

MARCH

1994

*The
New Voice*

O F N E
Celebration



10th
Anniversary Issue

NEW VOICE 10TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Friday, March 25
5 - 8 p.m.

Stosh's Saloon at The MAX
Free Beer, Pop, Munchies
You Are ALL Invited To Help
The New Voice Celebrate
Its 10th Anniversary
Join Us As We Look
Forward To Another
Decade Of Speaking With
A New Voice

REFLECTING BACK by Sandy Vopalka

Sharon asked me about doing an interview and I began to look back over the past ten years of *The New Voice*. Actually, I can't believe that it was that long ago. Personally, I'm looking forward to what the staff has done this year. I know how much work goes into putting a monthly issue, I can't believe that ten years worth of stuff has been reviewed, but I know it has. *The New Voice*, has meant so many different things to each of us, I mean every single person in the community. I want to thank every person who has over the years helped in any way. Remember we all must continue to work together to make *The New Voice* what we want and need it to be. I need to give a very special thanks to Lorie, for all her help and support. And, I want to give us all a big hand, many states don't have what we do in *The New Voice*. I learned a lot by working with *The New Voice*, and as the editor. Keep things going

FINDING OUR ROOTS

By Sharon Van Butsel

As part of our 10th Anniversary celebration, I wanted to interview the founder of *The New Voice*, Mr. Larry Wisebold. I've never had much contact with Larry -- and our paths hadn't crossed a great deal. However, it seemed important to me that the 10th anniversary issue include thoughts from the founder. I also wanted to interview Sandy Vopalka, the first woman to edit *The New Voice*. I really felt a need to retrace the heritage of this magazine that has been such a large part of my life for the last 5 years.

I was able to complete both interviews, and in the process I came to some new awareness about both the magazine and a renewed pride in myself and in the people who work on *The New Voice*. I was pleased to learn that we are continuing to carry on the vision held by those who first conceived of *The New Voice*. It was their intent to provide an outlet for the creative energies of Nebraska's gay and lesbian community. It was their intent to inform the community about what was happening with local organizations and other activities. We do both of these things and do them very well. I'm very proud of that. I also came to realize that I have now edited *The New Voice* longer than all the other editors put together. I guess that's something to be proud of, too. And two members of our steering committee (Pat Phalen and Terry Sweeney) have both been on the steering committee continuously since December 1987. That is the longest that anyone has served on the steering committee. Larry Wisebold commented that he thought part of the reason for the success of *The New Voice* was that the steering committee had learned to work together even though they don't always agree. After over 5 years of working together, I guess we've really learned to do that. Not a bad accomplishment.

I'm glad that I did interview Larry Wisebold. I had wanted to for a long time, but I was suddenly aware that I needed to get it done or I might not be able to. I had been warned by an acquaintance that Larry's health was failing, but I was

unprepared for how seriously ill he is. I initially planned to do the interview by telephone, but when I called Larry, I could barely hear him over the phone, and he stated honestly that he could not tolerate talking on the phone that long. So I made the trip to Lincoln.

Larry greeted me at the door of the home where he has lived for over 10 years. It is a small, modest home crowded with antiques and mementos. Larry is seriously ill with AIDS, suffering from severe weight loss, compromised breathing, and KS lesions. He stopped frequently during the interview to catch his breath or to cough. I tape recorded the interview, but his voice was so faint that I could barely make out the words when I listened to the tape later. However, Larry was in full control of the interview. My prepared questions were quickly put aside as he began to tell me about the things that were important to him. At the end of the interview Larry presented me with a complete set of the first two years of *The New Voice*. He presented it with pride, as well he should.

I asked Larry what he wanted the community to know about his illness. His only request was that the information be kept separate from the anniversary section so that it would not draw attention away from the celebration. He went on to share with me his thoughts about having AIDS. "I never expected to come down with it. I always worked toward safer sex and toward educating people about safer sex. I'm going to miss all my friends, the people I cared for and who cared for me, including the people involved with *The New Voice of Nebraska*. The magazine was 100% of my life for a while, and the magazine has lost others as a result of this disease. Jerry Peck was one. He did so much work to keep the magazine going and to get it to Omaha. Tell them it's not just my own struggle but that of all the others who are struggling. Tell them that I'm going to miss them." And we will miss you, Larry. Thank you for being there when we needed you so much.



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by subscriptions and advertisements,
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A DECADE OF SPEAKING WITH A NEW VOICE

1984

SPECIAL SOUVENIER PULL-OUT SECTION

This special section features articles and artwork from the first 10 years of publication. Articles have been edited and condensed to allow the greatest number to be included. It is our hope that they will help you see the history of *The New Voice* as it actually happened. You'll see the early struggles, the lawsuit that forced the founder to come out to the public (at first he used the name Larry Weiss in the magazine.) You'll see the struggles over "Wimmin's Issues." You'll see changes in the size of the magazine and changes in the logo. You'll see the move to Omaha and Jerry Peck's brief term as editor. You'll see the celebrations and the sorrows, the high points and the lows, the triumphs and the tragedies. You will find our history and our roots.

-- Sharon Van Butsel, Editor



The New Voice of Lincoln was founded by Larry Wiseblood (pictured below). Within a few months the name was changed to *The New Voice of Nebraska*. The cover of the first issue is pictured at the left.

OUR
PREMIERE
ISSUE!

STRENGTH
THROUGH
UNITY



(FIRST ISSUE OF THE NEW VOICE March 1984)

IT'S HERE *****

A *New Voice* has arrived in Lincoln. A voice representing varying lifestyles and views. A vibrant, exciting voice looking to a brighter future, and hoping for a world without fear and prejudice. Our voice is increasingly heard in politics, in literature, TV and movies, in music and even in sports.

The New Voice wants to be part of Nebraska's changing culture. Unlike our predecessors, the *Lincoln Gay News* and *Capitol Times*, we want to be innovative and creative. Gays and Lesbians have a great deal to share and we are looking for poetry, short stories, humor, reviews, opinions, and local events. Let's share recipes, advice on nutrition and exercise, and learn ways to turn any thumb green. *The New Voice* needs Editors, Writers, and Contributors. This first issue is dedicated to organizations and activities. Upcoming issues will be more lively and fun. But we need your support to make it work. Write to P.O. Box 80819 to become a part of this growing venture. *The New Voice* meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at Commonplace, UMHE, 333 No. 14th.

Larry Weiss, Editor

(September 1984) TO THE WIMMIN

When Larry Wiseblood asked if I would join as Associate Editor (for Wimmin's Issues), I wondered what I have to offer. I was concerned about the editorial on pornography. My interest in wimmin's issues is based on personal concern and experience. But, my ability to express these has not been tested.

I had to examine my principles. I will not be involved where I serve only as a token...as a woman or a lesbian. I will not compromise myself when I believe my stand is correct. I am devoted to liberation of all wimmin and exposing inequities we all suffer. I hope someday men and wimmin, gay and straight, can live as mutual beings.

Like everyone else on the staff, I am not professional. I have a degree in English and experience in writing, but my asset might be my desire to make *The New Voice* a publication for gays and lesbians. Other staff are willing to learn, listen, and incorporate energy and effort. I am going to join them, but I need to hear from wimmin. I will not attempt to speak for all. I am asking you to contribute ideas, comments and concerns. The November issue will focus on wimmin's issues. I need your contributions (articles, poetry, etc.) if we want this issue to reflect our interests.

I want *The New Voice* to be our voice too.

Anita Freeman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VIKTORIA TOWNE RESPONDS TO H.G.R.A.

Dear Editor,

I was recently in Omaha for Amanda Foxx's Stepping Down Show on January 16th. I picked up a copy of *The New Voice* and this is how I found out about the Heartland Gay Rodeo Association's decision to replace Viktoria Towne/Miss H.G.R.A. 93-94 (me) with Madame X/First Runner-Up Miss H.G.R.A. and then offer me the title of First Runner-Up. I find it completely unprofessional of H.G.R.A. that such a decision is published in *The New Voice* before all parties concerned were notified of their board's decision. I didn't receive their certified letter (mentioned in the "H.G.R.A. Update" article) until January 26th—almost a full month after the January issue of *The New Voice* had been released. I also resent the reasons being stated in *The New Voice* article, especially when they were not accurate. I am writing this letter to the Editor of *The New Voice* in public defense of my reputation.

It has been my understanding that the only requirement to run for an H.G.R.A. title is that one has to be a member of H.G.R.A., and that membership is allowed to any person living in any one of the states bordering Nebraska; thus, my move is not a problem for my retaining or fulfilling the duties of my title. I don't understand switching the titles around just because Chris/Madame X is there and I'm here in Denver. I have found out that other I.G.R.A. titleholders have retained their titles while living the majority of their year outside the state or region in which they

won their title.

In *The New Voice* article, H.G.R.A. stated that I left town without informing them of my new address. I joined H.G.R.A. in early September and have never even received a Newsletter from them! I was planning on informing the H.G.R.A. board that I was moving at the hayrack ride and meeting planned for Nov. 6th, but I was never informed as to the details of where this meeting was going to take place. Therefore, before I left town, I went to DC's Bar (H.G.R.A.'s usual meeting place) and left my business card with my new address so that I could be informed of upcoming events in the hopes that my schedule would allow me to attend some of them. Had H.G.R.A. sent anything to my Omaha address, it would have been mail-forwarded to my new Denver address. Had H.G.R.A. called my old phone number, my former roommates could also have given H.G.R.A. my new address and phone number. My roommates said no one from H.G.R.A. ever called asking for this information. I find it disconcerting that H.G.R.A. can keep up enough on the gossip in Omaha to know that I had moved to Denver (including the when and why, which were not completely accurate), yet H.G.R.A. wasn't able to keep me informed of all their current activities and decisions when I was still in Omaha. I am left wondering: how did H.G.R.A. find my new address?

H.G.R.A.'s general membership has since voted to change the H.G.R.A. bylaws so that the Mr./Miss/Ms. titleholders would have to reside in Nebraska or Iowa. If this is to be the case, how can H.G.R.A. offer me the title of First Runner-Up? If I am eligible for the First Runner-Up title, then I am eligible for the Miss title, for if anything should happen to Chris/Madame X, I would have to step back in anyway. It is basic parliamentary procedure in any organization that rules cannot apply after-the-fact. In other words, once I have obtained something under one set of rules, it cannot be taken away from me under a new set of rules. What H.G.R.A. changes now may apply to future titleholders, but not to me.

As of last weekend, I was in a benefit show for Colorado Gay Rodeo Association representing H.G.R.A. (just because I am in Denver now, doesn't mean that I have stopped working for the promotion of H.G.R.A.). I found it very embarrassing that they already knew about this

conflict before I had even been formally notified (H.G.R.A. sent them a copy of their certified letter to me, and C.G.R.A. received their copy before I received mine). C.G.R.A. nonetheless decided to introduce me under protocol as Miss H.G.R.A. 93-94 until this dispute has been resolved.

I'm sorry there was a communication problem, but I was never formally given H.G.R.A.'s mailing address, and during my move I could not find it. I sent a personal Christmas card to Dan and Charlie, two of H.G.R.A.'s board members, with a note and my new address; unfortunately, it was returned to me. I hope H.G.R.A. will take note now of my new address and keep me informed of future events and I will try to attend. I will also continue my efforts to represent H.G.R.A. here in Colorado.

I disagree with H.G.R.A.'s decision. I do not deserve to have my title removed. I'm sending a personal letter, a copy of H.G.R.A.'s letter to me, and a copy of *The New Voice* article to the International Gay Rodeo Association in protest of H.G.R.A.'s decision and in protest of how the publicity of this matter was handled. Since H.G.R.A. decided to bring this matter before C.G.R.A. I am sending them copies as well. It is grossly unfair to crown me under one set of rules, then expect me to follow new rules which would deprive me of my title. If H.G.R.A. feels this needs to be dealt with at a higher level, I am certain that I.G.R.A. will be more than happy to mediate this dispute.

Sincerely,
Mark T. Withrow
Viktoria Towne

LETTER POLICY

The New Voice will publish only those letters to the editor which include full name and either address or phone number so we can verify authenticity. You can request that your name not be published but we must be able to contact you for verification.



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Dear Friends,

I've just finished reading the "Special Double Issue" of *The Advocate*. In it they reviewed all the important events within the gay/lesbian community in 1993. The issue left me furious.

*There was no mention of the 25th Anniversary of the U.F.M.C.C. Our Fellowship is the largest grass-roots organization in our community, but it is almost never covered by *The Advocate*. Later this year there will be a wide coverage of the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, without mention that there had been another resistance movement months before. The impact of Stonewall was made possible largely because there was already the beginnings of a grass-roots organization called the Metropolitan Community Church.

**The Advocate* never covered the construction of the Washington Church. *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* both gave the building rave reviews likening it to the significance of the Vietnam Memorial. It was never mentioned when it was built or dedicated. It was excluded from the year in review.

**The Advocate* never covered the building of the Cathedral of Hope, the largest construction project in the history of the lesbian/gay community. Although they interviewed me after I complained about their exclusion, no story was ever written. In a recent phone conversation with a staff member, *The Advocate* explained that they worked on the story, but were in the end unhappy with it because it didn't have an element of conflict, and was therefore not newsworthy. I find that interesting when every major paper and television network in the United States found it to be of great interest.

This list could go on, but clearly if they exclude these stories, what chance does a smaller story have? I am writing to encourage your readers to write to *The Advocate* complaining about their continued discrimination against people of faith. Though they have been fairly unresponsive to both the Fellowship offices and to me, perhaps they might be much more responsive to hundreds of customers and potential subscribers. Your asking people to write may very well have an impact on a publication that calls itself "The National Gay and Lesbian News Magazine". Thanks for helping to make a difference.

Blessings,

Michael S. Piazza

The address is: Jeff Yarbrough, Editor in Chief, *The Advocate*, 6922 Hollywood Blvd., Tenth Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90028. Editorial FAX: 213-467-6805.



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"THAT SUCKS"

To the Editor:

"That sucks!" Doesn't anyone notice how offensive this phrase is? Why on Earth would gay men and their friends use such a hateful expression? The idiom obviously derives from the ancient stereotype of a gay man as a depraved weakling who fellees strong, macho men — who are somehow presumed to be heterosexual and moral. Therefore, anyone or anything which "sucks" is despicable. Thanks to Bart Simpson, this expression has gained widespread popular acceptance. We hear it much more frequently now, and most people give no thought to its malicious meaning. Certainly, at least within our communities, we can raise awareness and discourage the use of this self-hating expression. With our own consciousness and pride aroused, we can eliminate the thoughtless use of this idiom from general society.

Sincerely,

Jenny Sayward

A FACT OF LIFE

Hi,

Being gay is not so much a choice but a fact of life. My life I feel is a gift from God and my parents to be appreciated, respected, and enjoyed. Mainly by me, but also I hope by my friends as well. All the gay people I've met so far I like something or most things about. I feel privileged to know all of them, and also that there is a gay church, organizations, and other activities for enjoyment and support. Being gay is also not a crusade but a fact of life and I hope not to spend it on a soapbox but do appreciate gay people who defend their and my honor. I'm grateful to all those who have gone before me and feel I owe lots of gay people for the rights and privileges I have today and enjoy. I plan and hope to remain a member of the gay community and continue to have many gay friends.

Roger Demarest
Omaha, NE

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

Thanks to the help and support of our readers, *The New Voice* now has a second complete set of the magazine. In addition, we have a handful of samples of the magazines and newsletters from many years ago.

Special thanks go to Vicki Jedlicka, John Taylor, Jan Kross, and Larry Wiseblood for their contributions of issues from our early year.

The complete set will be on display at our Anniversary Party at The MAX on March 25.



TROPICAL DAZE
at
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LOOKING FOR A PEN PAL

Dear *New Voice*!

My name is Eddie Chandler and I'm presently incarcerated and a friend of mine informed me about your publication. I have been seeking other gay pen pals. Of course it's kinda difficult because of the disadvantages. However, my friend says that you will forward me information and also publish a free ad. Well, this is a very lonely situation and having someone to write or talk to would help comfort these lonely days. Also, I'm going to be released in '94. Unfortunately, we are deprived from having money, but we're given stamps for writing purposes. So please send me your information and if you will please publish this ad for me, maybe I'll find a real friend.

Black male, 6'1 1/2, 190 lbs. brown eyes, light complexion, fun to be around, a very positive person, a musician wanting to hear from other gays. Race/age unimportant.

Sincerely,

Eddie Chandler #74021
Kentucky State Prison
Box 128 2/13L12
Eddyville, KY 42038

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MCC IMPACTED BY EARTHQUAKE

Dear Saints:

As you know, Los Angeles, California was the scene of a 6.6 earthquake last week. We, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Church headquarters staff, give God praise that none of our employees was injured and most of our homes suffered only superficial damage.

Even though the building next door to headquarters had every window broken out of it, the building we are housed in seemed to ride out the earthquake without any problems. When we arrived at headquarters after the earthquake we found only one piece of equipment broken: our fax machine. It had fallen and the paper tray had broken.

About three hours after the earthquake, Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson called to tell me that he had received a telephone call that the Mother Church had sustained major damage. When we arrived at the Church, we could see that the dome had collapsed and had crashed into Washington Boulevard, taking part of the front wall of the sanctuary with it.

It took us several days to discover that M.C.C. in the Valley, North Hollywood, had a retaining wall collapse, but their building was not hurt. Divine Redeemer, M.C.C.-Glendale, M.C.C.-Silverlake, M.C.C.-Long Beach and Sunrise M.C.C. of the Hi Desert-Palmdale/Lancaster, all in the quake area, reported no damage.

One day after the earthquake, a report reached headquarters that Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey and her lover, Ms. Jane Kuder had lost not only their home, but everything: their furniture, clothes, computer, keepsakes, everything.

Since the earthquake, headquarters has received hundreds of telephone calls from members all over the world, asking what they can do to help. I have made a list of how you can help.

First, pray for all the citizens of Los Angeles. With all the aftershocks, everyone in our city is on edge.

Second, please realize that the earthquake has caused a back-up of correspondence from headquarters and has slowed down our response time by about a week and a half.

Third, while Jeri Ann and Jane do have insurance that will help them rebuild, Jeri Ann is having to cancel her Spiritual Retreat for the next few months. As you know, the honorarium and love offerings she receives for conducting Spiritual Renewals is her only source of income. To help Jeri Ann and Jane, I request that if Jeri's ministry has been a blessing to you or your Church, send a love offering to them to help, until Jeri Ann can start conducting Revivals again. Their address is: Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey, Ms. Jane Kuder, 15455-172 Glen Oaks Boulevard, Sylmar, CA 91342.

Fourth, the Mother Church has sustained substantial major damage. As I write this letter, I can tell you the city of Culver City, where the Mother Church is located, has condemned the building. It is the initial opinion of a representative of a licensed structural engineering firm that we will have to demolish the entire building. Because the sanctuary was still under construction, it was impossible for the Los Angeles Church to secure earthquake insurance. As a result of that, none of the structural damage will be covered. At this point that means that the congregation of the Mother Church owes \$310,000 on a piece of property where the current building is unusable. Last Sunday the congregation met in a television studio sound stage in Culver City. There was a strong spirit of support and hope among the 250 people present.

This is not the first time that the Mother Church has faced a crisis around property. Twenty-one years ago, our property here in Los Angeles was arsoned and burned down to the ground. The congregation then made up its mind that we would rebuild. We did it then with the financial help of congregation members and the small number of little MCC's that existed at that time. I ask every Church in our Fellowship to prayerfully consider a cash pledge to help the Mother Church rebuild or buy new property in Los Angeles. This is the congregation that gave birth to all of us who are a part of the Universal Fellowship. As Mother has helped us in the past, let's do our best to help our Mother during this time of need. Please help — because every penny counts, as we give the Mother Church in Los Angeles a tangible gift of faith. Please make checks payable to MCC-LA and send them to MCC-LA, 5879 Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232.

With God's and your help we can survive this crisis.

In Christ,
Rev. Troy Perry

POETRY READING

Hi,

Thank you for printing my poetry in the January issue. Here's some more you can use perhaps for the March *New Voice*. I generally enjoy the poetry in the magazine and don't mind showing it to 'straight' folk as well.

If anyone's into it, we (a bunch known as "The Writer's Group") have a once monthly open-mike poetry reading at Kilgore, 3225 California (not strictly a "gay" place but friendly, so don't let that stop you).

Sincerely,
Arten

Respond to these writers in communication only. Do not send money or other requested items. Please be responsible for yourself and your response to the prisoners.

PRISON PROJECT GETS LETTERS

Dear *New Voice* of Nebraska,

My name is William Paris, and I am incarcerated in Kentucky very lonely. Am writing you to ask, "Would you be kind enough to publish the below listed ad in your magazine for me? Thanking you in advance.

Catch my eye, Hope this catches yours. Lonely, B.M. honest, open minded. Seek some one who likes to be adventurous and understands friendships comes first. You won't be disappointed. Waiting!

William Paris #76545
Kentucky State Penitentiary
P.O. Box #128
Eddyville, KY 42038-0128

Dear *NVN*:

Would you please run this ad in the personals section of your publication? If it costs anything, please inform me!

G.W.M. summer blond, blue eyes, athletic build, smooth and clean with a southern accent. Need someone who is genuinely willing to help a have not. Will relocate for a loving relationship! Please send SASE. Will answer all G.M.s!

Kenny White #85969(?)
P.O. Box 128

Kentucky State Penitentiary
Eddyville, KY 42038-0128

(?) (Please note: Prisoner # not clear. If not correct, please send corrected information.)

Dear *New Voice*:

I am very interested in placing an ad in your next publication. However, I am unable to pay for I am presently incarcerated. I have never placed an ad before and I give my word to respect all others. A pen pal friend would be a greatly appreciated gesture to help ease my loneliness.

26 y.o. gay white male, 6'1", 175 lbs. brown eyes, dark hair, clean and in great health. Presently incarcerated. Seeking others for friendship and possibly more! All write.

Joe Montgomery #83078
P.O. Box 128
Kentucky State Penitentiary
Eddyville, KY 42038-0128

Dear Editor,

Currently I'm an inmate here at the Kentucky State Penitentiary located in Eddyville, Kentucky. I write to you in hope that you would be so kind as to assist me in my efforts to enlighten my burden of loneliness by publishing the below listed ad in your publication. Due to my present situation of being incarcerated as well as being many miles away from home it has become very difficult for me to meet new friends and the moments of loneliness sometimes become unbearable. So at this time, I will close with hope that you will consider assisting me in this matter.

Thanking you in advance.

G.B.M., healthy, honest, faithful, romantic, good sense of humor. Seeks to explore new ideas, stimulating conversation. Anybody that cares to write and can appreciate my exotic nature and astounding beauty can write to me.

Rodney Laneous Shields #88365
P.O. Box 128

Kentucky State Penitentiary
Eddyville, KY 42038-0128

Dear Sharon,

I received my first issue of *The New Voice* (Jan. 94) tonight and would like to personally thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read my letter and print my ad in your magazine. I really do appreciate it. I will be incarcerated until 1-96 for sure until I meet the parole board and I am eligible for release. I would be most grateful if you continue to send me your publication. Again thank you for your consideration. You're one in a million!

I remain,
Respectfully & Sincerely,

Joe Heiser #109619
P.O. Box 128

Kentucky State Penitentiary

Happy
St. Patrick's Day!

GILLIGAN'S

St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 17

Corned Beef Sandwiches,
Cole Slaw, and Sauerkraut
Drink Specials and Green Beer

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HAPPY HOUR
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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9 p.m. to 1 a.m.



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DAILY DRINK SPECIALS

FEATURES

CLEANING OUT MY CLOSET: In Case Of Emergency

by Shelley Roberts

How's your money holding out?
I know that's a rude question. That's why I asked it.

It seems we're trained from pre-newt-ness to talk about our sex lives (Sex Life? Who has time?), preferences (Why, yes, I would prefer some), and our orientation (What do Asians know

that I don't?). We are encouraged to divulge the functionality (or lack thereof) of our founding families in the name of openness and honesty. (A fine old lesbian tradition, as in, "Thank you for sharing.") And all things private become public property at the drop of an inclination. Almost all things.

Except money.

If you *have* any, you're taught not to tell for fear of flaunting, or worse yet, charitable solicitations that always seem far more charitable to the asker (as in, "Thank you for sharing.")

If you *don't* have any, you're in real trouble, because the lack of lucre (bread, gelt, cash, currency, token, brass, dough, capital, scratch, moola) is regarded as a major character defect. What they mean by Socio-Economic Influencers, is that if you don't have sufficient *economics*, you don't get to influence a whole lot of *socio*.

Now, in case, you hadn't noticed, there's a rather odd economy out there. Perhaps you were waiting for the Clinton buckmeisters to wave their magic wands and cure us of twelve Republican years by the time you had to replace the hot water heater. Or you thought it was just you. Or you and some of your friends, none of whom ever exactly comes right out and says, "We don't know how we're going to pay rent *and* eat in the same month," but you kind of get the idea.

Last week I listened to a friend with a nice haircut talk about reading a twenty dollar book, one chapter at a time, every time she went to the bookstore, because twenty dollars for a spare book wasn't "*currently in her operating budget*." Which didn't thrill *my other* friend, the bookstore owner, who keeps wondering how long he can run his business as a non-profit organization.

Formerly, comfortable acquaintances have rented out their house, because one of them just lost her job in the currently retrenching economy. Rented to formerly comfortable acquaintances who had to *sell* their house both of them lost their jobs in the retrenching economy. Reduced circumstances du jour. Both sets talk about "restricted cashflow" as though they didn't mean that their money was now living as an out-of-wallet experience.

Then there are those of us who carve our existence out to the grip of employers who confuse the word "Management" with the word "Boss" believing the latter gives them entitlements similar to those the early Romans had in relation to Christians. Brokers. Advisors. Free-lancers. Soul proprietors who choose independence because we know that on-staff means eventually co-workers wanna know who you carve your

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page.

holiday turkey with. So we go our own way, preferring the exhilaration of living on the edge.

Only now a lot of us are having a hard time telling which side of the edge we're on. (Met any affluent gay or lesbian...oh, say...real estate agents lately? Me either.)

But it's not something we talk about with each other. It's way too private. It's easier to reveal the true meaning of your bumper sticker to strangers than the reality of your dwindling bank balance to friends. A growing private concern in the community.

Are we worse off than any other part of the population? Maybe. Because you can't call on rich relatives (or any other kind) in emergencies, when they've disowned you.

So here's my thought, see... (It's modeled after the *Advertising Industry Emergency Fund* in L.A., a highly enlightened and evolved concept called "taking care of our own-selves"). It's a fund created by everybody tossing in ten or twenty bucks. It's locally managed and available to cover small emergencies. Like a new transmission or no job. Or a foreclosure hanging on one more mortgage payment. It's a little-things safety net for the most economically vulnerable. Us. Someplace to turn when a bank won't touch you and you'd never consider food stamps. Or you've spent them already. Not for big emergencies. Other agencies handle those.

This would be a very private fund where asking has no stigma. Without a huge committee of blabber-mouth judges equating your *personal* worth with your *net* worth. A community piggy bank where, if you need it, you ask. And if the fund has it, you get it. You agree to pay it back when you can. And you do. Because you might need it again. Or someone else might need it. Just that simple. "Family" helping out "family".

Now, I have to tell you, I don't have Idea One about the legality of something like this. Or how to structure it. Or what the tax ramifications are. That's where you come in. I want you to think about how you could accomplish this where you live. Then I want you to do it. Just that simple.

Because it's way too embarrassing to have someone throw a benefit on your behalf, and way too scary if they don't! And because we ought to have some place we can turn when there's no place to turn to. Some place easy, accessible, non-judgmental, not mired in unneighborly red tape, and *ours*.

So do it for me, wouldja? Don't write to ask my permission. Just put it into place without all the strum, drang and high drama of being politically right. Then let everyone know what works and what mistakes to avoid. We can learn from each other, be there for each other, and make a small safe corner in a world that actually believes "Don't ask-Don't tell" is an acceptable answer to anything. It's something we can do for ourselves without waiting for straight sanction, religious blessing, or government grant.

A Gay and Lesbian Emergency Fund. A *Queer National Savings and Loan*. Saving each other by making quick and simple loans. Imagine. Why, it could bring a whole new meaning to "Thank you for sharing!"

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A LOVE WITH A VISION..... OF FREEDOM

I dedicate my newest line to the brave people who fought for our rights at Stonewall. If it were not for them we wouldn't have the freedom to express our lifestyle with such honesty!

Wendy Jill York is proud to announce the release of her fifth line of photographic postcards and notecards. Her collection of controversial images now includes: The first ever Lesbian Wedding, Lesbian Hanukkah, and Valentine cards.

Responding to the lack of positive images of lesbians and gay men, particularly on greeting cards, Wendy Jill York Productions was founded in early 1993 with the aim of better representing the true diversity of the gay community.

York, 32, is a professional photo-stylist and freelance writer. Her work has been published in *The Advocate*, *Deneuve*, and *The Damron Guides*. One of the first photographers to successfully capture the changing image of lesbians in the early 1990's, York's work cast aside old stereotypes and portrays the vibrancy of the modern lesbian in all her mores from lipstick to leather.

There are more than 60 images currently published in her collection, now including the work of other up and coming photographers.

For a catalogue or ordering information, contact Wendy Jill York Productions at 2336 Market Street, #20, San Francisco, CA 94114, or call 415-864-1210.



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CAPT. RICH RICHENBERG, USAF

by Martin Alan

When Capt. Rich Richenberg of the U.S. Air Force talks about role models, three names come to his mind: Joe Steffan, Keith Meinhold and Tracy Thorne. Richenberg has joined their ranks — all four have gone through military discharge proceedings for the sole reason that they are gay.

The 36-year-old Richenberg grabbed headlines in the *Heartland* last December when he went before an Air Force Board of Inquiry at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. The board recommended a general discharge. While Richenberg hardly considers himself a political activist, he makes it clear that he is not going to leave the military without a fight. "I want to stay in the Air Force. I have an extraordinary career and I don't want to give that up," Richenberg recently told *The New Voice*. His goal has always been to stay in the Air Force and continue his flying duties. The fate of his nine-year career in the military awaits the decision by the Secretary of the Air Force.

The electronics warfare officer, who served in the Persian Gulf War, said he had received substantial support since his board hearing. Some of the support has come from direct contact with Steffan, Meinhold, and Thorne. Richenberg said they have created a network of support for servicemembers who are facing the reality of the policy of discrimination against gays in the military.

A good chunk of support, however, came from Heartlanders — civilian and military. A day after the December hearing Richenberg was given a desk job and a reduction in pay amounting to about \$1000 a month. He described going to work at this new job as an anxious and worrisome time. "On one hand, they are great people to work with. I truly believed they would react to me as who I was versus some stereotype that was not appropriate in the Air Force. Reality met my expectations. I was on the money with that."

Richenberg said news of his hearing finally put a face on the issue of gays in the military for many at Offutt. "Before all of this came about, they would have said homosexuals do not belong in the service. Now they say because they know me and know that I have an excellent service record, they no longer feel that way."

Much of Richenberg's support has come from his family. He talked to his family before informing the military of his sexuality in May 1993. Their acceptance was especially welcome news to Richenberg considering the facts that his

family had never dealt with the issue before and that none of them had ever suspected he is gay. He noted that he has received support from his father who retired from the Air Force after 20 years.

His sister, Linda Richenberg, moved to Omaha several years ago to be closer to her brother. That was long before Richenberg began to take a hard look at his identity. He described the relationship with his sister as very close. She has been showing her support ever since Richenberg faxed a letter, while on vacation, telling his commander about his sexuality. Linda

EXON'S RESPONSE

U.S. Senator Jim Exon of Nebraska responded to those who took part in CIEP's letter writing campaign for Air Force Captain Rich Richenberg.

In letters dated January 28, 1994, Exon wrote: "Thank you for your recent letter regarding Air Force Captain Rich Richenberg. I appreciate your concern. The status of Captain Richenberg's discharge is a matter totally within the jurisdiction of the Air Force and the Defense Department. Congress has no role to play in these matters other than writing the underlying laws upon which the administrative decisions are made. I assume that Captain Richenberg is making use of the administrative and legal appeals available to him and believe it best that any appeals he may initiate be allowed to run their course. Thank you again for writing. With best regards. Cordially, J. James Exon"

Exon is on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

stood with him during the board hearing and during interviews with local reporters.

Richenberg said he is still getting to know the gay community in the Omaha area. He had very few gay friends before the board hearing. Since then, people from the community recognized him and expressed their support. He has also heard from still closeted gays in the Air Force who told him they respect him for what has done and wished they could join him — but they don't want to jeopardize their young careers.

He is grateful for Citizens for Equal Protection who conducted a letter-writing campaign on his behalf. About 400 letters were sent to Washington,

D.C. to the attention of the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Air Force, and Senators Bob Kerrey and Jim Exon of Nebraska. Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa received some of the letters as well. Richenberg said the letter-writing campaign may have convinced the Department of Defense to take a closer look at his case.

Richenberg talks about the respect he has for the two attorneys who are working on his case. One of them was appointed to him by the military. He said Captain Jim Bitzes does not tow the party line. Bitzes tried to introduce constitutional arguments during Richenberg's board hearing in December, but those attempts were overruled by the military. Bitzes will continue to represent Richenberg during military hearings.

His other attorney is retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Tom Kayser. Richenberg said Kayser, who knows military doctrine well, will represent him in civilian court. His sister set up a legal defense fund at Southwest Bank in Omaha because of legal expenses and because of the reduction in pay. Funds, he said, can be mailed to: Linda Richenberg, 110 South 49th Street, #206, Omaha, NE 68132.

The defense fund began in an unusual way. After all the publicity about the hearings, Richenberg's sister received a note of support and a \$10 check. It came from a neighbor who wrote that while it may not be much, she hoped the money could help. Richenberg said he never met the neighbor and was touched by her offer.

Richenberg offered this advice for those who may be confused about their sexuality: "You have to be honest to yourself. Put your fear aside because you'll never be healthy until you do that." The first person he went to was himself, and then he did some research. "I took a really hard look and started talking to my family about it. They're very supportive." Then he started talking to his very close friends. He said he considered himself fortunate in that he has not had any negative experiences—with one exception. "I had some friends of mine who are gay, but not very open about it. I think they kind of shied away from me because of the publicity."

A lot has happened in the past year for Richenberg. He said he has no regrets. He has only hopes which "are supported by not only the gay community but the straight community. By their positive response to the issues involved, they are telling me 'yes, you did the right thing'."

THE FAMILY NEXT DOOR

A national newsletter — *The Family Next Door* — to help lesbian and gay parents and their friends celebrate the joys and conquer the challenges of parenting, is hot off the press.

The first issue included articles about sending children back to school, coming out to their teachers, and selections and reviews of books for children from two to ten.

The subjects of fertility and sperm bank selection are discussed in other articles, and the profile of a typical family — a dad, a boy, two moms, and a dog — shows just how diverse are those creating families.

Parents, relatives, and friends also will enjoy the issue's First Person account "On Being Godmothers."

A regular column authored by Dr. Tamar Gershon, founder of The Rainbow Clinic at the

University of California, San Francisco, answers readers' questions about medical and psychological issues. "Daycare — Delight or Dilemma" introduces readers to strategies for making their child's daycare experience a delightful one.

The 16-page newsletter is published six times a year by Next Door Publishing, Ltd. Editors Lisa Orta and Karen Rust are lesbian moms who are reminded daily by their two-year-old son that parenting is an all-out adventure.

The Family Next Door is for everyone involved with a family created by lesbian or gay parents — parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and all extended family members.

To subscribe to *The Family Next Door*, call (510) 482-5778, or write to Next Door Publishing, Ltd., P.O. Box 21580, Oakland, CA 94620.

GLAAD INVITES YOU

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We'll give you the information you need to connect with a GLAAD Chapter in your area or help you begin to create a local GLAAD Chapter. Become a part of the solution.

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MARCH 1994

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A Fund Raiser
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Lead Foots to K.C
 10:00 Front Bar \$3.00 Cover

March 20, 1994
 \$3.00 Cover
 10:00 p.m.
 Back Bar
Des Moines Invades Lincoln
 Hosted by:
Trey

March 21, 1994
 \$5.00 Cover
 10:00 p.m.
 Front Bar
Male Order Review
 Starring:
 Tony DiAngelo & Chase Hunter

Thursday
 March 17, 1994
Happy St. Pat's Day

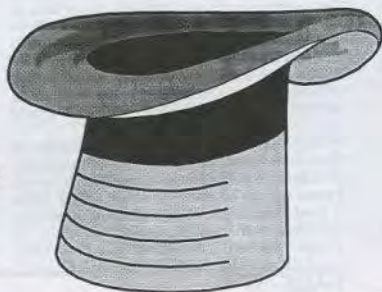
Green Beer Bust
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After 9:00
 Receive a
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March 6, 1994
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 10:00 p.m.
 Back Bar
CHAMPAIGNE AND GUESTS
 (at Rumpus in the Club 2001)

March 27, 1994
 \$3.00 Cover
 10:00 p.m.
 Front Bar
Jammin with "Lavender Couch"

Saturday
 March 5, 1994
Free Spaghetti Feed
 5 - 7
Club 2001 vs. Chesterfield in Darts
 4:00



LARRY WISEBLOOD, FOUNDER OF THE NEW VOICE

By Sharon Van Butsel

In 1974, Larry Wiseblood led the move to create a publication which would provide a channel for the creative talents of the community. On Sunday, February 6, I was able to interview him at his home in Lincoln.

SHARON—Thank you for taking time to talk with me.

LARRY—That's fine. The story about how *The New Voice* was started is in the early issues, especially in one I wrote for the first anniversary issue. We wanted to focus on being creative and provide a place for people to express their creativity.

SHARON—Actually, that's one of the questions I wanted to ask you.

LARRY—We see the flack you guys still get about "Why don't you print more news?" but we never intended that. We always wanted it to be a creative magazine format, not a newspaper.

SHARON—That's what we still try to focus on.

LARRY—This 1st Anniversary issue says it all. Everything's right here about how it all began.

SHARON—We've pulled the articles out of that issue and included them in the 10th Anniversary Souvenir Pull-Out Section. I had to do some editing to get them to fit in, but it was worth it. You've got the history beautifully documented.

LARRY—I love some of the covers we did for the early issues. Some of them were so well done and done especially for our publication. Back then Dave Hústak did most of our covers.

SHARON—I know some of the covers caused some controversy.

LARRY—There was a lot of controversy in the early days. A lot of it was over the lawsuit and it caused a lot of hardship for *The New Voice*. But one of the hardest things we dealt with was the divisiveness between the community—we had women against men. A lot of it was about public sex and about an editorial that was written. We lost staff and we had a lot of women in the community who were really negative. We had to get through that. A lot of it was the result of controversial writing by Mel Dahl. Once Mel Dahl left the publication things seemed to settle down a lot more. Men and women seemed to work better together. There were more policies incorporated that we would be very watchful about what we put in ads, about what went we would allow in the publication.

Some people called it censorship but we decided it was not censorship, but just plain being responsible of women and children unlike what NAMBLA is trying to do. I think you've had to deal with them, too.

SHARON—Yes, but they've backed off. We haven't heard anything from them for a while. They may come back, of course. They always seem to.

LARRY—You need to try to push them away, in a nice way. But, you know, I think some people feed on controversy, like Mel Dahl did. I think he really got a thrill about being controversial, about getting people to react to what he said. He loved that. I was almost convinced that he would write about some issue, not because he personally believed what he was writing, but because he wanted to get a reaction—to get people stirred up.

When you try to get a group of people together to do a publication you have a lot of personalities. You have a lot of people who just plain disagree. I know that we had that. At the same time it was a good experience. The community needed a publication. We needed a place to be able to channel our creativity and be able to let folks



know what was coming up or going on in the community. Before *The New Voice* we had so many publications. It was so unstable. No one seemed to know what they wanted.

SHARON—What do you think has worked for *The New Voice*. Why do you think they have survived?

LARRY—I think the formula is to have a staff who can work together even though you may not agree 100%—that the volunteers can work together. I think another big factor is having a sound financial base. We worked hard at keeping that financial base, especially after we paid off the lawsuit. We really made sure we stayed within our means and that we didn't have too many pages or try to put too much color or try to put too much in at a time. We tried to keep a financial base. If we had to have fewer pages, so be it. If we had to take out articles, we had to. We didn't make everybody happy, but we had to keep above water.

I know you guys have had to struggle with that. A treasurer took some money—

SHARON—Yeah, he walked out with the entire treasury—a couple thousand dollars. If it hadn't been for people on the steering committee who could make personal loans so we could publish the next month, we wouldn't have survived. Even now we don't have a big bank account but it's stable.

Now I have another question. Is *The New Voice* staying true to what you hoped it would be?

LARRY—By and large.

SHARON—What does it need to do differently to be more true to what you had hoped for?

LARRY—I think we would have more reviews—movie reviews, radio reviews, restaurant reviews. We would have things like shopping comparisons—just things that people would enjoy. We would have more original columns, astrology, cooking, things like this. All of which we started out doing but then there were those people who would do something for a while and then move on and be gone.

And then covering local events. I know you've

had your struggles with this, but you can't be everywhere all the time and I always would tell individuals that if there's something you want to write, we'll put it in there. We were always telling people that, and then we got blasted for not covering local events. But when you've got 6 or 7 volunteers, you can't do it all. That's not your fault, and it's not our fault, but people can't be everywhere.

If people really want an all volunteer publication, then they have to work together and if that means you have to write an article or take photographs of something happening in your establishment, then do it. You don't cry, you don't complain, you say "OK, I realize that you're short on staff and we can all help each other."

It's like being unhappy with organizations. There's a lot of bickering within organizations and I think if we had more cooperation and less bickering it would be a better world. That was my philosophy when I was editor and I was always fighting the Run or The Diamond or I was always fighting The Imperial Court. Everybody always wanted something done their particular way and then rumors would get started. And once rumors got started, even if it wasn't true, it didn't matter. And how can you fight, how can you fight rumors. SHARON—What dreams do you have for *The New Voice*? What would you like to see happening in the next ten years.

LARRY—I would like to see it growing and expanding and getting more volunteers.

SHARON—In any specific areas?

LARRY—Oh, I guess some more of the politics we used to have—Point and Counterpoint and that sort of thing. You know, where people could share their opinions but differ in those opinions. And like I said earlier, more on local things, like restaurant reviews, and then we could support our gay businesses. I'd like to see more color put back in the publication. I know it's expensive but it helps spark it up.

I don't think you need to get into more news—the newspapers, that new newspaper can do that.

SHARON—Yeah, they're doing a pretty good job of that. They're bringing a lot of national news in. And so far they've been really good to work with.

Larry, for you personally, has *The New Voice* continued to serve you? Do you still get something out of *The New Voice*?

LARRY—Oh, yes, I enjoy reading it. It has helped me keep up with events. I enjoy some of the articles.

SHARON—I take it there are some you don't enjoy?

LARRY—Well, I have been a little upset with some of the things lately, with the back and forth and unwillingness to work and get along with the publication. And all this prisoner stuff.

SHARON—I think that's pretty well died down. There hasn't been anything else come in this last month. But, I think I've kept you talking long enough. Thank you so much for taking time to talk with me. On a personal note I want to say that we are truly grateful to you for all you've done. The community owes you a real debt of gratitude for your dedication and your hard work. Without you *The New Voice* would not exist today. You laid a solid base that has allowed us to survive.

LARRY—Thank you. I do have a present for you. I know you've been looking for these early issues and I've been saving them for when you came down. I'll probably find some more as I go through my stuff.

SHARON—Thanks so much. This is just great.

SANDY VOPALKA, FIRST WOMAN TO EDIT *THE NEW VOICE*

BY Sharon Van Butsel

As part of our 10th Anniversary celebration, I was pleased to be able to interview the first woman to edit *The New Voice of Nebraska*. Sandy Vopalka came on staff with the magazine shortly after it was first published, working on women's issues and providing excellent photographs for use in the magazine. When Larry Wiseblood resigned as editor in February, 1987 Sandy was selected to fill the position. She served as editor for nine months, from March 1987 to December 1987, when *The New Voice* moved to Omaha.

SHARON: Thank you for taking the time to talk with me. To start off, what is your favorite thing about *The New Voice*?

SANDY: As a whole it's being able to take it to other places and seeing how people respond to how well it's done and how we've been in operation as long as we have. I guess that continues even today when I'm not directly involved.

SHARON: How about on a more personal level?

SANDY: My first cover on the magazine, I still have that photo framed and hanging in my living room.

SHARON—Which one is that?

SANDY—It was on our first Women's issue. It's two women embracing, down in the fountain over at UNL.

SHARON—You did several covers after that, didn't you?

SANDY—Right but that was my first one. There's also the memory of signing the incorporation papers. I was one of the first signers and that goes way back.

SHARON—Those are positive memories. What are some of the negative memories?

SANDY—I don't know if they're actually negative memories but some of the conflicts we had with the staff. Jerry Peck was a separatist when I first met him. He didn't want women in the same room. But by the time our relationship ended we were very close friends. There was also some controversy over the adult bookstore ads.

SHARON—What was that about?

SANDY—Whether or not to run the first adult bookstore ad and it was a major controversy on staff. Even from major advertisers: "Put it in your magazine and we won't advertise any more." It was a major dilemma and we didn't run bookstore ads for many years.

SHARON—How was it resolved?

SANDY—I don't think it ever really was, other than the ad wasn't accepted. We spent many hours discussing issues. Feelings were hurt and people were angry. I'm sure there were unresolved issues but we never put the ad in. It was the Cinema X bookstore here in Lincoln that wanted to advertise. All in all, the thing that still at times bothers me is where we were financially when the magazine moved to Omaha. That was so difficult to let the community know that was where we were at.

SHARON—Do you have any ideas what happened so that the magazine didn't succeed in Lincoln?

SANDY—It boiled down to one or two people doing everything. We had no energy. Our main concern at the end was just getting the magazine out.

SHARON—I need to tell you that we owe you a great debt.

SANDY—There were months when a couple of us sat in this huge room and wondered why the heck are we doing this thing? So it feels wonderful that we're at our tenth anniversary. I remember the number of hours it would take us to do layout.

To have it all computerized is just wonderful. We used to hand draw our layout sheets. That ought to tell you how bad it was. Using a hand waxer and waxing everything down and using a light table to make sure everything was down straight and didn't have lines going all over the place. We put in a lot of sweat and tears over the years.

SHARON—When you were editor what hopes did you have for *The New Voice*? What did you want to see happen?

SANDY—I really wanted it to be there for the community because that was the one thing Larry really instilled in me when I worked with him—that it was supposed to be there for the community.

The New Voice was the one thing that for a long time represented the various parts of the community and it was my hope to see that continue.

So when people said "There are so many people in Omaha, why don't we take it up there?" we decided to do it. It probably would have died here. My accident happened a couple weeks after the magazine left here. Physically I wouldn't have been able to do anything.

SHARON—What sort of accident did you have?

SANDY—I was injured at work and have permanent damage to my lower back and neck. I was in bed for 3 months so it would have been impossible to put the magazine out.

SHARON—Is the magazine continuing to do what you hoped it would?

SANDY—Yes, I think so, because you can still open it up and see a lot of different facets of the community represented in the *The New Voice*.

Sometimes it's like pulling teeth to get people to participate. It's more than anything else we have in the state. The new paper is trying to do some local coverage but mainly they're regional and national. *The New Voice* does cover local activities. If the organizations want to write stuff and send it in, they'll find it is actually published in *The New Voice*. The bars, organizations, and businesses—now you can see who the attorneys are that work with the community. You can find it in the magazine.

We used to have multiple associate editors, everyone had their own little areas. It took the community a while to respect *The New Voice* for

what it's doing in trying to be the voice of the community. The community needs to recognize that it's only going to be the voice of the community as long as the community wants to participate.

I'm glad you talked with Larry. I remember for the longest time he couldn't be open about his real name. The lawsuit forced him to come out.

I'm really happy to see how the magazine had grown. I've taken it to Las Vegas, San Antonio, New York City... Whenever I go to a conference I try to take a few copies and show them. It's impressive. We're from the Midwest and see what we have.

SHARON—What would your hope be for the future?

SANDY—Basically, that *The New Voice* will be there.

SHARON—Does *The New Voice* still serve you as an individual?

SANDY—It gives me an avenue to educate the community on the topic of older gays and lesbians. I'm still excited when I take it to conferences. I'm still proud of the magazine. I still send it to friends and to my folks when there is something they need to see. Yes, I still think the magazine serves the issues that are important.

I hope the community recognizes that this is one of the most important assets that we have. People may find reasons to bitch and complain about it but I don't see them out there trying to improve it. I know we would say if they think they can do better, let them try. We can't be everywhere for everybody. Everyone needs to take an active role in making it what they think it should be.

SHARON—I noticed you didn't use your full name when you were editor.

SANDY—I just used Sandy V. It had to do with my job at the time. Now I put my name on everything. I don't have anything to lose. I guess that is one thing I do regret—that I couldn't be more open at the time.

SHARON—Thanks again for talking with us. It's really been good for me to hear what you and Larry have had to say about the early days and about the original purpose of the magazine. It makes me feel like we're doing a pretty good job.

TEXAS LESBIAN CONFERENCE '94 SALUD!

San Antonio's beautiful River Walk will be the setting for the Texas Lesbian Conference's (TLC) 7th annual conference. TLC '94 is scheduled for April 29 through May 1 and will be held at the Convention Center located downtown on the River Walk.

The conference entitled, SALUD! Celebrating Our Community, Celebrating Ourselves, will be a multicultural event planned by San Antonio's culturally diverse lesbian community.

Keynote speakers for the conference will be JoAnn Loulan and Linda Villarosa. The main entertainment will be comedian Marga Gomez.

Referred to as the "Dr. Ruth of Dyke-dom", JoAnn Loulan is a licensed marriage, family and child counselor and sex therapist. She is also the author of *Lesbian Sex, Lesbian Passion*, and her recent release, *The Erotic Dance: Butch, Femme, Androgyny and Other Rhythms*.

Linda Villarosa is a senior editor of *Essence* magazine. *Essence* has a circulation of more than five million. The magazine's main audience is young, upwardly mobile African-American women. Ms. Villarosa came out publicly in an

article she co-authored with her mother, Clara, entitled "Coming Out for *Essence*."

Latina comic writer/performer Marga Gomez will be the conference's main entertainment. Ms. Gomez has appeared on Rosie O'Donnell's Stand-Up Spotlight-VH-1, PBS's Comedy Tonight with Whoopi Goldberg, A & E's Good Times Cafe and HBO's Comedy Special. She has opened for k.d. lang, Linda Ronstadt, Cris Williamson, and many others. She is best known for her one-woman performance monologue, *Memory Tracks and Marga Gomez is Pretty, Witty, and Gay*.

Approximately 30 workshops will be presented. The workshops will cover topics such as relationships, legal issues, lesbians in business, health, spirituality, multicultural issues and more.

Overnight accommodations will be provided by the Crockett Hotel 2.5 blocks from the Convention Center. A block of 60 rooms has been set aside for group rate for the conference and will be held until April 1.

For further information call Textures Bookstore, 210-805-8398, or write to TLC '94, P.O. Box 12327, San Antonio, Texas, 78212.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

by Brian Bengtson

Dear Sharon, Carla, *New Voice* Staff, and all those looking for the phone-sex ad.

It's that time again — the ninth of the month. The time when I try to condense my past thirty days into a clear, concise stream of thought, or I just make stuff up for the hell of it. Yes, this is what happens when you give a child too many sugar-coated cereals, and make him watch reruns of *Make Room For Daddy*. I'm not implying that my childhood was strange, but this is the first year that I was able to stick my arm out of a moving vehicle without the fear that a flatbed semi-truck would rush by and cut it off. It was also the first time that I ran in the house with scissors, and watched color television with the lights out.

It has been a busy month, what with all those personal appearances, shopping mall openings, and posing for my latest series of trading cards (each set comes with a free mixed metaphor). But I did find time to find myself a boyfriend!!! Yes Virginia, there is at least one man left in Omaha that hasn't experienced the joy of seeing me naked, and more importantly, actually wants to see me in the raw. I figure if I play my cards right, by the time his medicine wears off, it'll be too late. He will have moved in, opened a joint checking account, and we will have too much community property for him to dump me. You can't be too cautious in this day and age.

Other highlights include:

A.) Thanks to hours of therapy and flash cards, my roommate now believes that he is Susan Power. If I hear him say "Stop the Insanity", at the top of his lungs one more time, I cannot be legally responsible for my actions. Plus watching him bend over to look at his thighs not rub together is really starting to disturb me.

B.) I have also started to join a support group for people who have suffered emotional and physical trauma from poorly constructed Barbie lunchboxes. We meet at the first of the month, sing *You'll Never Walk Alone*, and share our pain and heartache with each other. Yes, there is life after a thermos meltdown, but it takes work.

C.) A religious cult from Red Oak, Iowa has been camping out in front of my apartment for the past three days. Their leader claims that if you read one of my poems backwards, Elvis will appear and give you a Cadillac. Guess those Satanic messages fell on deaf ears, huh?

D.) My mother has been getting death threats from the local Greenpeace chapter over her basement coral reef. It seems that they are deeply troubled over her attempts to provide shark

cartilage for PWA's in the Metro (Omaha area. E.) I am trying to teach my cat to run to the gas station and get cigarettes. All she does now is take my money and blow it on lottery tickets.

And F.) learned all the words to *It's Raining Men*. You never know when you might have to help a drag queen with her lip sync, and a true fag is always prepared for any true crisis.

I guess I have rambled long enough. It is now 12:45 a.m., and everything is starting to look like a bad episode of *Full House*. I keep seeing images of Jon Stamos, in my glass of Coca-Cola. Maybe it was that taco I had for breakfast, or watching the Smurfs for two straight hours.

As always, I want to thank *The New Voice*, and the gay and lesbian community for all their help and support.

I feel like I created a monster, with all the other poets that have come out of the woodwork in the past few months. But then I realize, if people only read their own stuff, then we would only see one aspect of gay life. And we have nothing if not various in our thoughts and lives.

So support your local poet, because a rhyme is a terrible thing to waste.

Lots of Love,
and therapy
Brian

BLOODLINES

I am a strand of DNA,
churning, growing,
plotting out its course.

A network of blood
slowly deteriorating,
carrying the liquid signal
of past mistakes,

a cage of bone and marrow,
holding in lungs
tinted with nicotine.

I am an audience of nerves,
reaching out, and reporting in;
an assembly of muscle and sinew,
going through the motions,
obeying the commands.

I am skin
stretched over bone
safe from the sun.

I am the fingertips
slightly smudged
and left on the glass.

RURAL TRADE

That first new cress
to help the dance roll down his face
twangs at you like the first riffs
of bluegrass.

His name echoes at you, like the
nights after the bar has closed,
when all you feel is the wind
and you wish it was a hand.

His small town look seemed safe to you,
the rolling plains of home that tanned
his skin, the unblemished sunsets
that flecked his eyes, the sharp
nasal twang in his fumbled opening, and
the ripples in his stomach from
harvesting the corn.

The way he held you, like a father
holding son, was an answer to a child's
last question before mom turned down
the lights, and said goodnight.

You can bring up his picture
in the back of your mind; the
T-shirt worn out of necessity instead
of the style, the torn jeans ripped
by the real world beyond the parking lot,
and shoes bought to simply cover the feet.

You can remember his smell, the
sharp hint of soap mixed with
the day's sweat.

You can remember the morning after,
when he gave his number, like a
child handing his list to Santa, and
the care you took to put it in your wallet.

You just can't remember why
you didn't call back.

IF PEOPLE ASK

I'll bang my drum slowly, walk in their line,
follow the advice those free pamphlets give.
If people ask questions, tell them I'm fine.

I'll pigeon-hole my life, watch for the signs;
give no reason to ask how I can live.
I'll bang my drum slowly, walk in their line.

Try to accept - it's all a state of mind,
no past to look back on, or wounds to heal.
If people ask questions, tell them I'm fine.

Bow to the strangers for being so kind,
tell them it's my chance to learn how to feel.
I'll bang my drum slowly, walk in their line.

Show them that their lives all could have been
mine,
accept the excuses they all seem to give,
If people ask questions, tell them I'm fine.

Follow the numbers and check off the time,
and cherish the dream that I will still live.
I'll bang my drum slowly, walk in their line. If
people ask questions, tell them I'm fine.

TO A BEAUTIFUL BOY

by Christopher Thomas

How do I tell you
your body will never be enough
to carry your soul,
or that the innocence of your skin
will someday close the door
on your dearest dream?

The hungry mouths of May and June
will slip like quicksilver into blight.
Where you once found green ground
you'll find small deaths in straw,
the blank feeling of a wrinkle's lie,
the brittleness of history.

Yet puberty must eat through the train
to the final ache,
to that frantic moment when the mirror
must begin its vast calming
and our blue stupidity
begins to believe in more than its lan-

CLOSET QUEEN

by Christopher Thomas

He was very pretty,
A little too young to be a man — but I liked him.
Someone said he was barely fourteen
the year the swimming coach
coaxed him into the shower

and soaped him down
until their thighs heaved
in lust and groans enough

to thrill the center of the bones
each time he staged another
kindergarten of his show and tell

But God how my manhood gagged
each time he placed three bobby pins
on the rim of the sink,
or a pair of silk panties just under the bed,
the bedroom door slightly open.

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SHE MAY BE FUNNY BUT..... SUZANNE WESTENHOEFER

By Sharon Van Butsel

SHARON—How or maybe why did you become a professional comedienne?

SUZANNE—I was going to be a performer no matter what. That's what I chose to do as a child. The comedy was thrust upon me by my ex-girlfriend 3 years ago. She signed me up for a comedy class. I'd go but not perform. After all, I was gay and out, and you can't be gay and out and be a performer. Finally, the teacher said, "You might as well go ahead and do it. You're not doing anything with your life anyway." So it was about three years ago that I started doing gay comedy in straight clubs and found it worked very well.

SHARON—Is your comedy only for women?
SUZANNE—No, not at all. I think that, obviously, if I have an all woman audience, I'll choose to do some things a bit differently, but if men come they won't feel alienated?

SHARON—Is your comedy only for the gay community?

SUZANNE—I do it in the straight clubs so obviously not.

SHARON—You've been described as a very funny lady with a serious message — what's the message?

SUZANNE—The message is that it is OK to be gay. But just a minute—I have to ask—have you ever seen me?

SHARON—No, I haven't.

SUZANNE—Oh, that explains it. I'm listening

to your questions and I just want to break out laughing. You just don't get it. I go into straight clubs like the Comedy Connection in Boston or the Improv and talk about what it's like to be gay in a straight world. I'm trying to break down walls that have been put up for us. I'm trying to say it's OK to be gay. I'm not a gay performer, I'm a comic who happens to be gay. What I do is what you see on TV. I hope to do Arsenio soon. As for my comedy, if you're a lesbian, you'll love it. If you're a gay man, you'll love it. If you're a straight man or woman, you'll love it in spite of yourself.

The entire act is not about being gay—I'm gay and I'm out but that's not what the act is about. Of course the entire act is colored by my being gay but that's not it.

SHARON—OK, you've just eliminated most of the rest of my questions. But let me ask, what does the future hold for Suzanne?

SUZANNE—I've done a lot of TV and there's a lot more to come, but nothing that's in stone.

SHARON—Any other words of wisdom for the Midwest?

No, I live in the Midwest so I don't. Now I'm one of you—I lived near Manhattan in New York for 10 years but I live in Ohio now. I live in the Midwest but I still stand out by the way I drive.

SHARON—So, why should we come see you?

SUZANNE—Because I've never been to Nebraska and it'll look bad if I come and there's

no one there. After all, what if I get famous and go on the Tonight Show in a year or so and tell them how I came to Nebraska and no one came to see me. So you see, the fate of the state hangs in the balance.

The Women of the Plains present Suzanne Westenhoefer in concert for one performance only, Saturday, March 5, at 8:05 p.m. at the Witherspoon Auditorium, Joselyn Art Gallery.

BIG SHOTS

Aaron Travis has long been considered one of the most startling and original writers in the gay erotic genre. Renowned for his willingness to exceed the boundaries of erotica and produce compelling, finely-wrought fiction from the most forbidding raw materials, Travis writes in a singularly unmistakable voice. That voice, and the no-holds-barred erotic perspective it addresses, are epitomized by the tales in Travis' *Big Shots* (Badboy; 1-56333-112-8; \$4.95 US/\$5.95 Canada).

Beirut, an exploration of the erotic potential in the contemporary war melodrama, and *Kip*, which finds its inspiration in the seedy streets and flophouses of Times Square (via Hollywood) catch Travis at his unexpurgated peak, and highlight not only his celebrated mastery of style but the infamously dark colors of his detail.



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AIDS/HIV RESOURCES AND NEWS

HIV TESTING*

*We urge you to inquire about anonymity & confidentiality before testing.

Charles Drew Health Center,
2201 N. 30, Omaha 68111 (402) 453-1433

Douglas County Health Department,
1201 S. 42, Omaha 68105 (402) 444-6875

Equilibria Medical Center, 544 S. 24,
Omaha, 68102 Call (402) 345-2252

Lincoln-Lancaster Health Dept, 2200 St
Marys Ave, Lincoln 68502 (402) 471-8065
Alt. test site at Panic, 200 S. 18, 2nd Tuesday

Grand Island-Hall Co Health Dept, 105 East
1st St, Grand Island, Mary (308) 385-5175

**Native American Community Development
Corp,** 2226 Leavenworth, Omaha, 341-8471

Nebraska AIDS Project, 3624 Leavenworth,
Omaha 342-4233 or (800) 782-AIDS [2437]

Nebraska Association of Farm Workers,
4939 S. 24, Omaha, 68107 (402) 734-4100

**Nebraska Department of Health, Norfolk
Regional Ctr,** Admin Bldg #16, (402) 370-3395

Nemaha County Health Department,
1824 N. Auburn, 68305 (402) 274-4549

COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

AIDS Care, The Mercy Center, 427 E.
Kanesville Blvd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503,
att. Colleen Kippe-Vest (712) 328-2609

AIDS Support Group: Sponsored by Parents/
Friends of Lesbians & Gays-Lincoln (PFLAG),
Box 4374, Lincoln, 68504, 7pm, 475-2437

**Grand Island Area HIV/AIDS Support
Group,** Meets 3rd Tuesday, (308) 385-5175

Kearney Area HIV/AIDS Support Group,
Meets 1st Monday of each month. For more
info, phone Barb (308) 234-8183.

Lincoln Caseworker, (402) 474-4243

Nebraska AIDS Project, 3624 Leavenworth,
Omaha, Individual counseling, support
groups-confidential locations: (402) 342-4233

North Platte Area Support Group,
Call: (308) 535-8133

**Western Nebraska HIV/AIDS Support
Group, Scottsbluff,** Call (308) 635-3606

HOME HEALTH CARE

LINK-ON Home Health Care, 2118 South St.
#B, Lincoln, 68502 (402) 435-0574, Mon-Fri
8am-4:30pm, care, treatment, counseling,
teaching of HIV infected individuals, people
with AIDS, and others; Rick Swaink, Director.

AIDS ADVOCACY

AIDS Coalition for Empowerment (A.C.E.),
For anyone living with AIDS or HIV and those
interested in AIDS advocacy. Call Nebraska
AIDS Project, 342-4233, for details.

PASTORAL CARE

AIDS Interfaith Network, 100 N 62, Omaha
Br Wm Woeger 558-3100 (Chancery) 7pm,
Service: 2nd Mon, St Cecelias 40th & Webster

AIDS Interfaith Network, 215 Centennial
Mall So., Rm 411, Lincoln 68508, 474-3017,
Services: 7pm, 4th Mon, St Marks, 1-4th & R

INFORMATION & REFERRAL*

*More info call Neb AIDS Project 342-4233

AIDS Educ Project, UNL G/L Resource Cntr,
Rm 342, Neb Union, Lincoln 68588, 472-5644

American Red Cross,
1701 'E', Lincoln 68501 (402) 471-7997
3838 Dewey, Omaha 68131 (402) 341-2723

Community Prescription Service AIDS Info,
medicine, supplies by mail, 1-800-677-4323

Douglas County Health Department,
1201 S. 42, Omaha 68105 (402) 444-6875

Grand Island/Hall Co. Health Dept,
105 E. 1st, Grand Island (308) 385-5175

HIV Clinic, Univ of NE Medical Center, 600
S. 42nd, Omaha, (402) 559-6681

Lincoln Cancer Cntr, 4600 Valley, 483-1872

Lincoln-Lancaster Health Dept 2200
StMarys, Lincoln 68502, 471-8065 Testing,
counseling

Neb AIDS Educ/Training Center, AIDS
education to health care professionals. UNMC,
600 S 42 Omaha 68198, (402) 559-6681

Nebraska AIDS Project
(statewide) (800) 782-AIDS [2437]
Omaha Office: 3624 Leavenworth, 68105
342-4233 AIDS Hotline, HIV testing, AIDS
awareness, practical support, counseling
Lincoln Office: (402) 474-4243
Central Nebraska Office: 3423 2nd Ave
Kearney, NE 68847, (308) 234-8183

Neb Dept of Health, 3423 2nd Ave, Kearney
68847, Call Sharon (308) 234-8709

NE Dept of Health, Craft St. Office Bldg, 200
So. Siiber, NorthPlatte 69101 (308) 535-8133

Neb Regional Hemophilia Center, UNMC,
600 S. 42, Omaha (402) 559-4227.

People of Color Consortium Against AIDS
2226 Leavenworth, Omaha (402) 341-8471

ScottsBluff Co Health Dept, County Admin
Bldg, Gering, NE 69341 (308) 635-3866

Veterans Admin Medical Center, 42 & Wool-
worth, Omaha 346-8800: Dean Pierce, x 4119

LEGAL

Mowbray, Chapin, & Walker, P.C., 201 N.
8th, Ste 242, Lincoln 68508 476-3882; Jim

Neb Bar Assoc, 635 S 14, Lincoln, 475-7091

Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, Box 81455,
Lincoln 68501, (402) 476-8091

HISTORIC MEETING WITH G/L DOCTORS

Newly appointed Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, David Satcher, MD, and Associate Director for HIV, Jim Curran, MD, convened a meeting with the leadership of the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR), the national organization of lesbian, gay and bisexual physicians and medical students. The two hour session was Dr. Satcher's first meeting with representatives of the lesbian and gay community as head of the CDC. Representing AAPHR were President Kate O'Hanlan, MD; Executive Director Benjamin Schatz, JD; President-elect Bob Cabaj, MD; Secretary Stosh Ostrov, MD; and AIDS Task Force Chair Alvin Novick, MD.

AAPHR urged the CDC to promote effective HIV prevention strategies for gay men and lesbians, and to promulgate a policy on HIV-positive health care workers that is based on science and not hysteria or politics. AAPHR also encouraged the CDC to develop a plan to combat anti-gay and lesbian violence, and the high rates of substance abuse, suicide and other health problems in the lesbian/gay community.

According to O'Hanlan, "We were delighted to have this opportunity to discuss issues of critical importance to our community with Dr. Satcher and his associates. I was impressed by Dr. Satcher's commitment to working with us to combat the homophobia that prevents the delivery of vital services to our community. There was a consensus that we all share the same goals. The meeting was extremely productive. I look forward to an excellent working relationship with the CDC. After twelve years of official animosity toward our community by the previous administrations, I welcome the open door policy."

Also participating on behalf of the CDC were Harold Jaffe, MD, Director of HIV/AIDS, National Center for Infectious Diseases; Jim Buehler, MD, Associate Director, Division of HIV/AIDS, NCID; Ken Powell, MD, Deputy Director for Science, Division of Violence Prevention; Dorothy Triplett, MD, Associate Director for Minority and Other Special Populations; and Ron Valdiserri, MD, Director of STD/HIV Prevention.

INFOPACK

With publication of *InfoPack*, HIV-infected individuals have an additional source for reliable, timely treatment information. The *InfoPack*, published four times a year, is filled with practical information HIV+ individuals can use to improve the quality of their lives. Written by top AIDS activists and doctors, the 16-page *InfoPack* contains detailed, yet easy-to-read articles that cover the spectrum of HIV treatments. Copies are available for free to all interested parties by calling Community Prescription Service. "Community Prescription Service is a mail-order prescription service that helps reduce or eliminate out-of-pocket prescription costs. A nationwide service, CPS handles all paperwork, never requires advance payment, and accepts most insurance payments as payment-in-full." To receive a subscription, individuals should call Community Prescription Service at 800-842-0502. Bulk copy subscriptions are also available free of charge to doctors and community based organizations by calling the same number.

AIDS ACTION TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS

AIDS Action representatives testified before Rep. Henry Waxman's (D-CA) House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment on the impact of the President's Health Security Act on people with HIV/AIDS. Christine Lubinski, AIDS Action deputy executive director for programs, and Pedro Zamora, AIDS Action board member and person living with AIDS (PWA), testified on the urgent need for comprehensive reform of the current health care system.

Lubinski identified key components of the Administration's plan — universal coverage, guaranteed benefits package, affordability, and choice — which must be preserved by the Congress if national health care reform legislation is to be meaningful to Americans living with HIV/AIDS. Additionally, she identified the preservation of vital public health categorical programs, such as the Ryan White CARE Act, and anti-discrimination protections as non-negotiable as the debate on health care reform unfolds in Congress.

Zamora told the subcommittee members about his challenges as a person living with AIDS to get medical care. "My doctor and I have a good relationship, and I trust her. Until this fall, she

was willing to accept payment of \$100 a month for my medical care. But now my T-cells have dropped to 140, and my doctor needs me to be able to pay for numerous tests and medication. I don't want to retire at the old age of 21 in order to go on SSI and become eligible for Medicaid. Even if I were to retire and go to Medicaid, my doctor does not accept Medicaid and I would not be able to choose physicians best for me."

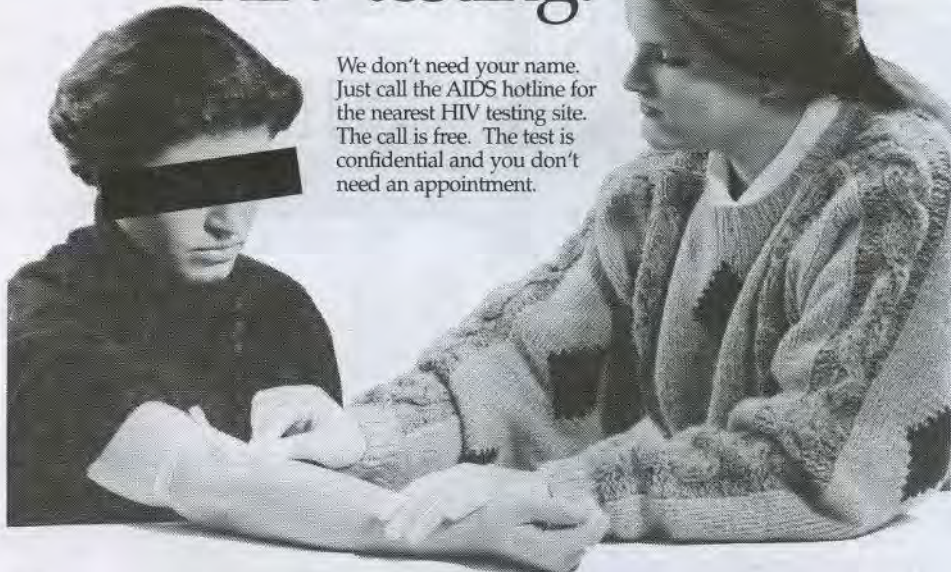
"The plan is ultimately passed by the Committee and the Congress and signed into law by President Clinton may not take effect soon enough to prolong my life, but I hope it will mean that no one else will have to go through what I have been through," Zamora concluded.

AIDS Action Council, founded in 1984, is the only national organization devoted solely to advocating at the federal level for more effective AIDS policy, legislation and funding. The council represents more than 1000 community-based AIDS service organizations throughout the United States. The fight for health care reform is the council's top priority in 1994. AIDS Action has been studying the impact of proposed reform on the HIV/AIDS community and implementing strategies to safeguard the community's needs.

GUIDE FOR HIV- INFECTED HEALTH CARE WORKERS

The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR), a national organization of lesbian, gay and bisexual physicians and medical students, announced in its publication of *The Legal Rights and Obligations of HIV-Infected Health Care Workers*. The guide was a joint project of AAPHR and the National Lawyers Guild AIDS Network, underwritten by a generous grant from the BAPHR Foundation. Written by Oregon attorney Elise Gautier, the question-and-answer guide examines the many legal ramifications of being HIV-positive and a health care provider. The 47-page guide provides information on employment discrimination, state policies on HIV-infected health care workers, informed consent law, privacy and confidentiality, and insurance issues. The guide is available from the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, 273 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, phone 415-255-4547. The cost is \$10.00 to the general public and \$5.00 for members of AAPHR. Checks should be made payable to "AAPHR-MERP."


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the nearest HIV testing site.
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3624 Leavenworth Street Omaha, Nebraska 68105 AIDS Hotline: 1-800-782-AIDS, in Omaha 342-4233

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NATIONAL NEWS

CAMP SISTER SPIRIT NEEDS YOU

The feminist retreat Camp Sister Spirit continues to be the target of anti-lesbian harassment and intimidation in the small town of Overt, Mississippi.

Wanda Henson, a native Mississippian, and her partner Brenda Henson, a long-time resident of the state, bought a 120-acre farm in July to establish a retreat and educational center for individuals and groups battling sexism, homophobia, racism, illiteracy, domestic violence and more. Sister Spirit, Inc. has provided a food bank, clothing distribution, counseling and referrals, among other services, in Gulfport, Miss. for several years.

One Overt resident, J.D. Hendry, in conjunction with Baptist ministers from around the area, organized two hate-filled town meetings to condemn the women and scheme ways to oust the women from town. Meanwhile, the retreat and the Hensons have received numerous threats. A dead dog was draped over their mailbox in November, armed men have been found trespassing on the land, a telephone threat was received Christmas Eve, a bomb threat was sent by mail, signs and rainbow flags marking the property are repeatedly stolen, and most women

who live at or visit the property are harassed and threatened by Overt residents at the general store. Hendry and others continue to insist they will drive the women and Camp Sister Spirit from town.

The FBI launched an investigation in the volatile situation in Overt, Mississippi. The FBI initiated the investigation after Brenda and Wanda Henson of Camp Sister Spirit received a threat through the U.S. mail, which is a federal offense.

On Jan. 11, the Hensons received through the mail a defaced news article about themselves and Camp Sister Spirit with a threatening message hand-written beneath the original headline.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) forwarded a copy of the letter to the U.S. Department of Justice Jan. 12, following a meeting NGLTF attended the same day with the Justice Department to discuss federal involvement in the situation. Justice officials said at the meeting that because sexual orientation is not included in federal civil rights laws, the agency could only launch an investigation if there are violations of other generally applicable federal statutes, such as mail or phone threats.

NGLTF agreed to forward to the Justice

Department details of violent and threatening incidents aimed at the Hensons so that the agency could determine whether any of the incidents violate federal criminal code and could be cause for an investigation. Following the meeting, NGLTF contacted the Hensons and received a chronological list of incidents targeting them and Camp Sister Spirit, as well as a copy of the mail threat. NGLTF forwarded the information immediately to the Justice Department. The Hensons also directly contacted the FBI in Mississippi.

"The FBI investigation is an important step towards insuring the safety and rights of the Hensons," said Robin Kane, NGLTF Public Information Manager. "NGLTF continues to stress the need for the Attorney General to direct the Community Relations Service to mediate. This situation highlights how the absence of federal civil rights laws that include sexual orientation prevent federal agencies from protecting the rights of gay, lesbian and bisexual citizens."

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Who Will Win Closet Ball 1994?

PLAGAL AND FRIENDS MARCH FOR LIFE!

Twelve Members of the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians (PLAGAL) — one woman and eleven men — braved the cold and ice on Friday, January 21, 1994, to join 50,000 other Pro-Life activists in the Twentieth Annual March for Life commemorating the announcement of Roe v. Wade on January 22, 1973. Over half had not marched under PLAGAL's banner previously, and for a couple it was their first Pro-Life function ever.

The PLAGAL members came from Boston, DC, Philadelphia, and Central Pennsylvania. Additionally, a 20-year old Gay man who was unaware of PLAGAL had prepared a gay-oriented sign and boarded a bus to witness his support as a Pro-Life Gay man, expecting to be the only one — but he wasn't. Toward the end of the Rally, he discovered PLAGAL and joined up.

PLAGAL met at the statue of Benjamin Franklin in front of the Old Post Office, and then proceeded to the Ellipse for the March for Life Rally. There we raised our banner of subtle shades of purple and neon pink, a triangle surmounted with the image of an unborn child. At the Rally, speakers refrained from remarks even possibly homophobic — a distinct and welcome improvement over some past years. Even Congressman Bob Dornan was positive, upbeat, and focused on saving babies, not fighting homosexuals.

PLAGAL distributed a new brochure *An Open Letter to the Pro-Life Movement* by PLAGAL activist Chuck Volz of Philadelphia. Volz, an attorney long active in the Pro-Life movement who has represented several arrested in rescues at Abortion Clinics, is the adopted father of two and the President of a Crisis Pregnancy Clinic in

Philadelphia.

Volz argued that the Pro-Life movement must "remember that the mission — the only mission — of the Pro-Life movement is to save the lives of the unborn and rescue their mothers from a brutal victimization."

"Indeed, boiled down to basics, the message of Lesbian and Gay community and the Pro-Life movement is the same: All human life deserves protection and respect simply because it is human. It is a simple message, but none the less profound." Volz continued, "Indeed the growing scientific evidence that homosexuality is genetic may confront both anti-gay Pro-Lifers and pro-abortion Lesbians and Gays with a similar dilemma: Whatever will those myopic thinkers do when confronted with abortions that are being done because the unborn child has been determined to be homosexual?"

Straight Pro-Lifers were generally friendly and encouraging, asking for *Open Letter* brochures and shaking hands. The one individual who made a remark about "Sodom and Gomorrah" was noticeable primarily because he was unique. PLAGAL members amiably debated with several marchers who tried to convince them to abandon our homosexual ways. Because the debaters were motivated by obvious — if in PLAGAL's opinion somewhat misguided — good will, the exchanges uniformly ended with mutual wishes of thanks for being Pro-Life and "God Bless!" Many marchers openly requested brochures for Gay and Lesbian siblings and friends, which veteran PLAGAL marchers did not recall from previous years.

Concerned Women for America, in the past openly hostile to many Lesbian and Gay initiatives,

was reported in the DC media to be "proud to work with pro-life homosexuals". Janet Parshall, assistant to the president of CWA, stated, "We would welcome them with open arms. If their singular cause is pro-life, we'd march anytime, anywhere with them."

Toward the end of the March PLAGAL encountered Tony Falzarano's operation, Transformation Ministries claims to transform Lesbians and Gays into Straights. Each group stood behind its respective banner on Constitution Avenue while Falzarano pumped "inspirational music" on a boom box. Falzarano invited PLAGAL's members to join his group. No one volunteered. PLAGAL members waved and replied "have a nice day" — bemused to see that Falzarano was confused as to who was in need of help. PLAGAL had come to speak on behalf of the unborn: They were equally proud of the Gay and Lesbian sexuality and of their Pro-Life advocacy.

CONDOM COMPANY SPONSOR GAY GAMES

Mayer Labs, distributors of Kimono and MAXX condoms and Aqua Lube water-base lubricant, announced that the company has signed on as a proud sponsor of the Gay Games IV, making it the first US condom company to support an international sporting event of any type.

In the spirit of the Gay Games, Mayer Labs hopes to help celebrate the diversity and culture of the gay and lesbian community while also reaching hundreds of thousands of health-conscious consumers with its fun, practical approach to safer sex and condom use.

THE IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA AND MISS CLOSET BALL 1993 APRIL LANE

PRESENT

CLOSET BALL 1994



SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 9:30 PM

THE MAX

LOCAL NEWS

CFEP HOSTS SUMMIT CONFERENCE

By Sharon Van Butsel

Eugene Mahoney State Park was the site of a "Summit Conference" hosted by Citizens For Equal Protection on January 29. The conference brought together 40 leaders from at least 14 different organizations serving the gay/lesbian/bi/transgender community of Nebraska. The conference focused on networking, identifying common areas of concern, and considering ways to meet these concerns.

Participants were welcomed by Neva Cosine of CFEP, who then introduced Pat Phalen, Co-Chair of the Pluralism Council of U.S. West. Pat reviewed some of the history of the gay/lesbian community in Nebraska, stressing that we had not really come so very far in the 25 years since Stonewall. Many of the issues we face today are similar to the ones being addressed over 20 years ago.

Pat was followed by a panel presentation in which representatives of several organizations reviewed current activities. Represented on the panel were the Youth Talk Line and the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights from Lincoln, along with Citizens for Equal Protection and Achieving New Gay and Lesbian Endeavors from Omaha. Each group shared some of their successes from the past year as well as their plans for the coming year.

After the panel, participants were divided into five small groups and assigned the task of listing areas that were important to the gay, lesbian, bi, and transgender community. The topics were compiled, and those 5 determined to be the most important were then the focus of the afternoon session. By the end of the day, the participants had developed ideas for meeting the needs of the community in the areas of Education for the Gay and Heterosexual communities, Coming Out, Collaboration and Cooperation, Developing a Resource Center, and the Special Needs of Youth and Seniors.

The final task of the day was to determine a "next step." This discussion resulted in the formation of a committee to plan a statewide or regional conference to be held in the fall. This conference would bring together even more participants to develop more specific goals for each of these areas.

A salute to CFEP for an initial step toward bringing a coordinated approach to issues of major concern to the community.

THE NEW VOICE IS HAVING A PARTY AND YOU'RE INVITED!!

The New Voice will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary with a special celebration to be held March 25, from 5 - 8 p.m. at Stosh's Saloon in The MAX. Beer and Pop will be provided, along with an assortment of light refreshments catered by Aaron Michael's Catering.

We want to say a special "Thank You" to all of you who have supported us over the years and will support us in the future.

Please plan to join us as we celebrate 10 years of speaking with a New Voice.

-The Steering Committee of The New Voice

H.G.R.A. HAPPENINGS

Howdy Partners!

Madame X in the saddle to fill you in on all the goings on at the H.G.R.A.

Our first show (1-22) sure was a hoot! Doing a great part to our special performers Kassie and the terrific Tomboys! Patrick (Mr. H.G.R.A.), Duane (Mr. H.G.R.A. 1st Runner-Up), the fabulous Inga, Joan and myself gave our all and gave straight from the heart. The show raised \$116.25 for CFEP and \$116.25 for NAP. Kassie also donated \$85 of tips from a special number just for NAP. Thank you Kassie!

In February, H.G.R.A. met at DC's for our monthly meeting. We discussed establishing an audit committee to check the books quarterly and a committee to see about our chapter hosting a rodeo in 1996. Duane, our Mr. H.G.R.A. 1st Runner-Up, presented us with a letter stating he will be moving to Arizona at the end of the month. We sure will miss Duane and wish him the best! Also brought up was the fact March is the deadline to put in a nomination for board of directors.

Looking forward, on March 12 we have a jim dandy auction and indoor rodeo in store for you. For the auction, we plan on offering goods and services from local businesses and our own H.G.R.A. members. The indoor rodeo will be some good old fashioned fun! Calf roping, wild dog race, stick horse, barrel race, and skeet shooting are the events planned. Entry fee for each event is only a buck!

Madame X has a plea to all of you readers. Please send all of your AIDS stamp bookcovers to our mailing address. We want to use them for craft projects, for fundraisers! Also, if you want a \$10 video copy of our February show, contact Jim at 492-9981.

Don't be a stranger at our next meeting. Everyone is welcome to sit in and see what we're all about! The next meeting is 6:00, March 5 at DC's. Hope to see you there, darlin'!

Madame X
Miss H.G.R.A.

P.S. I want to apologize to Micheal (aka Quincy Valentine) for getting a little chili on his shirt.

19 SENATORS EARN 100% VOTING SCORE

The Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest lesbian and gay political organization, has given 100 percent scores to 19 senators for votes taken during the first session of the 103rd Congress. Both senators from the states of California, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, and New Jersey scored 100 percent for nine votes cast on lesbian and gay issues in the Senate.

The 19 senators with 100 percent voting records are: Senators Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Bill Bradley (D-NJ), Christopher J. Dodd (D-CT), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI), Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ), Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), Howard M. Metzenbaum (D-OH), Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD), Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL), Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY), Patty Murray (D-WA), Donald W. Riegle, Jr. (D-MI), Charles S. Robb (D-VA), Paul S. Sarbanes (D-MD), Paul Simon (D-IL), and Paul Wellstone (D-MN).

No Republican senators scored 100 percent, although Senator John H. Chafee (R-RI) scored 89%. Senator Jim J. Jeffords (R-VT) scored 88%, and Senators Mark O. Hatfield (R-OR), Bob Packwood (R-OR), and Arlen Specter (R-PA) each held a 78% record. Only three members of the Senate received zero scores: Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC), Lauch Faircloth (R-NC), and Malcolm Wallop (R-WY).

Daniel Zingale, the Campaign Fund's Public Policy Director, called the session "a watershed for lesbian and gay issues on Capitol Hill" and noted several unprecedented actions. For the first time, the Senate voted to confirm openly lesbian and gay nominees to appointments in the executive branch. Congress passed a record increase in funding for AIDS and women's health research.

In addition, the Senate passed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act, which increases penalties for federal crimes in which a defendant intentionally selects a victim because of race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. For a copy of the report, please contact the Public Policy Department of HRCF at 202-628-4160.

PANTRY PROCEDURE--MCC - OMAHA

MCC-O Pantry is available for use by the following:

1. Persons with AIDS
2. Members and Friends of MCC-Omaha
3. Members of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Community
4. Members of the Greater Omaha Community

GUIDELINES FOR PANTRY USE

1. PWAs in need of a pantry may contact NAP, who will in turn contact MCC-O. Other persons desiring a Pantry should contact Carla Petersen or Rev. Matthew Howard at MCC-O Mon.-Fri. between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
2. Persons—other than PWAs—desiring a Pantry must have a picture identification to present when they request the Pantry. (PWAs requesting receiving a Pantry through NAP are exempt from identifying themselves.)

3. Frequency of Pantry usage for PWAs will be determined by NAP. All other persons may receive one Pantry per 30 day period except in case deemed an emergency by MCC-O.

4. PWAs requesting their Pantries through NAP will arrange with NAP to pick up the Pantry from NAP or get delivery from NAP according to their mutually agreed upon plan. Other individuals requesting a Pantry are responsible for picking up their Pantry from MCC-O Mon.-Fri. between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Due to limited staffing, MCC-O is not able to deliver Pantries.

Please note: Persons living with AIDS who prefer not to go through NAP are more than welcome to use the Pantry under the guidelines stated above for all other persons.

****The filling of ALL Pantry requests are subject to the availability of Pantry supplies****



The New
DC's

610 S. 14th Street
Omaha, NE 68102
(402) 344-3103

OPEN DAILY
2:00 PM
TO
1:00 AM

*Proudly Announces our Grand Re-Opening
Saturday, March 12th at 8:00 PM*

We have a great time lined up for you, with live entertainment throughout the evening!

*Starring: Craig Poos - Direct from Oklahoma City
Willie Wall - Direct from Kansas City
The Tom Boys - Direct from Omaha
Ron Walters - Direct from Omaha*

and a special Guest Appearance by the cast of "Always... Patsy Cline"

Plus complimentary Champagne, Door Prizes and much much more.

(For Good Seats Come Early)

On Thursday Night, March 3rd at 9:30 PM

*DC's proudly presents Omaha's own
Lavender Couch - Live in Concert
(Small Cover Charge)*

Also On Saturday, March 12th at 3:00 PM

The HGRA and DC's hosts their annual Indoor Rodeo.

If you've participated before and/or watched, you know how much fun it is. If not, come down and see what you've missed. Also, at 8:30 PM, HGRA will host an auction. Come and check it out you may find just what you've been looking for. Don't be left out!

Don't Forget Our New Disco After Hours.

*Friday and Saturday Nights - \$3.00 cover.
Free Soda and Coffee.*

*Check Out Our Daily Happy Hour and
Drink Specials Each Day*

*Thanks for helping make DC's
The Place to Be!*

NEWS FROM METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA

By Carla

February flew by—I think we were all still recovering from our 20th Anniversary Celebration, but now that March is here, well, Easter is just around the corner.

The first two Saturdays of March, Rev Howard will be conducting membership classes from noon til 3:00 p.m. for anyone interested in learning more about MCC-Omaha, the UFMCC, the Bible, etc. These new members will be accepted into membership during the Easter Worship Service.

Mid-March you are all invited to join the Deacons for a St. Patty's Day Party on Saturday, March 19, from 7-10 p.m. Admission is \$1 or a canned good for the Pantry—we are especially in need of canned fruit, canned meat, juice, toiletry items, and evaporated or dry milk. Light refreshments will be served at no charge. So don the green and climb aboard the nearest shamrock for a magical flight into the night and join us near the blarney stone!

Throughout Lent we invite you to join us for a Prayer Service every Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 6:45. Come join us as we reflect on the role of Lent in our lives today.

Palm Sunday, the MCC-O Choir will present an Easter Cantata during both Morning Worship

Services. Everyone is invited to come and join in this time of music, fellowship, and worship. The MCC-O choir is directed by Bill B. and accompanied by Garrett Burton.

At 1:00 p.m. MCC-O will host an Easter Egg Hunt. We invite all friends of MCC-O to gather the children in their lives—sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, neighbors, grandchildren, whatever—and bring them to our Easter Egg Hunt! We'll gather in the courtyard just south of the church. And who knows—the Easter Bunny may just hop by while we're there. Come join in the fun!

Holy Week will be filled with special activities: First the Cantata, then on Wednesday there will be the final Lenten Prayer Service. Thursday, March 31, at 6:30 we will once again participate in a Seder and a kosher potluck dinner. Good Friday Service will begin at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Easter Sunrise Service will be at 6:30 a.m. at MCC-O. Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. And do remember to set those clocks ahead (Spring ahead/Fall back), cause Easter may just miss you if you don't. Following the Sunrise Service we will have our regularly scheduled Morning Worship Services, and since Easter is the first Sunday of the month, that

evening we will have our 5 p.m. Potluck Dinner followed by a 6 p.m. Worship Service. We invite you to join us in this Easter Celebration.

February brought us an enjoyable mini-concert by the River City Mixed Chorus. A potluck dinner preceded the worship service which featured R.N. Hedges delivering the reflection and special music. A time of dessert and fellowship followed. A Love Offering was taken during the service to go to help Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey whose home and personal belongings were destroyed during the L.A. earthquake in January. Rev. Harvey has been in Omaha many times bringing God's blessings to the MCC-O family and friends.

MCC-O meets for worship every Sunday morning at 9:00 and 10:30. We offer children's and adult's Christian Education Classes at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Every other week our Prayer Share Care Circles meet in homes in Omaha and Lincoln for a time of growth and sharing as Christians. For information about these functions or if you have any questions about MCC-O, please give us a call at 345-2563. Our office is staffed Monday through Friday from 9-4. If no one answers, leave a message and we will get back to you!

That's it from my pew! See you in church!

TERMS AND BELIEFS OF AGING

by Sandy Vopalka

In Nebraska there is an estimated 30,000 gay people that are 60 years old or older. The term "gay people" is used because research has shown that women over 60 that are gay, don't want to be called lesbian. The terminology is most likely going to change as we all age.

There is also concern about the term of older. Research has explained that within the gay and lesbian communities there is a great deal of ageism. This ageism has lead researchers to discover that the lesbian/gay community most often holds the belief that once someone is 40 years old, that they are seen as older.

Many people have recently spoken of their beliefs on these two issues, and more input on these and any issues related to aging must be brought forth. Only we can change these things and as we all age we will bring our ideas and beliefs with us. So the next few years older lesbians will be called that. Also, the age at which the community sees people as old will change too.

Now there will be a very short and partial listing of resources. This type of list will now appear at the end of at least one of my articles. By reading these pieces, we will all continue to let our history (herstory) live on.

Copper, B. (1987) *Actism in the lesbian community*. Freedom, CA, Crossing Press

Berger, R.M. (1982) *Gay and Gray: The Older-Homosexual Man*. Urban: University of Iowa

Friend, R.A. (1980) *Gayng adjustment and the older gay man*. *Alternative Lifestyles*, 3 (2), 231-258.

Seng, B. Warshaw, J. & Smith, A.J. (1991) *Lesbians at midlife: The creative transition*. San Francisco: Spinstar

Join the NVV staff at The MAX March 25 5-8 p.m. as they celebrate a decade of service to the GL Community!

THE MIDWEST PREMIERE OF JEFFREY IS COMING TO OMAHA

SNAP Productions, a fund-raising support organization for the Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP), will present the Midwest premiere of *Jeffrey*. This comedy by Paul Rudnick, author of *Adams Family Values*, will be presented at the Firehouse Diner Theatre, 514 South 11th Street in Omaha's Old Market, March 20 through April 2, 1994, for ten performances. The production will be directed by Rob Baker, a distinguished Midlands luminary in the theatre.

The show run will open with a \$25/person patron performance at 7 p.m. on March 20, followed by a champagne and dessert reception. The remaining performances will begin at 8 p.m., and the price of tickets will be \$15/person. The Firehouse Buffet is available prior to all performances for \$8.00. Please call the Firehouse Box Office at (402) 346-8833 for reservations. All proceeds from these performances will benefit the programs of the Nebraska AIDS Project.

Paul Rudnick's *Jeffrey* is a potent comedy about a gay Manhattan man who, fearing AIDS, swears off sex, then in a cruel twist of fate meets Mr. Right, who happens to be HIV-positive.

Jeffrey is a tribute to the enduring wit and infinite compassion of the gay community and to

the heterosexual friends and families of that community. It is a play about sex as an invaluable form of human contact, and it's a play about the victory of love, friendship, and sweaters over death.

Rudnick has played mostly to cult audiences as an openly gay novelist and playwright. He calls gay humor "an embracing of life in both its good taste and bad..." Paul wrote "The theater has been devastated by the AIDS nightmare; I love using the joy of theater to strike back."

The primary focus of SNAP Productions is to produce and present performing arts offerings that help to create community awareness of AIDS-related issues. Last September SNAP presented *The Normal Heart*, a powerful political play that took the burning social issue of AIDS and put it to the ultimate test, facing and overcoming our greatest fear: death. Now SNAP shows its audiences that healing not only comes with tears, but with laughter as well, through this hilarious portrait of Manhattan life in the '90s. *Jeffrey* captures the insanity of the AIDS era and the valor of those who manage to find love and double-ply cashmere between hospital visits, marches, and eulogies.

CHORUS NOTES —By Stan Brown

If you missed our Winter Concert, "A Decade of Harmony" in January, don't miss our Pride Concert on June 4, 7:05 p.m. at the UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center. Our concert was again sold out with very few tickets available at the door. So please contact us now for June concert tickets. If you did not get a season ticket, you may now purchase one for \$6.00 per person. This season ticket entitles you to a space held in the reserved section until 7:00 p.m. June 4, and a reduced cover charge for our after-concert reception. Send your check to RCMC, P.O. Box 3267, Omaha, NE 68103-0267. Our June 4 concert, "A Singing Tribute To Pride" will include more favorite selections from our past concerts and the World Premiere of our commissioned

piece composed by our former director, Jonathan Cole.

Help us continue to celebrate our tenth season as we also celebrate being gay men, lesbians, and sensitive family members and friends in Omaha, Nebraska. If your business or organization would like to advertise in our June program, please contact me (Stan Brown) through our Singline, 341-SING (7464), and I will be glad to talk to you about our advertising rates and other information. Don't forget Closet Clearing IV on Saturday, June 18. Please let us know by calling 341-SING (7464) if you have items to donate after May 1, and we will be glad to arrange a pick-up time. Look for the location and time of this event in future issues of the *New Voice*.

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE REVIEW

The dance floor at the Max was vacated—and a single spotlight lit up the night on Sunday, February 13. It was billed as "Sunday Night Live". Live—it was. Alive with talent!

The show, featuring the talented voices of five men, started off with a round of warm ballads—country, religious, and love songs. The crowd greeted all the singers with warm applause and a few dollar tips. Then Adrian livened things up with a contemporary mix, featuring the popular "Oooooom, there it is!" rap tune. Adrian tried to get the crowd to rap along with him. Adrian, your rap skills couldn't be matched!

Throughout the show, one person kept the crowd going. It was none other than the emcee—Gloria Revelle, dressed in boy drag. Good job!

The best was kept until last—in more ways than one. It was one hit after another in the last half of Sunday Night Live. R.N. Hedges showed what a great range he has when he sang *Unchained Melody* from the movie *Ghost*. It was a hit with the crowd. Scott got the crowd going with *Mountain Music*. He even got a few people from the crowd out onto the dance floor—dancing! (The dance floor was supposed to be reserved for singers only.) Our emcee said it best when he said Scott was little bit country and little bit rock 'n roll.

Dain did a great job with *The Last Song*. Elton John would be proud of that rendition. The crowd loved it.

The night was designed to showcase just a smidgen of the talent we have in our community. If you thought Marty had talent as a bartender at The Max, you should have heard him sing! He had the crowd going with his song, *On The Street Where You Live*. It's somewhat surprising he was able to keep his mind on his performance because the crowd kept him busy accepting so many dollar tips. Don't quote me here, but he may have earned more tips from that one performance than he earns during happy hour!

A NEW ANGLE IN NEWS

By Stan Brown

ANGLE would like to thank everyone who supported our 4th Annual Chili Feed at The Diamond Bar on Sunday, Feb. 27. A special thank you to Cindy and her staff at The Diamond who always make us feel welcome and who are always willing to help. Look for a report next month on how much money was raised.

Coming in March—we will be hosting a Country-Western Variety Show at DC's with the help of Miss Heartland Gay Rodeo Association, Madame X, and Mr. Heartland Gay Rodeo Association, Patrick. Look for flyers at all the bars, call DC's, or call the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Information and Referral Line (558-5303) for the date of this event. Join us at DC's for the fun evening of live and lip-synce entertainment and help support ANGLE as we plan for Pride month in June.

In April ANGLE and ICON will jointly sponsor a fundraising event at the Dundee Dinner Theatre. On Friday, April 22 please join us for an evening of good food, an entertaining performance of *Prelude To A Kiss* and community fellowship. Help support the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Information and Referral Line and the Imperial Court of Nebraska as we hope to fill the house. Proceeds go to both organizations. The Dundee Dinner Theatre has shown a lot of support for the gay and lesbian community and many of its shows showcase many talented gay and lesbian actors from our community. Please call the Dundee Dinner Theatre today at 558-8535 to make reservations for the dinner and the show (\$25) or show only (\$20). Be sure to mention ICON when you call. Don't miss out on this event and help support these two organizations.

Dave England and his Pride Committee are busy planning the events for Pride month in June but they need your help. Contact the Information Line at 558-5303 if you would like to help with this important committee and ask for Dave to return your call. Remember Sunday, June 12, is the day of our Pride Parade and Picnic! Also don't forget the Pride logo contest. All designs must be received by 3/15/94.

As always please join us at our monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m., the first Tuesday of each month, the UNO Religious Center, 101 N. Happy Hollow Blvd.

ICON'S ROYALTY TRAVELS

Houston Coronation—by Connie Henke

The weekend of January 28, 1994 sent a contingency to the Houston Coronation. Connie Henke - Emperor XIII, P.J. Fidler - Price Consort, Mr. Stella - Emperor XII, Ammi Zahn, Sammi Bennett, and Joe Sousa attended a fun-filled, fast-paced, and enjoyable time with all the hospitality that Texas and Houston can show. We said farewell to Giovanni and Regins and welcomed the newly elected monarchs. Deb Delahay - Emperor X and Damita Jo - Empress X. The State of Nebraska is truly respected when we travel and the Houston people are sending a large contingency to our Coronation June 11.

Minneapolis Coronation—By Roxy

The weekend of Feb. 4, 5 & 6, members and Royals of the Imperial Court of Nebraska went to Coronation III in Minneapolis, MN. This being my first out of town coronation, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. However, Nebraska was well received and we brought home...The Emperor to Emperor Award as well as The Empress to Empress Award.

Once again, Nebraska & Pottawattamie County, "Thank You!!" for allowing me to represent You as Empress XIII.

*Tribute To
My Friends*

Sunday March 20th

9:00 PM

The Max

A NAP/PWA Benifit

Sponsored in Part By
O-MEN



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Mention this ad and receive 20% savings on local deliveries (not valid on wire orders)



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Bob McMains

Jeanne Norwood

Terry Wheelock

BEAR HUGS IN WICHITA

Bear-Hug '94 was held on the weekend of January 22nd in Wichita, Kansas. The event drew nearly 300 guys from all over mid-America. This celebration in gay masculinity was the second annual Bear-Hug sponsored by Hirsute Pursuit.

"Everything went very well," said Rex Rivers, one of the Bear-Hug organizers. "Everyone had a very good time and there were lots of hunky and hairy guys in attendance. I think it of as another step in a trend toward removing the stereotypes of gay men."

Four categories of men were honored, each winner was determined by ballot. Mr. Bear was Dave, a nurse from Kansas City. Mr. Grizzly was won by Mike, who is also a nurse from Kansas City. Jimmy, a gay activist from Oklahoma City, was voted for Best Beard and John, a gay bar owner from Kansas City, was selected for Best Chest. It turns out Mike (Mr. Grizzly) and John (Best Chest) are lovers.

Hirsute Pursuit also sponsors other bear-related events throughout the year such as Bear Chest Night, a Bear-B-Que and a Bears in The Woods Picnic. If you would be interested in attending one of these events, contact them at: Hirsute Pursuit, P.O. Box 16782, Wichita, KS 67216-0782; 316-269-0913 Voice; 316-269-4208 Fax.

'94 PRIDE LOGO COMPETITION OPENS Theme is "Stonewall 25: A Global Celebration"

Achieving New Gay and Lesbian Endeavors (ANGLE) announces the 1994 competition to choose a logo for Omaha's Gay, Lesbian, & BiSexual Pride Celebration to be held June 12, 1994. All members of the community are encouraged to submit their ideas for a logo. The submissions must meet the following guidelines:

1. All designs must reflect the '94 theme "Stonewall 25: A Global Celebration".
2. Designs should include location (Omaha, Nebraska) & Parade date (June 12, 1994).
3. Designs must be suitable for both T-shirts and 2 1/2" buttons.
4. Designs must be received by 3/15/94.
5. All designs become the property of ANGLE, Inc. and may be used in publications or media.
6. Send your designs to: Pride Committee, P.O. Box 31375, Omaha, NE 68131.

The name of the person submitting the winning design will be published. The winning design will be selected by the members of ANGLE. The decision of ANGLE is final.

NEWS FROM THE COURT: THE IMPERIAL COURT

By D. R. & Eddie B.

The ICON social calendar is filling up quickly and it looks like another busy year for ICON and another busy year for you.

Closet Ball will be held March 27 at The MAX. Applications are now available in all the local bars, anyone may enter, provided they have never performed on stage as an impersonator! Application fee is \$10 and all candidates need a sponsor. Sponsors need not be female impersonators, but they must be recognized entertainers in the community. If you are unable to find an application, call 556-9907 and leave your name and address and one will be mailed to you! In years past, Closet Ball has brought excellent talent into our community. Without a doubt, this year will be no exception. Miss Closet Ball '93 April Lane promises a night you'll remember for a long time! Come and enjoy the fun! See the future star attractions of the 21st Century as they make their debut on the Omaha stage!

In April, we team up with ANGLE to bring you something new and something different for both ICON and ANGLE: an evening at the Dundee Dinner Theatre. ICON and ANGLE are jointly sponsoring one evening of *Prelude To A Kiss*. Friday, April 22, is the evening to join us at the Dundee. Tickets for the dinner and show are \$25 and tickets for the show only are \$20. You can make those reservations by calling the Dundee at 558-8535, but be sure to mention ICON so you can join all your friends for what promises to be an evening of fun, fun, fun!

Yes, picnic time is just around the corner. This year all three picnics will be held at the Danish Vennelyst Park. The park is located in Florence, near 30th and I-680. This is a private park, and the facilities (including an air-conditioned kitchen, hall, and rest rooms) are nice! This year's picnic dates will be Sunday, May 29—Memorial Day Picnic; Saturday, July 2—Independence Day Picnic; and Monday, September 5—Labor Day Picnic. To make it simple just remember Sunday, Saturday, and then Monday! Admission charge will be the

same as last year: \$7 per person. Volleyball, horseshoes, etc. will be available. More information will be forthcoming.

Coronation is just around the corner. Empress Roxy and Emperor Connie have a wonderful Chinese New Year planned for us. Applications are currently available in the local bars and at MCC-Omaha, or if you cannot find one, call Duane at 323-1606, and one will be mailed to you. The deadline for application for Emperor XIV, Empress XIV, and Athena V is April 15. The Ramada Inn Airport will be this year's coronation center. Rooms are available now, and may be reserved at the discount rate when you mention ICON's name.

The Board of Governors welcomes two new members: John Coleman and James Meredith. Welcome, John and James! We're sure your contributions will benefit the entire community.

Thank you's go out to Eddie B. and his helpers for all of the work they put into Snoball! Great night! Thanks, too, to all of the performers and the Royal Families for their support and help! And, of course, we extend our gratitude to the monarchs of reign XIII: Roxy and Connie. Thank you one and all! No more "feuding" til next year!

And now a special request from ICON to all of you. Recently our computer died; for the past two years we've revived it more than once, and now it's no longer economically feasible to continue life support. Can you help us? Do you have a computer with word processing programs and some basic financial records software that you could donate for the good of the community? Or are you willing to make a cash donation towards our purchasing new hard- and soft-ware? If so contact Eddie B. at 731-0650. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

ICON holds its Board meetings on the first Monday of every month in Stosh's Saloon at The MAX at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend our meetings and participate in the discussions.

See you at Closet Ball and then at the Dundee!

SIoux CITY WELCOMES NEW CLUB

Kings and Queens Club has opened in Sioux City. Located at 417 Nebraska Avenue, the club features an excellent sound system and large dance floor. As reported in *Left of Center*, Kings and Queens has convenient parking, a separate game room, no cover charge, and large seating

capacity. For a listing of upcoming shows and events call (712) 252-4167. The management of Kings and Queens has promised to let *The New Voice* know about upcoming events. We welcome Kings and Queens to the area.

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RIVER CITY MIXED BOWLING LEAGUE STANDINGS

At the end of 24 weeks of bowling, Ernie's Bookstore has dropped to second place based on total pin count. First is now held by City Lickers edging Ernie's out with a total of 45,645 pins compared to Ernie's total of 43,906 pins. Both teams have won 61 games. R.U.N. Lambda is now in third place, followed by R.U.N. Delta's, who are moving back up from the 7th place they held last month. 'Bout Average has dropped from the number 2 position to number 5.

Men's high scratch games is still held by Bob Andresen with a 299, with Joe Bloemer second high with a 278, followed now by Bill Boren with a 264. Bob Andresen still holds the high scratch men's series with a 722; Joe Bloemer has second high series with a 676; and Ken Williams has third high. Ken Williams still holds the high men's average with a 183.3, followed by Joe Bloemer with a 183.1 and Greg Strickland with a 178.5.

The high scratch game for the women, is still held by Norma Nelson with a 222 but E. Mueller has edged out Kellie Loveall's 213 to take second high with a 221. E. Mueller holds the high scratch series (593) and the high average (164) for women. Second high women's series is held by Norma Nelson with a 560. Kellie Loveall holds third high series with a 522. The second high women's average is held by Norma Nelson with a 155.4, followed by Kellie Loveall with a

152.7.

The MAX still holds the high team game (804). City Lickers has the high team series with a 2277, followed by The MAX (2226). City Lickers holds second high team game with a 799, followed by Eight Balls with 789. Third high series is still held by the Eight Balls with a 2170.

Outstanding performances for the week included Dwight Wages (246 game), Bob

Andresen (241 game and 585 series), Joe Bloemer (630 series), E. Mueller (180 game and 486 series), Pat Hines (172 game, 31 pins over average), Kellie Loveall (463 series), Terry Schwartz (125 pins over average), Lance Conn (100 pins over average), and Connie Redden (42 pins over average).

The complete standings are as follows:

	won	lost
1. City Lickers	61	31
2. Ernie's Bookstore	61	31
3. R.U.N. Lambda's	56	36
4. R.U.N. Delta's	53	39
5. 'Bout Average	52.5	39.5
6. Gilligan's 2	52	40
7. Eight Balls	51.5	40.5
8. Tops and Bottoms	51.5	40.5
9. Whippersnappers	50	42
10. The MAX	46.5	45.5
11. Delivery Boys	46	46
12. Church Ladies	45	47
13. DC's Tuna Melts	45	47
14. Fly Weights	44	48
15. Wild Things	43.5	48.5
16. DC's	42.5	49.5
17. Gilligan's CCB's	40	52
18. Gilligan's Four	38	54
19. DC's 3 Steers & A Heifer	35	57
20. Hetro Pet's Qurum	348.5	57.5
21. Stosh's Saloon	34	58
22. Gilligan's 3	29.5	62.5

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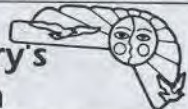
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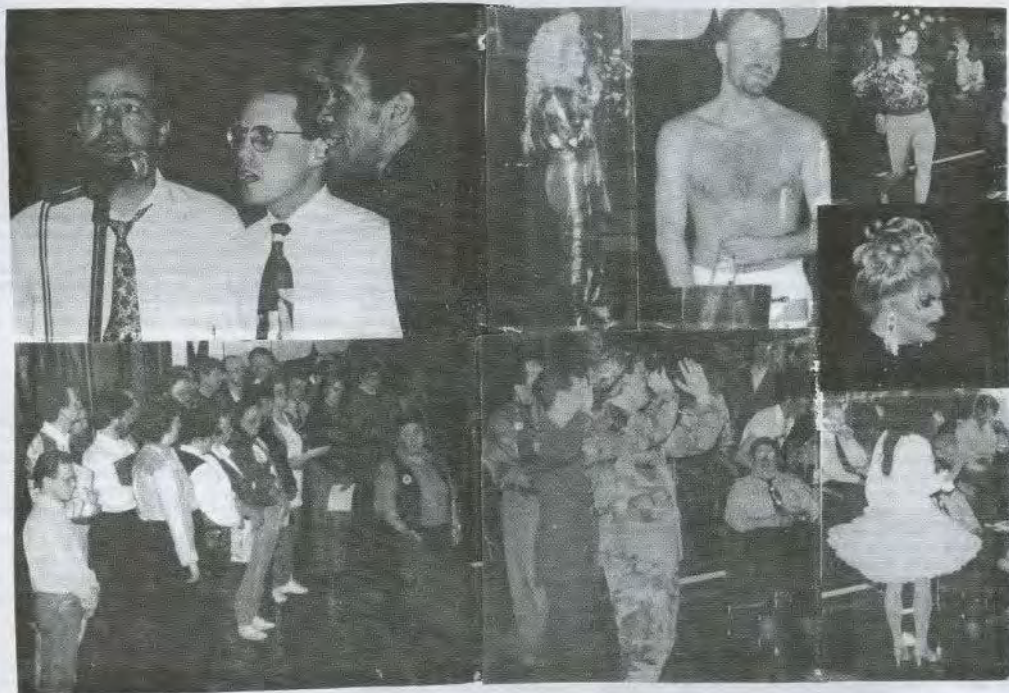


New members are taken in during the Sunday morning service. After the service the four pastors posed for the camera: Rev. Bob Darst, Rev. Matthew Howard, Rev. Jan Kross, and Rev. Bob Arthur.

Photos from left to right, top to bottom: Cross Reference entertained us Saturday evening--Tami, Jeff, and Kate. Everywhere you looked it was those wonderful raffle prizes and Carla Petersen & crew selling tickets. Rev. Kross shares a memorable visit with Garrett Burton. Rev. Matthew Howard and spouse, Craig Stoopes, share a homemade Italian dinner, served by Michael Burger. Rev. Bob Darst considers the selection at a potluck and Steve Malone enjoys the bowling party.



"20 YEARS IN REVIEW"



R.N. Hedges, Bill Burtch, and Bill Bohannon rehearse. Deitra looks smashing while Mr. MAX Tim looks like a bearded cupid as he passes out hearts to the audience. Miss MAX I, Muffy Rosenburg, and Dorian Drake joined in the celebration. Carla joins the MCC-Omaha choir to perform *All The Fine Young Men*. Bill, Bill, and Bob delight the audience with a live version of *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* and Jasmine is stunning in white net.

Photos from left to right, top to bottom: Cheryl, Jan, Peggy, Colleen, Carla, Jan, and Sharon perform just for fun. Later, Sharon Van Butsel is left holding the bag while Jan Kross draws winning names for the raffle. Connie Henke performs to *Splish Splash*.



20 YEARS IN REVIEW MCC VARIETY SHOW AT THE MAX TELLS HISTORY OF CHURCH

By Sharon Van Butsel

MCC-Omaha ended its 20th Anniversary Celebration with a grand finale on January 23, as R.N. Hedges produced a top notch variety show at The MAX. For R.N. "Bob" Hedges (1/2 of the writing team of B & G) this was a debut performance as the producer of a show, and he did an outstanding job with the show with a little help from friends Stan Brown and Pat Phalen, and with the guidance of show director, Gloria Ravelle. Bob had stated from the first that he was determined to have a good mix of live and lip sync performers; and he was determined that the show would start on time. He succeeded in both areas. At exactly 9:30 p.m. the MCC Choir took to the stage to perform *Time Warp*, featuring the talents of Steve Nichols and a friend of MCC, Fred Baker. The choir was ably accompanied by Garrett, dressed in his leather regalia as befits his position as the 1st Mr. Gay Nebraska. The audience loved the number and was ready for a fun filled evening.

There was only a brief delay as Dietra scrambled for the right tape, but the wait was well worth it as Dietra glittered and gleamed her way into the hearts of the audience with *Oh, People* by Patti LaBelle. In keeping with the theme of the evening, Bob's special friend, Inga, revived her performance as Temille doing *Love Will Keep Us Together*.

One of MCC's lay delegates, Diana Miller, had the audience laughing with delight as her voice filled the room with the sounds of *Built For Comfort*. The comedy continued with Emperor XIII of the Imperial Court, Connie Henke, reviving the song *Splash Splash, I Was Taking a Bath*. Connie is certainly developing a light hearted style of performing that is most entertaining.

Inga returned to the stage, accompanied by the long, leggy look of Miss Londa Lee (a shy performer who vows to only come out for MCC), to perform a well choreographed number from Sister Act II, the *Monster Medley*. The glamour continued as the gorgeous Miss Dorian Drake performed *I'll Never Love This Way Again*.

The walk down memory lane continued with the well-known *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*, only this time performed live by three very talented men in uniform, R.N. Hedges, Bill Burch, and Bill Bohannon. Each has a superb voice, but the trio blended their voices and gave an excitement to the number that had the audience crying for more.

The lovely Rovy, Empress XIII of the Imperial Court of Nebraska, continued her excellent impersonation of Miss Dollie Parton as she performed the 1980 hit *9 to 5*. Dietra Snow returned to the stage then, performing the number which won her the title of Miss Stage Door in 1981, a Patti LaBelle medley of *Love Me and Over the Rainbow*. Dietra earned the envy of many in the audience by wearing the very same rainbow colored outfit that she wore when she won the title in 1981.

The evening's performances were interspersed with bits of MCC history, told by emcee for the evening, Mr. Pat Phalen, joined by Inga and Bob Hedges. An old friend, Rev. Bob Darst, came to the microphone to share one of his favorite memories, having to do with squirrels and nuts and honey. After Bob's humorous story, a chorus of MCC members and friends took to the stage, led by Carla and Staron and former pastor Jan Kross, to perform a parody called *The Restroom Door Said Gentlemen*. The song was followed by some memories of strange happenings

with MCC bathrooms (for example, on 24th street, the women's bathroom had green astroturf on the floor while the men had a full length mirror in theirs). The lighthearted fun continued as Mr. MAX, Tim, went through the audience dressed as Cupid, complete with diaper, and passed out candy hearts while he performed *Cupid Draw Back Your Bow*. The mood stayed light with the next performer, Muffy Rosenberg, Miss MAX I, who came out with one of the highest beehive hairdos I've ever seen, to perform *I Feel Lucky* and some down home country yodeling.

Bill Bohannon returned to the stage with Bill Burch and Michael Taylor-Stewart to perform live their popular number from *Nonsense, Holier Than Thou*. They swore that this would be the last time we ever get to see this number, but maybe we can persuade them it's too soon to retire such a good number. Next to the stage was the gorgeous Jasmine Starr, performing Whitney Houston's *I Want To Dance With Somebody*.

The mood got very serious with the next medley. Carla Petersen began the series with the haunting Lyn Lavner song *All The Fine Young Men*. Then Gloria Ravelle, dressed in a beautiful sequined gown with her Miss MAX crown, performed *I Dreamed a Dream*, dedicated to Wayne Tietzort. The first set closed with the MCC Choir performing *Earnings*.

A raffle was held during intermission, with 40 prizes being awarded. The top two prizes were the handiwork of members of MCC-Omaha. First prize was a dazzling stained glass window featuring a dragon in flight with a crystal ball held gently in its mouth. The stained glass, designed and created by Craig Stooops, was won by Deb Johnson, who is an active member of A.N.G.L.E. The second prize was a hand knitted afghan which had embroidered blocks highlighting MCC's history. The afghan, designed and created by Sharon Van Butsel, was won by Carla Petersen, who promptly donated it to our pastor, Rev. Matthew Howard.

The second set opened with the MCC Choir, featuring the talents of Bill Bohannon on *Shout Amen*. Then the Omaha Original, Miss Jennifer Jett, took to the stage, recreating her title winning performance with Barbie and The Rockers' *I'm A Blonde*.

Then the audience became more serious, as Joel Cason (appearing tonight as Joel, not as Amanda Fox) stepped to the keyboard to perform live the moving *Wind Beneath My Wings*. When Joel's performance was over the audience responded with a thundering standing ovation.

The mood picked up again as Gloria Ravelle recreated her performance which won the Miss MAX title, *Hairspray* and *Wish I Was a Princess*. The lighter mood continued as R.N. Hedges returned to the stage as George Michael, and was joined by Bill Burch decked out in sequins and spangles as Elton John as they sang live *Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me*.

The next performance was one of the outstanding ones of the evening as Miss Everything, Dorian Drake, outdid herself on *I'm Saved*.

The world of female impersonation was abandoned as Mr. HGRA, Pat Williams, danced and stripped his way around the stage to the country western version of the number *Twist and Shout*. The high energy mood continued as Inga and Jasmine returned to the stage in a dueling drag number as Dolly and Whitney performing *I Will Always Love You*.

The mood turned more serious as Bill Burch performed live the melancholy number *The Ones Who Aren't Here*. Then, in a first for the stage at the MAX, Ron Harkin stepped into the spotlight to perform *We Shall Behold Him* in sign language. Interpretation for those ignorant of American Sign Language was performed by R.N. Hedges.

The show closed with Inga and the cast doing *Put A Little Love In Your Heart*. Final thank you's to the emcees, Pat Phalen, Inga, and R.N. Hedges, ended the show and MCC's 20th Anniversary Celebration. The show was well thought out, well staged, and well received. The set, created by Gloria Ravelle, was elegant. As usual, Tom Cech, did an outstanding job with the lights, and Gary did a wonderful job as D.J. Thanks go to Bruce, Stosh, and all the staff at the MAX for the evening, and a special salute goes to our newest producer.

LESBIAN AUTHOR SPEAKING AT UNI

by Laura K. & Dave Hays

Women's History Month activities at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls this March will focus on issues of education, including a keynote address by a lesbian author and educator, Karen Harbeck, Ph.D., J.D., of Boston will speak at 8:00 p.m. Monday, March 7 in UNI's Business Building, Room 109.

Dr. Harbeck will speak on *Coming Out of the Classroom Closet: Gay and Lesbian Students, Teachers, and Curricula*, based on her book of the same title. The address is free and open to the public but seating will be limited.

Karen Harbeck's background includes a B.A. in Anthropology, two Masters in American History and Women's Studies, a law degree, and a Ph.D. in Education. She is currently on the law school faculty at Boston College and is a consultant to the National Education Association (NEA).

Dr. Harbeck maintains a private law practice, focusing her efforts on the lesbian and gay community in the Boston area. She has won numerous awards, published many articles and lectured across the country on gay and lesbian issues in the classroom.

During the UNI address, Dr. Harbeck will also talk about the National Institute for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered in Education, a new non-profit organization for which it is founder and Executive Director. The Institute is being designed to build a coalition of organizations and individuals working on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth in the areas of education, youth services, and sex education.

Dr. Harbeck plans for the Institute to facilitate the sharing of expertise, research and materials, and provide a center for support and empowerment for those working in the field. A national newsletter is also planned to include current critical thinking and interventional advice to those who are fighting the backlash of conservative groups. A data base will be formed to provide bibliographies and other information.

Feb. 10, Dr. Harbeck announced plans for the Institute when she meets with representatives from the NEA, Planned Parenthood, the National Gay/Lesbian Task Force, and other groups.

For more information on the Institute, contact Dr. Karen Harbeck, 55 Glen St., Malden, MA 02148; 617-321-3569; FAX 617-321-9901.

- AccessLine

PRIDE EVENTS OF 1994

by Dave England

The Pride Planning Committee of Achieving New Gay and Lesbian Endeavors (A.N.G.L.E.) announces the greater Omaha and western Iowa Pride Celebration for 1994 will be held during the month of June. The theme for this year, which marks the 25th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall riot on June 26th in New York City, is Stonewall 25: A Global Celebration. The highlight event of the celebration is, as always, the parade. Because of the anniversary celebration held in New York this year, our parade will occur on Sunday, June 12th in order not to conflict with the New York Stonewall 25 celebration.

There is also a logo contest in progress with a deadline of March 15, 1994 for the Planning Committee to receive the entries. All designs must reflect the theme and include the location (Omaha, Nebraska) and the date of the parade (June 12, 1994). Designs must be suitable for both T-shirts and 2 1/2" buttons. Submit entries to Pride Committee, P.O. Box 31375, Omaha, NE 68131.

While detailed planning is not complete, the events planned for June 12th include not only a parade, but also display space for businesses and organizations, a rally following the parade, a picnic in the park and an outdoor Vesper service. A.N.G.L.E. will be selling soft drinks and food following the parade. Omaha's Metropolitan Community Church will conduct the Vesper service.

The Pride Committee wants to publicize other events that other organizations are sponsoring during the month of June. Please let the committee know of these events so they may be included in the published list of events. Send information to P.O. Box 31375, Omaha, NE 68131 or call 558-5303 and leave a message for Dave.

While the deadline has passed for reduced rate ads in the 1994 edition of the Pride Guide, there is still time to be included. If your organization or business wishes to place an ad in the Guide, the fastest way to let us know and get the details is to call 558-5303 and leave a message for Dave.

Additional people are always needed to help with the Pride events. If you have the time, interest or experience in planning and carrying out events, then we could use you. Do not let the lack of experience hold you back. We are especially looking for those with the interest and the time. Our greatest need will be on June 12th. Leaving a message for Dave at 558-5303 will let us know what to help.

Finally, as a reminder, there are still a few places left on the bus for the trip to Stonewall 25, June 24-27. Before all the seats are gone, give Becky a call at 558-5303 to receive more details.

OPC NOMINATED AS CLUB OF THE YEAR BY LEATHER JOURNAL

We are pleased to announce that Omaha Players Club has been nominated as club of the year by the *Leather Journal*. The Pantheon of Leather Awards are nominated by the readers of the *Leather Journal* and include the following categories: Woman of the Year, Man of the Year, Business of the Year, Event of the Year, Club of the Year, Business Person of the Year, Reader's Choice Awards, Forbearer Award, Non-Profit Organization of the Year, International Award, and seven Regional Awards for Individuals. These awards recognize outstanding service and commitment to the leather/SM/fetish community in the past year. For those of you interested in attending these ceremonies, they will be held in Houston on March 4-7th. Along with the awards that weekend, Houston will be hosting the International Masters and Slaves Contest. Master Amy has applications for the weekend's events and will be attending as well.

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THE NEW VOICE

MISS MAX 10 — IN BLACK AND WHITE

By B & G

Miss MAX 5, Gloria Ravelle, brought a spectacular opening performance to the stage of the MAX on January 30. It was the 10th Anniversary of the Miss MAX Pageant as special guests and former Miss MAX's entered the "Masked Ball" set done beautifully by Tom Cech. After the opening, Gloria spoke to the over-filled house about the excitement of celebrating ten years of Miss MAX Pageants and thanked former winners: Miss MAX 1 - Muffy Rosenberg, Miss MAX 4 - Katrina Kane, Miss MAX 7 - Dorian Drake, and the reigning Miss MAX - Amanda Foxx. It was disappointing that the others were not in attendance.

The contestants were brought before the judges first in Costume Competition. Monica West won this part of the competition as Elena Bobbit, complete with kitchen knife and male organ in hand. Other costumes worth mentioning were the Stop The Madness Routine of Shana Stone, Ugly Wanda by Jasmine Starr, and Marge Simpson by Laura Lee.

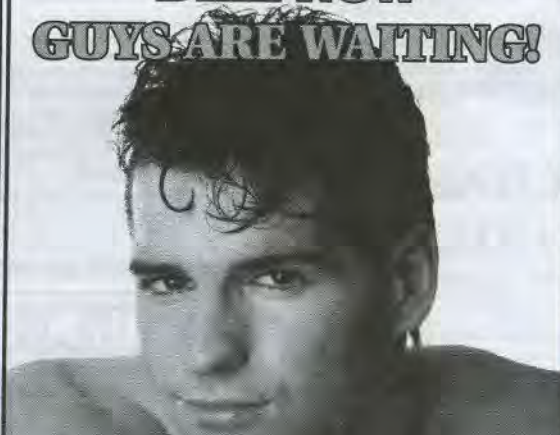
After introducing the judges, Gloria brought Muffy to the stage for a Janis Joplin rendition of *Me and Bobby McGee*, followed by Amanda performing Madonna's *Cherish*. Dorian did a great job with Mariah Carey's *Hero*. Then Katrina Kane introduced the contestants in Swimsuit Competition. This part of the competition was won by Vivian Cartright wearing hot pink fringe. We thought Kendra Williams looked fine in a black and gold swimsuit, and Jasmine was great in a pink one-piece suit.

After Gloria, Katrina, and Muffy performed (doing outstanding jobs as usual), Dorian was given the microphone to introduce the talent competition. This competition was won again by Vivian Cartright doing a Sandra Bernhard routine. We enjoyed Shana's old and young Nancy Sinatra's *Boots*, and Kendra's old gospel choir number. Amanda, Katrina, and Gloria performed before Muffy introduced the evening wear competition. Once again Vivian topped them all in the judges' eyes.

Amanda came to the stage performing another moving number and ended it by presenting Stosh with her Miss MAX crown and thanking him, Gloria Ravelle, and The MAX for a wonderful reign. Shana Stone was then announced as first runner-up and Vivian Cartright was crowned Miss MAX 10.

Congratulations, Vivian, and to the other contestants we would like to say "Do it again!" and continue giving your part to the community.

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PRIME TIMERS HOST SOCIAL

The Omaha Chapter of Prime Timers, Intl., will host a get-acquainted evening Thursday, March 10 at Trick's Public House, 1019 South 10th Street.

Prime Timers is a social and beneficial organization for older gay and bisexual men.

Prime Timers will provide hors d'oeuvres and snacks and Tricks will offer special drink prices from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Come find out what we're all about.

For further information, contact Ron Wilson, 5101 South 39th Street, Omaha, NE 68107-2438, phone 734-3421.

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MOTHERS' VOICES

by Kathy England

"Thirteen years into this epidemic, it's still a constant struggle to keep our government focused on ending AIDS." Mothers' Voices, is a not-for-profit group based in New York, is seeking support from across the country for its third annual Mothers' Day card campaign urging Congress to act now by allocating more money for care, more research for a cure. PFLAG Omaha will be distributing 7"x 10" cards to other organizations in the area for signatures (the only commitment from you and your friends is to sign the cards - 30 names and addresses to a card) and return these to Mothers' Voices no later than April 22nd. They will sort them by congressional districts and deliver them to Capitol Hill. We can show the Congress and the country that we in the Heartland have been touched by HIV/AIDS and that we will raise our voices with others who are "speaking from the heart about AIDS". The active nature of collecting signatures provides people a chance to speak about AIDS to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, organizational members and others. It would be a great time to tap into local figures, invite a speaker from NAP for your church group, class or work site meeting, or organization program, or consider volunteering a few hours for NAP (call them at 342-4233 for opportunities.) Our goal is to fill 50 cards (1500 people who care!). Please call the PFLAG Helpline at 291-6791 if you'd like a card for your family and friends. It only takes a moment to show Congress that we understand, we care, we are people taking action against AIDS. Thanks for your time and support.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN

The Blue Barn Theatre is proud to present the critically acclaimed play *Death and the Maiden* by Ariel Dorfman. This South American play examines a country in transition from a brutal dictatorship to a democratic state, and explores the emotion repercussions of that transition. In a beach house in Chile, a woman comes face to face with a man she believes tortured her eight years before.

The Blue Barn Company is excited to welcome two actors news to its stage in this production. Local actor Frank Rizzuto, who most recently appeared at the Omaha Community Playhouse in *A Few Good Men*, will play Roberto Miranda, a doctor who may have had ties to the former government. Kenneth Marsten, an actor/director who is one of the founding members of the Trinity Theatre Company in Los Angeles, is playing Gerardo Escobar, a lawyer committed to the new democracy, and Blue Barn member Rachel Hauben plays his wife, a woman recovering from her torturous ordeal during the previous regime. Blue Barn member Amy Matthews, who directed *Franking & Johnny* in the *Clair De Lune*, will direct this production as well.

Death and the Maiden opened February 18, and will run through March 13. Performance times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm and Sundays at 7:00 pm. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students and seniors. Please call 345-1576 for information and reservations.

DES MOINES CENTER CLOSES

by Dave Hays

For many years, the Gay and Lesbian Resource Center in Des Moines was Iowa's largest and most influential community service. However, its board of directors closed the center in December after several months of financial crisis and failure to find a new home for the facility.

The organization served as a statewide resource for the gay community, as well as the media and politicians who called on the center for gay and lesbian perspectives on a variety of issues. In addition to a large number of Des Moines area support groups started by the GLRC, the organization published a statewide newspaper.

According to the newsletter of the Women's Cultural Collective in Des Moines, a number of GLRC board members hope to revitalize the organization in the near future. Meanwhile, the support group started by the GLRC, including the Youth Groups, Men in Their Twenties, the Coming Out Group, and others, have regrouped and are using a new phone number for referrals and information.

To find out about meeting times and locations, or other community activities which may be revived, call 515-280-8660.

Access Line

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WAS READING
TOO MANY
PERSONALS!

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

*****Lincoln*****

Alcoholics Anonymous, Open Mtg Fri. 8pm, 1st Plymouth Church, 20 & D, Lincoln, 438-5214

Arbor Moon Alternative Bookstore, 2017 "O", Lincoln 68502 Mon-Fri 12n-8pm, Sat 7-6pm, Closed Sundays, Wally 489-4634/477-5666

BIPALS (Bisexual People/Alternate Lifestyle) Box 80913, Lincoln, 68501, 1st Mon. 7:30pm, Cornerstone (tupstr) 640 N 16. All sexes welcome.

Gay Men's Support Group, c/o Counseling & Psych Services, Rm 213, Univ. Health Ctr., UNL, Lincoln, 68588-0618, 472-7450. Confidential

Information for Older Gay People (INFORMATION), Box 22043, Lincoln 68542-2043 Info, Conference Updates, and Education, Coffee House 2nd Saturday each month, 4-9pm, at 3319 S. 46th, Lincoln, Everyone welcome.

Lesbian Discussion Group, Womens Resource Ctr, Room 340 Neb Union, UNL, Lincoln, 68588-472-2597, Meets Thursdays 6-7:30pm.

The Male Space, 1st Thursday (Discussion) 7-8:30pm, 2nd Sunday (Social) 2-6pm at 1448 "E" St., Lincoln. For Gay/Bisexual Men of all ages. Women may lend financial support. Membership \$10/quarter. Interested write or visit: Stan Balderson, 1534 "E" St., Apt. #26, Lincoln, 68508.

Nebraska Bookstore, 13th & Q Streets, Lincoln, Alternative Lifestyle Section carries The Advocate

National Organization for Women (NOW) - political and grassroots activist org. involved in every issue relating to full equality for women in our society - meets monthly, Lincoln NOW, P.O. Box 80172, Lincoln, NE 68501, 477-1226

Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Box 4374, Lincoln, NE 68504, 467-4599. 4th Tuesday, 7pm, Unitarian Church, 6300 'A', Group for family of people with HIV, and G/L Youth Group meet same time & place.

Star City Lines, Box 21903, Lincoln, NE 68502, (402) 483-5251, Leather club, Educational

University of Nebr. Bookstore, 14th & R, Lincoln, Gay Studies Section/Books on G/L Life.

UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Ctr, Rm 234 Nebr Union, UNL, Lincoln 68588-0455, 472-5644 Social, info, referral, library, Support grp Wed 7:30pm during school year

The Wimm'n's Show, 12-3pm Sunday, KZUM, 89.3 FM stereo, Lincoln

A Woman's Place, nonprofit org dedicated to empowering women. Write: A Woman's Place, 440 S. 44 St., Lincoln, 68510, 476-7692.

Youth Talkline 473-7932, Friday & Saturday 7pm-Midnite, Lincoln. Emotional support, referrals, AIDS info for callers Age 23 and under. Project of Coalition for G/L Civil Rts

YWCA Counseling & Education Department, 476 2802, Lincoln. Information and Referral.

*****OMAHA*****

Adult Children Anonymous, meets at MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, Thursdays, 7pm

Al-Anon, support group for those affected by a loved one's use of alcohol. Tuesdays, 7pm, 1st Unitarian, Side Door, 3114 Harney Omaha

Alcoholics Anonymous, Info: 345-9916 Stonewall Group, Wed, 7:30pm MCC-Omaha

Alcoholics Anonymous, (continued) Gay Mens Stag "An Alternative",

Fri. 7pm, MCC-Omaha, 455-7916; Live & Let Live Group, Pella Lutheran,

303 S. 41, Omaha Open Mtg Friday 8-15pm

A.N.G.L.E., Inc. (Achieving New Gay & Lesbian Endeavors), Box 31375, Omaha 68131 (402) 558-5303, Organization for Networking, consciousness raising, PRIDE activities.

Citizens For Equal Protection, Box 55548, Omaha, 68155 (402) 398-3027, Legislative action to eliminate discrimination for gay/lesbian/bisexual employment, housing, education, public accommodations. 1st Thursday, 7:30pm, 1st Unitarian, 3114 Harney

EAGLE-Omaha, Employee Assoc. of Gays & Lesbians. US WEST. Contact S. McCartney, 1314 Douglas on Mall, 8th Floor, Omaha 68102

Frontrunners/walkers, Box 4583, Omaha 68104, HOTLINE 496-3658, Running/Walking Club (SASE for info)

Gay/Lesbian Information & Referral Line, A service of A.N.G.L.E., Inc., (402) 558-5303

Gay/Lesbian Support Group, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22nd, 345-2563, Tuesdays 7:30pm

Lutherans Concerned, 1st Sun 7pm 1st Luth, 31 & Jackson, Omaha 345-4080/453-7137

Metropex Counseling Center, 2808 N. 75, Suite E, Omaha, 68134 (402) 398-1810 serving the G & L & Gender Community.

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 345-2563, Mail: Box 3173, Omaha, 68103, Services: 819 S. 22, Adult/Children Christian Educ. 9am, Sunday Worship 9 & 10:30am. Eve worship 1st Sunday, 6pm with potluck din. 6pm

New Realities, Books, Tapes, Gifts, Old Market Passageway, 1026 Howard, 68102, 342-1863

OLIS (Our Love Is Special), Box 11335, Omaha 68111 Support-social grp for women of all colors

Omaha Meatpackers, Leather/Levi Club with focus on AIDS fundraising. Call: (712) 366-1791

Omaha Men OMEN, Box 3706 Omaha 68103 Men interested in masculinity/masculine image 3rd Sunday, 4pm, The Run, 1715 Leavenworth

Omaha Players Club (OPC), PO Box 34463 Omaha 68134, (402) 451-7987. Leather/SM education & play group. Men's & women's group

ONYX IMAGES, P.O. Box 31026, Omaha, NE 68132-9998. Support/Social Fraternity for African American men. Age restriction for membership. Support for brothers of all ages.

Overeaters Anonymous Lambda Plush, Wed 7:30pm Family & Friends 3040 N 102, Omaha

Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 733-1360, 2912 Lynnwood Dr., Omaha, 68123, 291-6781. Meets 1st United Methodist, 7020 Cass, West Entrance; 2nd Thurs, 7pm, "Program & Time for Sharing"; 4th Sunday, 2pm, "Sharing"

Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns, 733-1360, Cleve, Omaha. Generally meets last Sat. Jan-Oct. 2nd Sat. in December. No Nov mtg

Prime Timers, Social/support org. for older gay/bisexual men and younger admirers. Meet 3rd Sunday, 4pm, UNO Religious Center, 101 N. Happy Hollow. Info: (402) 895-9599 or write: 13008 "S" Plaza, Box 1088, Omaha, 68137

River City Mixed Bowling League, President - Scott Rezek, 346-4110, Secretary - Charley Wade, 597-1689, Sundays 3pm, Skylanes, Center Mall,

River City Gender Alliance, Box 680, Council Bluffs, IA 51502. For crossdressers, transsexuals, and those wishing to know more about it. All orientations welcome. Newsletter, Meets monthly, Omaha

River City Mixed Chorus, Box 3267, Omaha, 68103-0267, 341-SING (341-7464). Volunteer chorus for Gay/Lesbian/Sensitive people

Seventh Day Adventist Kinship Inc, Support info for Les/Gay College Students 339-6682, Omaha or 800-4-GAY-SDA.

UNO Gay and Lesbian Student Org (GLSDO) Membership open to UNO students. Students from all colleges invited to participate, contact president Suzette 558-8697 or the UNO Office of Student Activities 554-2717

Women of the Plains, Box 24355, Omaha, 68124-0355, Bring women's culture to Omaha

Women's Support Group, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22nd, 345-2563. Meets Saturdays 11am

WomenSpace, Box 24712, Omaha 68124-0712, Quarterly newsletter for lesbian voices & events to build Heartland lesbian community

Youth Support Group, sponsor: PFLAG. For gay, lesbian youth & those questioning sexuality, ages 13-21. Meets Sat., Omaha, Call 291-6781.

*****STATEWIDE*****

Alcoholics Anonymous, *Grand Island, Open Meeting 12noon, Sundays

Coalition for Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights, Box 94882, Lincoln 68509 Advocacy group lobbies for G/L civil rights, has newsletter, socials. Bus. Meeting, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30pm; 1st Saturday Social, 7-10pm. Both at Cornerstone, 640 N. 16

Gay & Lesbian Assoc. of Greater Nebr., For healthier environment in Nebr. Support meetings, social events, newsletter. Contact Dennis V., 4005 Rodeo Road, Lot #4, North Platte, 69101

Heartland Gay Rodeo Association (HGRA), Box 57441, Lincoln, 68505-9998. Info. call Dan 344-3103 (Omaha) or Patrick 477-3899 (Lincoln) All who enjoy/support rodeos & other country activities. Meets 1st Saturday DC's, Omaha

2nd Annual ICE BOWL Invitational Bowling Tournament, Box 3622, Omaha 68103-0622, Attn: Scott Hummel-sec or Roger Klenke-direct

Imperial Court of Nebraska, Box 3772, Omaha 68102 Org for advancement of Gay/Lesbian society, Business Meeting 1st Monday each month

Lincoln/Lancaster Drug Projects, 610 "J", Lincoln, 475-5161, Dennis Hoffman, Case Mgr. Outpatient chemical dependency treatment while affirming sexuality. Sliding Fee

The New Voice of Nebraska, Box 3512, Omaha 68103. Subs: \$19/year; Deadline: 10th of month

Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gays *PFLAG, Kearney, NE: meets 3pm, 3rd Sunday at St Luke's Episcopal. Call (308) 382-0752 or (308) 995-5490. Direct correspondence to: PFLAG, 1320 8th Ave., Holdrege, NE 68949

Times of the Heartland, 601 S. 16, Suite 710, Omaha 68102. Newline: 341-6900, Advertising, 341-1667. Weekly newspaper for heartland region

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563, Christian Education for Adults & Children 9am, Worship 9am, 10:20am

Grand Island Alcoholics Anonymous, Open Meeting 12noon (308)382-02404

MONDAY

River City Mixed Chorus Rehearsals, 7:15 to 9:30pm, First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St. (Northwest Door), Omaha

Alternate Test Site, Nebraska AIDS Project, 3624 Leavenworth St., Omaha, 7-9:30pm

TUESDAY

"Out In The 90's" Gay Broadcast News Service, Cable Channel 14, Lincoln, 7pm

Al-Anon, Support for those who are affected by loved one's use of alcohol, 1st Unitarian Church, Side Door, Omaha, 7pm

Gay/Lesbian Support Group, 7:30pm, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22 St., 345-2563

WEDNESDAY

Lesbian Discussion Group Lincoln 6pm, UNL, Nebr Union, Room 338

Omaha Frontrunner/Walkers, 6:30pm, Ford Birthsite, 32nd & Woolworth, Omaha

P-FLAG AIDS Support Group, Lincoln, 7pm Call AIDS Information Line: 475-2437

Alcoholics Anonymous, "Stonewall" Group, 7:30pm, MCC-Omaha, 345-2563

Lambda 360 Overaters Anon, 7:30pm, Family & Friends, 3040 N. 102, Omaha

UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center Lincoln, 7:30pm, Nebr Union, Room 234

THURSDAY

Alternate Test Site, Nebraska AIDS Project, 3624 Leavenworth Omaha 7-9:30pm

Adult Children Anonymous, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 7-8pm

FRIDAY

Youth Talkline, 7pm-12m, Support/Info for callers up to age 23, 473-7932, Lincoln

Lincoln G/L Alcoholics Anonymous, 8pm, Plymouth Cong., 20 & D, 438-5214

Omaha Alcoholics Anonymous, ***"An Alternative" Gay Men's Stag Group, 7pm, MCC-O, 819 S. 22, 455-7916 ***"Live & Let Live" G/L Group, 8:15pm, Pella Lutheran, 303 S. 41, 345-9916

Every Other Fri., Drop In Cntr, HIV Info/tests 1723 Leavenworth Omaha 10pm-2pm

After Hours Dancing, 1:35 - 4am Late Night, The New Run Bar, Omaha

SATURDAY

Womens Support Group, 11am, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22nd St., 345-2563

P-FLAG Youth Group, ages 13-21, for gay, lesbian, and those questioning sexuality, Omaha, 291-6781

Youth Talkline 7pm-12m 473-7932 Lincoln

After Hours Dancing The New Run Omaha

TUESDAY, March 1

A.N.G.L.E. Meeting, 7pm, UNO Religious Center, 101 N. Happy Hollow, Omaha
1994 LOGO Contest. All entries must be received by ANGLE by 3/15/94.

WEDNESDAY, March 2

Lenten Prayer Svce, MCC-Omaha, 6-6:45pm

THURSDAY, March 3

G/L Resource Cir Business Mtg. Rm 342, Nebraska Union, UNL, Lincoln, 7pm.

The Male Space, Discussion Group 7-8:30pm, 1448 "E" St., Lincoln. For Gay/Bisexual Men of all ages. Write or visit: Stan Balderson, 1534 "E" St., Apt. #26, Lincoln, 68508.

Citizens for Equal Protection, 7:30pm, 1st Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney, Omaha

FRIDAY, March 4

Death and the Maiden, 8pm, Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13, Omaha, 345-1576

SATURDAY, March 5

Chesterfield vs. Club 2001 in Darts, 4pm; Free Spaghetti Feed, 5-7pm; Club 2001, Lincoln

Heartland Gay Rodeo Assc 6pm DCs, Omaha

Coalition 1st Sat. Event, 7-10pm "Coffee Hse-Game Nite" Cornerstone, 640 N. 16, Lincoln

River City Gender Alliance Winterfest, For the Gender Community and friends, reception, buffet banquet, show featuring best female impersonators. For more information write to RCGA, Box 680, Council Bluffs, IA 51502

Death and the Maiden, 8pm, Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13, Omaha, 345-1576

Comedy of Suzanne Westenhofer, Presented by Women of the Plains, 8:05pm, Witherspoon Concert Hall, Joselyn Art Museum, Omaha

SUNDAY, March 6

Evening Worship Service, 6pm, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563, Potluck Supper at 5pm

Lutherans Concerned, 1st Lutheran, 31 & Jackson, Omaha, 7pm, 345-4080 or 453-7137

Death and the Maiden, 7pm, Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13, Omaha, 345-1576

Champagne and Guests, 10pm, Back Bar, Club 2001, 500 Sun Valley Road, Lincoln

MONDAY, March 7

Imperial Court of Nebr. Board of Governors, 6:30pm, The MAX, 1415 Jackson, Omaha

Bi-PALS, (BiSexual People, Alternate Life Styles), Open to all sexes, Meet at the Cornerstone, 640 N. 16, Lincoln, 7:30pm

Kearney HIV/AIDS Support Group, For more information call: Barb (308) 234-8183

TUESDAY, March 8

Free & Confidential HIV Testing by Lancaster County Public Health Department, 5 - 7 p.m. The Panic, 18th & N Streets, Lincoln

WEDNESDAY, March 9

Lenten Prayer Svce, MCC-Omaha, 6-6:45pm

THURSDAY, March 10

Deadline for April New Voice

Prime Timers get-acquainted evening, Trick's Public House, 1019 South 10, hors d'oeuvres and snacks, 8-10p.m. Info, Ron Wilson, 5101 S. 39 St, Omaha, NE 68107-2438, 734-3421.

Grand Island Support Group, Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Association of Greater Nebraska, Write: GLAGN, 4005 Rodeo Rd, #4, North Platte, NE 69101 or call (308) 384-7235

Parents FLAG-Omaha, Support & Discussion Meeting, Parlor by Mead Chapel, West End of the Church, at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass, 7-9pm, 291-6781

Death and the Maiden, 8pm, Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13, Omaha, 345-1576

SATURDAY, March 12

River City Gender Alliance, For transgendered people including crossdressers, transsexuals, and those wishing to know more about transgenderism. For information, write: RCGA, P.O. Box 680, Council Bluffs 51502

Benefit Auction & Indoor Rodeo with calf roping, wild dog race, stick horse, barrel race, skeet shooting. Entry fee for each event is \$1! Sponsored by HGRA, DCs, 601 S. 14, Omaha

Intergenerational Coffee House sponsored by INFORMATION (programming for older gay people), safe, smoke-free, alcohol-free social event, open to everyone. 4pm-9pm, 3319 S. 46, Lincoln, (402) 488-4178

Death and the Maiden, 8pm, Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13, Omaha, 345-1576

SUNDAY, March 13

New Voice Steering Committee, 1pm, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22

Death and the Maiden, 7pm, Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13, Omaha, 345-1576

The Male Space, Social 2-6pm, 1448 "E" St., Lincoln. For Gay/Bisexual Men of all ages. Write or visit: Stan Balderson, 1534 "E" St., Apt. #26, Lincoln, 68508

Lead Foots to K.C. host Fund Raiser, Club 2001, 500 Sun Valley Road, Lincoln, 10pm, Front Bar

MONDAY, March 14

AIDS Interfaith Prayer/Healing Service, 7pm, St Cecelia's, Nebr. Chapel, 701 N. 40, Omaha

TUESDAY, March 15

1994 LOGO Contest ends, Theme "Stonewall 25: A Global Celebration" All entries must be received by A.N.G.L.E. by this date.

Grand Island HIV/AIDS Support Group, Call for time, location: (308) 381-5175

Coalition for G/L Civil Rights — Board Mtg., CornerStone, 640 N 16, Lincoln, 7:30pm

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, March 16

Lenten Prayer Service MCC-Omaha 6-6:45pm

THURSDAY, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day!! Celebrate at your favorite!!

SATURDAY, March 19

St. Patty's Day Dance, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 7-10 p.m., Admission \$1 or food for pantry

SUNDAY, March 20

P-FLAG/Kearney, St. Luke's Episcopal 2304 2nd Ave, (308) 382-0752 or 995-5490, 3pm

North Platte Support Group, 7:30pm, Sponsor: Gay and Lesbian Assoc. of Greater Nebr, Write: GLAGN, 4005 Rodeo Rd, #4, North Platte, NE 69101 or call (308) 534-7820

Prime Timers, 4pm, UNO Religious Center, 101 North Happy Hollow Blvd., Omaha

Omaha Men (OMEN), 4pm, The New Run Bar, Write: OMEN, Box 3706, Omaha 68103

Premiere Performance, Jeffrey, presented by SNAP, 7pm, \$25/person, Firehouse Dinner Theatre, 346-8833 reservations, Proceeds benefit Nebraska AIDS Project

Des Moines Invades Lincoln, 10pm, Back Bar, Club 2001, 500 Sun Valley Road, Lincoln

MONDAY, March 21

Jeffrey, presented by SNAP Productions, 8pm, \$15/person, Firehouse Dinner Theatre, 346-8833, Proceeds to Nebraska AIDS Project

Tony DiAngelo and Chase Hunter star in Male Order Review, 10pm, Front Bar, Club 2001, 500 Sun Valley Road, Lincoln

TUESDAY, March 22

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Lincoln Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, 7pm, Small group sharing time & program: "Peer AIDS Trainers in High School" Under 21 group meets in separate small group session, For info call PFLAG 467-4599

Frontrunners/Walkers Monthly Mtg, 6:30pm, All Welcome!, For information 496-3658

Jeffrey, 8pm, \$15/person, Firehouse Dinner Theatre, 514 S. 11, 346-8833 for reservations, All proceeds benefit Nebraska AIDS Project

WEDNESDAY, March 23

Lenten Prayer Service MCC-Omaha 6-6:45pm

THURSDAY, March 24

Grand Island Support Group, Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Association of Greater Nebraska, Write: GLAGN, 4005 Rodeo Rd, #4, North Platte, NE 69101 or call (308) 384-7235

FRIDAY, March 25

New Voice 10th Anniversary Party, 5-8pm, Beer, Pop, Munchies provided, Stosh's Saloon, The MAX, Omaha, Everyone is welcome!!

Jeffrey, 8pm, \$15/person, Firehouse Dinner Theatre, 514 S. 11, 346-8833, benefit NAP

SATURDAY, March 26

Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, Omaha, Call for information

Omaha Players Club 2-5pm Workshop "Genitorium", 8pm "A Trip to the Pet Shop" Party, Info: call 451-7987

Jeffrey, 8pm, \$15/person, Firehouse Dinner Theatre, 514 S. 11, 346-8833 for reservations, All proceeds benefit Nebraska AIDS Project

SUNDAY, March 27

Palm Sunday

Easter Cantata, 9:00 & 10:30am, MCC-Omaha

Easter Egg Hunt, 1pm, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, All Children Are Welcome!!

Parents FLAG-Omaha, Support Meeting, Mead Hall at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass, 2-4pm, 291-6781

Jeffrey, 8pm, Firehouse Dinner Theatre, 514 S. 11, 346-8833, Benefits Nebraska AIDS Project

Imperial Court of Nebr presents Closet Ball '94, 9:30pm, The MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha

Jammin' with Lavender Couch, 10pm, Front Bar, Club 2001, 500 Sun Valley Road, Lincoln

MONDAY, March 28

Jeffrey, presented by SNAP Productions, 8pm, \$15/person, Firehouse Dinner Theatre, 514 S. 11, 346-8833 for reservations, All proceeds benefit Nebraska AIDS Project

TUESDAY, March 29

Jeffrey, 8pm, \$15/person, Firehouse Dinner Theatre, 514 S. 11, 346-8833 for reservations, All proceeds benefit Nebraska AIDS Project

WEDNESDAY, March 30

Lenten Prayer Service MCC-Omaha 6-6:45pm

THURSDAY, March 31

Traditional Seder Dinner and kosher potluck, for details 345-2563, MCC-Omaha, 6:30pm

FRIDAY, April 1

Good Friday Service, 7 pm, MCC-Omaha

36 Hour Prayer Vigil Begins, MCC-Omaha

Jeffrey, 8pm, Firehouse Dinner Theatre, 514 S. 11, 346-8833, Benefits Nebraska AIDS Project

SATURDAY, April 2

Jeffrey, presented by SNAP Productions, 8pm, \$15/person, Firehouse Dinner Theatre, 514 S. 11, 346-8833 for reservations, All proceeds benefit Nebraska AIDS Project

SUNDAY, April 3

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service, 6:30 am, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 19, 345-2563; Regular Worship Services at 9am, 10:30am, and 6pm.

Bars & Restaurants

Des Moines (A.C. 515)

Blazing Saddle 416 E 5th St., 246-1299

The Brass Garden 112 SE 4th St., 243-3965

Club 508 508 Clifton Ave., 288-8508
Chances 424 E Locust St., 243-9629

Omaha (A.C. 402)

The Chesterfield 1951 St. Marys, 342-1244

DC's 610 S. 14th, 344-3103
The Diamond 712 S. 16th, 342-9595

Gilligan's 1823 Leavenworth, 449-9147

The Max 1417 Jackson, 346-4110
The New Run 1715 Leavenworth, 449-8703

Trick's Public House 1019 S. 10th, 345-1661

Lincoln (A.C. 402)

Panic 200 S. 18th St., 435-8764
Club 2001 500 Sun Valley Road, 476-2001

Red & Black Cafe 1819 "O" 438-2525

WHERE CAN I GET A COPY OF THE NEW VOICE?

We've listed many of the regular distribution points below. If your group or business would like to be included on our distribution list, please contact us.

Omaha:

The Chesterfield
D.C.'s
The Diamond
Downtown Grounds
Gilligan's Pub
The MAX
Metropolitan Community Church
Nebraska AIDS Project
New Realities
Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays
The Run
St. Mary's Tan
Trick's Public House

Council Bluffs:

Adult Emporium
Eric's Bookstore

Lincoln:

Arbor Moon
Club 2001
Nebraska Book Store
The Panic
Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays
Red & Black Cafe
UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center
Women's Resource Center

Kearney:

GLAGN
Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays

Des Moines:

Blazing Saddle
Brass Garden
Club 508
Chances

Sioux City:

Metropolitan Community Church
Three Cheers

Of course, you can subscribe for only \$19 per year and have *The New Voice* delivered directly to your door (in a plain, brown envelope, of course).

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Ave. 341-3740. (Mr94)

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Downtown Omaha for your appointment.
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342-1935 (Ju94)

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Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved
throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred
Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of
miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the
hopeless, pray for us. Thank you St. Jude. Say
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fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you
St. Jude. L.G.P. (Mr94)

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Padre Island to Omaha to serve you! NOW
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The Radical Right Wing is on the move with
millions of members and volunteers writing and
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Human Rights Campaign Fund is leading the
fight for l/g/b civil rights on the national level.
We need your help to wage an effective battle.
From now until the November elections we need
committed, motivated individuals to help generate
grassroots pressure on Congress with telegrams,
letters, phone calls and lobby visits. Work as a
coordinator in your community and help us
respond to hate and lies. Some positions earn
extra money. Call Shell: 1-800-777-HRCF.

PERSONALS

HELP! SOMEBODY FIND ME!

GWM, 35, lost in West Omaha, is in search of
a husky, hairy, teddybear for friendship and frolic.
Respond to: P.O. Box 171, Boystown, NE 68010

TAN BLOWOUT Wed., March 16 - Drawings
on Sat., March 19 - and lots more specials
during **Tropical Daze at St. Mary's Tan**, 2202
St. Mary's Ave. 341-3740. (Mr94)

BI Black Male, 39, seeks transsexuals and
transvestites or very feminine gay males for good,
quality times together, age unimportant, sincerity
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Kim 347-6336 (Mr94)

Doctor from India/Pakistan in Boston seeks
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GWM, interested in the culture and lifestyle of
the Subcontinent for a meaningful relationship of
mutual growth, respect, love, and commitment
based on friendship and human values. I am 38,
5' 10", 175 lbs, TOP. Write: Dr. Zaki Usman,
PO Box 722 (#180), Boston, MA 02117 (Mr94)

LONELY?

Need a friend/lover. Call Infinity, an inexpensive
nationwide matching service for gay men. 602-
848-6780. Free Limited Membership. (Mr94)

The New Voice of Nebraska Classified Ad

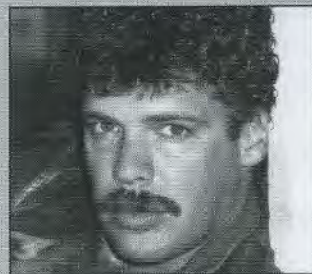
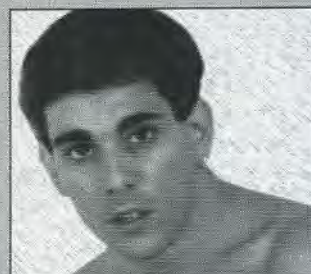
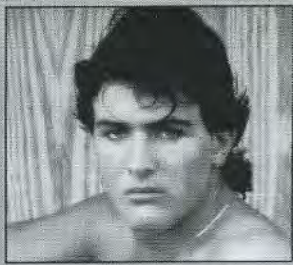
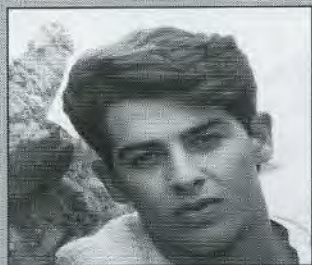
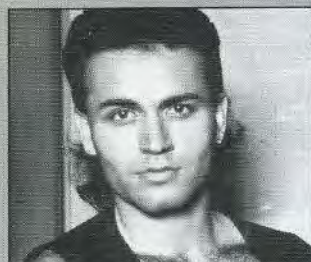
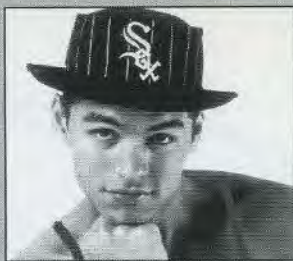
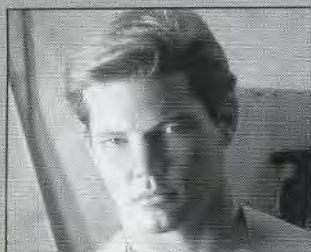
Write your ad here:

Classified ads in the *New Voice of Nebraska* are \$3.00 for 20 words or less. Each additional word is 20¢. Ads must be received by the 10th of the month preceding the month you wish your ad to appear.

Mail to:

The New Voice of Nebraska
P.O. Box 3512
Omaha, NE 68103

NEBRASKA'S GAY VOICE PERSONALS



**BI & GAY PERSONALS BY AREA CODE!
FAST • EASY • DISCREET HOME NUMBERS
1-900-737-GAYS**

MANFINDER: 415-281-3183. ONLY \$1.99/MIN. MUST BE 18+.

RECORD YOUR OWN PRIVATE MESSAGE FREE: 1-800-540-MENN

**BACK BY
POPULAR DEMAND**

DISCO DISCO DISCO

7 NIGHTS A WEEK

IT ALL STARTS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**The Best Beer Bust In The Midwest Just Got Better
Now Get Primed Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday**

**Thursday It's A Fiesta All Night
With Nebraska's #1 Margaritas For Only \$1**

**Stosh's Saloon Features The Hottest Country
Tunes With The Hottest Cowboys & Cowgirls
Every Friday & Saturday**

**Nothing Compares With Our Superstar Shows
Every Sunday**

With The Hottest Male Dancers & Entertainers

**And Get Happy Every Weekday With Marty
At Happy Hour From 4 to 9**

Remember Keno At THE MAX With Quarter Mania 5 to 7

We're THE MAX

1417 Jackson Street Omaha

March In To Panic!

PANIC • 200 S. 18TH • LINCOLN, NE • 435-8764

Jäg hagg
U N I T E

It's a fact...

No other bar in Lincoln sells as much Jägermeister as PANIC. To help us maintain this position of stature, drop by every Thursday in March for our Jäg Hag party!

Jägermeister specials, T-Shirts, Buttons, Hats, Bumper Stickers, and other fun stuff emblazoned with that cool Jäg logo.

Erin Go Bra-less!

Or something like that. Hang out in the most Irish queer bar in Lincoln. Drink specials, shot specials, and Corned Beef and Cabbage (\$24.95 per person, \$86.95 for a table of 4.)

Just kidding!
it's FREE!

Saint
Patrick's
celebration

BEACH BLAST '94

Surf's Up!

Don't be a fool and miss our 8th annual Beach Party! Let us take you to a place where warm sand squishes between your toes, and the air is pungent with the scent of Coppertone and nude flesh roasting in the sun!
March 25th & 26th.

**FIRST CLASS
MALE**

U.S. TOUR

Take It OFF!

Five hot men and one beautiful woman will rise to the occasion and heat up your night!
Monday, April 4th, 10pm

WARNING

No one will be seated during the shocking "Pump-It-Up" scene.

FRIDAY NIGHTS
KARAOKE
WITH MIKE AND CAROLYN
9:00pm

(February 1984)

NEW VOICE BECOMES A COOPERATIVE

In the last issue, you were told that *The New Voice* is now *The New Voice of Nebraska Cooperative*. *The New Voice* did not make a net profit last year, due to large part to our legal expenses. We do not expect that this will be the case every year. A mechanism must exist for disbursement of those profits, and such a mechanism now exists. Under our Articles of Incorporation, every year that there is a net profit, *The New Voice* Steering Committee must take that profit and give it to other gay and lesbian organizations. That means that if we end next year with a million dollar surplus (we all have our fantasies), the Steering Committee's first item of business in the new year would be to divvy the cash up among deserving gay and lesbian organizations. A second feature of our new status is that it will now enable us to apply for tax exempt status is on my list of things to do, and rapidly approaching the top of the list. Up until this point, any gifts to *The New Voice* have not been tax-deductible, that should now change.

— Mel Dahl



(July 1984)

THE NEW VOICE FIGHTS LAWSUIT

Homophobia, harassment, and bigotry are a few words to describe a suit brought against *The New Voice* magazine by Bryant News, Inc. Bryant News, Inc., owner of a Hickman newspaper called *The Voice — News of Southern Lancaster County* has requested an injunction to stop *The New Voice* from using its name. A hearing is scheduled for Monday, August 6, at 3:30 p.m.

Judge Jeffrey Cheavront refused to order a temporary restraining order on July 24, 1984, to stop *The New Voice* from using its name. This allowed our publication to complete work on this August issue without interruption.

The New Voice staff met during an emergency meeting July 26 and unanimously decided to continue to fight the lawsuit. The group also decided to ask for the support of the community, and a fund-drive for legal defense was begun.

The New Voice strongly contends that the suit was initiated for either publicity or because of outright prejudice against gays and lesbians. Several reasons point to this conclusion.

In the first place, *The Voice News* is a newspaper, *The New Voice* is a magazine. It would be extremely difficult to confuse the two.

Secondly, we serve different communities. The circulation of *The New Voice* is almost entirely limited to the gay and lesbian communities of Lincoln and Omaha; we have no circulation in Hickman whatsoever. They have a circulation restricted mainly to southern Lancaster County. Few people in Lincoln, including *The New Voice* staff, had ever heard of *The Voice News* until its owners filed this lawsuit. Also, the publications have absolutely no common advertisers.

In the third place, the term "voice" is such a common name for journals that no one can claim exclusive use, for example, *Village Voice*, *Dallas Voice*, *Christian Voice*, and *Catholic Voice* to name but a few.

Lastly, we feel that if another group such as the American Legion used *The New Voice* for their organization's magazine, Bryant News would not have been so quick to file suit. This anti-gay bigotry is similar to the harassment that black publications endured a few years ago.

Historically, this is the first time a Nebraska gay organization has been sued. But common sense will rule over fear and hate. Support *The New Voice* in their efforts by providing moral support at the court hearing on August 6th and by giving donations to the fund for legal defense.

(September 1984)

THE NEW VOICE WINS LAWSUIT

The New Voice magazine won a major victory on August 23, when Judge Jeffrey Cheavront denied an injunction sought by William F. Bryant, publisher of *The Voice News of Southern Lancaster County*, a small weekly newspaper based in Hickman.

Judge Cheavront's decision was based on several factors outlined in his ruling. The defendant, Larry Wiseblood testified that those who advertise in and submit to *The New Voice of Nebraska* know that the magazine is gay-oriented and that to the best of his knowledge, no advertiser or subscriber has ever confused their magazine with the paper published by the plaintiff. *The Voice News'* managing editor, William F. Bryant, testified that there is a possibility of confusing the two publications because of the similarity in the names, and that the public might believe that there is a connection between the two. Further, identification of the plaintiff's paper with the gay rights movement would have a negative effect on the publication. Judge Cheavront stated that there was no evidence of actual confusion introduced at the hearing.

Preliminary injunctions are issued only upon a clear showing of probable success on the merits and possible irreparable injury to the part or sufficiently serious questions going to the merits of the case which are fair grounds for litigation and a balancing of hardships which tips decidedly in favor of the party requesting the relief.

The plaintiff has shown neither a significant distinctiveness in its use of the name nor use over a sufficient period of time.

Under all of the circumstances, the court does not believe that the plaintiff has met its burden of proving that there is a likelihood of confusion in names sufficient to warrant the issuance of a temporary injunction. Upon a review of a number of cases involving similar trade names, this case, at this stage, does not evidence a probability that the plaintiff would succeed. Thus read several segments of the ruling.

(October 1984)

"COMING OUT" TO FIGHT THE LAWSUIT

Recently I disclosed my real identity because of *The New Voice's* legal battle with *The Voice News of Southern Lancaster County*. This was a difficult decision for me as I feared the response from family, co-workers, and friends. I also feared harassment from neighbors and society generally. This was especially true when I realized that my name would be used in several newspapers covering the trial. My final decision was founded on principle. I felt I could handle the harassment, but I could never live with myself if I didn't fight for my rights and the rights of the magazine.

The fear of the unknown faces most gays and lesbians, especially during the difficult coming-out stage of our lives. However, this fear is overexaggerated in most cases, but paranoia runs rampant in the conservative Midwest.

I found through my own experience that all my fears were unjustified. I didn't lose my job, my family in Bellevue received no negative response, and it appears that my friends have greater respect for me now since I am totally honest with them. I wasn't harassed by my neighbors, and I didn't receive any threatening

(September 1984)

NEW VOICE GROWING

People, it is time for us to face reality. *The New Voice* (OUR publication), is very proud to state that we are growing with each and every issue. In fact, we have gone from our original 12-page issue in March of this year, to 50-plus pages in our August issue. We had received a lot of support from Omaha and consequently expanded our coverage. We realized that a joint effort, between the 2 major cities of Nebraska could better serve the gay/lesbian community of the state. Thus, *The New Voice of Lincoln* became *The New Voice of Nebraska*. Through this growth, we have found that in order to distribute effectively to the community, we need to make a few changes. The cost of mailing *The New Voice* to our subscribers has gone from approximately 35 to 55 cents per issue. Our staff had to make the decision to either raise the price of subscriptions, lower the number of issues we publish and distribute free of charge, seek financial support to cover costs, or compromise to satisfy as many people as we possibly can.

We came to the conclusion that subscription rates will have to be raised to cover the increased cost of mailing, the number of copies published would not be decreased and due to our current legal battle, all funds contributed shall be used to maintain our right to publish under our name, *The New Voice of Nebraska*. In order to compromise, we will not raise the subscription rate until October 1984. YOU now have the chance to subscribe at what is the very reasonable rate of \$6.00 for a one-year subscription. As of October 1, subscription rates will be raised to \$10.00. The advantages are that subscribers always receive EVERY issue within one week from the day it comes off the press. New subscribers also receive one free classified ad of 20 words or less.

We appreciate the community and want to maintain our position as *The New Voice of Nebraska*. Remember that we are your magazine and you are our most valuable asset.

— Tim K.

calls or letters. This is not to say that in the future there could be no problems, but now, I feel pretty good about opening up and being myself. As a mental health counselor, I would not recommend this route for everyone. But I would suggest making a careful assessment of your own circumstances and seeing if disclosure would result in boosting self-esteem and self-respect, or if openness could result in more harm than good.

Larry Wiseblood
Editor

(September 1985)
LET US KNOW

by Sandy V.

I am very enthusiastic about my appointment to *The New Voice* staff as Associated Editor. I've been an active member of lesbian/gay organizations and received my B.A. in recreational therapy. I am interested in organized activities, especially in the lesbian/gay community. I have been frustrated, however, that some events and activities in our community have not been covered in *The New Voice*. I am hoping to change that. Please work with me in my effort.

(March 1985)
**HISTORY OF
THE NEW VOICE**

The idea of starting a new publication in Lincoln had its roots in the summer of 1983. I had talked to Gary Carey, a former staff member of the defunct *Capitol Times*, about the need for re-establishing a newspaper or magazine for the gay/lesbian community. I sought Gary's advice as to how to go about making such an effort. He gave me sound advice to take things one step at a time and get feedback the community.

In December 1983 I distributed fliers at The Office and The Sanctuary asking interested parties who felt there was a need for a publication to attend a meeting at Commonplace U.M.H.E. The meeting was attended by 6 enthusiastic people in January 1984. Individuals offered time and support. Future meetings were sometimes discouraging as only a few people showed up, but the effort continued. The publication was to go to press in February, 1984. The first obstacle was a financial base to cover expenses. I called friends and asked for contributions. Five people donated \$25 each to enable the first issue to get off the ground. Delays occurred because of small staff, lack of articles, problems with layout and design.

The 1st issue was distributed on March 11 with a circulation of 500 copies and a total of 12 pages. Cost of printing was \$99, and other expenses used up the remaining \$26. It had been decided that the publication would be free and would be run by a volunteer organization. Advertising, subscriptions, and contributions would pay the cost of each issue. A meager start snowballed. Every issue looked better and showed more artistic qualities. The staff grew and *The New Voice of Lincoln* became *The New Voice of Nebraska* by the 4th issue. The rest is proud gay history.
Larry Wiseblood

(June 1985)
**PEOPLE OF THE
YEAR**

At an Awards Presentation held on May 5, at the Wesley Chapel, 6 Lincoln men and women were presented People of the Year Awards. *The New Voice* presented the awards at the intermission of the River City Mixed Chorus concert. The six people recognized for their hard work and dedication in the past year were:

Father David Glaze	Pat Wall
Dick Kurlenbach	Maggie Roe
Dave Michael	Ben Roe

A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Louis Crompton. *The New Voice* will feature People of the Year in upcoming issues.
—Larry Wiseblood

(March 1985)
ONE TOUGH YEAR

The New Voice faced many obstacles during the first year, but came through the struggles with strength and perseverance. Our initial problems were in developing a staff and raising revenue. A steering committee that served as the executive board was organized and revenue was gained through advertising, subscriptions, and donations.

However, things were not always rosy. *The New Voice* had several roadblocks. Our most severe blow occurred when Bryant News, Inc., owner of the Hickman newspaper called *The Voice—News of Southern Lancaster County*, requested an injunction to try to stop *The New Voice* from using its name. A temporary restraining order was refused by Judge Cheavront on July 24, 1984. This led to a full-blown trial that cost the magazine a great deal. *The New Voice* staff fought to the end, even though for some it meant disclosure and publicity that changed people's lives. The trial was long and exhausting. It turned into a bitter ordeal with accusations and bigotry thrown into our faces. Justice prevailed and Judge Jeffrey Cheavront denied an injunction.

Another major obstacle involved our stance of allowing controversial issues and opinions to be addressed. Our name says it all, as we have reflected the voice of the entire gay/lesbian community—no matter how diverse the opinions. Some wimmin labeled us pro-pornography and anti-feminist. Some wimmin tried to destroy *The New Voice* by writing to our advertisers, promoting lies and misconceptions. We also made some mistakes along the way that hurt our reputation. A mistake in an ad canceled a major Halloween event. We forgot to give credit to some supporters. We have been delayed because of lay-out and design problems. We missed some important events along the way. But we have always tried to do our best, and we will continue to serve Nebraska. Let's be proud of who we are and grow along the way. Our first anniversary! Learning from the past, building in the future.
—Larry Wiseblood

(November 1985)
A YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE

A year ago, I was ready to resign as Assoc. Ed. The first woman on staff left because of an editorial denying harmful effects of pornography. I decided to follow if an editorial of the same nature were published again. What had me discouraged was conflict between the magazine and certain wimmin. I called several wimmin to contribute to the Wimmin's Issue and received poor response (due in part to the editorial). One article (never published because it was very long, and the writers would not allow us to publish in segments) turned out to be valid criticism. Although I agreed, it was not as promised. I was torn between my beliefs as a feminist and my commitment as associate editor. I thought my only choice was to resign. My lover convinced me more good would come if I stayed on and encouraged communication. It has taken time to develop awareness in the men about lesbian issues. They are not as conscious as I hope they'll be.

Now that there are other wimmin on staff, we can implement "awareness" with voting power. Our moment of truth came when the staff adopted the policy. "We will not accept any advertising that graphically or linguistically depicts, directly or implied, the following:

- Dehumanization (S&M, etc.)
- Superiority over any section of society (racism, sexism, etc.)
- Degradation of any group
- Any sexual usage of children
- Poppers ads that are blatantly graphic
- Frontal nudity which exposes genitals."

The immediate result was to not renew "Man's World" ad (the slogan was deemed sexist). There will be more struggles but these policies are an awareness statement. However, adult bookstores advertising will be accepted if it meets criteria. I see this as two paces forward, one back. I have been against taking advertising from adult bookstores, but the vote went the other way. There is more work to do.

I want to credit the wimmin who risked their popularity to join *The New Voice*. Rather than sitting back complaining, they are working to make a difference.

1985

(March 1985)
OUR 1st ANNIVERSARY

In a nation that has celebrated a Bicentennial, in a state that has celebrated a centennial, and in an area where businesses have celebrated their Diamond Jubilee—what significance is there to having your first anniversary? *The New Voice of Nebraska* has not only survived, but won a court case, endured personnel changes, and grown in the process. In a country where free enterprise allows easy success, even this is not significant for a celebration—so why the hullabaloo?

Our magazine is not called *The "New" Voice* by accident. We offer an opportunity for the gay people of Nebraska to speak out. Homosexuals have been confined by society to a closet and are seldom heard. Perhaps the greatest advantage of our having such a publication is that we learn that we are not alone in our feelings of oppression. I am proud to be a part of *The New Voice of Nebraska*. Our cause is important, and I am committed to it. I have seen great energies exerted in speculations of actions to be taken and seen people give up before the conversation ended. Others initiate action and never follow through. In view of the many fizzled enterprises, I look forward with anticipation to a second year of publication, and I invite your participation.
—Jerry P.

The New Voice celebrates its 1st anniversary with pride and joy. We have accomplished far more than we ever envisioned. Many have said we are one of the most artistic publications ever seen in Nebraska, gay or straight. It would take several pages to thank all the people who supported and contributed to the *The New Voice* in the past year. It would also be embarrassing if I forgot anyone.

So, in vague terms, I would like to thank the steering committee, *New Voice* staff, advertisers, subscribers, organizations, and contributors who donated time and money. I would like to thank the artists and writers who provided excellent talents to every issue. Finally, I would like to thank the people of Lincoln, Omaha and those in outstate Nebraska who attended fund-raisers and gave our volunteers the thoughtful praise they deserve.
—Larry Wiseblood

(August 1986)

THE NEW VOICE VICTORY PARTY

The *New Voice* invites the entire community to our big Victory Celebration that will take place at 2125 Euclid Ave., Lincoln, on Saturday, August 23 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The victory party celebrates the winning of a major lawsuit that *The New Voice* won exactly two years ago. *The New Voice* had been sued by the *Voice News of Southern Lancaster County*, who tried to stop us from using our name. The lawsuit was born out of fear, hysteria, and blatant homophobia. *The New Voice* victory gave us strength and stability that still affects us to this day.

If you would like to attend this party, which will feature European desserts, call 475-5540, or write to NVN, P.O.Box 80819, Lincoln, 68501. Reservations are required.

(January 1986)

SEXISM VS. GAY MANHOOD

by Jerry Peck

Recently, the steering committee of *The New Voice of Nebraska* met to establish some concrete advertising policies which allow the magazine to accept or reject ads based upon content, allowing us to continue to provide a magazine representative of the gay/lesbian community. This was a tremendous undertaking as we sought to represent all aspects—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 being advertised. The phrase was determined to be sexist in nature.

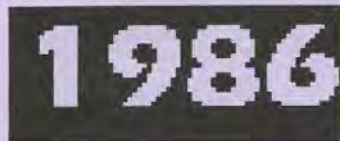
We may have "painted ourselves into a corner." We have opened the door to censorship which could be more of a problem than a help. The feminist movement was offended by this ad regardless of the fact that the ad targeted a market that does not include them. What happens when the anti-drinkers (AA) express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

becomes offended by religious ads...

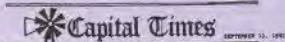
A favorite song of mine declares that "I gotta be me!" I am a single gay looking for someone to share my remaining years. I have qualities that I want in this mate. He must be: male, Christian, mature, of similar cultural background, etc. I will not find my man by associating with women. This does not make me 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) 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 the issue to Women's Issues? There is a saying somewhere about people in glass houses. Perhaps there is a need for a "masculinist" movement.

We would like to hear from you on the subject.



Our 1st Anniversary ☆
Learning from the Past
Looking to the Future



Lincoln Gay News

GAIN GAY AWARENESS IOWA NEBRASKA

gayly nebraskan

(January 1986)

NVN HAS CHANGED

by Larry Wiseblood

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.

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 been 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 feel of a magazine. I want to distinguish ourselves 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, artwork, and more photographs.

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 our 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.

The New Voice carries on the proud tradition started by the publications recognized on our first anniversary issue. This is our heritage and a part of your history.



In March 1991, we proclaimed our 8th Anniversary, but it was only our 7th.

(March 1987)

A SOLID FUTURE WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Since my assignment to editor of *The New Voice*, I have received a lot of support from friends in the community. However, some have been concerned about the future of the magazine. I do not hesitate to reassure them that *The New Voice* will survive staff re-structuring.

What, if anything, will be different about the magazine? I see *The New Voice* as a public forum for the gay/lesbian community — not to speak for us, but to allow individuals and organizations to express various concerns. *The New Voice* is also a resource tool for the community: providing information to gays and lesbians and to those who support us. I want to focus on these objectives.

Naturally, some concerns will be very controversial. That will not change. However, if something in *The New Voice* disturbs a reader, I want to be sure she/he has every opportunity to respond. We are a diverse community and we don't agree on everything. Let's not be afraid to discuss our differences openly and honestly. I would like to see *The New Voice* facilitate such discussion. The magazine will only reflect what the community puts into it.

In the meantime, I hope I can count on your continued support. Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss your needs/concerns.

Sandy—Editor

(March 1987)

THIRD ANNIVERSARY

With this issue, *The New Voice* begins its fourth year. *The New Voice* has a proud past and is the longest-running major gay publication in Nebraska. Many volunteers and supporters have contributed to this magazine in the past three years. We are truly a community publication representing Omaha, Lincoln, Council Bluffs, and cities and towns all over the state of Nebraska. Tom Pasco suggested the name *The New Voice* which was adopted by the group. Dave Michael designed the magazine's logo.

The magazine started as a Lincoln effort, but quickly blossomed into a statewide publication. Advertising was solicited for the first time in April, 1984 for the second issue. The smaller 5.5" x 8.5" size was used the first two years.

Distribution has increased to 1250 copies. The magazine is financed by advertising, fund-raisers, subscriptions and donations. *The New Voice* has always been a volunteer effort with no paid staff. Many talented artists, photographers, and writers have helped the magazine.

We have face many obstacles but have survived. This includes negative attitudes from individuals, bars and organizations. Controversial articles and covers have caused us problems. A diverse community will have diverse opinions and it has not been easy to represent such diversity, although we have tried to maintain a neutral stance. We were also embroiled in a lawsuit. On a positive note, we received publicity from several local newspapers, as well as *USA Today*.

The New Voice will continue to be a viable, creative effort with your support. Recently, we were featured in *The Advocate* (February 17, 1987), which referred to us as a "really good, monthly gay magazine." —Larry Wiseblood

(May 1987)

"HI", I'M CHRIS

Sandy asked if I'd introduce myself and I thought, "Why yes, I'd like that." But then I thought, "What is it you might like to know about me? Better yet, what would I like to share?"

I'd like to share me: that is why I'm on *The New Voice* staff. I like to write and I like to learn. I am offering my skills as a writer and my ears to anyone who has something they would like to share. The staff has answered all my questions, from advertising to fillers to being incorporated.

On another personal note... I am a very high energy person and have come to realize that this energy must have somewhere to go or it will flow back on me (not a pleasant experience). This position with *The New Voice*, Associate Editor, will fulfill all my energy needs. I hope to serve as a liaison between the community and the magazine. I will be gathering ideas, articles, and covering local events. I will assist and support Sandy with the many responsibilities she has.

Already I realize how much of *The New Voice* is you the reader. So I'll be coming to you for help, suggestions, and support. If I appear distant or aloof at times, I hope you'll take the chance and say "Hi". It is only my nervousness coming out. I am a friendly and open individual. I am looking forward to getting to know you.

The cover logo of *The New Voice* changed in March 1987 when the circle was replaced with a triangle.

(February 1987)

CHANGE OF THE GUARD

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

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

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

I wish to thank everyone who supported this publication and all the encouraging letters over the years. This kept me motivated, even during hard times. It hasn't always been easy. The most difficult time was being hit by a lawsuit from *The Voice News*, which tried to force us to change our name. Even though we won the lawsuit, other battles have occurred within our own community. Gay men and lesbians have disagreed over a number of issues that have almost split up the staff. Pornography and censorship have been especially sensitive. There are also persons in our community who can only criticize and tear down efforts. This is especially discouraging. I am very proud of *The New Voice* and will stand by my comment that we are one of the best looking and creative gay publications in the country.

Larry Wiseblood, Editor



1987



WHAT ISSUE IS THIS?

1990 saw a series of errors involving our use of volume and issue numbers on the cover.

March 1990	Vol. VII, No 1
May 1990	Vol. VIII, No 3
June 1990	Vol. VIII, No 4
July 1990	Vol. VIII, No 5
August 1990	Vol. VIII, No 6
September 1990	Vol. VIII, No 7
October 1990	Vol. IX, No 1
November 1990	Vol. X, No 1
December 1990	Vol. X, No 9
January 1991	Vol. X, No 10
February 1991	Vol. VII, No 11
March 1991	Vol. VIII, No 1

We decided to surrender. By the May, 1991, issue we had removed all references to either volume or issue number and just use the month and the year on the cover.

(January 1988)

JERRY PECK, ACTING EDITOR

My name is Jerry Peck. I am gay and proud of who and what I am. I have recently taken on the job of Acting Editor of *The New Voice of Nebraska*. When I first joined the staff, the editor did not publish his true name (later Larry Weis did become known as Larry Weisblood open in print). I am not unknown, but many only knew me as a name following articles in *The New Voice*. Being behind camera - my face has not shown up in the magazine (except as Papa Smurf) until now. As I attempt to serve the community, I hope that publishing my photo will allow even more people to let me know what they want *The New Voice of Nebraska* to be. This is our magazine. I am but one segment of our community.

Allow me to let you know something of myself. I graduated from Falls City (Nebr.) High School 30 years ago. I spent a hitch in the Air Force traveling to San Antonio, Birmingham, Cheyenne, Burns Flatt (OK) and Sondostrom, Greenland. I lived in Lincoln from 1961-63, Omaha 'til 70, Ohio 'til 78, Fullerton, Nebraska then on to Savannah, MO and back to Omaha in 1980. I have worked among other jobs as a yard



clerk for U.P., office manager for Trailways, pastor of the United Church of Christ churches. I have been a high school English, Drama, Speech teacher, substitute teacher and credit card security clerk (present employment). I was married (heterosexually), for eleven years and my son was 12 years old last summer (I have not seen my ex wife or son for 8 years). I'm the baby of five children (my sister is a great grandmother 3 times over). My father is still going strong at 85.

I have been homosexually active since the age of 14 (excluding the years of military service and marriage). I have loved and been loved, but not enjoyed a monogamous relationship.

My interest is in working toward the creation of a sense of community among the gays and lesbians, particularly in Nebraska. I am interested in hearing your thoughts on the community and how *The New Voice of Nebraska* can serve that goal. I respect others' needs to be closeted and know that community development is hampered by the need to scream from closet to closet. *The New Voice of Nebraska* requires that all articles submitted bear the author's name - however, that name need not be published. Let your voice be heard - even from behind closet doors.

-Jerry Peck

(August 1988)

THANKS ICON

We at the *New Voice of Nebraska* want to say a heartfelt thanks to the Imperial Court of Nebraska for the \$300 donation received as part of Coronation activities.

Thanks Emperor VII and ICON.



Sandy Vopalka and Jerry Peck Visit During an Omaha Pride Parade

(March 1988)

ACTING EDITOR

by Sharon VanButsel

You know, I never had any intention of being in a position where I would be writing this article. I was sitting peacefully on one of the speakers at the MAX, waiting to practice for MCC's bit in a show, when a friend asked "Are you interested in being co-editor for *The New Voice*?" We need a woman's input."

My response was "I thought *The New Voice* had folded." My friend patiently explained that several people were working with Jerry Peck to keep *The New Voice* going. Once again, my friend asked, "Will you help?"

I always have been a sucker for a project that needed help so I said, "Yes."

I have to admit that this is a slightly fictionalized account of what happened but by the end of the day I not only had agreed to accept the title of "Associate Editor" but I found myself on stage at the MAX with Jerry Peck and Stella Dallas trying to act like I knew what I was doing. I should have suspected I was in over my head when they told me to play a little boy.

Over two months have gone by since that day and I have learned to do layout, do interviews, write stories, and get along with a roomful of strong-willed men and women. It's been a good experience - I've learned a lot and had a good time - and I don't regret the decision at all.

The one regret I do have is that Jerry Peck was unable to continue in the position of Editor.

At the February meeting of the steering committee I was chosen to serve as acting editor. In order to continue the gender balance in the editorial staff, Larry Adams has agreed to add the duties of Associate Editor to his previous duties as treasurer. This change will assure the continued high quality *The New Voice* has demonstrated. (Larry doesn't let me get away with anything.)

As acting editor, I need the input of the community so I know what you want in *The New Voice*. I need articles, letters, artwork, praise, complaints, subscriptions and ads. *The New Voice* needs you to report on activities in the community. If there's something going on that you think should appear in *The New Voice*, let us know or write a report and send it in. There are only 10 people on the steering committee and we can't be everywhere. You can help make sure that every part of the gay and lesbian lifestyle in Nebraska is represented in *The New Voice*. If you're interested in helping in other ways (layout, art, delivery, fund-raising or being on the

steering committee) just let us know. We'd like to work with you.

I am not as "out" as the previous editor but I make brief forays out of the closet on a regular basis. Like I said before, I somehow ended up trying to play a little boy on stage at the MAX (that isn't the most closeted activity in the world, I guess) and you will see me at the Pride Parade and rally this summer and you'll find me at MCC worship service most Sunday mornings. In between those activities if you really want to talk to me, try my answering machine (556-9907). If my cat doesn't answer it by knocking it off the end table again, I will get back to you as soon as possible. Of course you can also write to the Omaha box number for *The New Voice*.

The New Voice is alive and well and with your help, we'll keep it that way.

(June 1988)

NEW FACES

by Sharon VanButsel

As with every venture, these first months of publication in Omaha have been somewhat like a shake-down cruise in the Navy.

We sailed bravely out of port with a full crew and high expectations.

The trip has been successful but rough seas have led to changes in personnel and procedures, creating a functional steering committee from a group of diverse volunteers.

There are currently several vacancies on the steering committee.

We are looking for dedicated, talented people to fill these positions. If you have several hours a month to volunteer in any of several activities and would like to help determine the future of *The New Voice of Nebraska*, please apply by contacting me at 556-9907.

I would like to welcome Dick Brown to the position of treasurer of *The New Voice of Nebraska*.

Dick is well known to our community through his activities in the Imperial Court of Nebraska.

We on the steering committee are looking forward to working with him. (Since he is Emperor VII, will we have to bow?)

(July 1988)

YOUR TURN NOW

by Sharon VanButsel

We have completed six months of operations in Omaha and are asking your input as to how we're doing. Please take time to complete and mail the survey in this month's magazine. The comments we hear around town are positive. People tell us we're doing a good job but sometimes it's hard to tell if we're hearing what they're really saying or if we're hearing the part we want to hear. That's why we're asking for your input (anonymously, if you prefer). We'll be reporting back the September issue. That gives you until August 10 to get your survey completed and in the mail to us so we are able to compile the results before the deadline. In September we'll print your comments, both positive and negative as well as your suggestions for how we can improve.

It's also your turn to put to rest some of the rumors that have been around Omaha. Yes, there was an apparent misappropriation of funds at *The New Voice* which put our bank balance to where it was when we brought the magazine to Omaha.

No arrests have been made but an investigation is underway. However, *The New Voice* is alive and well thanks to the commitment of the members of the steering committee. We've been able to raise the money to keep going and plan to continue working to make this the best magazine for the gay and lesbian community in the Midwest.

You can help keep *The New Voice* healthy by your support as readers and patrons of our advertisers. *The New Voice* needs your articles, stories, art work, photographs, and subscriptions. If you have a business that serves the gay and lesbian community, consider advertising in *The New Voice*. Our rates are competitive and our readers are supportive of advertisers. Oh, by the way, we also accept donations to help us over these rough times, if you are so inclined.

I want to personally thank you for your support during our first six months in Omaha. You've been great and I look forward to working with you for a long time to come.

(October 1988)

NEW VOICE FUNDRAISER

The staff of *The New Voice* wants to say "thank-you" to Mr. Gay Nebraska (Dick Brown) for the fundraiser at the Max on Aug. 28.

The event netted \$455 for *The New Voice* as well as provided a crowd of about 300 persons with an exceptional show.

13 acts competed for cash prizes (including your editor as one of the MCC Ladies). Mr. Brown stole the show with the first number as he lip-synched a powerful song, *Living with Aids*, from Romanovsky and Phillips.

The winner of "Puttin' on the Lips" was Miss Veronica O'Rourke who brought down the house as she and her partner Jerry danced from motorcycle to bartop and back again.

Second place was won by Miss Gloria Ravel whose beehive hairdo was perfect for her performance of *Hairspray*. The duo known as "Desire" took third place.

My personal favorite (MCC Ladies doing *Leaping Lesbians*) failed to make the top three. As a matter of fact, I don't think we made the bottom three. But we had a wonderful time.

Thanks to Dick Brown and the Two-Wheelers of Omaha who own the title "Mr. Gay Nebraska".

(September 1988)

NEW VOICE SURVEY

"Tell Us How We're Doing"

In July, we printed a survey asking your opinion regarding the performance of *The New Voice* since we moved to Omaha. Now, I realize that surveys are notorious for a low number being returned but our rate of return left us without a true statistical sample. We put out 900 magazines and had only 9 surveys returned. One out of one hundred is not a good showing.

However, here are the results as promised. Opinions are still welcome. Just put your comments in the form of a letter to the Editor.

*The overall performance of *The New Voice*:

Excellent - 2 Good - 5
Improving - 1 Poor - 1

**The New Voice* represents the Gay and Lesbian Community:

Always - 4 Sometimes - 1
Never - 1

*The Articles are:

Timely and Interesting:

Yes - 6 No Opinion - 2
No - 1

Well Written:

Yes - 7 No Opinion - 2

**The New Voice* uses good taste in:

Articles,

Yes - 7 No Opinion - 2

Art Work:

Yes - 6 No Opinion - 2
No - 1

Advertisements,

Yes - 5 No Opinion - 1
No - 2

*There should be more:

Local Events,

Yes - 6 No Opinion - 2
No - 1

Humor,

Yes - 6 No Opinion - 2
No - 1

Features, photographs, and other art work,

Yes - 6 No Opinion - 2
No - 1

National, sports, women's news and poetry,

Yes - 5 No Opinion - 3
No - 2

Fiction,
Yes - 3 No Opinion - 2
No - 4

*Paper and print styles are easy to read:

Yes - 7 No - 1

**The New Voice* is readily available:

Yes - 5 No Opinion - 2
No - 2

*The subscription rate is:

Just right - 5 Too high - 2

*I support the advertisers:

Frequently - 1 Never - 1
Sometimes - 5

Favorite parts of *The New Voice*:

Articles re: Bible and homosexuality. Six people identified coverage of local events and local news as favorite. Fantasy sex section, Coming Out Articles, What I need to know is condensed and the rest eliminated.

*Least favorite parts of *The New Voice*:

Too much on AIDS, religion and dreary downer poems. Limit discussion on gay publications. National news.

*Readers feel *The New Voice* should:

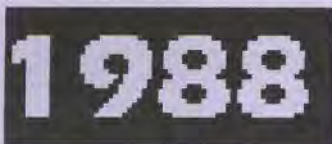
Keep looking for ways to improve. Keep up the good work. Get magazine out to subscribers earlier. Include more articles from Lincoln. Identify advertisers as Omaha or Lincoln. Include more personal experience articles.

So, as you can see, the results are positive. You are generally pleased with *The New Voice* but there are still areas where we can improve. Thanks for your input. Continue to let us know how we're doing. We want to hear from you.

(December 1988)

WANTED - TWO GOOD WOMEN

Due to recent resignations there are two vacancies on the Steering Committee of *The New Voice of Nebraska*. The gender mix is slightly askew (9 men and 1 woman) so we are looking for two talented women to help us oversee the publication of *The New Voice*.



(July 1988)

LOOKING AHEAD

by Sharon VanButsel

The New Voice is vital and growing; and, as with all growing things, there are changes.

Beginning in January *The New Voice* will be published on the first day of each month. This will enable us to give better coverage to events planned and present early in the month.

This means that there will now be a deadline of the 10th of the month for articles, classified ads, and display ads which need artwork or typesetting.

We feel sure that this will not place a hardship on our advertisers nor our contributors but will result in better service to the community.

(September 1988)

NEW RATES

Effective October 1, 1988, the subscription rate for *The New Voice* will increase to \$19 per month.

This increase is necessary to meet increased postage and handling costs.

All new and renewal subscriptions received before October 1 will be accepted at the previous subscription rate.

Beginning October 1, 1988, Classified Ads in *The New Voice* will cost \$3.00 for the first 20 words and 30 cents for each additional word.

We hope this modest increase does not cause you any difficulty.

All classifieds received and paid for by October 1st will be at the previous rates.



(February 1989)

WHY IS THE NEW VOICE SILENT ON LARRY KING?

by Sharon VanButsel

You will find in this issue two letters from readers who feel strongly that the *New Voice* should be reporting on events involving Franklin Credit Union; Executive Director, Larry King; alleged misuse of funds; and connections with the Gay community in Omaha. This feeling has also been voiced by individuals on *The New Voice* and others of Omaha's Gay and Lesbian Community.

As editor it is my feeling that it is not appropriate to attempt to report on events developing as rapidly as these. As a monthly magazine we cannot publish truly current news. Anything would be a month old and likely would have changed significantly by the time published.

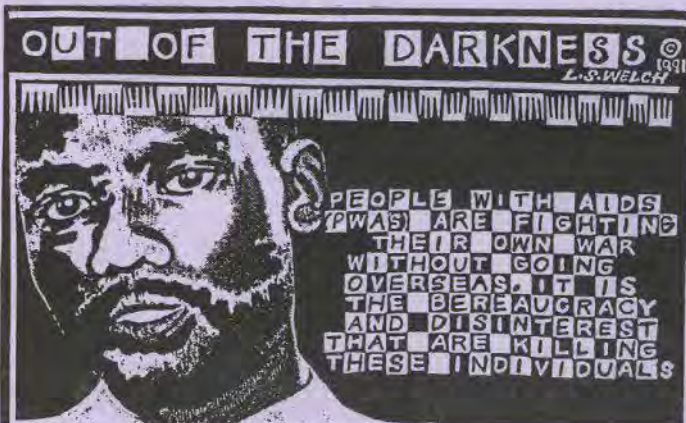
I also am unwilling to reprint articles from the *Omaha World Herald* as suggested by one of the letters) when it appears that their editorial position

is anti-Gay. I have read the articles in question and found them to be full of innuendoes and implications of guilt. In my opinion, reprinting such articles would only put us in the position of spreading gossip rather than honest reporting.

Perhaps one day *The New Voice* will be a weekly publication and have a staff of reporters able and willing to conduct interviews and do investigative reporting. However, at this point in time we have no true reporters, just several individuals like myself, who want to write essays and commentaries on a variety of issues.

So, I'm sorry but you'll have to wait for any articles about Larry King and the Franklin Credit Union. We are putting together articles on our community's reactions to the allegations and the innuendoes. We will reprint responsible articles from other papers which deal with issues of specific interest to the Gay and Lesbian community. However, I will not take part in a witch hunt nor will I try to match the reporting capabilities of a daily newspaper or the six o'clock news on TV. You'll have to accept the fact that we are still only a volunteer monthly publication with the limitations that go along with that status.

1989



(September 1989)

A SALUTE TO BOB AND PRINTING PLUS

We want to say Thanks! to Bob for his hard work and dedication that made Fantasy '89 a reality. He and Dustin make a team that's hard to beat. (He also looks awfully good in leather.) Thanks, Bob, for your special contributions on the September issue. You do a superb job printing the magazine.

(March 1989)

NEW VOICE MEMORIES

by Jerry Peck

The New Voice of Nebraska was conceived in the mind of Larry Wiseblood, born in Lincoln, Nebraska five years ago, and has developed through the efforts of the gays and lesbians of Nebraska to the present time. I became involved with the publication during its first year. Then, as now, the governing body is the steering committee made up of volunteers willing to conduct the business and establish the policy for the printing and distribution of the magazine. Then, as now, the magazine is intended to be: by gays and lesbians, about gays and lesbians and issues that affect them, and distributed to gays and lesbians.

The earliest confrontation in which I was involved came from a need to register the business with the State of Nebraska. Twelve people were needed to give their legal names for publication in the *Lincoln Journal*. Our names appeared in the Thanksgiving and Christmas editions of 1984.

In the five years we have had Larry, Sandy, Jerry and Sharon as editors. The number of treasurers is larger, including one that cleaned out the account and hasn't been seen since. The number that have served on the steering committee is vast. For some time the business meetings alternated between Lincoln and Omaha in an attempt to get Omaha people involved. This did not work, and by the end of '87 the number of people willing to work on the magazine in Lincoln was so few that the operation moved to Omaha.

The history of the magazine is filled with controversies. A Lincoln group submitted a letter of some eight typewritten pages in which they found fault with *The New Voice*, and insisted that it be printed in its entirety.

The New Voice was taken to court by *The Voice - News of Southern Lancaster County*. There has been a threat of legal action over a photo taken at a bar that serves Gays and Lesbians. The magazine had to go to court in order to collect advertising revenue. Advertising has caused considerable controversy, too. A bath house called Man's World advertised "It's A Man's World". A number found that offensive. One even suggested the name of the business be changed. The steering committee canceled the contract. A business that sells sexually explicit videos submitted an ad that offered x number of hours of sex. Their contract was canceled. An adult theatre sought a contract and was rejected.

Artwork has brought objections. One cover had two nude photos. Three Lesbians presented their anger to me over the use of men only. I gave each a lesson in anatomy, explaining that the one the lower section was not a man.

Confrontation has arisen from the printed word. We found that the word "gay" refer to men, hence gay/ lesbian. We also learned the standard English spelling for the word for those of the human species with a vagina is not acceptable.

For me, the greatest confrontation has continued from the first meeting which I attended. The issue which remains is how to create a publication which satisfies the wants and needs of its readers without being offensive to others. Nebraska gays and lesbians are diverse and unique. Do you have any constructive criticisms?

Meetings of the steering committee are open to any to observe or to speak. Letters are welcome. *The New Voice* is the voice of the gays and lesbians of Nebraska. Our magazine reflects our concerns and needs; however, our apathy can also be witnessed in *The New Voice*.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY WHO HAVE HELPED

The following is a partial list of the volunteers and supporters who have been part of *The New Voice* over the years. We know this list is not complete. We also honor those whose names are not listed.

Larry Wiseblood, Founder and Editor
1984-1987
Sandy Vopalka, Editor 1987-1988
Jerry Peck, Editor 1988
Sharon Van Butsel, Editor 1988-
present

Steering Committee Members, Staff, and Other Volunteers:

Tom Pasco, Mel Dahl, Kerry,
Randall Barron, Ed K. Sell,
Chuck Schomaker, Gary Carey,
Bob B., Anita Freeman-Soltisayk
Tim Kuntz, Howard Gunn,
Heidi Chamla Brown-Sreiber,
John Warren, Vicki Jedlicka, Dan,
Greg Bourne, Gary E., Dick, Ed,
Julie Morgan, Dave Michael,
Mike, Jody, Larry, Don F., Mark,
Steve H., Randy F., Ralph Potter,
Scott Harrah, Larry E., Randy J.,
Don Patton, Randy Sowards,
Alan, Pam, Sam M., Marti, Cindy,
Garry Griffith, John Arnold, Ron,
John Riley, Chris Carroll, Lynn,
Jean Mortensen, Chapple, Chuck,
Pat Phalen, Terry Sweeney,
Tom W., Leyne, Larry Adams, Jim,
Tony N., Jeff D., Shelley F., L.E.,
Joe P., Jerry K., Bill B., Bill S.,
Russ W., Joe B., R.J., Rich,
Rodney Bell, Tony Zamudio, Rick,
Steve, Doug L., Don Longmore,
Sharon McCartney, Thom J.,
Sandy Robertson, Butch A.,
Amy Marie Meek, Jim Knight,
Dustin Logan, Bob Ewing, Nate,
Scott Lowther, Brian Bengtson,
Ron Pardi, Bear, Carla Petersen,
Lee Donehower, M.R. Scott,
Rodney Stander, Shelia Frances,
Cheryl W., Blake, Kevin Morlarity,
Mark Maser, Nancy Lyn Define,
James Drake, Debbie Farrar,
Cheri Looft-Bavaard,
Brian Bowles, Shelly Roberts,
R.N. Hedges, Greg Helich, Martin
Alan, Linda Sue Welch,
Kevin W., and so many more

(June 1990) TO THE EDITORS OF THE NEW VOICE

Earlier this summer, I had spoken to Sharon (God, I hope I got your name right). I have a problem putting faces and names together. It makes for a lot of truly embarrassing moments at gatherings when I run into people that I have been intimate with, and I have no idea who the hell they are. I generally assume I owe them money, and quietly run away) about contributing my poetry to the magazine, and possibly a humorous feature column (quite a few people have told me that I am one funny guy, but this usually happens after I take off my clothes. All my life, I dreamed of having a body like Superman, but fate made me cast in the mold of Don Knotts. I'm glad I live in Omaha, Nebraska, where the layered look is accepted), but after our conversation. I moved twice, got promoted twice in my job, and went through three-point-five "relationships" best left to the tabloids available at your local 7-11 (you've seen the headlines - "I fell in love with living dead and lost twelve pounds!")

What this boils down to is "I'm sorry-here-is-some-stuff-please-print-it-if-you-like." My mommy gave me a book on how to get your submissions printed. I realize this letter pretty much breaks every rule mentioned, but try to overlook these garbled ramblings. I watched too much television as a wee bairn.

Enclosed are some pieces that I have written over the months. I've noticed that my poetry tends to speak of select moments, rather than an overall message. Gays tend to have much more intense "joinings" than our "normal" counterparts. I think that may be to our advantage at times. We as human beings spend way too much time trying to hide our feelings, or cover them up for the sake of appearance. Every relationship that I have experienced since I came out has run the entire gamut of human condition.

Hope these will suit your needs.

Brian B.

Response: Yes, you are late, but I am sure our readers will believe the wait was worth it.

Photo Below is of The New Voice Steering Committee after the 1990 Pride Parade. Left to Right, Pat Phalen, Sharon McCartney, Dick Brown, Sharon Van Butsel, Terry Sweeney, Carla Petersen, and Ron Pardi. Amy Marie Meek was not pictured.



(April 1990) GOOD-BYE, JERRY! by Sharon VanButsel

On March 9, 1990, our good friend Jerry Peck died. Fifteen months before, Jerry had written his own obituary and mailed it to me, asking only that I add the appropriate date when the time came. Good-bye, Jerry. We'll miss you.

OBITUARY

Gerald Linn (Jerry) Peck was born on October 22, 1939, as the last of five children into the home of share-croppers in Brock, Nebraska.

At the age of two, Jerry and his family moved to Falls City, Nebraska, where Jerry attended school, graduating in 1957. Immediately following graduation, Jerry began a four year tour of military duty with the Air Force. Upon discharge from the military, Jerry returned to work in Lincoln and then Omaha, Nebraska. He was married in 1967. He attended Ashland College and Seminary in Ashland, Ohio, from 1970 - 1978. During that time he served as pastor to a United Methodist Church, and a United Church of Christ Church. A son was adopted in 1975.

Jerry and his family returned to Nebraska. His wife and son left shortly thereafter. Jerry taught high school English, one year in Fullerton, Nebraska, and one year in Savannah, Missouri. In 1980, Jerry returned to Omaha where he supported himself working as a substitute teacher for 5 years. At the time of his diagnosis of AIDS, Jerry had been with First Data Resources 3 years.

Jerry was preceded in death by one brother, Billy, and his mother, Dorothy Gladys (Carr) Peck. There are two estranged brothers (due to Jerry's declaration of being Gay). Jerry is survived by his father, Lester, one sister, Ruth Graves, several Great-great-grand nieces and nephews, as well as many friends.

Jerry entered his eternal life on March 9, 1990. Funeral services were held at Heafey, Heafey, and Hoffman Mortuary in Omaha on March 11, 1990. Burial was in the family plot in Morrill, Kansas.



(June 1991)

PROUD TO BE WHO WE ARE AT THE NEW VOICE

by Sharon VanButsel

The staff and steering committee of the *New Voice* are pleased to join in the celebration of Pride Week 1991, "Together in Pride." You have given us much to be proud about.

This year the *New Voice* increased its circulation to 1000 copies each month. Copies are sent to Kearney, Grand Island, and Lincoln for distribution in addition to Omaha.

The *New Voice* has added regular features from Greater Nebraska and a monthly column from Washington, DC. We've added local feature writers and reporters. As a result, the number of articles submitted has almost doubled.

Despite increases in circulation and submissions, we've been able to hold the line on subscription and advertising rates, thanks to increased subscriptions, an increase in advertisers, and by reduced postage with bulk mailing.

During this year, the *New Voice* began a prisoner project offering free subscriptions to individuals incarcerated in Nebraska facilities. We've shown support to our community through cash donations, donated subscriptions, donations of advertising space to the Human Rights Campaign Fund and National Coming Out Day, various public service announcements, and by publishing announcements of events from organizations.

We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to our readers. Without your support these things would not be possible. Thanks to you we remain *THE NEW VOICE*.

(June 1991)

APOLOGIES IN ORDER

We wish to apologize to OMEN and the Omaha Mr Drummer Contest for the discrepancies in dates. We hope you all got the correct date from the advertisements in the magazine and were able to attend the event. We also wish to apologize to the Imperial Court of Nebraska for the incorrect date for coronation in the ICON News article. Coronation for the 11th Reign of the Imperial Court will be on Saturday, June 15, 1991, at the Airport Ramada Inn. Hope to see you there.



"DARLINS" drawn by local artist, Sandy Robertson, appeared in *The New Voice* and was featured in the Chesterfield's advertisement.

(March 1991) COMING OF AGE

by Sharon VanButsel

Wow! I never thought that sitting down to write a column for the magazine could be such a positive experience. I feel GREAT! And I have good reason for feeling that way.

With this issue, *The New Voice of Nebraska* is EIGHT YEARS OLD! For a publication put out strictly by volunteers, that is astounding. Publications come and go so fast that the Gay Yellow Pages will no longer list any publications except "those with recognized readership."

Very few publications survive the ups and downs that the *New Voice* has experienced. Very few could withstand the impact of having someone walk off with the entire treasury. Very few could come back from a point when just 2 or 3 people were putting out the entire magazine and a steering committee meeting consisted of two people meeting on a downtown street corner in Lincoln.

Not many could survive having the editor fall ill and resign just one month after accepting the position, leaving a staff who had at the most one or two months of experience at putting a magazine together. *The New Voice of Nebraska* survived and is stronger and better than ever.

In February, 1988, (the first issue after I became editor) an article appeared that outlined the financial picture when the *New Voice* moved to Omaha.

In the summer of 1987, the Imperial Court raised \$1,400 for the *New Voice* which went to pay off outstanding bills. When the *New Voice* moved to Omaha in January, 1988, there were still \$1,200 in outstanding debts and printing and production costs of about \$800 per month.

Today it is a much different picture. *The New Voice of Nebraska* is completely out of debt. We are able to pay our bills on time each month and actually have a small cash reserve.

The *New Voice* is looking more professional than at any time in the past. We no longer do "paste-up" by hand but have professional layout and typesetting done by International Minute Press.

Bob Ewing at Printing Plus continues to do a super job of producing a quality finished product. Both of these businesses are strong contributors to the success of the magazine.

We have more writers than ever before and are constantly receiving new submissions. We still need reporters, artists, and photographers, but we are seeing growth in that area.

Eight years of publication, three years in Omaha, and we're doing GREAT!

Thanks, Iowa and Nebraska. You made it possible.



(March 1991)

NEW VOICE STARTS Prisoner Project

With this 8th anniversary issue, *The New Voice* extends its outreach to Nebraska's gay and lesbian prisoners. Free subscriptions will be offered to those incarcerated in state institutions.

The decision was reached after considerable research into how such projects are run by other gay publications around the nation. Mike Riegle of *Gay Community News* in Boston wrote: "Projects like *GCN's* to offer people in a very disadvantaged powerless situation a voice which, even if it doesn't bring a mountain of support letters from your readers, says to them that the community is willing to at least listen."

Riegle went on to say, "None of us are so naive, especially after *Bowers v. Hardwick*, as to think the system is not homophobic as well as biased against poor people and people of color. We need to be reminded of this. Prisoners do this for us."

Given our limited resources, *The New Voice* asks that gay and lesbian Nebraska prisoners who request a free subscription share the magazine. We also welcome your letters, poems, and drawings for publication.

(April 1991)

NEW VOICE OBTAINS ORIGINAL ARTWORK

During the Benefit Art Auction hosted by Cindy of The Diamond, members of the steering committee were thrilled to find that among the works for sale was the original art work for one of our most controversial covers.

The charcoal portrait of a muscular young black man, with blue jeans partly unzipped, wearing a Santa Claus cap, is titled *NOEL*. This portrait appeared on the December '88 cover of *The New Voice* and was the subject of extensive letters to the editor the following month.

The original artwork by Sam Orwen was purchased by members of the steering committee. Mr. Orwen was present at the auction and told the editor, Sharon VanButsel, that he was glad *The New Voice* now owned the portrait. He stated he had never intended to offend anyone with his art. He had just finished college and was thrilled to be able to finally portray beauty as he really saw it.

(April 1991)

NVN CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

After successfully publishing *NVN* for seven years, but publicly calling the first issue of the eighth year (the March 1991 issue) their 8th Anniversary Issue, the Steering Committee of the *NVN* hosted a Centennial Bash at Maxine's. After all, we figure if we can call seven, eight, why not call seven, a hundred? Harold Anderson, editor and owner of the *World-Herald*, along with Mayor Gorgan and his HIV, Paula Wilby, were present to present Editor Sharon with keys to the city; proclamations for Pride Week 1988, 1989, and 1990; free advertising contracts for all community groups who use the words GAY and LESBIAN in their ads; and, of course, a celebratory, or was it celebratory, toast for a job well done. The presence of such distinguished individuals brought appropriate media coverage - 11 words on page 38, column 23. April Fools! P.S. We did mess up the March cover. *NVN* is seven! beginning our eighth year. As my high school band director told me, if you are going to make a mistake, make a big one and do it up big.

(March 1992)

WE'RE REALLY 8 THIS TIME

by Sharon Van Butsel

Remember the March, 1991 issue when we put 8th Anniversary on the cover, only to admit the next month that we're only 7 years old? Well, we're really 8 years old. The first issue hit the streets in March of 1984 and three years, nine months later began publication in Omaha. We've been doing the magazine in Omaha longer than in Lincoln and I have been editor for over four years. What does that mean in the pages of history? Probably not even a footnote. It does mean that I survived 48 steering committee meetings.

Joking aside, I want to do some recognitions. I want to acknowledge the debt that we owe Larry Wiseblood for starting *The New Voice*. That *The New Voice* survived in a field that sees hundreds of magazines come and go, attests to the quality of the work he did. I'd like to acknowledge the work done by Sandy Vopalka, editor during the most dismal days of the magazine. It would have been easy for some to just quit and not care what happened, but Sandy set the stage for others to take up the load and keep *The New Voice* alive.

I regret that Jerry Peck is not alive so I could personally thank him for the courage he showed when he accepted the position of editor even though his health was beginning to fail.

I feel like this is a recitation of my family tree, each has built upon the work of the one before just as whoever succeeds me will build upon what I have done. I am not announcing my retirement. I finally feel like I'm figuring out what I'm doing, so you'll have to put up with me for a while yet.

There are others I want to acknowledge who have worked hard during the years I have been editor. Sam, Don, and Bill worked to keep us on track and to keep us mindful of our heritage. Tom nearly wore his fingers down to the first knuckle typing. There were Ron, Leyne, Doug, Shelley, Tony, and another Tony on the steering committee at various times. And Larry Adams whose disappearance at the same time as our treasury forced us to work together and become cohesive.

And all of those who used to come to the basement of MCC and struggle to get pieces of copy to line up with little blue lines on paper before Rick and Nate taught us about typesetting on computer. There are those who have written articles for us, drawn cartoons, taken photos, and written colorful letters to the editor. There have been so many others, like Bob Ewing and Printing Plus who make us look so good, but special talents to today's steering committee, Dick Brown, Treasurer, Sharon McCartney, Secretary and Distribution Manager, Pat Phalen, Amy Marie Meek, Mark Maser, Terry Sweeney, and our typesetter, Lee Donehower. Each brings special talents that make this one heck of a magazine.

I need to acknowledge my spouse, Carla Petersen. Carla was on the steering committee but now devotes herself to writing articles, designing ads, laying out the magazine, etc., etc.

Before this list gets longer, let me summarize:

THANK YOU!!

(November 1992) **THE NEW VOICE LATE?**

HEAVEN FORBID!! *THE NEW VOICE* should never be late!! However...When October issues were mailed we had no reason to believe they wouldn't arrive on time. We send them bulk mail, but we checked weights and thought we had plenty of postage. As a matter of fact, we were told we too much postage for the bundles. So, we left them at the post office and went about our business. Two days later, postal workers left a message on Sharon Mc's voice mail at work. When she checked messages, she found out they claimed the bundles didn't have enough postage. To top it off, they hadn't sent the magazines — they were waiting for an additional five dollars!! So, Sharon went down, paid the \$5, and the magazines went out. That ends our explanation of why your magazine may have been late. We are taking steps to assure the post office will not hold up delivery in the future, but I'm not making any guarantees. Trying to fight the U.S. Post Office has all the qualities of tilting at windmills — you feel like you're doing something but it doesn't impress the windmill in the slightest.

(August 1992)

CONGRATULATIONS

by Sharon Van Butsel

Pride Celebration became greater when *The New Voice of Nebraska* received special recognition for service to the community during the Recognition Banquet by A.N.G.L.E.

I couldn't be prouder than I am of the hard work and dedication put in by the Steering Committee and Staff of *The New Voice*. Your hard work led to this award. Congratulations!

Like any proud parent, I'm sure my baby (*The New Voice*) deserved special recognition but other excellent organizations were also nominated. So there I sat, as Becky read the nominees and Brandon and Tom handed out certificates, waiting to see who would get special recognition. Becky is an orderly creature who presents certificates in alphabetical order, saving the special award for last. So, those who want to know the last sit back and wait until Becky skips someone in the list. Then we smile thinking we're really smart for figuring this out. (Doesn't take much to keep some people happy.) Anyway, Becky went down the list — EAGLE, The Gay/Lesbian Youth Support Group, The Imperial Court, River City Gender Alliance, (My smile spread from ear to ear) River City Mixed Chorus, SHOUT, and then called Rev. Howard up to present the plaque as she announced *The New Voice* had been chosen.

The presentation got crowded because six of the steering committee had been nominated for personal contributions and I called them all to the front to accept. I couldn't keep them corralled for a good photo of all six. Dick Brown, Sharon McCartney, Amy Marie Meek, Pat Phalen, Terry Sweeney, and myself (Sharon VanButsel) were accounted for between the two pictures we took. We got a little rowdy with a basketball team style cheer, but I guess that's *The New Voice's* steering committee — we get a little outrageous at times.

In all seriousness, Thank You to the community, to A.N.G.L.E., to whoever was kind enough to nominate us, to members of the steering committee not present that night (Lee Donehower, Mark Maser, and Blake). Thank You to Carla for her ongoing help and support, to our advertisers and those who support our advertisers, to Printing Plus for making us look good, to all the individuals and organizations that submit articles each month. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!!

I went through the same process as Becky read those nominated for personal contributions. This time she read through the list to the last name — Sharon Van Butsel and called Kathy England to present the plaque. I am proud and grateful to be selected. Thank you, A.N.G.L.E., and whoever was kind enough to nominate me.

(January 1992)

AD RATES INCREASE

The New Voice, like larger businesses, is in the position of having to maintain enough income to cover expenses. We have seen increases in the number of pages, the number printed, and the cost of equipment and materials. As a result, display advertising rates increase by 10% January 1.

(January 1992)

NEW VOICE SAYS "NO" To NAMBLA

For months, the steering committee of *The New Voice* has been engaged in a debate as members struggled with a routine request for a classified ad. This request came from NAMBLA, the North American Man/Boy Love Association.

In case you aren't familiar with the organization, let me quote from the material they sent. "NAMBLA, the North American Man/Boy Love Association, is an organization of men, women, and young people formed to support men and boys involved in consensual sexual and other relationships with each other, and to enlighten people about the positive nature of such relationships and the horrible effects of society's current hostility against them." The material states that NAMBLA does NOT support nor encourage sexual abuse of children, nor any form of coercive relationships. They do support CONSENSUAL relationships between "Boys" (usually 12-17) and Adult men.

Our discussion revolved around two points. First, this was a highly emotional issue for several members of the steering committee who felt that they could not support the goals of NAMBLA in any way. Second, were we entering into censorship by refusing the ads? Comment was made that Gay and Lesbian relationships were illegal in many states, but we support and advertise for organizations that encourage Gay and Lesbian relationships. Therefore, is it right to censor another minority?

The final vote was not unanimous. Some members felt strongly that censorship in any form is dangerous and should be avoided. However, the majority voted NOT to accept advertising from NAMBLA.

We have notified NAMBLA of our decision, but I don't think the issue is over. I suspect they will continue to challenge the decision and we may have further discussion, but we will not accept advertising from the North American Man/Boy Love Association.

(February 1992)

SECRETARY RECOGNIZED

The Toys for Tots Show gave the *New Voice of Nebraska* an opportunity to recognize Carla Petersen for her contributions. During his number, Dick Brown, treasurer of NVN, dressed as Rudolph, presented Petersen, dressed as Santa, with a plaque recognizing her for her "creative" contributions. Petersen joined the Steering Committee two years ago and served as secretary. Although she opted not to renew her position on the Steering Committee, she remains a member of the staff, writing articles (such as this one!), typing and doing layout.



(March 1993)

MILESTONES REMEMBERED

by Sandy Vopalka

As a past editor of *The New Voice*, I am proud to see the beginning of the ninth year of publication. I was a student working with the Gay and Lesbian Student Group at Nebraska Wesleyan when I first learned of *The New Voice*. At that time to get an article submitted, you had to know the "right" people or someone who knew someone. Things have changed a great deal since 1984.

For me there are two milestones when I reflect back on *The New Voice*. First, I remember the first "Wimmin's Issue," and I had my first photo on the cover. Secondly, there was "The Lawsuit." *The New Voice* was sued by a small town newspaper, because it believed people would confuse the two publications and not be able to tell them apart. I still have a framed copy of my first cover and know the name of that small town.

These are only two of the many milestones that are part of *New Voice* his/herstory. There have been a variety of people who have been part of the Life of *The New Voice*. Most who played a role while the magazine was in Lincoln are now gone; some have moved, some have returned to a quieter life, some have died, some are sick, and yet some of us continue to play a part.

The New Voice has been through highs and lows, thick and thin, much of which would have put other publications out of business. There have been staff changes, policy changes, cash flow problems, design changes, the move from Lincoln to Omaha, and *The New Voice* has never missed a month of publication.

I thank everyone who played a part to make *The New Voice* a reality, to those who continue to keep it a reality, and those to come. *The New Voice* will always be part of me and I will always be part of *The New Voice*. Good Luck to All Who Continue to Keep "OUR" *New Voice* Going.



(August 1993)

THE NEW VOICE BENEFIT SHOW

In Black & White

by B & G

On the 27th of June at The MAX, we were witness to a grand finale Pride Week Show for *The New Voice of Nebraska*. This 24 act show, produced and directed by Mr. Dick Brown, featured top performers of the community, showing the capacity crowd how proud they were to be members of this community.

The show opened with the staff of *The New Voice* distributing March on Washington Freedom Flags and buttons which said "No one's free til everyone's free," to the tune of *No One's Free*. By the end of the song, the audience was on their feet singing and waving flags. The second act featured a live performance by The Tom Boys. The girls performed three numbers. The ones we enjoyed most were *Losing Everything*, written by Sheri (a member of the duo), and *I Feel Lucky*.

The third performance brought Mr. Dick Brown and Mr. Pat Phalen to the stage, performing a dramatic duet number from a Starlite Express. A great performance! The next act featured "Little LeRoy - AKA Billy Bohannon," in full clown costume, in a delightful live performance called *Great Big Baby*. Billy's performance, as usual, was flawless, witty, and loads of fun.

The next number brought Miss Viktoria Towne to the stage performing *I Don't Know How To Love Him*, from *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Viktoria is one of our favorites. Before the show, we learned Viktoria was performing with Jesus Christ Superstar at the Orpheum. Congratulations!

We were then treated to a performance by Ms Sharon Van Butsel performing *Free To Be Who I Am*. Very inspiring. (It brought tears to our eyes.) Sharon's community involvements are too numerous to mention, but, with her partner, Carla, they make a terrific team. We love these ladies.

Next to the stage, Justine Seals, performing *Make it Happen*, and Christine Sands, performing *He's Mine*. The 9th performance featured the ever popular "Inga," performing the Dolly Parton number, *Put a Little Love in Your Heart*. We've had the honor of assisting Inga in several shows, and after helping her prepare for her role of Dolly, we now know what it takes for a female impersonator to prepare.

The Skag Drag of "Miss Easy Does It" performing *Lying Cheating Heart*, brought laughs and cheers from the crowd. Miss Easy is a member of MCC and a good friend! The next performer brought a standing ovation. Mr. R. N. Hedges, a member of MCC-Omaha, did a superb live performance of Bill Medley's *Unchained Melody*. R.N. has been a supporter of community fundraisers and he is in great demand because of his powerful voice. Bravo, R.N.!!!

Next, the popular, dynamic "Kendra," dancing and strutting her stuff to a disco mix. Kendra amazes us. We wonder where she gets the energy. Kendra was featured in an interview in *The Times of the Heartland*. Check it out. (We learned a lot about Kendra after reading the article.)

From Kendra, we were treated to a fine performance by Mr. Rick Tornow, doing Garth Brooks *We Shall All Be Free*. The last act of the first half was a performance by "Miss Mae-O-Naise" (Empress XI Mae) doing a skit from the *Phantom of the Opera*. Very impressive with incredible costume and make-up.

Before the second half, a "Let's Make a Deal Raffle" was conducted by Dick, Pat, and Little LeRoy. Prizes were donated by Union Jack Screen Printing, New Realities, Absolutely

Flowers, The Mole Hole, River City Mixed Chorus, Popeye's Chicken, Dick Brown, Terry Sweeney, and Pat Phalen. Guess what, folks? We finally won a raffle! (A subscription to *The New Voice* and several novels - it's about time!)

The second half of the show commenced with a performance by Stella, *I Believe in Dreams*. Thanks for your support, Stella. The next two performers brought cheers and raves from the audience. We have figured out "When it rains, it Snows" because every performance by Miss Dietra Snow brings thundering applause. Dietra performed a number from *The Wiz* and really strutted her stuff. Athena III and IV, Tami, performed a crowd pleaser, proclaiming *I Am What I Am*. Tami had the audience on their feet, waving freedom flags back and forth, as she shimmed and shaken her way through the room.

Next to the stage, a performance by Empress IX, Felice Whitney, doing her rendition of *Passionate Kisses*. The beautiful, charming Empress XIII, Roxy, teased the audience with *No One Else on Earth*. We have followed Roxy's career and were overjoyed when she was crowned Empress XIII (Lucky #13 for Roxy). We asked her how she felt about being crowned Empress XIII. Her one word answer was "Fabulous."

As was stated, this show featured many Top Performers. The next four have been extremely active in our community. They deserve special "Hurrahs and Con-grats" for their performances. Miss Sammi Bennett performing *Dangerous*, Miss Miranda Wrights *I Eat Carnivals*, Monica West performing *Everybody's Free*, and Barbra Love performing *You're Gonna Love Me*. We thank you ladies for your contributions.

The final performance was Sharon Van Butsel and Carla Petersen with *Shelly, You've Gone Nellie on Me*. This was the first time we've seen Carla in Drag. A delightful ending to an evening.

We, as members of the staff of *The New Voice*, would like to salute everyone involved in Pride Week activities, as a participant, performer, supporter, or friend of the community. We would like to thank Mr. Dick Brown, Mr. Pat Phalen, Mr. Terry Sweeney, Stosh, Bruce, and the staff at The MAX, all performers, and especially the audience for a grand finale to our Pride Week celebration. We are very proud of this community.

Editor's Note: Thanks to your generosity, this show (the first fundraising show held by *The New Voice* since moving to Omaha 5 1/2 years ago) was an overwhelming success.

To *The New Voice* of the Future: To the volunteers, advertisers, readers and friends who will continue to seek a way for the gay/lesbian/bi/transgender communities to speak out, we honor all of you who will be a part of *The New Voice* - in the years to come. It will be your hard work, support, and dedication that will allow *The New Voice* to speak out for another decade.