large numbers of teenagers. Many teenagers are out on the street with nobody except themselves, for a variety of reasons. I speak from experience: I myself was forced to become self-sufficient at age 15. Further, there are no measures that we as a society can take to eliminate all of the factors that produce independent teenagers! There are too many factors and not all of them are subject to control.

Now then, shall we please stop talking about the "exploitation" of "children." These poor, exploited children were in

Continued on page 20...

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reality teenagers who had volunteered to have their pictures taken and who were being paid between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per month for their trouble. "Exploitation" is hardly the right word for a condition that allows its "victims" to enjoy a higher standard of living than most adults I know. Further, none of them was being held involuntarily: anyone who felt exploited was free to go.

When I found myself independent at age 15 I discovered that I was exploited by a government that does everything in its power to keep teenagers impoverished, mainly by means of the Child Labor Act. This legislation, passed with the best of intentions, shuts minors out of the job market and gives independent minors a choice between obeying the law and starving, or disobeying the law and keeping themselves in groceries. If Larry Wiseblood never had to make that choice I am happy for him. I did, and I chose to disobey the law. It should come as no surprise to anybody that teenagers who cannot legally hold "respectable" jobs must support themselves by means of drugs, prostitution and pornography. If Larry Wiseblood were truly concerned with the exploitation of teenagers he could begin by calling for the immediate repeal of the Child Labor Act. Then, teenagers would at least have the option of holding "respectable" jobs.

80819/Lincoln, NE 68508.

Sincerely. Mel Dahl

Name

Address

City State, Zip

The womyn of The New Voice Steering Committee wish to clearly state that we in no way support or condone the sexual exploitation of minors. We believe that child pornography is an abuse of sexuality and is particularly damaging to the reputation of the Gay/Lesbian community.

> Anita Cham Heid1 Sandy

I also believe in the rights of teenagers and children. I feel they have the right not to be subjected to sexual pressuring and manipulation by adults. Pederasts are sexually attracted to children and our laws are designed to stop this type of behavior. In my editorial, I warned adults about the present laws and possible consequences for violating the law.

-- Larry Wiseblood, Editor

In Deep Gratitude

Dear Larry:

The Coordinating Committee of the Community of Grace would like to extend its deep gratitude to you and The New Voice of Nebraska for your support of the Community of Grace. Our appreciation for the fine work you have put into The New Voice is seldom mentioned but heartfelt, nonetheless. The New Voice has always been a highquality publication serving a very vital function for Lincoln's gay/lesbian community.

D \$12.00 | yr subscription

send no cash

____legal defense fund

- total check

Unfortunately, being in the public's eye all the time, you are more likely to get criticism than praise, although both are important and rewarding in their own separate ways. The Coordinating Committee would like to give you some well-deserved praise at this

Sincerely,

Mark M. Secretary Community of Grace

Working Together on Mailings

Dear Omaha Fellow Community Members:

time and would encourage you

to continue your fine work.

In an effort to increase awareness of our various organizations, the River City Mixed Chorus proposes that we make our groups' mailings available to each other.

We are not suggesting that our confidential lists be made available; rather, that if one group has an item it wishes to distribute, other groups will send the item out with their next mailing. The group planning the event would be responsible for providing the proper number of flyers to the group doing the mailing. (We' re talking only in terms of scheduled mailings; obviously, if "Group A" would want "Group B" to do a special mailing, something would have to be worked out in terms of postage, envelopes, etc.)

In this way, we will all benefit from increased awareness and distribution, yet no confidentiality will be broken.

The Chorus has a mailing planned to announce our March 30 concert, to be mailed on or about March 19, and we welcome your flyers. Please contact Clark at 455-2334 or Gary at 551-0510 if you have something to be mailed at that time. And we would like to include flyers announging the March 30 concert in any mailing you have scheduled in March. Please let us know how many flyers you need, and by what date. Please use the above phone numbers, or our post office box (315--Omaha--68101-0315) to contact us.

Thanks for your time, and here's hoping we can all work together:

Sincerely,

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

Vew Voice Mailed discreetly in a plain brown envelope.

The New Voice

and mailing it to: New Voice of Nebraska/P.O. Box

Order your subscription today by filling out this form

Financial Reality

Letter to the Editor:

I heard a lot about the "Spirituality and Homosexual Persons" dialog conference featuring Bishop Wheatley, a retired Methodist minister.

Unfortunately, most of what I heard were remarks that the fee (\$20.00-\$10.00 for students) was too high for many people to attend, especially couples. Even at a lesser fee, not many student couples can afford to pay out \$20.00. I am also concerned about non-student Lesbian couples, whose combined income is still very limited.

Although some "scholarships" were made available to those who qualified, constantly needing to ask for financial help is embarrassing and, no doubt, prevents some persons from participating at all.

In the future, I would hope that enlightened persons in our community (and those who honor us with a quest appearance) keep in mind the financial realities of Lesbians and college students. My lover and I couldn't afford to attend this conference; I hope we won't be financially excluded next time.

-- Concerned Lesbian Student

Visual Images

Prints Charming, a California based greeting card & calendar company, is currently looking for new faces and tight bodies to adorn the pages of a unique line of greeting cards, which include fun-pun poetry and picture perfect picture presentation: "Male Pin-Up Photography at its very best! --Guaranteed Good by the Good Housekeeper's Squeal of Approval!"

Primarily seeking an uncomplicated and natural mid-western look, we are also open for pictures of the 'cowboy type,' those who would fit the bill: "Good looking Boys from Texas are sometimes Austin-tatious." (Remember, we are looking for models, that is to say, "actors," so it doesn't matter if the cowboys reside in New York City...or Tucumcari, New Mexico...

Those who may be interested in receiving further information, are invited, nay, --encouraged to send a 3 by 5 inch snapshot photo (shirtless if possible & shortless if probably) (or even in swimsuits) and \$1.00 for return postage & handling to:

PRINTS CHARMING Box 747 Solvang, CA 93463

Reminder: We are a professional organization and send much of our material to the overall media at large; and therefore, even though we are a risque business, we are not in the business of selling anything that is vulgar, sleazy, or pornographic.

Thank you, Sincerely,

Leon Barnard, Alias: PRINTS CHARMING

Note: It may be added that those who would like to see a sample should include Two dollars.



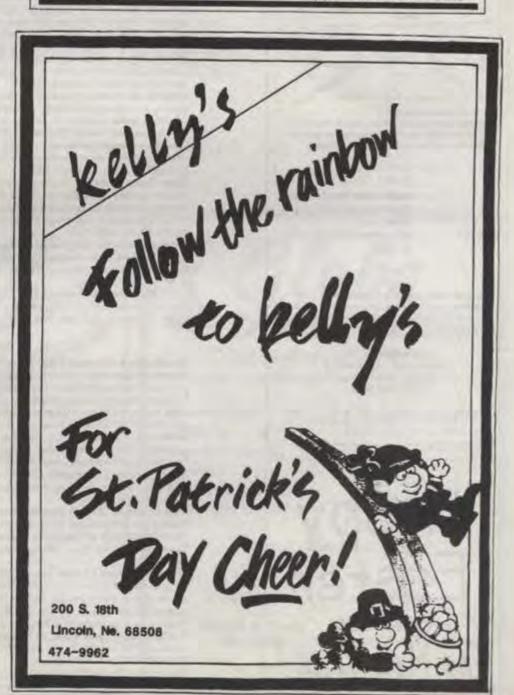
LAGING & OUTSON Mij Laging M.A. Sue Outson M.A. Workplace and housing concerns, transexualism, cross-

dressing, aging, personal growth, parenting, stress management, depression, alcoholism and drug abuse, comming out, creativity blocks

Harris House Suite A 1630 K St Lincoln, Ne

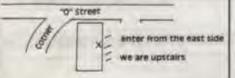


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The New Voice!

Gay/Lesbian Resource Directory-Nebraska

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous. Groups meet weekly. Phone 466-5214. American Foundation for the Fine Arts. A non-profit foundation committed to making positive contributions on the behalf of gays/lesbians to Lincoln's cultural

Community of Grace. Box 6881, Lincoln 68506. Interdenominational worshipping community of gay/lesbian, & those associated. Meets Sunday 7:00 pm. Gay/Lesbian Awareness at Lincoln High School. Meets every other week.

Phone Glis 475-4697.

Gay/Lesbian Information & Support Line. Meets third Wednesday of the

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

Kinship (Adventist support group). For information phone 464-0902,

Lambda Resource Center—Meeting rooms, outpatient counseling, group

activities. 2845 "R" St. Call 474-1205 for information.

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

Lincoln Legion of Lesbians. Box 30137, Lincoln 68503. Lesbian-Feminist collective providing a newsletter, confidential referral, & support groups for lesbians. Sponsors cultural & social programs.

Ministry in Human Sexuality, Inc. Box 80122, Lincoln 68501. Non-profit agency providing counseling, education, & supportive action for those seeking growth & understanding in the areas of sexuality & 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. Call 476-2802

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

Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Box 4374, Lincoln 68501. Support group for parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. Meets fourth Tuesday of the month. Phone 466-1151.

Presbyterians for Gay/Lesbian Concerns. For information phone 464-5286. Third Culture. Non-residential subculture dealing with issues such as coming out, social behavior, the gay lifestyle, suicide, & drug/alcohol abuse. Contact Pat

UN-L Gay/Lesbian Association. Room 222, Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588. Political, social and educational organization for students & interested others, meets Thursdays, 8:00 pm. Phone 472-5644.

Omaha

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous. Groups Meet weekly. Phone 345-9916. Dignity of Omaha. Providing common experience through Mass & meetings for gays and lesbians and their friends. Regular Mass second Sunday of the month, 7:00 pm. 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 for times and locations.

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

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha. Sunday worship 10:30 am & 7:00 pm, Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7:30 pm, Wednesday Evening Praise/ Prayer/Healing 7:30.

Metropolitan Club of Omaha. Professional business persons organization. Meets third Wednesday of the month. Phone for information 391-6253.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG). Box 3173, Omaha 68103. Support group for the parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. Phone 345-2563.

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

Sexual Minorities in the Health Professions. Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Health Professionals or students in the Health Professions. Phone 345-5637

T.W.O. Motorcycle Club. 712 South 16th St., Omaha 68102. Meets second Sunday of the month, Phone 342-9595

Valleyball Team. 2599 Ellison Ave., Omoha 68111. Phone 451-6464
The Page—The Publication of Gay Events in Omaha. A monthly calendar of events. To have events listed, please call 330-3690, after 6:00 pm evenings.

Nebraska Statewide

Affirmation of Nebraska. Box 80122, Lincoln 6B501. United Methodists for Gay/Lesbian Concerns. Meets alternately in Omaha & Lincoln, second Friday of the month. Phone 476-9913 or 474-1205.

Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights. Box 94882, Lincoln 68509. Advocacy group which lobbies for lesbian/gay civil rights, provides educational presenta-tions, publishes a newsletter & sponsors cultural & political programs.

Imperial Court of Nebraska, Social organization for the advancement of the gay society. Omaha meeting first Monday of every month, except holidays. Phone 342-5710.

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

The New Voice of Nebraska. Box 80819, Lincoln 68501. Staff meets in Omaha & Lincoln. Phone for times & locations. Phone 475-7740 or 345-2181.

Viral Syndrome Clinic, Jerry Copeland, ASCW, 559-4420, Jan Hopp, RN, 559-7331, Dr. Jonathan Goldsmith, Physician.

Omaha Bars, Clubs, and Lounges

- Annual Control of the Control		
The Chesterfield	1951 St. Mary's Ave.	342-1244
The Diamond	712 South 16th St.	342-9595
The Max	1417 Jackson	346-4110
The Run	1715 Leavenworth	449-8703
The Stage Door	1512 Howard St.	342-8715
Stars Restaurant	11131/2 Howard St.	346-6624
Stars Kestaurant	111372 Howard St.	340

Lincoln Bars, Clubs, and Lounges

The Board-Walk	20th & O	474-9741
Cherchez la femme	200 So. 18th (lower level)	474-9162
The Club	116 No. 20th St.	474-5692
Kelly's	200 So. 18th St.	474-9962









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Gateway North 464-4090

LINCOLN, NE

Lincoln

Pool tournament to be held at Kelly's and The Boardwalk. Open to men and wimmin. Check details at each bar. Tournament starts in March. Sign-ups must be turned in by the first part of the month. Cash prizes!

I need odd jobs. I'm dependable and cheap. I like to paint, clean, walk your dog, watch your house, etc. Contact Chris at 435-3935.

Pickle games available at The Club. Sponsored by the M.C.C. of Omaha.

WARNING: Check Writers. There will be a \$15.00 service charge on all returned checks from all four Lincoln bars beginning immediately.

Sh-h-h-h. .Don't tell anyone, but. There's a new art gallery in Lincoln at 340 N. 27th St. 476-8487

Amanda, Liesa, and Muffy say Thank You to our sponsors for sending us to "Heart of America." Special best wishes to Vicki Vincent 1986-87 Miss Heart of America.

Stop supporting straight bars. We need the support of our community to keep our own bars open. We fly our flag 365 days a year to the straight community. We are here for you.

The Boardwalk, Kelly's, The Club, Cherchez la femme.

Omaha

Roomate wanted to share apartment or house in Omaha with male, 27. Prefer professional, age 25-35, financially responsible, straight acting. Please reply to P.O. Box 241089, Omaha, NE 68124.

Other Cities

--HEY NEBRASKA! "Report Cards" by
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Solvang 93463 CA for a picture perfect
sample. --Do it today! Thanx.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE BARS

Lincoln

The Boardwalk

March 9- Ann Marlow in "Your Personal Touch" Also featuring Jamie & Liesa. \$1.00 cover, 8:30pm

March 16- Jennifer Bevington Show \$2.00 cover, 8:30pm

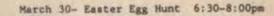
March 23- Show featuring the new "Miss City Sweetheart" \$2.00 cover, 8:30pm

April 6- Sheeza Mann \$2.00 cover, 8:30pm

Cherchez la femme

March 17- St. Patricks Day Celebration

March 27- Gong Shows 8:00pm



Kelly's

March 13- "Miss Capitol City" Lindsay Hart in "A Touch of Magic" 9:30pm

March 17- St. Patricks Day Celebration

March 20- Tara Michaels Show 9:30pm

March 27- Return of the "Nite Club" 9:30pm

Omaha

The Chesterfield

March 15- Spectacular 50's Night

March 17- St. Patricks Day Celebration

The Max

March 9- Male Dancers

The Run

March 9- "Bring in the Spring" Show with Dietra Snow No Cover

March 10,11, 17, 24, 25- Pool Tournament 9:00pm

March 17- St. Patricks Day Party

March 23- Male Strippers "Starfire Revue" 10:30-12:30pm

March 30- Double Fun Sunday Pot Luck Easter Dinner 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Stage Door

March 16- The Miss Stage Door Pageant

Stars Restaurant

March 17 St. Patricks Day Party Corned Beef and Cabbage or Irish Stew \$4.95 All Day

The cover entitled Justice? was designed by Vicki Jedlicka. It symbolizes the injustice being done to gays and lesbians in our present law system. Legal Concerns is the theme of this month's issue.









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