

V O L II

N O. XI

# The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A





The cover was designed by Lincoln artist Chuck Schomaker. He also designed the new advertisement for the Board-Walk which is located on the back cover. Chuck has helped with other community projects. He was a previous staff member of The New Voice and has done art work for the Imperial Court's Coronation and Gay Pride Week. Chuck can be contacted by calling 435-8393.

The New Voice has changed. The new larger size will enable us to grow and become a better publication. I am excited about the change for many reasons-

First of all we will be able to fit more content into the magazine. One of the biggest complaints we have received is the fact that we have a great deal of advertising and not enough local news and coverage of events. We have also been told that we tend to be too dry and need to lighten up a bit. This can be accomplished with more humor, gossip, and wider assortment of features. Let us know what you would like to see in the publication.

Secondly we will save on costs which have continually been going up causing us to have financial difficulties for the first time. I will do everything possible to keep the magazine financially solvent.

Thirdly we will have the look and the feel of a magazine. I want to distinguish ourselves away from looking like a newsletter. I realize that our paper quality is not the same as it was previously.

Lastly, we will be able to have a more varied look with different sizes of advertising and more art work. We will also be able to have more photographs.

Remember as a volunteer group we will try to do the best job possible. However we are limited to time as we are a small staff who have other commitments to family, jobs, and relationships. Support us by helping us instead of complaining. Recently some of the staff have indicated they are "burnt out" and most of this is due to little positive reinforcement. I feel the community should be proud of what we have done in almost two years. When you compare us to other gay/lesbian publications we are first rate.

--Larry Wiseblood

**Safe Sex is Best Sex**

### Upcoming Theme Issues--

January's theme of Legal Concerns was delayed so more information could be obtained. Look for some of the following topics in upcoming issues--

February- Love and Relationships  
 March- Legal Concerns  
 April- Health Concerns  
 May- Problems Related to Aging

### ATTITUDES!

I realize that I have an attitude problem. I have failed to sympathize with gays/lesbians that want to talk about Gay Rights. For so long I have heard about civil rights from the blacks- to the point that they seemed to want privileges above other peoples just because they were black.

Now I find myself a part of a social minority. However, I have never been refused housing or evicted because of my life style (I have known gays that were evicted because a part of their lifestyle was to have property damaging parties).

I have never had problems in employment (as a High School English teacher - I taught English). I have never been denied visiting privileges with a lover in an ICU. I have never had a last will and testament contested. I've never been sued for "pal-a-money" for failure to disclose a medical condition.

I have experienced bankruptcy and divorce. A large portion of the pain of these encounters with the legal system was caused by my ignorance. I may never encounter any of the problems that gay rights are involved in, but then I never thought I would be involved in bankruptcy and divorce. I will undoubtedly not become an expert on any of these rights until they are denied to me, but I hope I will always be open to learn what is being done in the area of gay rights and supportive of those that fight for these rights in the courts and in the legislative bodies. My right to be gay only extends to the point where it infringes upon someone else's right- but the reverse is true too. I have the right to be gay and to pursue happiness as earnestly as any heterosexual or moral majority or anyone else.

My attitude is changing in this area. There is hope even for me.

--Jerry Peck

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

## JANUARY 1986

### THE NEW VOICE STAFF

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THE NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 80819 P.O. Box 3512  
 LINCOLN, NE OMAHA, NE  
 68501 68103



# The Big Lip Sync Contest



*You can be your  
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**Preliminaries held at The Board-Walk,  
Lincoln, Feb. 2, Stars Restaurant,  
Omaha, Feb. 23, Cherchez la  
femme, Lincoln, Mar. 2  
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*Pick up entry forms at Kelly's, The Board-Walk,  
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## EVENTS & ORGANIZATIONS

### The Big Lip Sync Contest is Underway

The Big Lips are coming! The Big Lips are coming! Don't beware. Its only the first gay/lesbian lip sync contest held in Nebraska. But its no small affair. The New Voice staff is working hard and heavy to make this one of the biggest and best events yet.

The competition will begin at The Boardwalk on February 2. Other preliminaries will be held at Stars Restaurant on February 23, and Cherchez la femme on March 2. The top five performers in each of the preliminaries will advance to the finals which will be held on March 23 at The Max. All the shows will be held on Sunday evenings beginning at 9pm.

The contest is open only to amateurs. All contestants must be 21 years of age or older. Contestants can enter only one competition either in Omaha or Lincoln. Persons may enter as an individual and may also enter in a group category.

Each performance is limited to a maximum of 5 minutes. Props may be used but must be approved by the Lip Sync Committee and the bar/restaurant where the competition is held.

An entry fee of \$5.00 must accompany each application. All applications must be sent to The New Voice, P.O. Box 80819, Lincoln 68501. Applications must be received no later than one week before each show.

Application forms may be picked up at The Boardwalk, Cherchez la femme, Stars Restaurant, and The Max. Also forms can be picked up at Kelly's, The Club and North 20 card and gift shop. Rules and regulations are outlined on the application forms. Questions concerning the contest can be directed to The New Voice staff. Call 475-7740 in Lincoln or 345-2181 in Omaha or write P.O. Box 80819, Lincoln 68501.

--Larry Wiseblood

If there is anything you want us to know, please contact us, or write The New Voice, P. O. Box 80819, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.



## Gay/Lesbian Bars & Organizations Meet in Omaha

The December meeting of representatives from the Omaha Gay/Lesbian Bars and Organizations was held at the Run Bar. Represented were The Run, The Stage Door, River City Mixed Chorus, Dignity, MCC Omaha, The New Voice and The P.A.G.E.

The P.A.G.E. was acknowledged as having been well received as a useful tool in planning individual social calendars. Improvements are planned to make The P.A.G.E. more attractive.

The employees of The Run informed us that some 40 people shared a pot-luck meal at the bar on Thanksgiving. They were hoping to have another communal meal Christmas and New Years.

Dignity representative discussed the possibility of an ecumenical Eastern service with MCC Omaha and other Christian groups recently formed in Omaha. Easter comes early this year.

MCC Omaha representative indicated a present need for monies to pay for roof repairs. The group discussed the on-going need for stables in the Deacons Cupboard including main dish items. MCC Omaha looks forward to a weekend of spiritual renewal led by a Colorado pastor in January.

The Stage Door is hosting a female impersonator from Phoenix as indicated by the new Manager with a last name that no one seems to know how to spell.

Some tentative plans for Gay Pride Week include a concert by the River City Chorus (who had advertised their Christmas Concert to the general public) an art festival, and a Gay/Lesbian Band.

And some people say that the gay community has never done anything for them. Working together-we can. --Jerry Peck

WANTED: People to contribute articles for consideration for publication in The New Voice. If it is in good taste and tastefully done it has a chance. Contact The New Voice, P. O. Box 80819, Lincoln, NE 68501

## BUY YOUR SWEETHEART

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# Nebraska A.I.D.S. Project Announces Plans

The Nebraska AIDS Project held training for 28 volunteers over two consecutive weekends in November, and the Nebraska AIDS Project Information and Referral Line went into operation on December 1, 1985. The opening of the line represents the accomplishment of over 40 volunteers who have played a part in training, as well as more than 85 donors who have contributed to the project. In the face of an epidemic such as this, it is very gratifying for me to see the generosity and involvement of so many Nebraskans in this effort. The line is open from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily at (402) 342-4233.

The steering committee continues to work at setting a course for NAP to follow in the months to come. Long range plans for 1986 and beyond are currently under discussion, and now is an ideal time for interested persons to become involved in the governing committees of NAP. Current plans are to hold a fundraiser aimed at the Omaha community in early February, and the steering committee hopes to be able to expand the phone service to a statewide toll-free line sometime in calendar year 1986.

Announcement of the opening of the information and referral line is taking place in a tiered process; initial announcement has been made in gay publications, on posters in gay establishments, and in letters to health and human service providers. Later phases of this process will involve advertisements in the general media in Omaha and Lincoln, and later in the general media throughout the state.

## Hark! The River City Mixed Chorus Sings

Omaha's River City Mixed Chorus, under the direction of John Zeigler, presented holiday concerts on December 15 and December 22...and both audiences loved them!

Sunday, December 15, The Max was the location of the concert, which was a benefit for the Nebraska AIDS Project. An estimated 100 people were present on this, the anniversary of the Chorus's very first concert. And since this year's Chorus had nearly 30 voices, compared to 8 last year, a lot more Christmas cheer filled The Max!

The program consisted of three sections. Section one contained the opening anthem, Brothers, Sing On!, followed by the "Morning Hymn" from The Sound of Music. Then, as accompanist Dale M's fingers flew over the piano

keys, the Chorus, with soloists D. Eric and Alan W. presented a Mozart cantata. To close the first section were selections from Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn.

The second section was Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, featuring a large portion of the Chorus accompanied by Guest Artist Mary W., Principal Harpist of the Omaha Symphony. Solos were sung by Toni P., Ann S., Jerry K., and Phil O.,

The final choral section began with several traditional vocal Christmas pieces, followed by a quartet of Jonathan M., Jerry K., Alan R., and Tony A., playing recorders. Then, O Holy Night featured solos by Jerry K., Howard S., and Jonathan M. Mary W. treated the audience to a performance of Greensleeves, and the section concluded with the favorite, Winter Wonderland. The concert ended with a sing-along, where the entire audience got into the act!

The entire presentation was repeated for the general public, Sunday, December 22, at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church in Omaha. This was the Chorus's first major publicly-promoted concert.

The River City Mixed Chorus needs new members. Auditions may be arranged by calling (402)455-2334, or by writing the Chorus at P.O. Box 315, Omaha, NE, 68101-0315. The next scheduled performance will be Easter Sunday, March 30, 1986.

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## Concert Benefits Nebraska AIDS Project

Sunday, December 15, Omaha's River City Mixed Chorus gave a holiday concert at The Max with profits from the concert donated to the Nebraska A.I.D.S. Project. A check for over \$250 is being given to N.A.P. by the Chorus.

At the concert, Chorus President Clark T spoke for the entire Chorus in thanking the audience for attending and making the gift possible.

## Chorus Needs Non-Singers

There's lots more to presenting a vocal concert than just singing. The River City Mixed Chorus needs additional "friends" to help them put on their shows!

If you can't sing...or if you're afraid to get up there on stage...or if you don't have time to rehearse every week...there's still a place for you with the Chorus. And it's a much-needed place, too. You'll be as much a part of Chorus events as the singers are.

Preparing for the concert means arranging performance space, making sure lights are right, planning audio and/or video taping, obtaining and setting up pianos and risers, getting programs printed and ready, and of course the all-important publicity and ticket sales! If you'd like to help out, the Chorus needs you!

For more information, phone (402)455-2334 or write The River City Mixed Chorus, P.O. Box 315, Omaha, NE, 68101-0315.

## 2nd Annual Chili Feed at Kelly's

The New Voice is sponsoring its second annual Chili Feed to be held at Kelly's in Lincoln beginning at 6pm and continuing until 9pm on Saturday, January 18th. Many variations of chili will be featured including vegetarian style. Also baked goods will be sold. Come support the magazine and get some great food besides.



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## Successes and Plans for G.L.S.A.

The UNL Gay/Lesbian student Association received a Certificate of Achievement for being Student Organization of the Month for September 1985 at a Campus Activities and Programs Organization Summit.

A recent development for G.L.S.A. is classification by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Organization. All donations to G.L.S.A. are now tax deductible. The Executive Council wrote a grant to the Chicago Resource Center for funding. Notification on the approval of the grant will be by March 30, 1986.

GLSA's Educational Meetings for the month of January will include: Jan. 16 - Ageism: Gay and Gray; Jan. 23 - Bisexuality: What's it Like?; and Jan. 30 - Movie: Partners. February's meetings will include Feb. 6 - Drag and Gays; Feb. 13 - Valentine's Day for GLSA: Couples in the Homophile Community; Feb. 20 - Alcohol Misuse in the Homophile community and Feb. 27 - Movie: Consenting Adult.

These meetings will be held in the Andrews Hall, Room 228 on Thursdays at 8 p.m. The Coming Out Support Group will continue in January. Call 472-5644 for a confidential appointment.

The students of the UNL GLSA attended a one day Gay/Lesbian Student Groups Conference at the University of Colorado. Plans are under way for Peer Counseling Training in February, Gay and Lesbian Students Month in April with Romanovsky and Phillips at UNL on April 18.

The UNL GLSA Hotline offers information, referral and peer counseling. Referrals are local, statewide, and on campus. Volunteers are needed. Call the hotline at 472-5644.

## Imperial Court News

The 1985 "Food for Thought" campaign proved to be very successful. The Emperor, Empress, and their royal families staged a show at the Chesterfield. A large number turned out to watch entertainers perform and participate in 50/50 raffles.

As a result, Gays and Lesbians helped feel 12

## Something New at the Board-Walk Especially for our Entertainers

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families for Thanksgiving. We would like to thank the Stage Door, Chesterfield, and The Max for allowing us to place food barrels in their bars. The food collected was turned over to the M.C.C. food pantry. Thanks to Alma for allowing the show to be held at the Chesterfield, to Bruce and Don for donating dinners, and extra help from Scott R., P.R. V Ron M., Tom C., Terry W., and Jon B.

The "Toys for Tots" program also should prove successful as shows were produced at the Chesterfield, (Dec. 21), and The Max (Dec. 22). Approximately 15 families will be fed with gifts going to 38 children ages 1 to 18. We would like to thank all entertainers, set designers, lightmen, sound directors, and all who helped deliver food and toys to the families.

In 1985, the Royal families finally pulled together for the first time. We would like to thank everyone by name, but it is impossible to name them all. I would like to thank my right and left arms, Scott R. and Ron M. for all they have done for Laura Lee and myself, Tom C. for all his set designs, and Jon B. for all his help with getting food together for functions

and donations. Also deserving thanks are Don Flowers and Kevin G. for all of the work they have done on AIDS and my Grand Czar Terry S. for his AIDS information seen at many court functions. We would like to congratulate The New Voice for celebrating their first anniversary and for supporting the court in 1985.

An out-of-towner deserving recognition is Bobby Bremer, owner of TAPS in Kansas City for all his support.

I would like to congratulate the gay mens volleyball team for placing first in a tournament in Chicago over Thanksgiving and to ICON bowling league members for their fine showing in Milwaukee's Holiday Invitational Tournament, also over Thanksgiving.

1986 will prove to be a very busy year for the Court. Some of our upcoming events will be: Closet Ball-to be hosted by Emperor V and Empress V and Miss Closet Ball, Amanda Max. Coronation is planned for June 7, most likely at the Warehouse. If anyone has any other location ideas, please contact ICON P.O. Box 3772, Omaha, NE, 68102 no later than Feb. 1st. Some of the themes suggested have been 2001-A Space Odyssey, Winter Wonderland, and Chinese New Year. If you have



these ideas, please send them to ICON again no later than Feb. 1. Gay Pride march tentatively set for Saturday, June 28, 10 p.m. in Omaha.

A fun event has been planned by Jessica Tyler to be held at Stars January 12. It will be called Winter Carnival. This will include food, game tables, entertainment, with the crowning of a Queen of Comedy. This should be a great time. Look for more details.

In April of 1986, The Imperial Court plans to travel to Denver for their coronation (theme: Viva Vegas). If anyone is interested in traveling with us, or helping us raise the funding, contact Gary West, Laura Lee, or Velvet for details.

Sincerely,

Emperor V Gary  
Empress V Laura Lee

## FEATURES

### Gail's Hit List

#### January

- +1. How Will I Know?  
Whitney Houston
- +2. My Heart Goes Bang  
Dead or Alive
- +3. I'm Your Man  
Wham!
- 4. Who's Zoomin' Who  
Aretha Franklin
- +5. A Love Bizarre  
Sheila E
- +6. Digital Display  
Ready For The  
World
- +7. Stand Back  
Stephanie Mills
- 8. Everybody Dance  
Ta Mara and the  
Seen
- +9. The Heat in Me  
Linda Clifford
- +10. Sun City  
A.U.A.A.
- +11. Tarzan Boy  
Baltimora
- +12. Takes A Little Time  
Total Contrast
- 13. Sisters are Doin' It  
For Themselves  
Eurythmics/Aretha  
Franklin
- +14. Baby Talk  
Alisha

- 15. Conga  
Miami Sound  
Machine

\* = #1 last month  
+ = New Entry

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

## "Selling or Celebrating our Birthright?"

I am a Roman Catholic seminarian and spent the summer

of 1985 in a chaplaincy internship at a hospital. After the first few days, I became aware of the gaping wounds that we, the Body of Christ, find manifest in ourselves in being Children of God.

In the Old Testament, the son of Isaac that most of us remember is not Esau but rather, it is Jacob. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for some pottage, and as a result, history emphasizes the greatness of Jacob, rather than the weakness of Esau, his brother.

During this past summer, I continued on next page...

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have encountered many self-proclaimed Christians and yet, when faced with a health crisis or death, they express to me their powerlessness in dealing with their own weaknesses.

Most of us have been guilty of selling our birthright to someone else. When we make statements such as: "I am the way that I am because of my family situation growing up," or, "Being gay or lesbian, and being a Christian are incompatible with the teachings of God and of the church," we have already sold our birthright.

Harry Truman had a plaque on his desk when he was President that read, "The buck stops here." It is my belief that we in the ministry and in the Church as being the People of God, need to emphasize the goodness of our humanity and celebrate our individuality, instead of apologizing for ourselves or blaming our lot in life on someone or something else.

I am amazed at the number of people that know about my sexual/affectional preference and yet some of these same people cannot understand why I am even entering the ministry in the first place.

I too have been guilty in the past of not naming and claiming my birthright. My sexuality has enhanced my life as a person and as a future minister, but, on the other hand, sexuality is not my whole life either. There is an importance difference here.

--D.A.C.

## Letters

Dear Editors:

AIDS. The gay issue of the 80s. Because it is a killer disease that affects predominantly the gay community yet threatens lives in the straight community, AIDS is also the number one heterosexual health concern of the 80s. We see articles and editorials in every magazine and newspaper, and there is seldom a day that goes by without something on television concerning AIDS. Even The New Voice has published

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numerous articles on the subject in the August and September issues. "Safe Sex" have become the buzz words. But I think an important issue has largely been ignored here.

AIDS is a mostly sexually transmitted disease, and gay men in particular are dying from it. But a lot more children die each year from child abuse, a crime committed against them. Both issues are behavioral issues. A child surely is not born into a family knowing the risks of being the child of an abusive parent (even if he did, there is nothing he can do about it). A gay male, on the other hand, goes into a sexual encounter knowing full well, hopefully by now, the risk of contracting AIDS. Yet bathhouses are still open all over the country, and gay men still engage in anonymous tricks and one-night stands.

Can we say, then, that one is in fact the helpless victim and the other the conscious victim? The adult who abuses a child is responsible; the gay man who contracts AIDS, and the pick-up who gave it to him, are EQUALLY responsible.

I am a lesbian. How does all of this affect me? At first, I didn't think it did at all because lesbians have the least incidence of any sexually transmitted diseases, including and especially AIDS. But AIDS does affect us in a non-direct way. Social Hitlers like Paul Cameron, Jerry Falwell, and Jesse Helms are using AIDS as the reason why ALL homosexuals should be quarantined, thus "legitimizing" their hatred and prejudice against all of us. That makes me angry! Angry that my gay brothers are still screwing around. Not only are they promiscuous but moreso than heterosexual men. How many of them have to die from AIDS before they finally see the light???

Fidelity and commitment are not heterosexual mores; they are sound HUMAN sexual goals. Gay men are the only minority that I know of that actively and even boastfully contribute to the destructive stereotypical beliefs of the majority. In the meantime, however, lesbians and non-promiscuous gay men don't deserve the persecution that

continued...

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this kind of gay male behavior provokes.

If persecution doesn't get the message across, maybe the common sense of physical nature will. Like it or not, the AIDS epidemic can't be controlled until gay males stop their promiscuous behavior. The point?

CLEAN UP YOUR ACT, BOYS!

--Elaine K.  
Fresno, CA

Congratulations Lincoln! The city that gave you the head of the Nazi party in the U.S. and Paul Cameron now introduces Larry Wiseblood; who's point of views generally have little to do with the facts. When an editor of a gay publication writes a piece critical of a "brother" in the community, a "brother" who has invested heavily in a gay business, without even a word to that person as to his innocence or guilt we have to ask whose side is he on? All this before his day in court!

Reminds me of the Journal Star's witch-hunting, yellow journalism that produced tens of thousands of dollars of therapy and a suicide over the Antelope Park affair even though several principals in the case were acquitted. After all, what are facts when you have a point of view? Ask Paul Cameron.

The New Voice is down on Porno, we all know that, and yet they advertise Bijou Video Sales. What Mr. High is accused of is no worse than what Bijou does.

It's obvious to me that when someone, a brother, is adversely besmerched by the local press, more questions need to be asked and a "brother's" point of view heard. Whose side is Wiseblood on? It doesn't seem to matter, it's point of view that counts. Ask the Journal Star or Paul Cameron or Larry Wiseblood

How can we miss this hypocrisy?

--Bill Brygger

Response from the Editor -

The point of my editorial in the December Issue was to describe Nebraska laws protecting children and to warn pedophiles (men sexually attracted to children and teenagers) that they could be arrested and incarcerated for unlawful acts. It was not my intention to be critical of Jerry High,



former owner of Mollenos. I only stated that he had been arrested, which was public knowledge.

As a mental health professional, I am always concerned about how the behaviors and attitudes of people reflect on the gay/lesbian community as a whole. I will not condone behavior which I feel is damaging to the rights of others, especially children.

--Larry Wiseblood

One evening this month, I happened to have the opportunity to have some "real fun" with my straight buddies. We went straight bar hopping. To tell you the truth, I was looking forward to doing something different.

The evening started out great, we were all having a good time. We all know you only rent beer, and I had to take a "powder". While on my way, a man thought he would privilege me while he took a free feel. I was a little more than indignant but I passed it off by mumbling about straight men under my breath.

The evening passed and we hopped to a few more bars where we happened to meet Jerko with the roaming hands. This time he took it upon himself to literally grab my arm and forcefully pull me to him and not kiss me once, but twice and not on the cheek. I was given no choice and no defense.

I guess my point here is I don't belong in straight bars anymore than straights belong in gay bars, but if straights do come to my bars, I don't accost them or force myself upon them, and I hope no one else does. All I wanted was to have fun with my buddies. Next time I'll invite them to my bars to have "real fun".

--anonymous

All gussied up and dressed to the hilt; people show up to eat and drink in a downtown "gay" restaurant. "perfect" manners and charm exuded until the reek of snobbery made the air so uncomfortable that the joyousness of the occasion was not able to be felt, enjoyed, basked in. If one does not "fit" the "gay image", then is one to be stared at? Made fun of? Ignored? Cast-out? The walls of superiority that you put around yourself so that "imperfection" does not touch you also bars those who would enhance your

life. The condescending attitude of "I'll be nice to you because..." will not help you to hide the same superiority that others show.

I am a human being who is gay, has the same emotions, thoughts feelings, aches and pains that you have. Because I do not fit the "gay stereo-type", do not go "bar hopping" every night; because I choose to live my life as I see fit and live it as I want, I am not welcome in your establishments, your lives, your secrets. I would like to be a friend to you, but am not even given the chance. We are all unique to each other, to ourselves. We must be true to our feelings. How else can we be true to others?

You only "allow" those of an "acceptable" (not your definition of acceptable, but the gay society's definition of what is acceptable) type to surround you, you miss out on me, others like me. Those of us who choose not to fit the "clone mold" or those of us who do not have a choice, we are just as much human beings, gay, whole persons as we want to be.

I do not need other people to make me happy/sad. I can only make me feel what I wish/need to feel. It is easier if I can have help from other people. I see the shallowness of relationships that depend on others for justification of each other's

continued...

# Kelly's

january 9 • sunni rae

january 16 • star city revue

january 18 • the new voice chill feed benefit

february 6 • miss city sweetheart steppin' down

february 13 • miss city sweetheart pageant '86

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feelings. I have been in relationships like that, and I try my best to not be in those kind, for they are mutually destructive in all aspects of that relationship.

I would like to join in your parties, knowledge, get to know you. But you have already pre-judged me because of how I look, what I do. I am sorry for you, for I may have been the best person that you may have known.

--Steven Michael Moeller

## OPINIONS

### Sexism vs. Gay Manhood

Recently, the steering committee of The New Voice of Nebraska met to establish some concrete advertising policies which would allow the magazine to accept or reject ads based upon their content, allowing us to continue to provide a magazine representative of the vocal gay/lesbian community. This was a tremendous undertaking as we sought to represent all aspects of the community--and not to offend any.

The first action taken following the adoption of these policies was to reject the ad from Man's World Spa because of their use of the phrase, "Don't let anyone tell you that it is not A MAN'S WORLD." For those in the feminist movement, this phraseology was extremely offensive regardless of the business name or the nature of the business being advertised. The phrase was determined to be sexist in nature.

My personal feeling is that we may have "painted ourselves into a corner." We have opened the door to censorship which could become more of a problem than a help. The feminist movement was offended by this ad regardless of the fact that the ad targeted a market that does not include them. What happens when the anti-drinkers (AA) express concern (objection) to the bar ads, the anti-church become offended by the religious ads .....

A favorite song of mine declares that "I gotta be me!" I am a single gay looking for someone to share my remaining years. I have certain qualities that I want in this mate. He must be: male, Christian, mature, of a



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similar cultural background, etc. I will not find my man by associating with women. This does not make me a sexist. I do not spend time in a Jewish synagogue. This does not make me anti-Semitic. I do not travel the Orient. This does not make me a racist.

I am still confused by the fact that many women (forgive my use of standard English terminology) declare disgust with "Sexist" actions, and yet insist upon a distinction between "gay" and "lesbian." A lesbian is a gay person (female). Is not this separation a form of sexism? Isn't it of interest that The New Voice dedicates one issue to Women's Issues? It seems that there is a saying somewhere about people in glass houses and stones. Perhaps there is a need for a "masculinist" movement. We would like to hear from you on the subject.

--Jerry Peck

LESPEAKS--Response to Sexism vs Gay Manhood

The evils of sexism (including slurs on gay manhood) do not need repeating, nor do those who seek to remedy them need defending. The real issue behind the Great Censorship Debate is voluntary self-discipline in the matter of good taste and sensitivity to invasion of personal space by the media. These things are individually defined--but when enough individuals set together to protest, issues need to be resolved. In my humble opinion, that is what has happened in the matter of The New Voice policy to not accept advertisements which affront the good taste of the feminist population.

Whenever self-discipline is exercised, we "open the door to censorship which could become more of a problem than a help." When I undertake a diet, I risk anorexia if I am a person who tends to behave compulsively --on the other hand, if I want to lose 25 pounds, I'd better diet, because other means of losing are unhealthy. If I want to be a champion, I submit myself to a coach who spells out the rigid standards of performance which will be seen by the discerning eye of judges. I limit (censor) activity which will diminish the stature of that performance. I limit (censor) the use of alcohol to protect the acuity of my mind and the reflexes of my body. I limit (censor) the time I sleep/wake so that I may get sufficient rest, etc.

continued ...

• Mike Fitzpatrick MSW, ACSW •

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Voluntary censorship of beliefs, ideas, and behaviors may lead to a restriction and narrowing of focus in a championship performance--and this kind of specialization is as necessary in quality media as it is in Olympic participation. Seldom does this result in "dangerous" or "discriminatory" practices--and when it does, protest makes it an obvious target for amendment if that is needed. Anti-drinkers DO express concern (objection) to bar ads. Alcoholics Anonymous does not print (voluntarily censors) bar ads in the "Grapevine." The New Voice is not into voluntary censorship of bar ads because in the gay/lesbian community, bars are an important part of the social/recreational life, and drinking is an accepted behavior. It not only can, but needs to voluntarily censor sexism because it is socially unhealthy and repressive of heterosexuals and homosexuals alike. Anti-church folks would indeed be offended by "You're going to hell in a handbasket!" ads or moral diatribes of any kind. Bigotry is an affront to all who respect humankind.

We do not refuse to go on diets, submit to coaching, or deny the pain of masochistic behavior at the gay/lesbian community level--we understand that freedom of the press permits (even demands) voluntary censorship of material which contradicts the broad purposes, needs and values of our community. Where purposes, values, and needs within the community are contradictory, then standards need to be set, maintained and judiciously balanced against the risk of inappropriateness. The gay/lesbian community is vulnerable to criticism and under constant scrutiny from both within and without. If the men of our community desire the participation of the women and the support of the larger society, they need to be aware of and sympathetic to the need for voluntary censorship in our common magazine.

If persons who pay to place, or hope to see, pornography and sexist viewpoints are denied that privilege, they have a right to defend themselves and their desires to do so --but they also have the obligation to listen and consider well, the purposes, values, and needs of others and the reasons for engaging in voluntary censorship.

--Pat Arwall

# FACING FACTS

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

*At present, knowledge is our best defensive weapon, and the helping hand of a concerned community is the best assistance.*

For more information about AIDS  
• Its transmission  
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The Nebraska Aids Project  
402-342-4233  
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## POETRY

### Straight as an Arrow

Seeing this is my interview,  
sure, I'll answer the intrusions,  
the questions plaguing you. I know you  
know, I'm hardly straight.

Are you worried and terrified  
you poor thing, I'm sorry,  
I had to tell you before  
it's too late. Straight,  
what a queer peculiar word,  
it's assumed' co be a word  
so reliable and dignified.  
So full of information, one  
way, cut and dried.

Yet, somehow I find it quite  
amusing, a fickle, flighty  
word that can be tossed  
about gayly as if juggling  
oranges and apples, slightly  
uncomprehensible but I'd  
much rather be a fruit than  
a vegetable.

--Debbie Alejos

come be my fantasy;  
lie with me  
and be happy.  
giggle softly in the night  
when i touch you;  
my fingertips moving slowly

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touching love.  
in this silence of touching  
the words not needed,  
still i sigh  
though.

\*lizzie

Life is a turmoil of tattered  
nerves,  
lonely hours in front of a  
television,  
or sitting out on a busy street.  
Lights blinking, people walking,  
lonely faces looking up through  
the dead and dying trees,  
hoping the falling leaves  
will give a golden answer to  
their problems.

K.J. Troock  
(Canada)



## Letter

Dear Editor:

Something to ponder....

I am wondering if it has occurred to the Center for Disease Control that they may be looking in the wrong area concerning the spread of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). They have lightly speculated upon the theory of AIDS transmission from the gay community to the heterosexual community via the male pseudo heterosexual or bisexual male.

It is possible to entertain the thought that this disease has been spread from the heterosexual community via the bisexual male to the gay area?

There appears to be a common link between the African male heterosexual and the American bi-male. Masters and Johnson might be inclined to do a re-evaluation of the number of B's in this country and the various degrees of their sexuality. Some questions that might be raised are:

Are they more sexually active in the gay community than in the straight world?

Do they have more sexual partners?

Is it possible that the mild-mannered Bi-male by day can entertain several hundred sexual partners in a year's time? He is like a chameleon; he would rather kill or commit suicide than be exposed. In reference to the saying, "He that protests too loudly. Beware," I wonder why the supposedly straight male is so threatened and afraid of homosexuality? Why is it that the medical association was so negligent to combat this disease early? Are they really so unaware of the number of B's that prey upon the gay community for their limited emotional and sexual encounters? The apparent straight males by day that feed by night, like the vampire, off its unsuspecting victims while spreading disease and outrage upon them.

Life is seldom what it appears to be; always has been. Isn't it time to view the whole picture concerning AIDS instead of biased, isolated incidents? Is it a gay disease? I think we are getting pieces of the puzzle to prove a different point of view.

Only from a subjected point of view I would be so inclined to assume there are more B's in this country than straights or gays. Something smells fishy in Denmark.

Ken M.

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