

OCTOBER 10, 1987

# The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A



# Our Turn

View and opinions by **The New Voice** staff.

## An AIDS Crisis?

A third Labor Day weekend has now passed where funds were raised to fight the dreaded disease AIDS. Groups have formed, organizations have been set up, and the gay/lesbian community has been in the forefront of the confrontation with this life-taking disease. The people involved in these various efforts are to be highly commended for their efforts. Most of the people that I have encountered from these groups are dedicated and over-worked. Check the resource list in **The New Voice** if you want to be involved.

As a representative of **The New Voice**, I have become painfully aware of the need for information concerning the disease, and developments from the medical community--and by local organizations. My search for information has led to several promises, but no results. **The New Voice** does not have anyone on staff who is associated with either the medical community or the various organizations working directly with AIDS. I, personally, have access to various publications which devote entire sections to AIDS, and communicate with others who are well-read and informed. This does not make me an authoritative source.

To the readers of **The New Voice** who are not actively involved in the groups and organizations or do not socialize with those involved, we express our regrets. We of **The New Voice** know that action is being taken by Nebraskans in the fight against AIDS, but until someone steps forward to provide us with authoritative information, you will have to depend on national coverage and local newspapers for your information. **The New Voice** was promised articles for the September issue by a person from the Nebraska Aids Project (NAP), a person from the Nebraska Viral Syndrome Clinic, and a Person With AIDS. None of the three

came through. Suggested solutions are welcomed by **The New Voice**.

--Jerry Peck.

## Together -- Our Future

Many things come to mind when one thinks of "Planning Your Future." Things such as wills, careers, relationships, retirement, and others. The one thing that most concerns me is the future of our community.

What is happening to us? Everyone is finding one thing or another to divide over and losing sight of priorities. We as gays and lesbians need to stop and take a look at what's happening right now to our brothers and soon to our sisters: friends and loved ones dying of AIDS.

The future we must honestly look at is our own as a "community."

We have already lost some very special and important friends. But, hey, this is only the beginning, and if we don't ignore the petty issues and work together it's going to be too late. Too late for any of us to "plan for our future."

--Sandy  
Editor

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**Editor's Note:** We regret instances where the above mentioned policy has not been followed.

# October 1987

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# Letters

## Lambda House Needs Your Help!

It is not like me to go begging for help. But it is now time to do just that. I am a member of the house committee and manager of the Lambda House. I make sure things are done around the house, get the bills, and then pass them (the bills) on to the treasurer for payment. So I know how much money we are taking in and how much has to be paid out. This month the pay-outs far exceed the take-ins.

This month: gas, \$27; water and sewer, \$45; telephone, \$53; garbage service, \$12; electricity, \$337; and miscellaneous \$29; total, \$503. Add to that the mortgage payment, \$310, and insurance, \$47; total, \$860. Now comes along a broken water line for \$700, a roof that needs repair, wood needing to be replaced under the eaves, wiring that doesn't turn the lights on, and a host of small jobs that need money to get them done. Oh yes, I'd like to see this house change its color of dress on the outside as well as in. Now you're looking at around five to six thousand dollars.

For the month of August we took in \$375 for rooms rented, \$60 for providing meeting space, and \$243 for the fund raisers this month; total, \$678.

We can do without some things that should be done, but we can not do without paying the basic bills. This means we take \$678 from

\$860, leaving us \$182 in the red and we still have a broken water line that we had to borrow money to pay for.

Lambda House can not keep going at this rate! I am pleading, I am begging for your support! This house is owned and run by gays/lesbians for the gay/lesbian community of Lincoln and this state. It is not here to serve a few, it is here to serve all of you.

Please, now, **NOW**, is the time for you to help Lambda House before you need help and Lambda is no longer here to help anyone. Call me and make time to visit. Come see what we are and what we do. I thank you for your support.

--Gideon  
474-1205

## Efforts Commended

I attended Coronation VII of ICON in June and more recently I attended the Texas Riviera Empire's Coronation in Corpus Christi, Texas. At both functions I was able to meet and get to know some of the members of ICON. In particular, Emperor VI Pat Phalen, Prince Royal VI & VII Terry Sweeney, and Emperor VII Dick Brown. To say the least I am very impressed with these three gentlemen. It amazes me the amount of

effort these men put into their community as well as the money that is raised through ICON to support the Gay Community. I would be remiss if I were not to include the efforts of Empress VII Velvet as well, who has done no less.

At a time when the Gay Community faces so many problems and setbacks, I am encouraged by their drive and community spirit. I hope that within the confines of our Court system in Southern Colorado that I may bring about the same positive force and community spirit here. Nebraska has some very precious jewels in these people.

Not to be left out, I would like to congratulate **The New Voice of Nebraska** for being such a vital means of communication within the community. All of you are sorely needed.

--Erica Courtland  
Empress XII  
Imperial Court of Southern  
Colorado

## NO to BORK Yes to Justice

### Rooms for Rent

at the  
Lambda house

Gay/Lesbian  
Resource Center

Call 474-1205.  
Ask for Gideon.

Gay/Lesbian Information  
and Support Line

**GLIS**

P.O. Box 2872  
Lincoln, NE  
68502

**475-4697**

Wed.-Sat.  
8:00 pm-Midnight

### NAP...

1½ years of concern and service  
"That's what friends are for!"

### \* Nebraska AIDS Project

• Nightly Hotline 6 to 11 p.m. 342-3233  
• Support Groups  
• Outstate Hotline 1-800-782-AIDS

# Local Events

## Women to March

In Lincoln, on Friday, October 30, the "Women Unite Take Back The Night" march will be held. Marchers are to meet at 6:30 p.m. at the corner of 15th and R (in front of the State Historical Society). The march will be lead to a rally at the State Capitol. The march will be lead to a rally at the State Capitol where speakers and local performers will be featured.

For more information call: Helen, 472-1197, or Common Woman, 464-6309.

## Coalition Annual Meeting

Sue Hyde, Privacy Project Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, has agreed to participate as keynote speaker for the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights annual meeting on Saturday, October 31, 1987 at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, Lincoln (see article in September issue). Sue will address the issues of privacy in her speech and has agreed to take part in a workshop dealing with the same subject.

At NGLTF Sue coordinates an organizing project, the goal of which is to reform sodomy laws in the 25 states still criminalizing gay and lesbian sexuality. The Privacy Project provides technical assistance and organizing support to activists seeking reform of the laws in their home states.

Prior to joining the staff at NGLTF in December, 1986, Sue worked on several Massachusetts-based projects. From 1985-86, she worked with the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, a statewide organization to rescind Governor Michael Dukakis's anti-gay, anti-lesbian foster care placement policy which virtually guaranteed that gay men and lesbians would not become foster parents in Massachusetts. In 1985 Sue

worked with the Cambridge Feminist Anti-Censorship Taskforce, a community group which successfully opposed a citizen-initiated anti-pornography referendum in the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts. From 1983-1985 Sue was news editor for the **Gay Community News**, a national news weekly for lesbians and gay men, covering politics and art of interest and significance to gay people.

For more information on registration for the Coalition annual meeting, contact John Taylor at 476-8091 (days), or write to the Coalition, P.O. Box 94882, Lincoln, NE 68509.

## Hunter Davis Appears in Lincoln

Hunter Davis will be appearing at Chesterfield's in Lincoln on Nov. 8 from 7 to 10 p.m. Davis recently was well received at the Michigan Women's Festival. Davis has appeared with George Winston, Holly Near and Harry Chapin. Davis will be appearing in Omaha on Nov. 7. For information, call 455-2818 in Omaha.

## NO to BORK Yes to Justice

## Retreat Features Acclaimed Directors

Two directors with national acclaim will conduct a spiritual retreat in November for Lesbian women, Gay men, and other interested persons. Sr. Eileen DeLong, a Religious Sister of Charity of the Good Shepherd (R.S.G.) and Fr. John McNeill, author of **The Church and the Homosexual**, will co-direct the November 13-15 retreat sponsored by DIGNITY/Omaha, an organization of Roman Catholic laity.

"We're really honored to get these two outstanding people to Omaha," said John F., DIGNITY/Omaha president. "We've planned for more than a year, coordinating when Sr. Eileen and Fr. McNeill would be available at the same time."

Sr. Eileen is from Seattle, WA, where she works in ministry to the Lesbian/Gay community. She also conducts retreats throughout the country.

Fr. McNeill, from New York City, is a psychologist, counselor, and "self-described celibate homosexual" (N.Y. Times). The Vatican last February dismissed Fr. McNeill from the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) because he refused to remain silent any longer regarding injustices he saw in the Catholic Church's treatment of homosexuals. He is still a priest,

### Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights

Box 94882, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

#### Membership Form (Please Print Clearly)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Suggested annual dues are: \$10—Single, \$18—Household; those who can pay more are encouraged to do so. Low income persons may pay less or request a waiver of dues.)  
I would consider:  Serving on a committee. My special interests include: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Helping from time to time.  
 Participating in the Speakers Bureau  
 Committing a monthly or quarterly amount to support the Coalition financially.  
I have the following skills which might be helpful: \_\_\_\_\_  
I am involved in the following other organizations: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I don't wish to become a Coalition member at this time, but would like to receive the quarterly newsletter.  
 I am especially concerned about confidentiality—please send all mailings to me in envelopes, by First Class mail.  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Received by \_\_\_\_\_

but no longer a member of a religious order.

The DIGNITY retreat is open to all persons, and while directed by Roman Catholics, will have an ecumenical flavor. "MCC/Wichita specifically is interested in attending as a group," said DIGNITY President John.

In mid-September DIGNITY had lined up a western Omaha hotel as the retreat site, "but we're looking for a quieter, solitary location more conducive to the spirituality of a retreat," John said. "We're hoping to find possibly a church camp or retreat center not yet booked for our November 13-15 dates. A more rural setting also will help us hold the costs down."

DIGNITY's retreat will accommodate up to 60 participants. They expect persons from as far as Chicago and Denver to attend this DeLong/McNeill retreat, John said. The registration fee of around \$75 to \$85, dependent upon the final retreat site, will cover all meals and room for the Friday evening through Sunday afternoon retreat.

Pre-registrations are being accepted now, and DIGNITY/Omaha will confirm the final location by mail and through posters and flyers.

"This is a rare opportunity to join Sr. Eileen and Fr. McNeill in a marvelous religious experience," John concluded.

DIGNITY can be reached by phoning in Omaha, John at 551-6354 or Russ at 341-1460, or by writing DIGNITY/Omaha, P.O. Box 31312, Omaha, NE 68131.

## Under the Boardwalk

### Benefit Boogie

On September 10 The Boardwalk and Steve F. presented an "Oldies Disco" night to benefit **A Time To Shine**. (This national organization is raising money to help send one thousand PWA's to Washington, D.C. to lead the National March on Washington.) In attendance

were a few individuals in 70's period costumes, and many who wanted to remember the way it was. Two hundred and twenty dollars was raised and the response to the music was so overwhelming that you can look for us to do it again just for the fun of it!

## AIDS Information Night

Mark your calendars for this one!

**Who:** Michael F. is presenting it.

**What:** A five member panel and presentors from organizations involved in AIDS education, care, and support in Lincoln, Lancaster County, and Nebraska.

**Where:** The Boardwalk.

**When:** Sunday, October 18, 1987 at 8:00 p.m.  
Hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 p.m. at The Club.

**Why: To Get The Facts!**  
The panel will be answering questions the audience poses. You will be able to ask your questions **anonymously!** Don't let fear stop you.

## The Hallowed Week

The party starts early this year with Lincoln's **most hilarious** pageant, "The Beauty and The Beast." Never-before performers are transformed into "stars" by those that we've all seen **many** times before. This event will take place on Monday, October 26 to kick off a week-long Halloween party. On Tuesday bring in a carved pumpkin, get a stamp from the bartender, and receive fifty cents off your drinks all night long! At midnight we'll choose one to be "The Great Pumpkin" and its creator will receive a cash prize. Wednesday will be a Hump-Night Oldies Toga Party. Dance to your favorites from the 70's and early 80's and make sure your bed sheet covers the important parts of your body! On Thursday, enjoy an "Over the Rainbow" night. We'll be showing **The Wizard of Oz** at The Club at

8:00 p.m., drinking witch's brew at The Boardwalk, and clicking our heels on the dance floor. Friday will be our second official "Surprise Night," and if you were at the last one, you know you won't want to miss it. Interested performers should confirm their act with me before October 28. You can contact me at the Boardwalk.

Saturday is Halloween!! Join us for Lincoln's biggest costume party. Cash prizes for first and second places in our annual costume contest. There will be drink specials and many surprises all week long, so don't miss it!

--Michael F.

## Absolutely "The Max"

Dateline Aug. 23 - Velvet Presents "Fresh Fish"

Velvet, who was given a box of Tuna Helper as a tip, introduced some fresh fish into the female impersonation swim at The Max. We saw the energetic production numbers by Paige as s/he was backed by "her" own choir and we received horns, hats and frosting. Kasie Michaels showed us how red is to be worn. We heard from Rossaland Russel, and saw Payton do Grace Jones.

Katrine Kane asked us to "Repent!" and later sang about wanting to find a man who could do something all night long. Velvet stole Troy's coat and hair to take us to NYC, where a girl can get mugged, put Barbara Streisand down to the tune of "Don't Cry For Me Argentina," and brought down the house with "Harper Valley PTA." The competition gets tougher.

-- Jerry Peck



# Miss Gay USA America Fund Raiser

The owners of the Miss Gay USA America Pageant put an elegant touch to The Max with linen tablecloths, a fabulous set, balloons galore, party favors and enough titles to choke an emcee.

The performers (spelling doesn't count) and some titles (far from complete) were: Kim Alexis - Miss Plantation; Lisa Durant - Miss Iowa and Royal Mother to all Empresses; Myrna Vaughn - Show Director of Pegasus Lounge in Kansas City; Amanda Fox - Show Director of The Boardwalk in Lincoln; Melinda Ryder - Miss Missouri and Miss Kansas; Dorean Drake - Miss Stage Door; Melissa Lee - Miss Gay Rodeo; Empress VI Velvet - Show Director at The Max; Debra Odette from Kansas City; Phoenix Valentino - Miss Davenport Iowa; Kim Alexis;



Muffy Rosenberg - Princess Royal VI; Sable - Miss Max. Forgive me for not listing all the titles and I hope I didn't miss anyone.

Too many acts to review all, but some highlights for me included the following: The chorus line as Phoenix declared that she likes men; when Melinda Ryder came to the stage pregnant; Myrna Vaughn putting some lesbians to shame with her neckline; when Sable descended her Grace Jones ladder to declare that she was just a little superior (good standup comedy act); and Muffy lamenting the woes of having a robust roommate. And how does Amanda Fox keep from losing her wig?

The pageant is scheduled for March 1988. Some lucky gal will represent our area; the choice is not going to be easy.

--Jerry Peck

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**NO to BORK  
Yes to Justice**

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**Sunday, October 18**  
from  
**2 - 6 p.m.**

Free Beer



Soft Drinks  
Snacks

...while they last...

**A Thank You  
For Your Support**

Lambda House  
2845 'R' Street  
Lincoln, NE

\* Donations Accepted \*

## A Visitor from NYC

On Sunday, Aug. 30, Sabrina GoLightly put on a fundraiser for AIDS research at The Run in Omaha. Literature was passed out, the audience saw how to put a rubber on a beer bottle, and \$281 was raised to go to work at the Viral Syndrome Clinic at University Hospital.

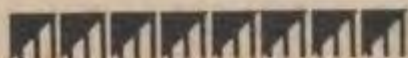
Sabrina was assisted in the show by Jim Bolas, Assistant Coordinator of Recreation Services for the Gay Men's Health Crisis Center in New York. Since I was unable to attend the show, Jim paid a visit to my apartment on Monday before flying back to NYC. We got to know each other and talked of his work on what Nebraska is doing in the area of AIDS.

Jim graduated from Abraham Lincoln High in Council Bluffs, has a teaching degree in English, and has been in New York since early 1986. His work with the GMHC is helping PWAs make the transition from isolation to socialization. He and others provide PWAs with various outings to theatre, Atlantic City, etc., nutritional counseling, therapeutic massages and monthly theme dinners. Jim had a lot of stories about the good times that PWAs can have together, as well as the grief of seeing PWAs who sleep in the parks.

He questioned whether Nebraskans in general have had a personal encounter with death through AIDS. It has been reported that there have been at least 35 cases of AIDS in Nebraska; over one-half of those cases have already resulted in death. I personally had known of three people who have died -- but did not know the men. Jim and I talked of the closeted nature of the local gay community. As long as we of Nebraska bury our heads in the sand in reference to AIDS in the Midwest, all we can do is to show our asses.

Nebraska is working toward a network for meeting the crises of AIDS, but we have not finished.

--Jerry Peck



## Lambda House Benefit

On Monday, Aug. 31, 1987, The Boardwalk and Amanda Fox sponsored a Benefit Show for Lambda House. A festive air at the beginning of the evening held up throughout the show.

As the evening went on we were honored with the presence of Dick Brown, Emperor of the Imperial Court of Nebraska. Dick stated that this was the largest crowd he had even seen at a benefit show held anywhere in Lincoln. Lambda House was able to raise \$176 to help defray the cost of a broken water main. The Board of Directors and the residents of Lambda House wish to thank the Gay/Lesbian community for their support by just showing up to enjoy the festivities.

--Chappie

## Labor Day Weekend In Omaha

If you were bored over the Labor Day weekend, you cannot blame the gay community.

The weekend began with the Miss Rural Gay Nebraska pageant at The Diamond. I was unable to attend, but I understand that The Diamond took on the look of the "Cow Palace." The winner was Courtney. Saturday night The Diamond hosted a night of comedy. The Cow Palace was transformed with the help of Tom C. and tinsel drapes from The Max. On Sunday night The Diamond had a night at the cabaret. Proceeds from these three nights went to the gay volleyball team and to the AL721 project at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The patrons of The Diamond, Stella, and Frank are indeed to be congratulated for fine shows and a superb showing in the way of giving. (Look for the ICON report for totals.)

On Sunday afternoon MCC of

Omaha held an ice cream social, auction of baked goods, and an ice cream eating contest. Forty bucks bought Terry S. the privilege of dumping apple pie a la mode on the top of Howard G.'s face. The representative of TWO earned the troweling trophy for making a pig of himself.

Following ice cream at MCC I went to the barbeque at The Max's patio. I missed almost everyone, but I had a great time talking in depth to a couple of people I had not had a chance to get to know before and met a piano player from New York City.

Monday afternoon found me at The Warehouse ground for fun in the sun. Various booths offered a chance to win prizes.

Monday evening I got to see most of The Omaha Meatpacker's show at The Max before running off to work. The show began with a slide presentation from the Newsweek article on death by AIDS. This was basically the end of the serious and the beginning of the ridiculous. Where do these people get their material? Dolly came up from Kansas City to dress up the place -- and now he/she has three new velvet jackets from Velvet.

All of this was fun, but it also was a very true expression of concern by the gay community over AIDS, which is not only a gay problem. Goals were exceeded by those who gave. The weekend was the result of a lot of devoted workers, from organizers to performers to set up



people and concerned people. Hopefully not all Labor Days will be spent in the fight against AIDS, but as long as the need is there, I am glad I was able to be a part of the solution.

Sorry I also missed the TWO picnic and the river boat cruise.

--Jerry Peck

## \$14,500 Contributed For AIDS Research

Two recent events raised more than \$14,500 to assist in AIDS research, education, and services for people with the fatal disease.

Of the total, \$7,000 will be given to the University of Nebraska Center for research into treatment for people with AIDS-related disorders, said Don Flowers, a spokesman for the Imperial Court of Nebraska, a non-profit organization for gays.

The remainder will go to ICON-PWA, an organization involved in AIDS education and assistance for people with acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The money was raised during Labor Day weekend fund-raising activities sponsored by the Imperial Court.

--Omaha World-Herald

THE  
**Chesterfield**  
OMAHA

MON-FRI 3 PM-1 AM  
SAT-SUN Noon-1 AM  
1951 ST. MARY'S

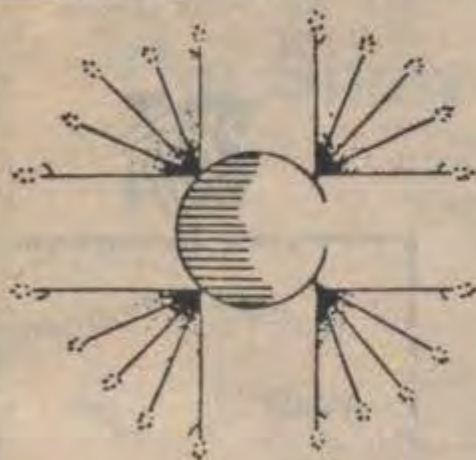




"If only I had  
done  
something  
sooner."

Before it was too late."

Safe Sex is for *your* life



*Sr. Eileen, ministry to the gay and lesbian community of Seattle and director of numerous retreats for this audience.*

*Fr. McNeill, counselor and minister to the gay and lesbian community of New York City, and author of The Church and the Homosexual*

# dignity

## Omaha Retreat

Sr. Eileen DeLong, R.G.S. and Fr. John McNeill:  
7 p.m. Friday, November 13 to 3 p.m. Sunday, November 15.  
All lodging & meals included.

**YES**, send me a detailed information packet on the DIGNITY/Omaha spiritual retreat. Enclosed is my \$75 registration.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET OR BOX \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:  
DIGNITY/Omaha  
Box 31312  
Omaha, NE 68131

**Register Now! Maximum of 60 Participants.**



# Local Organizations

## Lambda House: Its Past, Present, and Future

In the fall of 1984, when the Lincoln gay/lesbian community began to emerge from the depression which was caused from the defeat of the Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights Act, a small group of people decided to band together to find a place where gay and lesbians could go in the time of need. This group of people called themselves Lambda, Inc., which proceeded to avoid the traps that tend to plague many organizations.

Lambda, Inc. formed a real estate purchasing and leasing corporation capable of raising funds through the sale of shares of stock. The money that was raised from the sale of these stocks would be used to purchase a property which could be leased and used as a gay/lesbian resource center.

The location of 2845 'R' street was selected because of its history as a residential treatment program center. At the time of purchase Lambda, Inc. hoped that the house could eventually become a self-supporting program center. The final purchase of Lambda House was in January of 1985. There was much that needed to be done, such as: purchasing furniture for the entire house, immediate bills to be paid, etc.

The sale of stock was able to take care of some of the immediate problems. Fees from group meetings and the rental of the upstairs rooms barely covered the rest. Unfortunately the debts mounted and hard times descended upon Lambda House. Efforts to raise money through the sale of more stocks faltered. The Lambda House Board of Directors became very discouraged. As a result of this a group of closeted men and women gave from their private resources to insure that Lambda House would not fail due to indebtedness. The house was able

to be furnished; this group kept Lambda House going.

The initial vision had survived its first test. It was during this time that the house management team decided not to lease the property, but maintain the house as it had been doing. The team was responsible for the maintenance of the property to keep it in good repair. From time to time the membership of this team has changed but the functions of the team have remained the same. The team management and the residents have used their imaginations to generate funds and support from the gay and lesbian community (and have been greatly rewarded). As a result of this support, Lambda House has become a comfortable dwelling -- a home for the extended family of the Lincoln gay and lesbian community.

There are many future goals for Lambda House; throughout its brief history, the threat of AIDS has hovered over the house. Long discussions of how future needs of persons with problems involving AIDS-related issues could be met through the support groups and social services programming have enriched the future goals of Lambda House. The vision is there but due to homophobic responses the speed at which this kind of planning and program implementation can proceed is limited. But a service program is already being used; Lambda House has become what its dreamers intended it to be -- a resource center.

Lambda, Inc. is hoping to purchase other properties -- more beds for the transients, friends, and temporary employment for the unemployed gays and lesbians of our community. Lambda, Inc. hopes that by purchasing other properties, these properties will be able to house individuals and couples needing homes. There is no limit to what can be done by problem-solving efforts of gays and lesbians who are willing to help themselves and each other.

The Lambda House Board of Directors will be announcing its annual meeting in the near future. It is the hope of the board that mortgages, insurance, and tax expenses can be met for 1988 by the sale of more stock.

The founders, stock holders, and supporters are grateful for the cooperation and faith of the Lincoln gay and lesbian community which has made this dream possible!

--Chappie

## UNO Student Group

A gay and lesbian student organization is re-organizing at UNO. If you are a student at UNO or just interested in a social/support group, come join us. For information contact Wes at 342-5706 or write P.O. Box 31351, Omaha, NE 68131-0351.



Massage Feathers

Hugging Love

Communication

Touch Toys

Music

**Safer Sex Has  
No Boundaries  
and Limitations**

# Notes From MCC-Lincoln

Homosexuals as a community are well acquainted with rejection and oppression. We received it from almost every society throughout history and today is no exception, even from the Church.

One example is a young minister in the early 1960's who was defrocked when he disclosed his homosexuality. Hurt and disillusioned, he sought God's truth. The Lord revealed to him not only His grace and love, but a vision of an open church -- a church for all believers. His name might be familiar, Reverend Troy Perry, founder of Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC).

Today, UFMCC is an international church reaching out to all. Its message of "God loves Gays!" is heard throughout the world. A group of believers heard that same

message here in Lincoln, and began meeting at Lambda House on Sunday nights at 5:30 p.m. They're still there and they've grown.

On the second and fourth Sunday of every month, MCC Omaha's pastor, Reverend Jan Kross, leads a worship experience none should miss. On the other Sunday nights, members lead a challenging Bible study. On Saturday mornings a prayer group meets for church and community concerns. I'm talking about a church that's alive! If you're interested in hearing more about MCC-Lincoln, call Gideon at 474-1205.

--J. Alan Wolfe



**Open House**  
**Sunday, October 18**  
from  
**2 - 6 p.m.**

Free Beer      Soft Drinks      Snacks  
...while they last...

**A Thank You**  
**For Your Support**

Lambda House  
2845 'R' Street  
Lincoln, NE  
\* Donations Accepted \*

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# Planning Your Future

## Denise Wheeler: Co-Mother's Promise Made In Love Is Broken In Anger

(This article originally appeared in the August 21, 1987 issue of *Seattle Gay News*.)

LOS ANGELES - The closet is stacked high with presents for Christmas, Hanukkah and birthdays, all adorned with bright wrappings and ribbons, all waiting for a child's eager hands.

Some of the gifts have been there almost two years and probably never will be opened.

Denise Wheeler, 36, doesn't care. Each year since 1985, she has bought and wrapped a few more toys and stored them in the closet. The ritual keeps alive the hope that she will be with her daughter Sara again soon.

But she is betting on a long shot. Wheeler hasn't seen the child since July, 1985. That's when Wheeler's lesbian lover fled with the five-year-old girl.

No one could have predicted the bitter break-up when the women decided to adopt the child in 1980. At Christmas seven years ago, Denise Wheeler and Gail Goldstein took a child home from the hospital. At the time, Sara was ten hours old.

"We both wanted a child," Wheeler said in a recent interview. "But neither of us wanted to be single mothers." Because it's hard enough for a single woman to adopt a child -- much less a lesbian couple -- they chose Goldstein to go through the act of getting custody. Although Goldstein was to be the legal guardian, the women agreed verbally that they were adopting the child together.

When they discovered the child would be a girl, they lay in bed at night deciding on a name: Sara Lynn Wheeler Goldstein. As a re-

sult, both women considered Sara theirs. Both thought of themselves as here mother and as her adoptive parent. And, in fact, both acted like parents, giving freely of their time and money. They also told everyone they had adopted a child.

"We were both very political," Wheeler said, "And we said up front, 'This is what our life is going to be about and that's going to change the emphasis of what we do.'"

"Your child becomes the first priority."

### *Their word seemed good enough.*

Like many new parents, they found their friends changing. They were drawn to other people with kids. Although they talked about having a lawyer draw up a legal document -- one that verified their verbal agreement -- they never got around to it. Their word seemed good enough. After all, they were both lesbians, both feminists, both highly respected women. They were politically active in the lesbian-feminist community and highly articulate professional women -- women whose word should have been good.

Wheeler taught at California State University Long Beach and ran the women's center. Goldstein also was a teacher. And they both trusted each other. That, however, was a fatal mistake. But for two years, the arrangement did work. Although the women didn't live together, they spent equal time with Sara and all three spent weekends together. "It was an ideal situation," Wheeler said. "We each had separate time with the child and also separate time without the day-to-day responsibilities. I would have Sara two days a week, Gail would have Sara two days a week and we would be together the rest of the week."

In effect, Sara had two homes, one with Wheeler and one with Goldstein. She even had a lavender

playroom as well as a bedroom in Wheeler's home. In addition to raising Sara in an alternative lifestyle, the women also decided to give Sara a wide view of the world, one that included their own varied heritages. Wheeler is from a working-class, midwestern family and Goldstein is Jewish. Because Sara is Hispanic, both women began to learn more about Hispanic culture and to study Spanish. They wanted Sara to have the best of all words.

But then their own world crashed. The women broke up.

At first, they were willing to keep the special family they had created together. They still shared Sara's time equally between them and took turns picking up Sara at the daycare center, taking her to the doctor, and shouldering the responsibilities that come with a growing child. They continued to divide expenses equally. It was a grand experiment and, for almost five years, it worked.

### *The bottom line was that she had a weapon -- legal custody.*

But the strain took its toll, the relationship got worse. The difference in temperament and in the women's lifestyles started to get in the way. The bottom line was that Goldstein had a weapon -- legal custody. And she began to use it. According to Wheeler, the deterioration was an ugly one. First Goldstein demanded that Wheeler spend fewer days with Sara. Then she wanted Wheeler to stop calling herself Sara's mother.

At the time, Wheeler was involved in a battle at Long Beach State over her job, a fight she eventually lost. "It was a very traumatic time," Wheeler explained. "I had no energy to fight Gail." So she gave in. But as usually happens in such cases, the first capitulation only led to another, and another. Slowly, Wheeler began to realize she needed an agreement. And she asked Goldstein to go into mediation. They apparently saw an attorney

and a mediator. But it was already too late.

Goldstein refused to sign the agreement and ignored the mediator's recommendations. Eventually Goldstein fled with the child, picking her up at the daycare center and disappearing into the night. The worst part of the story is that it shouldn't have happened. Wheeler's no dummy. She's a politically astute, politically involved woman who could have taken legal precautions. Today, she wishes she had.

But she never anticipated the ugliness of the end. She chose instead to believe that promises made in love wouldn't be broken in anger. "I never expected to be treated like this," she said. "Or to have this happen to my own daughter." Although she has managed to put her life back together, Wheeler cannot forget Sara. Like most mothers, she is concerned with the effect the separation is having on Sara, too. "Sara loved both of us. My idea isn't to take Sara away from Gail. But Sara has the right to be with both of us. And I have the right to be with my daughter."

Today, Wheeler has little contact with Goldstein and none with Sara. Although she has tried to get visitation rights through the court, using the legal system is an uphill battle. Goldstein lives in New Mexico and the Los Angeles Superior Court recently ruled that California courts do not have jurisdiction over the case.

Wheeler isn't giving up hope, however. And in terms of the law, time is on her side. State legislators are beginning to recognize lesbian rights and relationships as are court cases.

But court battles take years. And in that sense, time is Wheeler's worst enemy. Unless Goldstein relents, Wheeler might not see Sara until the child is already grown and able to see out her "other mother" on her own.

If Wheeler sees Sara again, she probably will carry an armload of gifts for the child she never forgot. But seeing a young woman whose

formative years she missed will be little consolation.

--Dell Richards

## So You Want to Get Married

A marriage is not made by a church or any other institution. A marriage is made by the people in it. Marriage is a relationship already entered into by two committed people even before they go to a church for its blessing of that relationship. A marriage ceremony doesn't make the relationship any stronger or any more loving.


So why does the Metropolitan Community Church offer the Rites of Blessing and of Holy Union? I'll answer that momentarily.

The charge has been made by the straight community that gay relationships don't last, that all homosexuals are promiscuous, that we don't really know what love is.

In some instances it's true that our couplings don't last. Just as that holds true for some straights too. Some straights are promiscuous. And the divorce rate for heterosexual marriages has soared in recent years. The truth is, we're really no different.

Some gay and lesbian couples decide to commit to each other for life. It's not unheard of. But most straights don't hear about or see (or choose to see) those successful relationships. Certainly, straights rarely support those loving bonds when they do see them, or don't support homosexual bonds as much as they would heterosexual bonds. That leaves the homosexual community with the responsibility of encouraging the togetherness of gay and lesbian couples.

We have so little support offered to us. Straight couples get breaks when filing taxes, when applying for loans, when buying a house. When gay couples apply for joint checking accounts, we usually only get sideways looks. When lesbian couples



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try to buy a house together, we usually get a lot of raised eyebrows. And when our relationships require counseling, it's not always easy to find sympathetic counselors, especially in smaller communities.

Since our lifestyle is not conventional, we are the ones left responsible for our own support. Straight society doesn't give it to us. Every relationship is destined to have some sort of rocky times. It's usually easier to walk away than it is to work out the troubles. That's when support from our own community, encouragement from our friends to get past the problems, is important. It is also important for us to celebrate the joyousness of our loving with our friends.

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*It's important for us to celebrate.*

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Some straight friends have asked me about our Holy Unions, wondering if we're just acting out some game or trying to be more like the rest of "normal" society. I don't

think so. The MCC was formed because many gays felt uncomfortable in mainstream organized churches. It was established out of a need to keep religion in our lives, to create a place where we could worship without others telling us we're living an "abominable" life. And Holy Unions were instituted to validate our relationships in a religious context. We use traditional symbols, such as a ceremony and an exchange of rings, partly because that is the only other pattern we have to follow, and partly because our relationships are as valid and as loving as heterosexual marriages.

The MCC offers the Rites of Blessing and of Holy Union to give support to gay and lesbian couples. It is a time to celebrate our unique happiness within our community. No state will recognize our bonds, nor will any other conventional church. So the MCC, our church, gives us the chance to receive God's blessing on the marriages we have already made.

--Jean Mortensen

## AIDS: What Are We Doing About It?

This is a difficult, but -- I feel -- important, article for me to write. It is an article that deals with the death of a generation of young gay men. It is a subject that has hit close to me many times over the past six years.

I grew up in Omaha. However, sixteen years ago I moved to New York. One year ago I came home to Omaha. During the past six years I have lost 167 friends to AIDS. This number includes 17 very close friends, including my very closest friend for the past ten years, who died on August 7, 1987. I have spent numerous hours working the hotline of the Gay Men's Health Crisis. I have spent days and nights holding hands and trying to comfort strangers and friends alike as they spent their final moments at St.

## AIDS

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Claire's Hospital or at home before death came. I have served as a pallbearer more times than one would expect in a lifetime. I have been privileged to deliver the eulogy for three friends. Now in Omaha I share the fight with another close friend who is living with AIDS. I realize that having lived in New York I have had a closer encounter with AIDS than most in Nebraska. However, my concern is how Nebraskans are dealing with this crisis: will they be ready when the crisis unfolds on a broader scale in the few years ahead?

I was amazed a year ago, and remain amazed today, at the wide lack of concern about AIDS in Omaha. I speak only of Omaha since this is where I live; however, it may be true for the rest of the state. The lack of concern is not only about contracting this dreaded virus but also for the general lack of response to the men of our community who are living and dying with AIDS.

I usually go out for drinks one evening a week. I have spent a great deal of time discussing AIDS with those I come in contact with. Some thoughts I have heard are:

"It's an east coast-west coast problem."

"If someone in Omaha has it, they got it from somewhere else."

"It will never be a big problem here."

"I haven't been out long and haven't been with that many guys to get it."

"Condoms take the fun out of sex."

***"It will never be a big problem here."***

I am baffled -- after six years, the thousands across the country who have died, and the constant bombardment of information -- that the above comments seem to be the prevalent attitude in Omaha and not the exception to the rule. The lifestyle of gays around the country has changed to one of safe sex to prevent the continued spread of the virus, while Omaha appears still wanting to only have a "good time." Our community is beginning

to see the price of that good time and the price will continue to go higher.

As of this date there have been 37 confirmed Nebraska cases of AIDS, with 85% being in Omaha and Lincoln. This does not count those who contracted the virus elsewhere and have since moved to Nebraska. Twenty-three of the 37 cases have died. I know that to many people 37 cases out of a population of 1.6 million sounds like a very small number. However, I ask you to look at things in a different light for a moment. From 1981 through 1984 there were but seven cases; 1985 and 1986 brought seven new cases each year for a total count of 21. 1987 has already seen 16 new

cases and the year is not over yet. 1987 is expected to conclude with more cases in the one year than the previous five years combined. Does Nebraska have a crisis? You'd better believe we do! Recently the Nebraska Health Department estimated that in three years the number will climb to approximately 672. That's over 600 new AIDS cases in three years. Based on national projections, 370 will die by the end of 1991, with 133 dying in 1991 alone. The majority of the new cases and deaths will continue to be in Omaha.

The picture looks bleak if one were to stop at this point; however, the picture can be changed to a more positive one. Steps can be taken to prevent the number from going higher than projected. Steps **must** be taken **today** and **not tomorrow**:

- Realize that AIDS is not a San Francisco and New York Crisis -- it is an Omaha and a Nebraska crisis.
- Engage only in safe sex; if a potential partner will not practice it, don't go with him.
- Begin educating one another about AIDS.

The second issue I want to deal with is how we are caring for those in our community who are living with AIDS. Have we banded together to provide for their emotional, physical and spiritual needs, or have we abandoned them like the lepers of our time? I know there are some in our community who have been very active in providing education and assistance. However,

this has been a job done by a few for the whole community, rather than the whole community banding together to get the job done. More is being done today in Omaha by the straight community for those in the gay community who have AIDS than by the gay community itself. Many with AIDS have already been abandoned by families, lovers and friends. Must they also face abandonment by their brothers and left to die alone as pariahs? They are our colleagues, our neighbors, our friends, our lovers. We have enjoyed the good times with them; it is time we are with them in their time of need. It is time that we provide them the way to live and die with faith and dignity.

Besides giving a few dollars at benefit, we as a community can and must do more:

- Provide more positive and spiritual support groups.
- Provide a "buddy system" to help with practical needs.
- Provide support and relief for those who provide care.
- Pray with and for people with AIDS, their families, and care providers.

Contact the Nebraska AIDS Project, Project Concern, Metropolitan Community Church or the American Red Cross today. Become an active partner in the support network so vital to our community. No one can afford to continue to sit on the sidelines waiting for someone else to do the job. Contact and commit **today**.

--Larry Adams

## Wills

One of the most important documents a person can sign in his/her lifetime is a will. Despite this fact, many people put off having a will prepared. Though the reasons for such procrastination may vary from person to person, they usually include the excuse that "there will be plenty of time to have it done later," "the size of my estate is too small," "if something happens, my family and friends would do the right thing as to my property," "I don't know an attorney and it would cost too much to have a will done," or "I

*continued*

won't be around so what difference does it make to me."

Unfortunately, these statements are too often false and in many situations, have led to unnecessary expenses, difficulties, hardships, and lawsuits.

## Elements of a Will

By legal definition, a will is the legal expression of a person's wishes as to the disposition of his/her property, to take effect after his/her death. However, this definition does not completely describe the functions of a will and what it can and cannot accomplish.

In Nebraska, except for certain rights of a surviving spouse, a person can will his/her property to any person he/she so desires, whether they are a legal relative or not. There is no requirement that a person must give at least \$1.00 to certain legal heirs. A will also allows you to choose your personal representative, that is, the person who you want to administer your estate after your death. This personal representative, takes possession and control of your property, pays legitimate expenses and claims, and insures that your property is distributed according to the terms of your will. A will also allows you to name who you want to act as guardian of any minor children, allows you to do tax planning, and allows you to make special provisions for different beneficiaries or provisions for special items of property.

Since a will does not become final or take effect until your death, it can be changed, amended, or re-

voked at any time and as often as you wish. In addition, a will in no way affects or encumbers your property while you are alive. Therefore, you are still free to use, sell, give, or deal with your property in any manner you so desire during your lifetime. Also, the named personal representative of your estate has no power over your property prior to your death.

The terms of your will also have no control over property held in joint tenancy if the joint owner of the property survives you. Nor does a will have any effect on life insurance if there is a named beneficiary who survives you.

The only technical requirements of a will are that the person be at least 18 years of age or married and be of sound mind. The will must be in writing, either typewritten or handwritten, and must be signed by the individual in the presence of two or more witnesses. The will does not need to be notarized.

## Dying Without a Will

If you die without a will, the laws of the state dictate who should receive your property and who will act as the personal representative of your estate. Such laws set forth a rigid formula that must be followed whereby only certain legal blood relatives will inherit your property. Such laws do not take into consideration your desires and wishes, make no provisions for friends or charities, and do not take into account each individual's personal circumstances and relationships. Often, this distribution of your estate and the person acting

as the personal representative may not be what you envisioned as the "right" thing being done with your property.

## Preparation of a Will

An attorney should draft your will. Although you can draft your own will, "do-it-yourself" wills and/or "holographic" wills have been the cause of many will contests and lawsuits. Even a minor error in a will can completely alter the way in which your assets are disposed of at the time of your death. These errors can be avoided if your will is drafted by someone with proper training, experience, and study in estate and probate laws as well as State and Federal tax laws.

Despite many people's belief, a will can be prepared by an attorney at a very reasonable cost. The preparation of a will can also afford you the opportunity to hire a personal attorney both for now and for future needs.

## Who Needs A Will

Every person, married or single, should have a will. A person does not need to have a large estate to warrant a will. In fact, the smaller the estate the greater the need for care and planning in order to prevent unnecessary taxes and expenses.

In addition, the will should be thought of as part of an estate plan which represents the finalization of a person's hopes and dreams. It provides the maker of the will with peace of mind knowing his survivors are not burdened with making decisions concerning his/her property and knowing that it may provide a measure of comfort and support. Finally, the will can be used as the final act of love and affection to those who survive him/her.

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# Features

## The Christian Gay

### A Question of Forgiveness

Recently someone declared to me that they were thankful that God forgives them and that they were sure that I would never forgive them. My first thought was "you have never asked me to forgive you."

As Christians we hear a lot about how God can forgive us of our sins and how Jesus suffered and died that we might have forgiveness. The great dispute has come from the question, "What do I need to have forgiven?" Yes, the answer seems simple -- my sin. Moses and others from the Hebrew nation compiled long lists of the "Thou shalt nots" and even prescribed punishments for those that did not comply. What is often forgotten is that the rules set forth by Moses and others were rules to govern a nation of people. Many rules attributed to mankind's relationship to God were, in fact, laws to govern a civilization. If an action did not further the development of a civilization, then it was declared a sin. Civil disobedience and sin became one. The system worked for the Hebrew society, but Christ had to come into the world to offer salvation to all people, not just the Hebrew.

Now, some two thousand years later, we are still trying to separate church and state. The greatest argument for making homosexuality a sin seems to be that homosexual activity does not propagate the species (create people to make the nation strong, to work for profit, or to fight a war). We are told that we must repent from our sinful gay lifestyle and this becomes paramount as an obstacle that keeps the Christian gay from fellowship with others who seek to be Christ-like.

Perhaps the idea of sin and forgiveness had its emphasis misdirected. The scriptures tell many

stories of how Jesus forgave the sins of many. Christ came as an example for us. If we are to be Christ-like we must be able to forgive those who offend us; when we offend God we must be able to ask for his forgiveness and accept it.

This sinning, repenting, and receiving forgiveness cycle seems to be lacking. Somewhere we have left out the need to seek forgiveness from others who we have offended. It was rather easy to present sacrifices to the church of the Hebrew people and to go to God and ask forgiveness and event to be "gracious" enough to forgive others.

The difficulty comes when we have to confront another human being, admit doing something that may have hurt them, and risk their refusal to forgive. We have few records of the Hebrew church/state refusing and since we are not conversant with God, we only hope he forgives. How many relationships have ended because of one person feeling they have been wronged and left it to believe that the wrong was done intentionally.

As Christians we must be aware of what we do that hurts others as well as what hurts God. Our relationships here in this world are not for an eternity as with God; however, when one is alone, without friend or loved one, even one day can seem like an eternity.

As Christian gays, we must get over the feeling that since society is unwilling to forgive us for what they see as a sin (crime against social order and furtherance), hence we are unworthy to confront God with what he and you and I see as sin, and seek to be in a right relationship with those we love. It would be easier to throw a burnt offering at their door and leave, but it didn't work for the Hebrew nation, and I don't think it will work for us. "Love your neighbor as yourself."

--Jerry Peck

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## GODDESSHARVEST

Now that the season has turned to Autumn and the temperatures have dropped, it's time to pre-heat the oven and get the loaf pans out.

Fresh, homemade bread is one of my favorite things to bake, and it's certainly a great thing to serve. The following is one of my favorite recipes.

### Whole Wheat Bread

- 1 1/2 Cups Warm Water
- 1 1/2 Cups Warm Milk
- 1/2 Cup Honey
- 6 Tablespoons Margarine
- 1 Tablespoon Salt
- 2 Tablespoons Active Dry Yeast
- 6 Cups Whole Wheat Flour
- 2 Cups Enriched White Flour

Combine all ingredients except flour and let them rest until yeast bubbles. Alternate adding the types of flour until the dough ceases to be sticky. Turn dough out onto floured board and knead for ten minutes. Allow dough to rise on board until double in bulk (about an hour). Punch dough down, shape into loaves and allow another hour for the dough to rise in the pan. Bake on the lowest oven rack for thirty minutes at 375 degrees. Makes two loaves.

A word about kneading -- gentle, steady kneading is vital to a smooth, finely textured bread. When I knead, I start with the ball of dough and pull the sides into the center to make a square, then I pull on the points of the square to form another square, and so on, in a circular motion. As you experiment with your own baking, you will find your own style. It will also take some time for a beginner to know when s/he has done enough kneading. Until then, just follow the instructions of whatever recipe you use and keep trying.

### Everything Bread

- 2 Cups Hot Coffee (even bad coffee is fine)
- 1 Tablespoon Salt
- 3 Tablespoons Butter
- 2 Tablespoons Molasses
- 1 Tablespoon Honey
- 1/2 Cup Wheat Germ
- 1/2 Cup Bran
- 1 Cup Rolled Oats

Combine the above ingredients and let sit for 10 minutes, then add:

- 1/2 Cup Warm Water
- 2 Tablespoons Yeast
- 2 Cups Rye Flour
- 3 Cups Whole Wheat Flour
- 1 Cup+ White Flour

Turn out dough onto floured board and knead for six minutes. Allow to rise for an hour, punch down, then form into rolls or into loaves and let them rise until double in bulk. Bake loaves for thirty minutes at 375 degrees (rolls for twenty minutes). Makes two loaves.

A word about loaves: the purpose of punching down the dough is to eliminate air bubbles that turn loaves into "swiss cheese." I have found the best way to make loaves is to flatten the dough into a rectangle, roll it to form a loaf, and then turn the ends under. If rolled smoothly, the bread should be virtually free of air pockets.

Good luck with your bread! Next month, Goddessharvest will feature vegetarian fast food!

**Note:** Last month, this column ran a recipe for Zucchini Cheese Bread which contained a typographical error. The amount of baking powder is three (3) teaspoons, not one as was printed.

## PFLAG Booknotes

**Different Daughters: A Book by the Mothers of Lesbians**, edited by Louise Rafkin. Pittsburgh: Cleis Press, Inc., 1987. Paperback, \$8.95. (Also available in hardcover.)

"Magic Yellow Button," the title of the concluding "story" in this book, is a poem, and speaks to us of a mother's action in behalf of her daughter; even more, of a model for freedom that must have allowed that particular daughter to grow to lesbian womanhood with a sense that it was okay to be a "different daughter." This book of brief personal stories, by accepting mothers of lesbians, was collected by Louise Rafkin through taped interviews and solicitation of the written memories of the mothers' experiences and feelings as they dealt with their daughters' gayness. The levels of acceptance are wide, and honestly shared, with some being of the "It's all right but let's not dwell on it" vein, to those for whom the term "beyond acceptance" is most apt. Each of the stories is introduced by a few sentences about the mother, highlighted by small illustrations like those used with illuminated letters. The physical layout and organization of the book and the balance of stories representing a range of experiences, make this small book visually interesting as well as essential reading.

Rafkin's introduction reflects sensitivity and understanding. Her stated hope for the book is:

I hope this book offers both support for mothers and understanding for daughters. I am proud to offer these stories, each born of its own hope for the day when loving -- despite our differences -- is not so unusual as to warrant a book. In many ways these stories are quite ordinary, made extraordinary through their telling.

Rafkin talks about the ordinary and the extraordinary in relation to the telling of stories. A friend's comment on this same theme helped me to her own insight -- personal stories are powerful. It is true that

*continued*

these stories are extraordinary in the women's willingness to share a most personal experience and journey of growth, but the telling and reading of personal experiences brings events that may make us feel isolated, when not shared, into the realm of everyday ordinariness. That is the road to acceptance. We are not disturbed by the ordinary.

In addition to my appreciation of these stories, I cannot conclude without also pointing out that a number of these mothers praised the part that the group Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) played in their lives. Rafkin even included a page describing PFLAG and giving its national address. It is true that PFLAG has been a positive space for many families and friends, so it is natural that we are co-sponsoring, with the YWCA and the Common Common Woman Bookstore/Coffeehouse, Louise Rafkin's personal appearance here

in Lincoln on October 14 at the Common Woman Bookstore. (See ad elsewhere in this publication.)

--Jean Durgin-Clinchard

## AIDS - A Personal View

My name is David and I would like to share a portion of my life with you in hopes of giving some insight into the growing crisis affecting our communities -- AIDS. Several articles have been published concerning this disease and most of you already know the signs and symptoms and, hopefully, how to avoid infection. What I want to do is give you a more personal view of the AIDS crisis, as I am a PWA (Person with AIDS).

I was first diagnosed as being HIV-positive about a year and a half ago. Although the adjustment was difficult, I did not have any great problems accepting the fact because I simply did not feel six.

Then approximately six months ago I was hospitalized with *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP) and diagnosed with a full-blown case of AIDS.

I survived my first bout with PCP and upon my return home from the hospital, my lover and I decided to move back to the Midwest so that I could receive medical treatment and the much needed support from my family. After some discussion we decided on Omaha because of its close proximity to my family and because the University of Nebraska Medical Center has an AIDS treatment program located here.

After getting settled in our new home and going through the usual paperwork and red tape involved with Social Security, Medicaid, and other services, I finally got to know the staff and medical personnel at the Viral Syndrome Clinic. I am pleased to say that the care given has been exceptional. The staff there goes beyond simply providing adequate medical treatment -- they

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really care about you as an individual.

One area of service that I noticed was missing was a type of peer support called a buddy system. After talking with several people

we decided to form a buddy system based on systems already in operation in other cities, namely San Francisco (Shanti Project) and New Orleans (New Orleans AIDS Task Force). Although still in the formative stages, our group here, called Helping Hands, is going to provide a very needed service to our communities. As our organization progresses there will be updated articles submitted to *The New Voice*. Anyone wishing more information concerning Helping Hands can contact us through Project Concern.

As a result of my working to formulate Helping Hands I was privileged to meet a very special lady by the name of Kris. We originally met at Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha and through her involvement with Helping Hands I came to know her fairly well. I was still pleasantly surprised however when she unexpectedly volunteered to become my buddy. Since that time we have grown close to each other. It is such a good feeling to have someone to call every day to say "Hi" and find out how I'm doing. This is especially great because I'm new to the community and this makes it seem like I'm really not a stranger. As we spend time doing things together Kris has become like a family member. I know that even when my illness progresses to the point where I require more care that she will be there to give practical as well as emotional support.

This is what the buddy system is all about -- two people becoming friends, sharing life and death together. Words cannot really express the gratitude I feel for having Kris step into my life. As she says, "It starts with us", and she is so right. It is our hope that we can serve as an example to others in our communities so that you, too, can become involved with helping others affected by this crisis.

--David  
Omaha

## It Starts With Us

I first observed David at an MCC board meeting in August. He immediately caught my complete attention with his extremely bright and articulate manner. His statements revealed he was a community person, as am I, and cared deeply about our people. I sensed a kinship to this man, and reached over to squeeze his shoulder to extend my approval. He gave me a slight pat on the hand and a grin. "Thank you!" he beamed.

Later on in the conversations, I learned David was a person with AIDS. I also found I was sitting next to his lover of many years. I left the meeting feeling there was a great inner strength and conviction in David. From what I had read about the disease he would go through hell on earth.

The following week, I met David again, at another organization's board meeting. On this occasion, we had more time to converse. David and his lover had moved back here for David's medical treatment, and the fact he wanted to be closer to his family. I had been contemplating becoming involved in one of the AIDS projects for many months. As my term as an officer in an organization was coming to a close, I felt the time was appropriate to make a decision. I had seen a written and televised report on the Houston buddy system and thought perhaps I could be most effective in that type of program.

After the board meeting, six of us retreated to a locally owned gay restaurant. The conversation revolved around the buddy systems that were already now running throughout the United States. We were discussing the possibilities of one in Omaha to cover the hospitals here and then in Lincoln, hopefully. We had been at the restaurant for several hours discussing the pros and cons. I had been studying David's comments for a period of time. During a lull in the conversation I extended my hand across the table and said, "David, I'd like to be your buddy." The firm grasp of his hand and warm

smile told me the first bond was made. It starts with us. We all exchanged telephone numbers and addresses to start the communication and networking links. The buddy system in our area will be called Helping Hands. We hope to be fully operational later this fall and winter. David will be writing his story in *The New Voice* on what it means to have a buddy, and all the transitions David and I will go through. There will be emotional times for both of us, and we hope to educate others through our experiences.

I now try to call David daily, as he works on the buddy system during the day, when I cannot. Even now, as I write this article, the tears come, even though I try to fight them. I have known David for a month, and already I know I will lose a best friend. My fervent hope is that what David teaches me in the time that we have, I will give to others to continue helping our people and others afflicted with AIDS.

--Kris  
Omaha



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## Coming Out

This is the second of three short articles intended to give direction to those newly exploring Gay/Lesbian or Bisexual feelings. Those persons are encouraged to utilize local Gay/Lesbian resources to gain more information and support.

### "Sex and Non Sex"

A chapter in *Loving Someone Gay* by Don Clark, Ph.D., is aptly titled "Sex and Non Sex." Inadvertently this author had recalled the title being sex or non sex, extremes to be aware of.

Sexual relationships and non-sexual relationships are as varying and unique as individuals are. For a sense of direction two broad types of sexual relationships and non-sexual relationships will be discussed.

**Monogamous Relationships:** The primary need being fulfilled in a

monogamous relationship often is not sex. Personal stability was repeatedly mentioned by couples interviewed for *Now That You Know*, by Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward. One man in a monogamous relationship stated that sex was only comfortable for him within that relationship. A relationship where sex were occurring outside the primary relationship would not be monogamous. This man, like others, finds a sense of self-respect and dignity in pursuing this type of a relationship.

"Roles" in Gay/Lesbian relationships vary. A practice, more of the past than the present, was for one partner to be "butch" and the other "fem." "Butch" partners mowed the lawn, fixed the roof, played the role of aggressor or defender in an uncomfortable situation. "Fems" cooked, cleaned, did dishes and sometimes played a more submissive role sexually. Couples in *Now That You Know* reported an absence of such roles. Responsibilities were shared and varied for most couples.

**Casual Sex:** Bars are one place to find partners to engage in casual sex. For many reasons this is not a suggestion, only a fact. Sex with strangers is sleeping with their sexual history. Contracting AIDS and other venereal diseases is a chance one would be taking.

Recreational sex vs. affirmational sex was discussed in *Loving Someone Gay*. Recreational sex was presented as sex for the sake of sex. By taking precautions before engaging in sex and assuming both partners are wanting only recreational sex, it can work, Clark said. However, neither partner can engage in activity that does not feel comfortable or there will be no satisfaction. Affirmational sex, "sought when your resources are low and your feelings are unsure and lonely," is discouraged unless it is with someone you know and trust, Clark said.

**Non Sex:** No relationship? No desire for a relationship? No desire to pursue sex without a relationship? You are not alone. Developing responsiveness with oneself during this time can be an adventure. Developing trust in others can be a bridge to starting a relationship.

Clark points out that many of one's needs -- to know someone cares, to know we are valued, to be physically touched -- can be met within one's friendships. The pursuit of the "lifetime lover" often can wear one out. An honest assessment of what one really wants, and acceptance of that can open many doors.

--C.M. Carroll

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## AIDS Outreach and Technology Transfer Program

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) provides health care workers with the latest information on AIDS through an outreach and technology transfer program based in the Office of the Director, NIAID. Since 1983 approximately two dozen conferences, workshops, and symposia have been organized by the NIAID, in cooperation with local agencies, universities, and hospitals and State and city health departments, in cities across the country and in Puerto Rico.

Participants in the meetings, which range in size from 500 to 5,000, have included physicians, registered nurses, practical nurses, infection control nurses, medical technologists, dentists, dental hygienists, laboratory technicians, social workers, drug counselors, police officers, firefighters, morticians, and other service and support personnel.

The conferences present information on the epidemiology of AIDS, the status of research efforts in treatment and vaccine development, patient management, and ethical, legal, and psychosocial issues of particular concern to those who care for persons with AIDS.

In collaboration with various professional health organizations and other Institutes at the National Institute of Health, the NIAID has conducted or supported conferences on specific aspects of AIDS, such as AIDS in children, and has sponsored workshops on AIDS at national and regional professional meetings. In the current year, the NIAID is supporting or participating in conferences on AIDS in hemophilia patients, human sexuality and AIDS, dementia and AIDS, and other subjects of special interest.

The NIAID AIDS Outreach Program assists in the maintenance and distribution of the "Periodical Directory of Experimental Treatments for AIDS and ARC," which is produced by the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR). NIAID also supported the development of an "AIDS Reference Guide for Health Care Professionals," produced at NIAID's Center for Interdisciplinary Research at the University of California, Los Angeles. In addition to general information about AIDS and specific precautions for avoiding transmissions, the Guide provides information on local health care and support services. Editions were prepared for Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and San Juan, Puerto Rico (in Spanish).

For more information about NIAID'S AIDS Outreach and Technology Transfer Program, please write to:

Ms. Wendy A. Liffers  
Deputy Assistant to the Director  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
Building 31, Room 7A04  
Bethesda, Maryland 20894

## NGRA Issues Second Edition of Legal Pamphlet

National Gay Rights Advocates announced the publication of the second edition of its popular pamphlet, "AIDS and Your Legal Rights: What Everyone Needs to Know." Twenty-five thousand copies of the original booklets, issued just last summer, have already been distributed nationwide. The revised pamphlet, an eight page booklet written for non-lawyers, covers such issues as insurance, employment, the military, quarantine, HIV antibody testing,

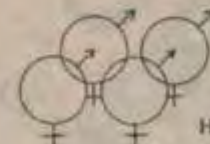
wills, estate planning, medical treatment, public benefits, and other matters.

"Many people with AIDS and ARC have been confronted with legal obstacles as devastating as any medical problem," said Benjamin Schatz, director of NGRA's 2 year old AIDS Civil Rights Project. "NGRA's pamphlet will help people across America protect their rights before legal problems arise."

"This pamphlet is a critical resource not only for people with AIDS and ARC, but for all lesbians and gay men," commented NGRA Executive Director Jean O'Leary. "The AIDS epidemic has affected the entire lesbian and gay community, and we are on guard to guarantee that our rights are upheld."

The pamphlet can be obtained by sending \$2.00 to NGRA, 540 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Large quantities can be obtained by writing to the above address for a bulk-order price quote.

--NGRA Press Release  
September 3, 1987



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## Interfaith Group Seeks To Aid AIDS Victims

The AIDS Interfaith Network has been formed in Omaha to help people with AIDS and those indirectly affected by it seek help from people of their own religious denominations, the group's leader said.

Sister Marge Cashman, chairwoman, said the group's strength lies in the various religious denominations represented. Thirteen people from different denominations make up the steering committee.

Sister Cashman said the committee members can serve as a liaison for people affected by AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, referring them to help within their denominations.

### Help in Crisis

"We want to provide such things as prayer and counseling for people," Sister Cashman said. "And this type of thing can be easier when the person is dealing with someone of his own faith."

Network member the Rev. Ginny Wagener, of Lutheran Metro Ministries, said many people suffering directly or indirectly from AIDS have left a church but wish to renew their religious activity in time of crisis.

"People often want to be reconnected with their religious traditions," Rev. Wagener said. "we thought there would be some appreciation for a prayer service for these people."

Sister Cashman said the network is a member of the Red Cross AIDS coalition and will work with other groups.

She said she wants to recruit "four or five more members from each major faith" before the prayer services begin.

The network will hold its first ecumenical prayer service Septem-

ber 14 at 7 p.m. at St. Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St.

### Personal Support

Sister Cashman said the services are for nurses, doctors, people concerned with AIDS and interested volunteers -- as well as those with AIDS. Some of the counseling will be done by steering committee members; some will be done by others in the church, she said.

The group also seeks to provide personal support and practical assistance.

Sister Cashman said the assistance would include basic hospitality, driving the person with AIDS to the hospital or to the grocery store.

"Sometimes, we might just serve as an ear to listen to their concerns," Sister Cashman said.

Brother William Woeger, another steering committee member, works with a separate AIDS support group in Omaha that has no religious affiliation.

Woeger, of the Omaha Catholic Archdiocese, said he thinks it's important to have a pool of pastors available to help.

The group also aims to raise money for those who need the experimental drug AZT. Rev. Wagener

said insurance doesn't cover costs for some people with AIDS-related complex.

### Looking for Sponsors

Sister Cashman said the group has not determined how it will raise money. She said the group does not want to be considered a fund-raiser.

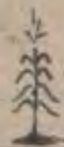
Rev. Wagener said the network might encourage congregations to sponsor people within their churches who need the drug.

--Omaha World Herald

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# National Spotlight

## Gay Coalition Sponsors Two Gay Plays

The Gay Coalition of Des Moines will be producing "The Boys in the Band" and "Jerker" on October 23 and 24. Michael Kearns and David Stebbins, both professional actors from the Los Angeles area, will star in Robert Chesley's "Jerker" and will be joined by local actors in "The Boys in the Band" by Mart Crowley. Both plays will be performed each night, "The Boys in the Band" at 7:30 p.m. and "Jerker" at 10:30 p.m. in the First Unitarian Church auditorium, Bell and Carroll, Des Moines. There will be an intermission with refreshments between the two plays. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. One ticket gives admission to both plays. Order tickets through GCDM at P.O. Box 851, Des Moines, IA 50304. Tickets are limited, so order early. For more information call 515-279-2110. Because of adult language and nudity, "Jerker" is recommended for mature audiences only.

## GLAAD Organizes to Bag Bork

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) announced recently its first nationwide campaign: an effort to help gay and lesbian groups around the country mobilize to defeat the Supreme Court nomination of Robert H. Bork.

Craig Davidson, GLAAD's Executive Director, said the group has mailed a mobilization kit to groups across the country. Each kit contains information about Bork's judicial record, a model letter opposing his nomination and names and addresses of Senators to whom letters should be sent.

"Bork is so anti-gay rights that last year's Supreme Court decision upholding sodomy laws, **Bowers v. Hardwick**, would surely have been even more gratuitously bigoted had he written it," Davidson says. "Basic rights of women and other minorities are at risk too. The importance of defeating this nomination cannot be overemphasized."

GLAAD is fighting the Bork nomination in New York City as well. Davidson and GLAAD's Marcia Pally spoke at the anti-Bork Vigil for Justice sponsored by the National Organization for Women in front of Manhattan's federal courthouse at Foley Square on Sept. 14. GLAAD volunteers plan to encourage New Yorkers to let Senators Moynihan and D'Amato know of their opposition to Bork by distributing literature and collecting signatures at tables set up in

the City throughout the period of the confirmation hearing.

Interested persons may contact GLAAD at 99 Hudson Street, New York, N.Y. 10013; phone 212-966-1700.

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## Networking Planned On Crime Victims

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Committee on Lesbian and Gay Victim Concerns of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) are planning a "Networking Day" to focus on gay and lesbian crime victims and programs that serve them. The event will take place at the Omni Hotel in Charleston, S.C., on Sunday, Nov. 15, 1987, in conjunction with the NOVA annual victim assistance conference in the same city.

Kevin Berril, Director of NGLTF's Anti-Violence Project and Chair of NOVA's Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns, stated, "As a result of bigotry, lesbian and gay people are joining the ranks of crime victims at an alarming rate. We must also acknowledge and confront domestic violence, sexual assault and random crimes against us. Clearly, there is a growing need for individuals and agencies working with gay victims to exchange information, to find support, and to educate the larger victims' movement about these issues. It is our hope that this networking day will help to achieve these goals."

The networking day will feature workshops focusing on clinical, criminal justice, prevention and organization development issues, among others. On Monday, Nov. 16, at 5 p.m., there will be a reception co-hosted by NGLTF and the NOVA Committee on Lesbian and Gay Concerns.

There is no charge for attending the meeting, but those planning to participate are asked to contact Kevin Berril, NGLTF, 1517 U Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

--NGLTF Press Release

**NO to BORK  
Yes to Justice**

## Court Battle Nears End

The end of an historic twelve year battle against the U.S. Army's exclusionary and discriminatory policy toward lesbians and homosexuals is in sight. Sergeant Miriam Ben-Shalom of Milwaukee, Wisconsin has received orders to report for duty to the 5091st U.S. Army Reception Battalion of the 84th Division (training) U.S. Army Reserve of Milwaukee. She has been instructed to report for duty on September 12 at 9 a.m.

Sergeant Ben-Shalom received an honorable discharge in 1976 under the UCMJ's regulations pertaining to homosexuality, although even the Army admitted that there was absolutely no evidence of any sort of misconduct what-so-ever and that she was an exemplary Drill Sergeant. She won an historic decision in 1980 which upheld her right of free speech, but was forced to go through another seven years of appellate court appeals because of the Army's unwillingness to agree with that writ of mandamus. August 18, 1987, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals issued a very strong decision on behalf of Ben-Shalom, which included protection from further discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. The Army, which had been expected to appeal her case to the Supreme Court, gave up the fight on August 26, 1987 and agreed to take Sgt. Ben-Shalom back in.

Sergeant Ben-Shalom thus becomes the first individual to achieve success in the courts and to win reinstatement. Although there have been other cases, including those of Leonard Matlovitch, Perry Watkins, and Dianne Matthews, Sgt. Ben-Shalom is sole possessor of a precedent decision. Many constitutional lawyers liken her case to that of another civil rights case, that of Brown vs. the Board of Education which was a landmark school desegregation case.



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### Upcoming Issues:

**November: Wimmin's  
Issues  
December: Religion**

## Submission Deadline

The New Voice has a submission deadline on the 15th of each month. Submissions received after the 15th will be held for publication at a later date. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Mike Fitzpatrick  
MSW, ACSW**

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# Classifieds

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## Roommate Wanted

Responsible roommate needed to share house in South Omaha. Utilities included \$250/month. Phone 731-3009.

## Si Si Rider

Wanted: someone to share driving and cost of trip to Denver. Tentative departure Oct. 16 or 17, returning Oct. 26 or following. Call Jerry Peck at 345-2181.

## Capitol Message

March to Nebraska's Capitol with "Women Unite, Take Back the Night" on Oct. 30. For more information call: Helen 472-1197 or Common Woman 464-6309.

## Lambda House Needs Items:-

Dryer, garbage disposal, lamps, bedside tables, chairs, bookcases. Call Chappie at 474-1205.

## Roommate Wanted

Male or female roommate needed. Call Chappie at 474-1205.

## Omaha Bars, Clubs, and Lounges

The Chesterfield, 1951 St. Mary's Ave., 342-1244  
 The Diamond, 712 So. 16th St., 342-9595  
 The Max, 1417 Jackson, 346-4110  
 The Run, 1715 Leavenworth, 449-8703  
 Sack's Landing, 3018 No. 93rd, 571-0790

## Lincoln Bars, Clubs, and Lounges

The Boardwalk, 20th & O Sts., 474-9741  
 Cherchez la femme, 200 So. 18th, 474-9162  
 The Club, 116 No. 20th St., 474-5692  
 Panic, 200 So. 18th St., 435-8764



## Help Wanted

Willing to train the right person/s desktop publishing and computer graphics. Volunteers sought to produce New Voice magazine on Macintosh PC. Call 474-1205.

## Be on Track!

When you need action, Desktop Publications speak louder than words! Resumes, brochures, newsletters, typesetting, computer graphics, etc. Call 477-3536.

## Gay Wrestling Contacts!

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## Agrarian Sought

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## Hairy Men/Admirers!

Bears, fur-lovers, trappers. Hot, uncensored nationwide ad listings. Infopixpak \$3.00: MAN-HAIR, 59 W. 10th, NYC 10011.

## Hunter Davis in Town

Hunter Davis at Chesterfield's, Lincoln. November 8, 7-10 p.m. \$3.00 cover.

## Take Back the Night

"Take Back the Night" march. Call: Helen 472-1197 or Common Woman 464-6309 for details.

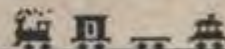
## Solidarity, Etc.

Hardbodied Omaha Guy wants to form a close cooperative relationship encouraging supporting, listening, celebrating masculinity and intimacy, and respecting differences. I'm physically and emotionally pretty solid, 39, 6', 165#, moderately hairy, soulful brown eyes/hair, warm and direct with a healthy vanity and libido. You're 25-45, non-smoker, articulate, playful and built with equal strength and sensitivity. Letter, photo, & phone please. Go for it! P.O. Box 27231, Omaha, NE 68127.

## Computer Time Share

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## Nebraska Statewide

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

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

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

**Nebraska AIDS Forum.** Augsburg Lutheran Church, 38th and Lafayette (2 blocks north of Cummings). Provides an opportunity for people working with AIDS related issues and concerns to "network." Meetings the third Thursday of the month at 8:00 p.m. ☎ 455-3701 (Terry).

**Nebraska AIDS Project.** Box 3118, Omaha 68131. Center for information, support, and coordination of AIDS related community efforts. Call in Omaha ☎ 342-4233 or toll-free statewide, ☎ 1-800-782-AIDS.

**The New Voice of Nebraska.** Box 80819, Lincoln 68501. Monthly magazine serving the gay/lesbian community. Staff meets in Lincoln the first Wednesday of each month. ☎ 474-1205 ☎ 345-2181.

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

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

**Viral Syndrome Clinic** University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. Jonathan Goldsmith, MD, ☎ 559-6202. Ann Lamb, MSW, ☎ 559-4420.

## Lincoln

**Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous.** Group meets every Tuesday and Friday. Call the AA central office for location, ☎ 466-5214.

**Boardwalk Body Club (BBC).** Box 84662, Lincoln, NE 68501. Weekday aerobic classes for gay/lesbian community and friends. ☎ 474-9741 (Paul)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Nebraska Wesleyan Student Group.** Meets weekly and confidentially. ☎ 465-2351 (Dr. Mary Smith).

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Omaha

**Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous.** Group meets weekly, Friday at 8:15 p.m. at MCC, 420 S. 24th St. ☎ 345-9916.

**Gay/Lesbian ALANON.** Group meets weekly, Sunday at 4 p.m. at Lowe Ave. Presbyterian Church, 1023 N. 40th St. ☎ 556-9907.

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

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

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

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

**Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha.** Box 3173, Omaha 68103. Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday Mid-week Program at 7:30 p.m.; Adult Sunday School at 9:10 a.m. ☎ 345-2563.

**Omaha Business and Professional Club.** Box 3124, Omaha 68103. Networking organization of business and professional persons. Meets third Wednesday of each month. ☎ 493-3343.

**Omaha Meatpackers.** 2116 N. 16 Apt. 8, Omaha 68110. Scott Cruea, secretary. ☎ 341-4233.

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

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

**Project CONCERN.** Box 3772, Omaha 68102. AIDS related information, Speakers, brochures, posters, and VCR tapes. ☎ 455-3701.

**River City Bowling League.** Dean Vanderpool, secretary. ☎ 344-3821.

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

**Two-Wheelers of Omaha (TWO) Motorcycle Club.** 305 Turner Blvd. #8, Omaha 68131.

**UNO Student Group.** P.O. Box 31351 Omaha 68131-0351. Gay and lesbian student social/support group. ☎ 342-5706 (Wes).

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