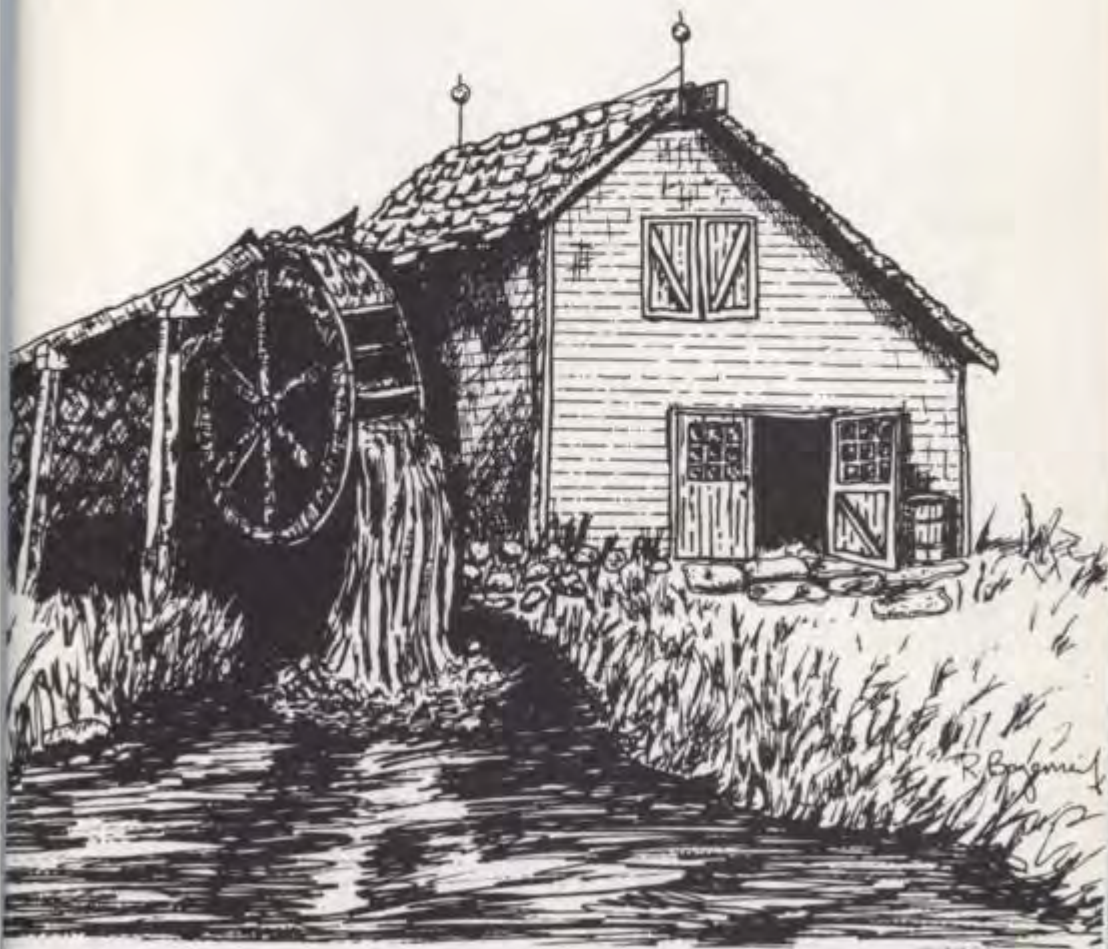


V O L U M E II

N O V

The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A



The New Voice

JULY 1985

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THE NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA

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

Our Turn

Comments and Opinions from The New Voice staff

Cover Design- A Rural Setting by Robert Bogenreif, a local Omaha artist.

June Cover- You probably guessed the photograph was of the Missouri River. The picture was taken in Haworth Park in Bellevue by Larry Wiseblood, Editor.

The New Voice is committed in providing updated information about AIDS and other diseases that effect the community. The July Issue has several articles and interviews about AIDS. We suggest that all gay men read the material and enclosed flyer as Nebraska has reported two cases of AIDS in the past six months. This is an astounding increase and statistics point to the fact that it will only get worse. People lets face facts. We are not in a isolated pocket and AIDS is not going to disappear. So it is important that we take measures to decrease the chances of getting

this deadly disease.

Announcements--- Even though thier was no organized effort for Gay Pride Week, a first for Nebraska did occur. On June 29 at 10pm over 100 people marched in downtown Omaha from 20th and Howard to 15th and Howard. The parade was filled with pride and joy as people watching from the street applauded and lots of hugging could be seen along the route. The three local TV stations covered the event.

The New Voice raised \$172 dollars at a Worker Auction held on June 22 at Imaginations. Thanks to all the people who dedicated their time and energy in making this event a success. This includes the Imaginations staff, performers, and worker who donated 4 hours of work to the publication.

--Larry Wiseblood, Editor

P.R. People: ATTENTION!

The New Voice of Nebraska is a media for the communicating of news, views, and events.

Recently, there have been events take place without prior notice to the gay community via The New Voice, or the MCC Newsletter, and participation has been limited. Some have indicated that since their events happen at the beginning of the month, and they are unsure of our distribution date, they have not provided an announcement to either publication. It is hoped that events which seek community-wide participation will have been planned far enough in advance to allow media coverage. If you belong to an organization, and have an

interest in getting participation in an event, volunteer to be the P.R. person.

The Imperial Court of Nebraska notified candidate applicants for Emperor/Emress two weeks early to allow campaigning through the available publications. I spoke to all the candidates, but Gary West was the only one to avail himself of the opportunity to campaign in this way.

The New Voice was not endorsing Gary, nor showing partiality. We can only print that which we receive. We need YOUR help to make The New Voice all inclusive in its coverage.

--Jerry Peck

The New Voice needs advertising staff for both Omaha and Lincoln. Call 475-7740 for more details.

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

LESBIAN/GAY RESOURCES

OMAHA

GAY/LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Phone 345-9916 for times/locations
ANOU RAINBOW PAGEANT c/o Kim Meeks,
2116 N. 16th St., #21, Omaha, 68110. Sponsor
of Miss Gay Nebraska Pageant.

BATTERED/ABUSED GAYS/LESBIANS (BAGL)

P.O. Box 8141, Omaha, 68108, 345-5797.
Provides support through mutual self-help
to gays/lesbians who have been involved in
abusive situations with ones they love.

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER (BWM) P.O.

Box 31291, Omaha, 68132, 556-9541.
Multi-racial organization, with goal to
realize human equality. Engages in
educational, cultural, & social activities to
further these goals.

DIGNITY OF OMAHA, 341-1460 or 333-2308.

Providing common experience through
Mass & meetings for lesbians & gays & their
friends. Regular Mass 2nd Sun. of month.
Discussion 4th Sun. of month. All faiths.
Phone for location.

GAY PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP 553-2308.

Support group for gay parents who have
children. Phone for times/locations.

IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA, 342-5719.

Social organization for advancement of gay
society. Omaha meeting 1st Mon. of every
month, except holidays. Phone for location.

IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA BOWLING

LEAGUE, 451-1662. Over 50 people bowling
weekly on 14 teams. Sun. 4:00 pm at King
Louie Bowl. Phone if interested in next
league forming.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF

OMAHA, 420 S. 24th St. 345-2963. Chartered
church with Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches. Sun
worship 10:30 am & 7 pm. Wed eve. Bible
Study at 7. Praise/Prayer/Healing 7:45 pm.

PARENTS/FRIENDS OF LESBIANS & GAYS

(P-FLAG), P.O. Box 3173, Omaha, 68103,
345-2963. Support group for parents,
friends, & relatives of lesbians & gays.

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS, P.O. Box 313,

Omaha, 68101, 455-2334 or 345-5797.
Volunteer community chorus for gays &
lesbians, & gay/lesbian-wannabe men &
women, with goal of musical excellence in
performance. Rehearsals Mon. eve.

SEXUAL MINORITIES IN THE HEALTH

PROFESSIONS, 345-5637 or 341-9448. Gay,
lesbian, & bisexual health professionals or
students in health professions. Organized to
contact peers/role models, to educate sexual
minorities about health, & to educate health
professionals about selected sexuality issues.

T.W.O. MOTORCYCLE CLUB, 712 S. 16th St.

Omaha, 68102, 342-9595.

UNO GAY/LESBIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Not meeting during summer months

LINCOLN

GAY/LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

466-5214. Groups meet weekly.
AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE FINE ARTS.
Non-profit foundation committed to making
positive contribution on behalf of gays &
lesbians in Lincoln's cultural life.

COMMUNITY OF GRACE, Box 81645, Lincoln,
68501. Interdenominational worshipping
community of lesbians, gays, & those
associated with us. Meets Sun. eve. at 7.

GAY/LESBIAN INFORMATION & SUPPORT

LINE 475-4697.

UNL GAY/LESBIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

228 Andrews Hall. Meets Thu. eve. at 8.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP, 472-2597.

Informal discussion group for lesbians, all
women welcome. Meets weekly. Contact
Women's Resource Center, Room 117,
Nebraska Union, Lincoln, 68508.

LINCOLN COALITION FOR GAY & LESBIAN

CIVIL RIGHTS, Box 94882, Lincoln, 68509.

Advocacy group which lobbies for
lesbian/gay civil rights, provides
educational presentations, publishes a
newsletter & sponsors cultural & political
programs.

LINCOLN LEGION OF LESBIANS, Box 30137,

Lincoln, 68503. Lesbian-feminist collective
founded in 1978. Provides a newsletter,
confidential referral & support groups for
lesbians, & sponsors cultural & social
programs.

MINISTRY IN HUMAN SEXUALITY, INC., Box

80122, Lincoln, 68501, 476-9913. Non-profit
agency providing counseling, education, &
supportive action for those seeking growth
& understanding in the areas of sexuality &
relationships. Contact J. Benjamin Roe,
Executive Director.

THE NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA, Box 40819,

Lincoln, 68501. Staff meets first Tue. of
month, alternately in Lincoln & Omaha.

OPEN DOOR MINISTRY, 1319 G. 11th Street,

Lincoln, 68508. Project of Holy Archangels
Orthodox (Old Catholic) Church to
specifically minister in a supportive way to
the gay community. Mass Sun. eve. at 5:30.
Contact Father David Glass, 474-3390.

PARENTS/FRIENDS OF LESBIANS & GAYS -

CORNHUSKER, Box 4374, Lincoln, 68504,

466-1151. Support group for parents,
friends, & relatives of lesbians & gays.
Meets eve. on 4th Tue. of month.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR GAY/LESBIAN STUDENTS

AT NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIV., Contact Dr.
Mary Smith, NWU, 50th & St. Paul, Lincoln,
68504, 466-2371.

THIRD CULTURE, Non-residential subculture

dealing with issues such as coming out,
social behavior, the gay lifestyle, suicide, &
drug/alcohol abuse. Contact Pat at 474-2213.

DOANE

DOANE COLLEGE GAY/LESBIAN STUDENT

ASSOCIATION, Meets weekly. Contact Dr.
Marcia Freer, Doane College, 826-2946, ext.
239, or write: Doane GLSA, P.O. Box 5912,
Station C, Lincoln, 68505.

AT . . .

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July 11: "Sheza Mann: Chapter I" at 10:15 p.m.

July 18: "BAD TASTE II: Revenge of the Goldfish"
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July 25: JOHN-ERIC PRODUCTIONS:
"LET'S GO WHERE THE GRASS IS GREENER"
10:15 p.m.

July 26: OUR GRAND PRIZE DRAWING AND BON VOYAGE
PARTY, MIDNITE!

July 27: Glitter and Glamour present
LITE LUNCH AND MORE ON THE PATIO

July 31: SOCK HOP—costume and dance contests, prizes
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Aug. 1: An evening of cool jazz LIVE featuring the Tod
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Imaginations

Rural and Small Town Gays— Happiness or Hardship?

Clean air. Wholesome environment. Down to earth spirit. Many terms express living in a rural or small town environment but for some gays and lesbians life in less populated areas can be a lonely, frustrating experience. Especially those living far away from larger cities, say in parts of the Sandhills or Central Nebraska.

Rural people have a strong moralistic sense of what is right and wrong and it is considered desirable to uphold established tradition and the institutions of family, church and school. It is difficult for gays and lesbians to fit among the framework and be accepted. In fact, a gay lifestyle is totally opposite to the views and values of most rural heterosexuals. Gay people do not usually get married, so they do not fit into traditional family life, and they are considered to be

highly immoral and sinful, so they are not welcome in the church. Furthermore, some gay individuals don't conform to appropriate gender role stereotypes, another breach of rural tradition.

The biggest fear rural and small town gays face is the fear of discovery. The anticipation of hostility causes most rural gays to be closed about their identity and be afraid of what could happen if they are identified. This fear of discovery may be so generalized that almost all rural structures become difficult. Contacts with non-gays are frightening because of the possibility of somehow giving oneself away and because of the constant strain of attempting to be someone one is not, or hiding a part of oneself. Contacts with other gays are threatening because of the fear

continued



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that a nongay person will observe the individual in a compromising situation, and the word will be out.

Gays and lesbians in a rural area have a poor self image or difficulty understanding and accepting their lifestyle. This is partly due to sharing the values and attitudes of the non-gay community who have very strong moral values against gays. It is lonely and frightening to know that others view people like oneself negatively, to share some of these negative views, and to be shut off not only from other gays but from the rest of the community as well.

Gays who live in these areas are subject to all the negative myths and misconceptions traditionally held about gay people by non gays. Rural gay men may believe that gay men are child molesters, effeminate, sex-obsessive and sadomasochistic. Lesbian women may worry that they are oversexed or undersexed, and that they must automatically take either a "butch" or "femme" role in relationships.

The easiest solution to the problem of rural living would be to move to an urban area. But this may not be easy for those who have family obligations or have become used to

rural life and may not want to be uprooted and start a new life in the city. Some gays are happy and highly functional within the rural setting. To live and work off the land and have a happy same sex relationship can be a very acceptable way of life.

Neither gays or non gays in rural areas are likely to be aware of and have knowledge about alternate lifestyles as their urban counterparts. Books and information are seldom available. Media coverage of events concerning gays may either be totally absent, or if available, biased in a negative way. This lack of information contributes to the sense of isolation and lack of awareness of possible alternate gay lifestyles and of the positive aspects of being gay.

Relative to the problem of isolation is the shortage of appropriate partners. The consequence is that some people end up without partners while others end up forming relationships out of desperation or staying in relationships that are no longer working. And some will date those of the opposite sex and eventually will marry to try to live like the rest of society.

—Larry Wiseblood

Growing Up in Rural Wyoming

In the March issue of The New Voice, we discussed the process of coming out as a gay person. It is a time when we need all of the resources available to us--information lines, bookstores, counselors, support groups, organizations--within the gay (sub) community. These resources can help immensely to alleviate the fear, uncertainty, and confusion that are a part of discovering one's homosexuality. Unfortunately, when a gay or lesbian person has no access to such resources, coming out can be a very painful (and even damaging) experience.

Because I grew up on a ranch in eastern Wyoming, I know just how isolating the coming out

experience can be for rural gays and lesbians. At a time when I was asking myself a lot of questions and feeling terrified of the answers, I lived in an area without resources--not even a bar. All I knew about gay people was what we saw of them on television once in awhile, when the network news exploited gay parades in San Francisco. These images repulsed me, certainly repulsed my parents, and scared me about myself. The only exposure I had to gays was extremely negative. As such, it was not something I wanted to think of in myself.

I chose to suppress my sexual-

continued ...



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ity for five more years until I came to college in Lincoln, where resources and relationships with other gays and lesbians brought me to a new understanding of the gay community. It wasn't until then that I realized what the community was all about. Still, it's sad to think about the years wasted with so much personal anxiety and misunderstanding.

I survived my own coming out, but I don't feel I can tell my parents about my sexuality for the same reasons I was so scared to come out to myself. As rural parents, their image of gay/lesbian persons and what they do is very uninformed and negative. My own exper-

Love in the Country

It was a marvelously hot summer in northeastern Missouri. I shared a mobile home with a Frenchman with a thick crop of black hair and a mustache. We were teachers with twelve weeks of nothing to do. From our back door, the corn field formed the horizon for the rising sun. Our front porch looked out over a field of sunflowers that made the perfect setting for the midwest sunsets. The neighboring farmhouses to the north and south were barely distinguishable in the distance.

We had long since abandoned the vast wasteland of TV in favor of developing our relationship. Both being new to the area, we had very few phone calls, and even fewer visitors. We were farm tenants; however, the only agriculture we engaged in was the mowing of the lawn.

My Frenchman had been raised in a strict Pentecostal home, and at the age of 33, had never worn shorts other than in PE class and in the confines of his home. He believed his body to be ugly and disgusting. Thank goodness he did not find mine to be so. I bought an instant camera, and he studied his own graven image in a state of undress and found it to be

ience has helped me to appreciate the importance of establishing positive images and educational resources in rural areas.

This is why I am so pleased to see P-flag Cornhuaker working to start a chapter in western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming. P-flag is an excellent resource to gays and lesbians, and a wonderfully healthy, positive image for the community of gays and lesbians. I wish P-flag had been there when I was coming out; I am glad it will be there for others who are coming out in rural western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming.

--Anita Freeman-Soltisyyk

as I had been telling him for so long. We soon disposed of the flash and moved to the natural settings.

Many days were spent with me sunbathing in the nude and he mowing the lawn in what was left of a pair of jeans that I had tailored for him. Have you ever shared a car washing job with another in the buff? Evenings found us on gravel roads in full body embrace while listening only to the rocks kick out behind us. Late nights often found us raiding a field of what turned out to be ditch-weed. We accumulated a wall 20' x 10' x 1' of ditch-weed drying in the garage. The harvest was the only high, but what a high!

When summer ended, he went south, and I came north. We cannot go back to that summer, but if I had a choice of country love or metro disco, guess which direction I would go. However, it was not the lack of density of population that made it special--it was the Frenchman who shared my space for a time, and should our spaces collide again by chance, it will be great again.

--Jerry Peck

EVENTS & ORGANIZATIONS

Miss Gay Nebraska Contest Coming

The Miss Gay Nebraska '85 pageant for female illusionists will be held on July 27 and 28 at the Stagedoor in Omaha.

Several contestants from Lincoln and Omaha have entered the pageant which has the potential of being the best pageant yet.

Judging will be based upon over-

all appearance, entertainment value and coordination of the outfit.

A special attraction of this years contest is the appearance of Naomi Sims, Miss Gay America. For further information contact Kim Meske at the Stagedoor, 342-8775.

New Resources Established by Coalition

The Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights has announced the availability of two new educational resources regarding Gay and Lesbian issues. The group has organized a Speakers Bureau and published a list of local Gay and Lesbian resources.

The Speakers Bureau will include lawyers, psychologists, parents of Gay men and Lesbians, as well as openly Gay and Lesbian speakers.

The Lesbian/Gay Resource List describes thirteen local organizations which deal directly with a variety of Gay and Lesbian concerns.

Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the Resource List or contacting the coordinators of the Speakers Bureau should call the Gay/Lesbian Information and Support Line at 475-4697 evenings, or write: Coalition, Box 94882, Lincoln, NE 68509.



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Imperial Court News

On Saturday, June 1, Coronation V was held at the Carter Lake Warehouse. About 100 people were in attendance as Gary and Velvet stepped down as the fourth reigning monarchs of the Imperial Court of the State of Nebraska.

Both Gary and Velvet personally greeted Empress Jamie Kohl, the reigning Empress of the Imperial Court of the Rocky Mountain Empire, and Regent Emperor Rick Lanse, and Nina Montaldo, Miss Gay Colorado. They walked in theme, which was Egyptian, and they were exquisite.

Gary and Velvet also had many command performances from the local entertainment community. Also performing were Princess Royale II and IV, relinquished, Liessa Durant, Princess Royale IV Muffy Rosenberg, as well as Velvet.

After all of this was completed, the final results were read, and Gary and Laura Lee were crowned Emperor and Empress V. Their first royal proclamations were to name Gary and Velvet Regent Emperor IV and Dowager Empress IV for life.

On Saturday, June 30th, Investiture (Prince and Princess Royale Ball) was held at the Max. This was where PR's IV David and Muffy stepped down, and the new PRs are crowned. Ron Minobe and Marsha were crowned Prince and Princess Royale V by Gary and Laura Lee. The rest of the royal family is as follows:
Gr. Czar--Pat Phaelen
Gr. Dzar--Terry Sweeney
Prince--Chuck Bellamy
Duke--Dick Brown
Czar--Scott Rezek
Baron--Steve Lucart

Gr. Duchess--Anne Marlow
Gr. Czarina--Mysti Lee
Princess--Stella Dallas
Duchess--Dorian Drake
Czarina--Nina Ricci
Baroness--Veronica O'Rourke
Princess-in-Waiting--Amanda Max
Court Jester--Randy Rader
Entertainer to the Court--
Dietra Snow
Royal Mother--Vanessa Anderson
Court Impressionist--
Muffy Rosenberg
Court Seamstress--Jessica Tyler

On July 4, the Imperial Court held their annual picnic at The Warehouse in Carter Lake. Hot dogs, volleyball, croquet, horseshoes, along with a dunking booth were provided.

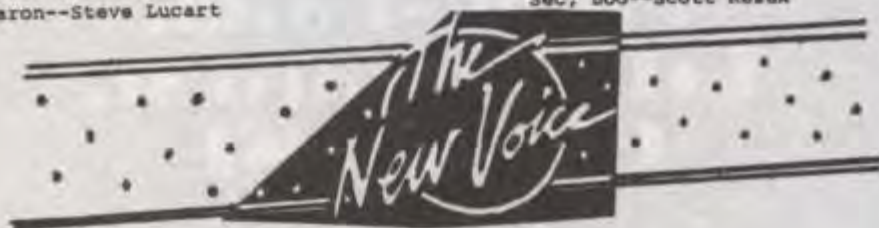
On Sunday, July 21, Gary and Velvet will hold an inner tubing trip down the Elkhorn River. Anybody wishing to attend should be at the Max, in Omaha, at 11:00 a.m. This is a BYOB function, Gary & Velvet will provide the tubes.

At this time, we would like to congratulate the volleyball team on their 5th place finish at the Gay Nationals in Chicago. Also, congratulations should go to all bowlers participating in the recent tournament, and to organizers Charley Wade, Dan Belt, Kurt Lueken, Joe Sprouse, and Dean Vanderpool.

A donation of \$25 was given to The New Voice from Gary and his campaign staff. This money came from his leftover campaign funds.

Sincerely yours,

Emperor V--Gary West
Empress V--Laura Lee
Sec. SoG--Scott Rezek



T.W.O. Colors are Hung

On Saturday, June 8th, the Diamond Bar of Omaha was the scene of the hanging of the colors for the Two Wheelers of Omaha Motorcycle Club. A good number turned out for sandwiches, snacks, and liquid refreshments. Some even partied beyond the closing of the bar. The "colors" (ensignia, banner, or flag) for this newly organized gay group is on a field of black leather, bearing the initials TWO MC in white with a white outline of the state of Nebraska and a red star, indicating the location of Omaha. By it being hung in the Diamond Bar, it indicates that this is the permanent home of the group.

TWO MC joins the ranks of new organizations in the Omaha area, such as the River City Chorus and The New Voice of

Nebraska. Should you think that these groups are just a bunch of good people casually getting together, you are wrong. All three groups are struggling with the application for "non-profit organizational" status, incorporation, etc. MY hat is off to the people that put in the hours behind the scenes to insure that these groups are in good standing with the state of Nebraska, etc.

A major upcoming event for the TWO MC is the second annual Mr. Gay Nebraska contest this fall. I, for one, look forward to seeing some real Nebraska "beef cake." If you are interested in Bikes or Bikers, stop by the Diamond Bar (not the Ball Park Bar), and see the trophies they have already earned.

--Jerry Peck

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Sunday Worship Services — 10:30am and 7:00pm

Wednesday: Bible Study — 7:00pm and Praise
& Healing — 7:45pm

This is my commandment, that you love one another.
— John 15:12

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July 31st at Imaginations

1st Anniversary at Board-Walk a Success

If you weren't at the Board-Walk, on at least one of the nights of June 7, 8, or 9th, you missed out on quite a party!

The Board-Walk, celebrating its 1st Anniversary, showed some real customer appreciation. Friday, June 7, there was a free keg of beer and Bar-B-Q, with hamburgers, chicken, hot dogs, and trimmings, such as baked beans and a potato that wouldn't stop.

Saturday, June 8, brought champagne on the house, along with

hors d'oeuvres. Topping off the weekend was a drag show on Sunday night with many performers: Nina, Muffy, Dorian, Sabrina, Liesa, and special appearances by Paul and Zola, and even Miss Jami performing a "wet" number from "Flashdance," and later another song with Michael. Special mention to Kelly, who sang a beautiful live rendition of "Over the Rainbow."

Hats off to the Board-Walk for their 1st celebration and continued contributions and support to the gay community.

--Heidi



International Leather Named

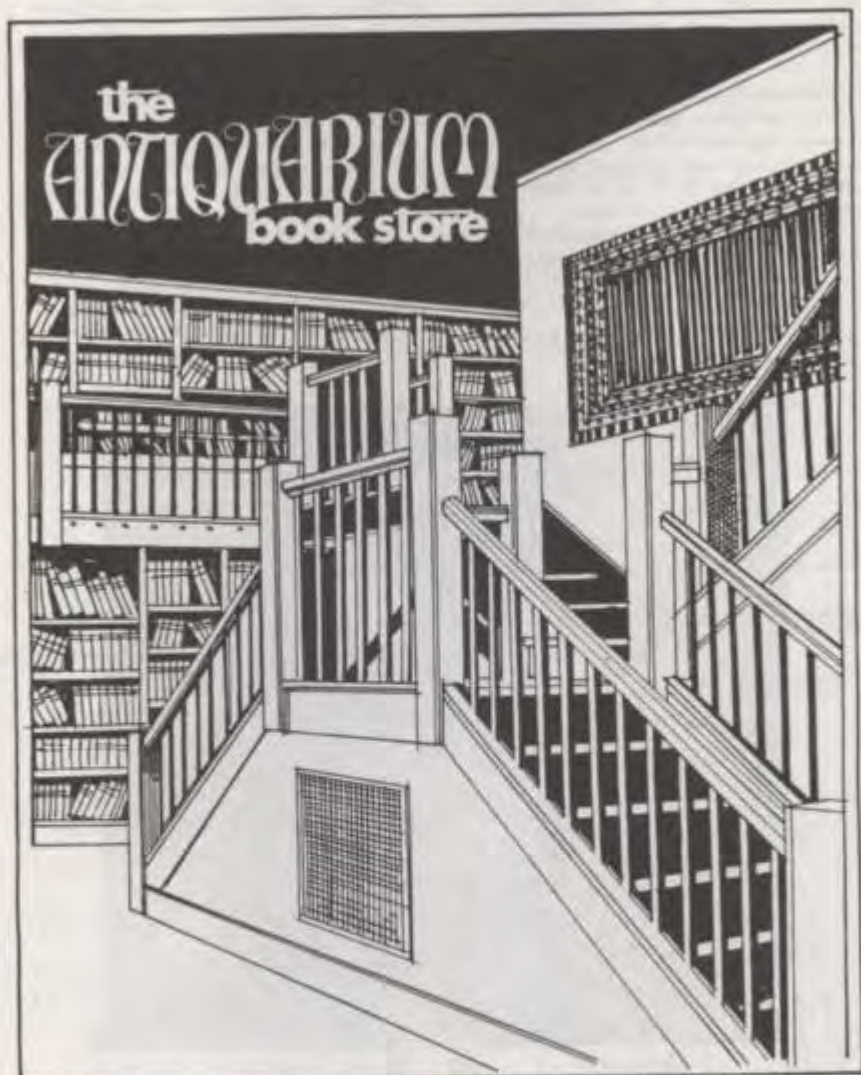
Patrick Toner, a warm and outgoing San Francisco leatherman, captured the crowd's and judge's attention to become the Seventh International Mr. Leather titleholder on May 26 in Chicago.

Following a night of tough competition between 31 contes-

tants from the United States, Canada and Europe, Toner was selected to the roaring approval of over 1,000 in attendance. Toner was sponsored by Chaps Bar of San Francisco.

Ron Moore, 1984 International Mr. Leather, surrendered his

continued ...



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title to the new winner. Ron was the first black ever chosen for the title and was selected from Denver, Colorado.

Many Nebraskans know Ron as he lived in Omaha and Bellevue for several years.

--Larry Wiseblood

Affirmation Forms in Lincoln

A Nebraska chapter of Affirmation: United Methodists for Gay and Lesbian Concerns, has formed. Affirmation is a community of gay men, lesbians, and bisexual persons, their friends and family, lay and clergy. Its purpose is "to enable the United Methodist Church to become more effective in the struggle for justice in our church and in society."

Another purpose is to provide a resource in the United Methodist Church to facilitate dialogue. Resources are available for those "who wish to understand from a Christian perspective our concerns and

experiences as lesbians, gays, and bisexual persons."

Recognizing a frequent sense of isolation and fragmentation, Affirmation seeks to gather gay, lesbian, and bisexual United Methodists, their families, and their friends, to share in community, fellowship and support.

Those who are interested in further information should contact: Affirmation, PO BOX 80122, Lincoln, NE, 68501, or (402) 476-9913. Membership and mailing lists are confidential.

G.L.S.A. Announces Plans

The UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association has made several plans for this summer, including filing for 501(c) (3) status IRS Non-profit Organization Status, rewriting its constitution, filing for a grant with the Chicago Resource Center, setting an agenda for the upcoming school year, planning Lesbian and Gay Education Week--September 16-20--as well as planning April 1986 as Gay Student Month, and holding meetings for the Summer.

The group will hold monthly educational meetings this summer. The dates will be July 30 and August 20 at 7 p.m. at 3031 "O" Street, #1.

In the fall, GLSA will resume its school year schedule and hold meetings on most Thursdays at 8 p.m. in Andrews Hall, Room 228.

Plans are underway for Lesbian and Gay Education Week. Sept-

ember 16-20 at UNL. Topics covered during the week include "T.A. for Gays and Lesbians," "AIDS Awareness," "History of Lesbians and Gays," "Sexism," "Myths, Stereotypes and Oppression," "Religion, Theology, and the Gay Experience," and "A Showcase for Lesbian and Gay Groups."

A telephone will be installed in GLSA's office in August in Room 345-17 in the Nebraska Union at UNL. The line will be used to communicate with students and the public about homophile issues.

GLSA is asking for donations of educational materials, periodicals, pamphlets, and books for its office. To donate, please call: 475-3726.

Distribution of *The New Voice* is limited. Insure delivery (in a non-descript manila envelope) of your copy by subscribing today. It costs only \$12.00 per year.

Show Notes

"A NIGHT ON THE NILE," an evening sponsored by the Imperial Court of Nebraska, proved to be a festive, highly entertaining evening. Important guests included visiting royalty from Colorado... (their Imperial Court), and hi-lighting the evening appearances was: Nina Montaldo, Miss Gay Colorado. The new Emperor, Gary West, and Empress, Laura Lee, have a hectic, demanding year ahead of them... Congrats Laura Lee! "Girl," it couldn't happen to a nicer person!!

"I Will Survive," a stepping down show, held at the Max, for

former Empress Velvet, continued the weekend's holiday-like festivities. Appearing were Nina Montaldo, of course Velvet (definitely a crowd favorite), Marsha Mess, Laura Lee, Dietra Snow, myself, and Ann Marlow, the new Miss Stage Door, and others. The "M.C." was the incomparable Jessica Tyler. Jessica doesn't receive a lot of praise or thanks for her many "M.C." performances, so let me say here and now, that I know she's the best, and apparently, Omaha does also. We all may know something, but we like and need to hear it.

continued....

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So, Jess...you've heard it from me, and in print, to boot!

"Golden Boy" and Friends put on a Males-Only-Admitted show, also at the Max, with his stable of hot and sexy and too, too pretty dancers--without a doubt, the best undressed men in town....are any of them single and available? Hope to see more of them--show-wise...any-wise in the future!

Omaha is getting revved up and ready for Miss Gay America--Naomi Simms, at the new Stage Door, July 27-28. She'll be entertaining, and more than likely, tearing the roof off the place, at the Miss Gay Nebraska Pageant. Any illusionists

interested in seriously competing should contact Kim Meske for the details.

As the current retiring Miss Gay Nebraska, I encourage all serious illusionists to enter, learn, and experience Nebraska's finest pageant/competition--The experience of a professional lifetime. You'll have a chance to be acknowledged as one of Nebraska's best. My past year has been filled with heartache, happiness, a lot of miles, and many new friends--and I wouldn't have traded it away for anything. Come and see Nebraska's best crowned--and offer your support.

--See you there, or until next month...

--Chantelle

The Best in the Midwest

"Best in the Midwest" was an understatement for the style and caliber of entertainment that literally exploded at the Stage-door on June 16th.

Host, Dietra Snow promised extraordinary talent for the show and she delivered. The Stagedoor was at a standing room only capacity. Miss Melinda Ryder, second runner-up to Miss Gay America, and Miss Charity Case, Miss Gay Midwest, were the special guests for the evening.

Dietra Snow did several selections, but, she was called back for an encore when she delivered her infamous rendition of Patti LaBelle's, Over the Rainbow, with power and sincerity.

The show was flowing with energy and excitement when Miss Stagedoor '85, Anne Marlow, thrilled the audience with a Tina Turner medley, including "Proud Mary".

Velvet, once again proving herself being the great entertainer she has become, astounded the crowd with "Respect" and her sensuality in "I can't Stand The Rain".

Exhibiting the talent that won her the title of Best New Performer, Veronica O'Rourke, was in top form during her special dedication to the White Dove Empress (Velvet).

But the highlights of the

evening came when Melinda Ryder bolted onto the stage with a mix of "Nasty Girls" and "Men on Pause", vamping with the audience. An Ann Margaret tribute, by Melinda, was full of vitality and high energy.

Miss Case emonstrated the talent that won her the title of Miss Gay Midwest. Her energy, charisma, and stage presence illuminated those she came in contact with. A highlight that "brought down the house", was a medley of Jennifer Holliday songs including the powerful number, "And I'm Telling You". This selection was the talent presentation that she performed at Miss Gay America.

A new performer to the Omaha stage, Amanda Fox, from Lincoln, presented herself as a very talented performer. She is most definitely a new "Star on the Horizon".

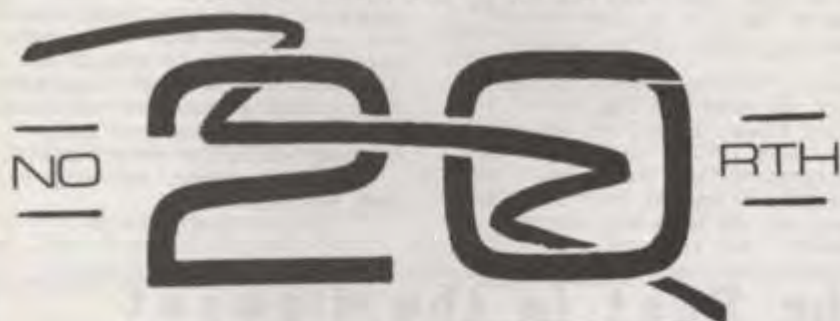
Also performing in the show that night was newcomer, Echo LaAnne. She has only done two shows, but shows promising entertainment talent.

Miss Ryder and Miss Case showed their appreciation for the hospitality and warmth that was extended to them by Miss Snow, the cast, and especially the audience.

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continued ...

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R E C O R D S & G I F T S

production, I must say, it was one that you wish you wouldn't have missed.

To all those involved with the

Gift to G.R.N.L. —Stirs Controversy

The Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), on the heels of receiving a bequest of nearly \$82,000 in March, has been given \$10,000 by the Imperial Court of the State of Nebraska. Don Randolph, president of the social organization, and Gary West, "emperor" of the group, presented GRNL Executive Director Nancy Roth with a check May 7. They also presented GRNL with a \$100 check from Omaha Meat Packers, Inc., a leather-Levi social club.

Randolph said the \$10,000 was part of \$21,000 raised during a four-day fund-raising drive last year. He remarked that the Imperial Court had decided that GRNL was the appropriate national gay organization to receive the donation. "We wanted to get politically involved in the gay movement," he said, "and we felt GRNL was doing the best job at this particular time."

Roth said the money would be used to cover two months' pay for a lobbyist development director, office manager, and administrative help.

--Dave Walter, The Advocate

The New Voice recently received inquiries from individuals who expressed concern that the Imperial Court donated \$10,000 to the Gay Rights National Lobby. The concern was not directed against GRNL, an important national gay rights lobbying group. The concern that was raised was why did the Imperial Court in their Labor Day fundraising drive include the \$10,000 for AIDS research and then 8 months later, donate the funds to another cause?

In the November 1984 issue of The New Voice, the Imperial Court announced that all money received from Labor Day fund-

show, you positively showed that you are the "Best in the Midwest".

KAM

raising would go to AIDS research. It was stated that the goal of the fundraiser was \$15,000, but over \$20,500.00 had been raised.

Don Flowers, President of the Imperial Court explains why the Court donated \$10,000 to GRNL.

- - - -
\$21,000 - WHERE - WHERE - WHY

On a recent trip to Lincoln, it was brought to my attention that there is some concern of the people in the gay/lesbian community as to WHY the monies were distributed WHERE they were.

There are two WHERE's in this answer:

- (1) Where did \$21,000 come from?
 - (a) \$11,000 came from the efforts of the Imperial Court of Nebraska, putting together five days of events throughout the community: picnics, shows, mud wrestling, donations, etc. With an end result of the above amount.
 - (b) \$10,000 was a very generous donation by (1) ONE person in the community through a contact made by Gary West, then Emperor IV, & Don Flowers, Pres., ICON.
- (2) Where did it go to?
 - (a) \$10,000 went to the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Pathology Department for AIDS research. This brings total donations to the Med Center to \$18,000.
 - (b) \$10,000 went to Gay Rights National Lobby.

continued . . .



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Washington, D.C. GRNL is a Washington, D.C.-based national organization that lobbies for all gay/lesbian issues.

WHY

(1) University of Nebraska Medical Center was a majority vote of the Board of Governors of the Imperial Court of Nebraska.

(2) GRNL was the condition on which the private donation was made. It was the intention to try and turn \$10,000 cash into a million dollars in response from the U.S. Government in the way of AIDS grants for research and education.

--Don Flowers

Out & About in Omaha

"I don't get around much any more"; however, one recent event which impressed me very much was a fundraiser for Gary West in his bid for Emperor.

He gathered "non-drag" talent for a musical show with live singing, playing of the piano, guitar, flute, and clarinet (during the portion I saw). All of these men were indeed talented--as was "Golden Boy," who did an interpretive dance.

We have some excellent female

impersonators, but that is not the full extent of the talent within the gay/lesbian community. I hope to see an increased usage of these talented people.

The autograph party at Matthews Book Store brought out an amazing number of literary people with an interest in what is being written by and about homosexuals. Perhaps someone should start a Literary Club.

--Jerry Peck

Health

Health Concerns Committee Formed

The Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights established a health concerns committee at the beginning of this year, which focuses on health issues of special concern to lesbians and gay men. The committee stresses education for risk reduction, and it seeks greater access to sensitive, effective, and confidential health care. With the current man's health crisis, the group's main focus is on the compilation and distribution of the most recent AIDS information and educational materials.

AIDS is included among the diseases which Nebraska physicians are required to report to the State Health Department. As of July 1, 1985, officially 5 AIDS cases had been reported in the state, including two this year. Based upon experiences in other parts of the country, the frequency of AIDS cases in Nebraska is likely to increase.

It is very important that gay men be well informed about AIDS, and follow "safe sex" guidelines carefully. The Committee has asked The New Voice to include an AIDS Risk Reduction brochure in all copies of this issue of The New Voice. For more copies of the brochure, please contact the Committee at Box 94882, Lincoln, NE 68509.

The Health Concerns Committee welcomes new members. Coordinators are John Beeney and Rodney Life.

Bodybuilding championships for Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Huskerland will be held on July 20 at the Lincoln Hilton. Preliminaries begin in the morning but the main presentation starts at 7:30 pm. Competition also includes couples and women.

The Miss Gay Nebraska Pageant



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Interview with State Health Department

On May 29, two members of the health concerns committee of the Coalition met with Dr. Paul Stoess, Director of the Disease Control Division of the Nebraska State Department of Health, and Dan Harra, and Bryan James, also of that department, to question them about the HTLV-III antibody test and the state's plans regarding the disease. All agreed that the entire antibody test program is designed only to protect the nation's blood supply and will not do anything to reduce the risk that gay men currently face of contracting AIDS. The HTLV-III test simply shows whether or not a person's body contains antibodies to the HTLV-III virus, which most agree is the cause of AIDS. The test does not show whether a person will, or will not, develop AIDS, or whether or not they can transmit the disease.

In some states, the antibody test is licensed to be used only for research purposes. In

Nebraska, however, any doctor can administer the test, and the health concerns committee has already heard reports from health workers in Omaha of doctors who are administering the test and misinterpreting its results. One of the major concerns about the antibody test is the confidentiality of the results. When asked what guidelines are in effect regarding confidentiality at the alternate test sites, the committee was told that the results will not be released by phone or mail, but only in a follow-up appointment. Dr. Stoess said that what private doctors do is up to them, but confidentiality has been recommended up and down the line. In April, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) allocated \$46,000 to the state of Nebraska, both to establish alternate test sites and for AIDS education. Alternate test sites have been established throughout Nebraska to allow testing

continued . . .



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at places other than blood banks and plasma centers. While there is some disagreement about how much of the money was to be used solely for education, Tim Timmons, director of Lancaster County's alternate test site program, said only about \$200 is available. When Dr. Stoesz was asked what the state is doing to provide education to the gay community and health care workers, he said that he doesn't have the staff to work on AIDS. When asked which sexual practices might be especially linked to the spread of AIDS, Stoesz replied that he is not very versed in gay male sex practices.

The Health Concerns Committee's immediate goal is the distribution of educational information regarding AIDS risk reduction.

and safe sex guidelines. They will continuously monitor the AIDS situation statewide, and maintain contact with local and state health officials.

The health risk to gay male Nebraskans is very real and very frightening; some of our fundamental civil rights may also be at stake. Please watch for more information in The New Voice and at local bars. If you're interested in helping the Health Concerns Committee, or have information or concerns, please write: Health Concerns Committee c/o Coalition P.O. Box 94882 Lincoln, NE 68509

or call the GLIS line: (402) 475-4697, evenings

--John B.

HTLV - III Testing in Lancaster County

On June 20 the Coalition's Health Concerns Committee met with Tim Timmons, Coordinator for the HTLV-III Alternate Test Site Project in Lancaster County. During the meeting Mr. Timmons emphasized two points: 1. The HTLV-III test does not diagnose AIDS, only whether someone has developed anti-bodies to the virus, and 2. the County Health Department is making special efforts to protect the confidentiality of testees. This is done by allowing people to give only their first name when they set up an appointment.

He did acknowledge, however, that when people sign a consent document to have the test administered their lab number is eventually written onto that document, allowing a linkage

to their file should the testee authorize any group (such as an insurance company) or physician access to his or her medical records. Although the County Health Department is not encouraging people to take the test, anyone interested in having the information should contact the Department rather than go to a blood bank. The Health Department's number is 471-7800, extension 248.

Mr. Timmons expressed his willingness to cooperate with gay organizations in providing educational materials and in possibly establishing a county task force on AIDS. Continued liaison between his department and the Health Concerns Committee will continue through the summer.

Scott Stebelman

Dr. Jonathan Goldsmith, Director of the AIDS Comprehensive Care Program at the NU Medical Center in Omaha, will speak in Lincoln on Saturday, August 3 at 2pm at the Lincoln YWCA, 14th & N St. Dr. Goldsmith's visit to Lincoln is being sponsored by

the Coalition's health concerns committee. This will be an excellent chance to learn more about the AIDS services offered at the medical center, and to talk with a medical expert about AIDS symptoms, current research, etc.

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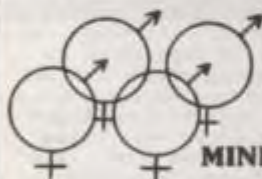
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Statement from AIDS Comprehensive Care Program

The Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has reached epidemic proportions in the United States. Over 10,000 people have developed Kaposi's sarcoma or opportunistic infections in the setting of an incompetent immune system. The serious nature of the syndrome is emphasized by the fact that fifty percent of all reported cases have died. Over half of all cases were reported in the last 12 months, illustrating the increasing number of affected people.

Urban coastal areas such as New York City and San Francisco account for the vast majority of AIDS cases. However, cases in the West-North Central region (Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas) are increasing. In high AIDS prevalence areas of the United States, a geometric rise in the attack rate has been observed after the initial reports. This is consistent with a long incubation period (one to four years). Nine AIDS cases have been reported in Nebraska thus far, with five of those cases occurring in the first half of 1985. (Of those 5 1985 cases, 3 victims have already died.) This region is likely to experience the same explosion of cases as the remainder of the country.

In addition to patients with AIDS, there are individuals from high risk groups (homosexuals, bisexuals, I.V. drug users, hemophiliacs, heterosexual contacts, and transfusion recipients) who develop the AIDS-related complex (ARC) or are noted to be seropositive to the Human T-cell Lymphotropic

Virus/Lymphadenopathy Virus (HTLV III/LAV) virus. This virus has been postulated to be the causative agent of AIDS. ARC is defined as the presence of two or more of the following symptoms and signs persisting for at least three months: fever, night sweats, diarrhea, dyspnea (shortness of breath), fatigue, rash, lymphadenopathy, oral candidiasis (thrush), abnormal peripheral blood T-lymphocyte subsets.

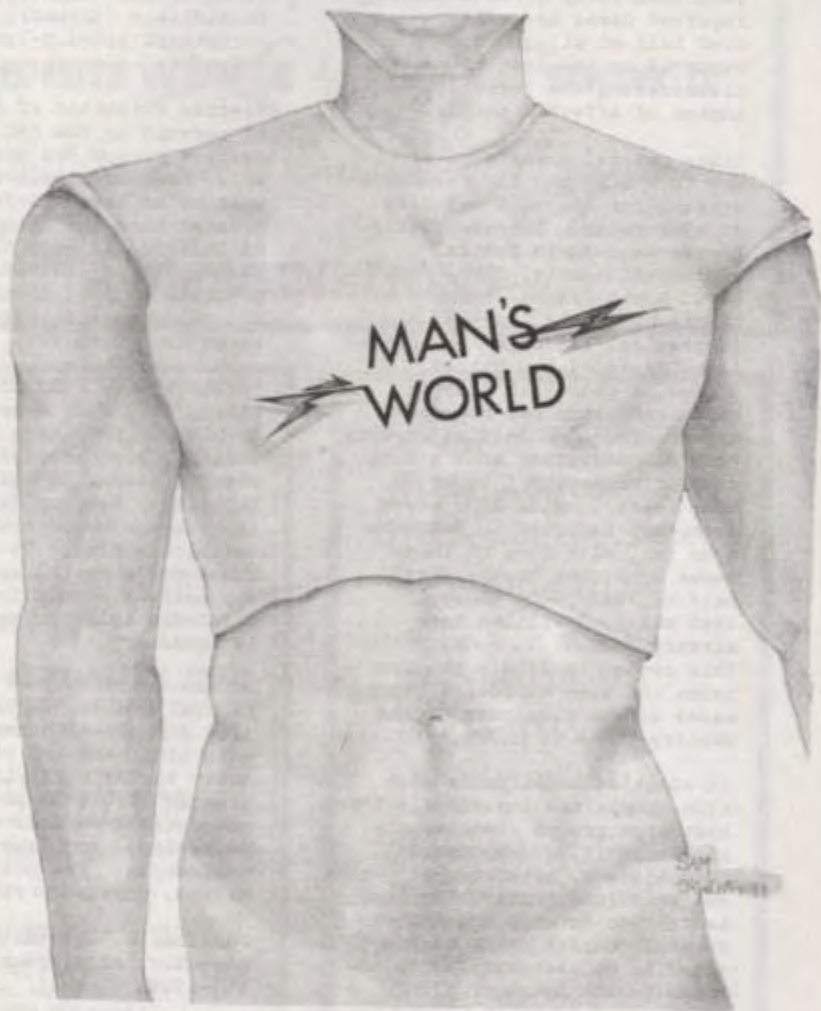
Precise estimates of the number of persons in the ARC and seropositive groups are not available; however, their number must be at least 10-fold greater than the actual number of individuals with AIDS. Whether these individuals will progress to AIDS is uncertain. Estimates regarding progression range from 5 to 25%.

Patients with AIDS pose particularly difficult management problems. They have great medical, psychosocial and nursing needs. Sophisticated laboratory support is required for diagnosis and therapeutic decision-making. To accomplish these goals for an ever-increasing patient population, a multi-disciplinary approach is mandatory.

At the University of Nebraska Medical Center, we have organized a program to care for those with AIDS, ARC and seropositivity for HTLV III/LAV. This program offers in-patient and out-patient medical care, counseling, and laboratory evaluation. For more information, contact:

Jonathan C. Goldsmith, M.D.
Director, AIDS Program
559-6210 (Omaha)

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FEATURES

Letter from U.S. Senator Edward Zorinsky

May 21, 1985

Mr. Gary West
Mr. Don Randolph
Imperial Court of Nebraska
PO Box 3772
Omaha, Nebraska 68108

Dear Gary and Don:

Thank you for stopping by to express your views on three areas of concern to the homo^ssexual community: The Gay and Lesbian Rights Bill--H.R. 230, Section 212 (a) (4) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952, and continued federal government support for AIDS research.

Senator Kerry estimates that he will introduce the Senate version of H.R. 230 in early June. I firmly oppose discrimination in all forms and will consider this bill from such a perspective when it comes before the full Senate.

Section 212 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act lists over thirty categories of excludable aliens. Many of these categories have been subject to considerable controversy over the years. As you noted, Section 212 (a) (4) is the particular section under which homosexual aliens have been prevented from immigrating to the United States.

Since 1952, the Immigration and Naturalization Service's interpretation of Section 212 (a) (4) has been in flux. Their current policy is not to directly inquire into an alien's

sexual preference. However, if volunteered by the arriving alien or by a third party, it remains possible that the alien will be prevented from immigrating based on a finding of homosexuality.

There is considerable sentiment to the effect that Section 212 should be comprehensively amended. Should such a bill be introduced, I will certainly keep your views in mind.

AIDS research is funded through the Department of Health and Human Services and conducted primarily by the National Institutes of Health. Government funding for AIDS activities has increased considerably in recent years from \$3.4 million in 1982 to \$21.7 million in 1983, \$44.1 million in 1984 and \$61.3 million in 1985. In 1986, Health and Human Services has requested a minimum of \$60.3 million.

Hopefully, with this level of government support, combined with generous private contributions such as those donated by your organization, a cure for this disease will soon be found.

I appreciate receiving the benefit of your views on these matters, and hope you will continue to contact me on such matters in the future.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Edward Zorinsky
United States Senator

Recipe Talk—Coke Cake

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
3 T. cocoa
2 sticks butter
(1 cup)
1 cup coke

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1 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows
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continued ...



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Combine flour and sugar; heat cocoa, butter, and coke to boiling. Pour over flour and sugar and blend well. Beat together the buttermilk, eggs, soda, marshmallows and vanilla; add to flour mixture. Mixture will be thin with marshmallows on top. Pour into a 9 x 13-inch

pan and bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. Frost with the following, while hot: 1/2 cup butter, 3 T. cocoa, 6 T. coke; heat to boiling and add 1 pound powdered sugar. Spread on cake. Sprinkle with 1 cup chopped pecans, if desired.

Personal Profiles—Interview with Roland Luedtke

He says that he is a mayor for all the people, not just a few. He says that people have the right to expect that when they come to the city for help, they will be helped and not hindered. He is Roland Luedtke, mayor since 1983 of Lincoln, Nebraska.

It took two appointments to get in to see the man. When your reporter arrived for the first appointment, he was kept waiting for forty-five minutes and volunteered to reschedule. When I arrived for a second interview, I was only kept waiting for 35 minutes before being invited into the inner sanctum but then had to wait ten minutes to begin the interview while the mayor finished reading the paper. Things got better, however, once we got started.

Mayor Luedtke was Senator Luedtke and chairman of the Judiciary Committee in 1977, at the time Nebraska's criminal code was being rewritten. It was during this time that the sodomy statute was dropped from the criminal code, and it became legal in this state for consenting adults to do as they liked in private. Luedtke remembered the opposition to dropping the sodomy statute, particularly the testimony of a Louisville minister named Everett Sileven. Sileven also spoke against repeal of the statute making it a crime to try to commit suicide on

the grounds that when a person tries to commit suicide he is insulting the Lord. Nevertheless, the revised code passed and was re-passed over the veto of then-Governor J.J. Exon. Governor Exon sent a two-sentence veto message, saying that it was his opinion that the revised code would not be in the best interests of the state.

An election later Senator Luedtke had become Lieutenant Governor Luedtke during the Thone administration. While Lt. Governor, Luedtke was responsible for the state's first program to promote the interests of minority workers in state government. In fact, civil rights legislation was one of Luedtke's top priorities and has remained so. Luedtke said that his background as a lawyer taught him to be open and non-judgmental because each individual is different and has freedom and rights.

Luedtke said that he would advise the gay and lesbian community not to try for a local civil rights ordinance because the results would be the same as they were two years ago. He quoted Paul's statement that all things are not expedient. "The media loves a fight and this sort of thing polarizes the community. Fights can be avoided by listening. It is OK to stand up and be counted but sometimes you must return to fight another day."

--Mel Dahl

Classifieds

Third Culture exists to provide care, support and peer counseling to the gay and lesbian community. We are particularly concerned with gay and lesbian health issues. If and when Lincoln should have an AIDS patient, Third Culture would welcome him or her with whatever assistance and support we are able. For more information call Pat, 474-2213.

Anybody interested in putting together a gay theater group to do skits, stand up numbers, recitations, short plays and other dramatic performances please call Don at 435-0967 or Mel at 475-7740.

Sandy V.:

Thanks for a terrific vacation on the Gulf of Mexico!

Anita F-S

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The Coalition's Political
Action Committee will meet
with Steve Fowler on July 17.
For more information call
476-0272 or 475-4697.

Imaginations wishes John-Eric
a happy birthday! Join the
party July 25.

Roommate wanted--Responsible,
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South neighborhood. Fireplace,
washer & dryer. \$140 per
month includes utilities.
475-7740

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nations, Sheza Mann, does a party
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Male housemate wanted to
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5:00 p.m. 345-8743.

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Are you looking for a roommate,
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classified ad in THE NEW VOICE. The
cost is only \$2.00 for 20 words or less.



Send ad to THE NEW VOICE,
P.O. Box 80819,
Lincoln, Nebraska, 68501.



Here and There Across the Nation

The only lesbian support group in Wichita, Kansas is the Lesbian Rap Group which meets in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Building on the Wichita State University campus on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. The Paradise is the only wimmins bar in town; other mixed bars include the Paragon and Our Fantasy.

--Lesbian Connection

Black and White Men Together (BWMT) will honor lifelong civil rights activist Bayard Rustin at its fifth annual convention in Los Angeles July 15-20.

* * *

The San Francisco gay community VD rate has plummeted. The number of cases of rectal gonorrhea logged at the City Clinic dropped 86% between early 1980 and early 1985

--Bay Area Reporter

The Department of Family Studies at the University of New Mexico reports that gay fathers tend to nurture their children more than non-gay fathers.

--New York Native

In Hamburg, West Germany a pink granite monument dedicated to gays killed in

Nazi concentration camps was unveiled May 12 at the site of the Neuengamme Camp, reports UPI. The monument is apparently the first dedicated only to gays.

--Out Front, Denver

The official opening of Chicago's new, half million dollar gay and lesbian community center was held on June 23 at the Rodde Center, 3225 N. Sheffield.

--Gay Chicago Magazine

Two gay bars in Des Moines have moved to new locations due to construction in downtown Des Moines. The Brass Garden and the Question Mark are the bars that will have new addresses. The Barn Door has not moved and Our Place is still at the location they moved to several months ago.

* * *

The New York City Board of Education has set up an alternate high school for lesbian and gay students who have had trouble "fitting in" at conventional public schools. The program--the first in the nation--began operating out of a Greenwich Village Church with an enrollment of 20 students. The school is named Harvey Milk High School

--The Advocate

Gail's Hit List

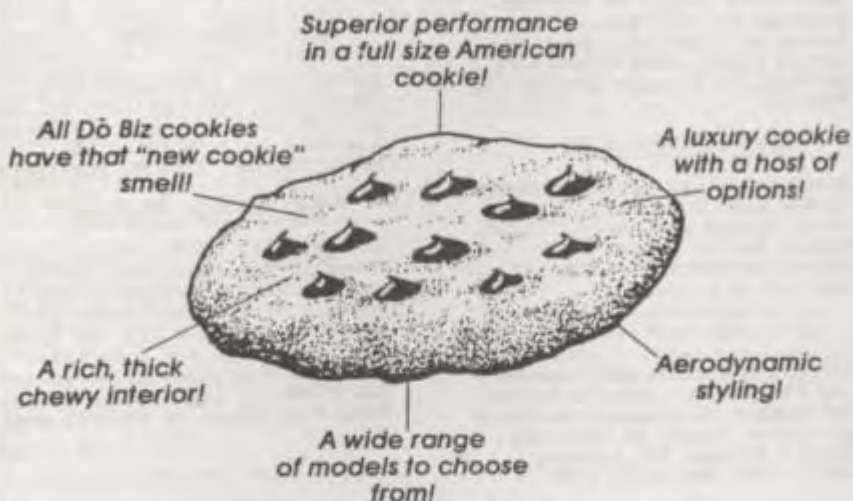
JULY

1. You Spin Me Around
--Dead or Alive
2. Into the Groove
--Madonna
3. Play Me
--Rebbie Jackson
- *4. Freeway of Love
--Aretha Franklin
5. Shout
--Alex Brown
- *6. Would I Lie
--Eurythmics
- *7. Party Boy
--Sean Heyden

- *8. Black Cars
--Gino Vanelli
9. Invisible
--Alison Moyet
10. Do You Wanna Get Away
--Shannon
- *11. I Freak For You
--Carol Lynn Townes
- *12. Tunnel of Love
--Carol Cooper
- *13. Perfect
--New Order
- *14. How Much Longer
--Re-flax
- *15. Nature of Things
--Narada Michael Walden

* = new entry

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- All Gas and Shop locations
- Tommy's—12th & "R" St.
- Wallbanker's—West "P" St.
- Sports Courts—44th & "O" St.
- Dō Biz East—Ames, Iowa
- The Original Korn Popper—14th & "N" St. and East View Shopping Center
- Holiday Skate World—48th & "O" St. and 56th & Hwy. 2
- Snack Shoppe—Lincoln Benefit Life Building 13th & "N" St.
- Yellow Submarine—11th & Arapahoe, West "O" St., 46th & "O" St., and Beatrice

Astrology—Leo the Lion

LEO -- THE LION
*July 22 - Aug 22

Element: Fire
Ruling Planet: the Sun
Mode of Expression: Fixed
Key Words: I Will

The Organizer

Fifth sign of the Zodiac and second sign of the summer season, Leo combines the element fire and the fixed mode of expression.

The fire of Leo is the "fire of the heart" and represents the controlled fire of enduring affection. The power of Leo (power is an attribute of the fixed signs), is Active power; it combines with the fire potential for leadership as a capacity for organization. Leo is a dramatic figure around which groups gather. Leo has a talent as a manager and does well, as long as Ego does not get in the way.

Ego can be a very real problem. Leo is proud and extremely self conscious. (This is not necessarily bad; pride keeps Leo going when others might quit). The Will of the "I Will" key words must first be directed toward self mastery before Leo can be a powerful, positive force and can effectively and safely will things for others.

Leo can be of great value to others ONCE self IS mastered; until that time, the pride, which could be a good friend, frequently leads Leo into situations which are destructive for self and others. The Leo who conquers Pride of Self and achieves Self mastery, can almost convince others that s/he was indeed destined to rule (lead).

In relationships, by sun sign, Leo does not do well with Scorpio (water) and Taurus (earth), both fixed signs, or with Cancer or Pisces (both water), as the moody, emotional qualities of these signs can dampen the fiery ardor of Leo.

With Aquarius (Air) also a fixed sign, a relationship requires a balance, as is always true of signs opposed in the Zodiac.

Relationships with other Leos, as with all same sign combinations can be good, but with Leo, there is a higher than usual chance of one, the other, or both parties letting their egos get in the way of partnering and/or team work.

Leo fares best with Aries or Sagittarius (both fire), or with Gemini, or Libra (both of the air element).

--Phoenix

Letters

Dear Editor,

Not long ago, I read several articles in The New Voice concerning Coming Out. It made me feel good seeing that others wrote about themselves and shared their experiences.

I have enclosed a poem which abstractly depicts the feelings I felt at not being accepted by my family.

I hope in the future you will continue to focus on such issues. It helps to know that you're not alone.

Very sincerely,
P. Williams

Through a window--
It's raining again
Clouds molten over
Forming a blackened eye
depictive of the insight
I have gained.
Sounds like thunder
not the clapping of hands
inspiring and healing
rather berating bellows
Long ingrained.
Stabs like lightning
burning down trees
scathing scapes
torturing the air I breathe
Here, where you left me.

--P. Williams

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and
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the **CLUB**

AIDS IN NEBRASKA

This brochure is being distributed in Nebraska by the Health Concerns Committee of the Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights.

AIDS is currently a serious public health problem in Nebraska. Physicians at the AIDS Comprehensive Care Program at the NU Medical Center in Omaha have diagnosed ~~two~~ **two** AIDS cases in the first half of 1985.

Based upon patterns in other regions of the country, the number of AIDS cases in Nebraska is expected to increase.

We urge your assistance in educating the public about AIDS, and about the preventive measures that members of high risk groups should take.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Health Concerns Committee
Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights
Box 94882, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Phone: 402-475-4697 evenings (Gay/Lesbian
Information and Support Line)
- AIDS Comprehensive Care Program
Dr. Jonathan Goldsmith, Director
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Phone: 402-559-6210 (Omaha)
- HTLV-3 Testing Service
c/o Tim Timmons
Lancaster County Health Department
Phone: 402-471-7800
- National AIDS Information Hotlines:
800-342-AIDS (National Center for
Disease Control)
415-863-AIDS (San Francisco AIDS
Foundation)

06/85

**GUIDELINES
FOR**

AIDS
**RISK
REDUCTION**

Design by **Richard Roesener**
Typesetting by **En Character**
Produced by **San Francisco AIDS Foundation**

What is AIDS?

- AIDS is shorthand for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- AIDS is a disease that damages the immune system of otherwise healthy persons
- AIDS is a life-threatening disease
- AIDS is a sexually transmissible disease

AIDS is probably transmitted through certain kinds of sexual contact, receiving certain contaminated blood products, and sharing unsterile needles. Despite certain risks, physical intimacy (as well as emotional intimacy) is important for overall health. Knowing that specific risks are related to certain sexual practices is essential for safe and satisfying expression of intimacy.

This brochure attempts to assign degrees of risk to various sexual practices, based on admittedly incomplete information, in order to inform the community at risk to the best of our knowledge.

As research progresses, we expect our understanding of AIDS to improve, and our recommendations to become more specific. We know that the longstanding health problems caused by sexually transmitted diseases in the gay community could be reduced if everyone were to heed the suggestions outlined here. If repeated infections also weaken the immune system, these suggestions can help you lead a healthier and safer life.

WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WITH AIDS?

Researchers believe that AIDS is caused by a virus which infects and damages the immune system. Persons at risk of AIDS include gay and bisexual males, IV drug users, recipients of certain blood products, sexual partners of these groups, and infants born of mothers at risk for AIDS. Studies indicate that the disease may not become manifest until several months or years after exposure to the agent. This delay is termed the incubation period.

Persons with AIDS are susceptible to a wide variety of illnesses which are neither "new" nor "unique" to AIDS patients. These include infections caused by certain microscopic parasites (e.g. *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia), certain bacteria, certain fungi (e.g. Cryptococcal meningitis), and certain viruses (e.g. extensive cytomegalovirus infections). Certain rare malignancies, particularly Kaposi's Sarcoma, have been the major manifestation of AIDS in many individuals. Not all people with AIDS have all these diseases. Since the immune system is not working properly, people with AIDS are susceptible to many diseases which healthy people with intact immune systems can ward off. So far no one has recovered normal immunity.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS OF AIDS?

Many symptoms associated with AIDS are present in minor illnesses, such as colds, bronchitis, and stomach flu. However, in AIDS these symptoms are usually persistent or recurrent. The general symptoms of AIDS may include the following:

- Unexplained, persistent fatigue.
- Unexplained fever, shaking chills, or drenching night sweats lasting longer than several weeks.
- Unexplained weight loss greater than 10 pounds.
- Swollen glands (enlarged lymph nodes usually in the neck, arm pits, or groin) which are otherwise unexplained and last more than 2 weeks.
- Pink to purple flat or raised blotches or bumps occurring on or under the skin, inside the mouth, nose, eyelids, or rectum. Initially they may resemble bruises but do not disappear. They are usually harder than the skin around them.

- Persistent white spots or unusual blemishes in the mouth.
- Persistent diarrhea.
- Persistent dry cough which has lasted too long to be caused by a common respiratory infection, especially if accompanied by shortness of breath.

If you have any of the above symptoms, have your health evaluated by a health care provider familiar with AIDS.

REDUCING RISK THROUGH SAFE SEX PRACTICES

Reducing risk for AIDS may mean making changes in sexual practices but it does not mean denying the sexual part of one's life. We believe that intimacy, both sexual and emotional, is necessary as we move toward a more healthy regard for our own bodies and those we love. If you or your partner are a member of a high-risk group, we recommend following the SAFE-SEX guidelines as outlined below, unless both you and your partner have been in a monogamous relationship for five years or more. Sexual practices are classified in three categories: SAFE, POSSIBLY SAFE, and UNSAFE.

— SAFE —

Most of these activities involve only skin-to-skin contact, where transfer of virus is unlikely from one person to another unless there are breaks in the skin.

- **Mutual masturbation** (male or female)
- **Social kissing** (dry)
- **Body massage, hugging**
- **Body-to-body rubbing** (frottage)
- **Light S & M activities** (without bruising or bleeding)
- **Using one's own sex toys**

— POSSIBLY SAFE —

In these activities small amounts of certain body fluids may be exchanged causing some risk. This risk is increased in proportion to the number of contacts.

- **Anal intercourse with condom (fucking with condom).** There should be minimal chance for transfer of virus from one person to another if the condom does not break and spillage of semen into the rectum is prevented. The risk is further reduced if one withdraws before climax.
- **Fellatio interruptus (sucking — stop before climax).** Since it is unknown whether pre-ejaculate fluid contains an AIDS agent, there is some risk in this practice. The insertive partner should warn the receptive partner before he climaxes to prevent exposure to a large volume of semen. If mouth or genital sores are present, risk is increased. Likewise, overzealous action which causes mouth or genital trauma will increase risk.
- **Mouth-to-mouth kissing (French kissing, wet kissing).** It is now known that saliva may contain an AIDS agent, but since less than one-half percent of persons with AIDS in San Francisco fall outside the risk groups (gay or bisexual men, IV drug users, blood product recipients), it seems unlikely that AIDS is transmitted in saliva. If either partner has open mouth or lip sores, risk may be increased.
- **Urine contact (watersports).** If urine contacts only the unbroken skin, risk may be low. Urine should not be taken by mouth or rectum.
- **Vaginal intercourse with condom.** The same precautions should be observed as with anal intercourse with condom.
- **Oral-vaginal contact (cunnilingus).** Since saliva may contain an AIDS agent and since it is unknown whether vaginal secretions contain an AIDS agent, there may be some risk. If menstruation is occurring, risk is probably enhanced.

— UNSAFE —

These activities involve tissue trauma and/or exchange of body fluids which may transmit an AIDS agent or other microbes. They carry high risk unless the sex partners have been monogamous and healthy for five years or more.

— UNSAFE —

- **Receptive anal intercourse without condom (being fucked).** AIDS seems to be transmitted through semen as well as blood, and perhaps feces. During anal intercourse, injury occurs to rectal tissue, allowing direct access of semen or pre-ejaculate fluid to the bloodstream. Studies have indicated that this practice has high correlation with acquisition of Kaposi's Sarcoma and immunological defects.
- **Insertive anal intercourse without condom (fucking).** The risk of acquisition of AIDS agent through this practice is unknown, but some studies indicate that it is less risky to the insertive partner (top man) than the receptive partner (bottom man) since no semen is received by the top man. However, the risk of exposure to blood and feces is high, and it is well known that other sexually transmitted diseases can be acquired in this manner.
- **Manual-anal intercourse (fisting).** An early study indicated a direct correlation between fisting and AIDS for both active and passive partners. The rectal tissue can be damaged during this activity, which would allow direct access for semen to the bloodstream if fisting were preceded or followed by anal intercourse. The insertive partner's hand is exposed to blood or blood-contaminated feces and infectious agents may enter through breaks in the skin. The risk may be reduced by use of a glove and the absence of semen.
- **Fellatio (sucking).** If semen is ingested, risk is increased as the AIDS agent may be present in the semen. There is a possibility of absorption of the agent through membranes of the mouth, especially if sores are present. Risk is reduced by withdrawal before climax.
- **Oral-anal contact (rimming).** AIDS may be transmitted by blood-contaminated feces. This act will certainly transmit parasites, hepatitis, and various forms of dysentery. It is unknown whether saliva transmits AIDS. Consequently there may be risk to the receptive partner. If open fissures or sores are present, risk is increased.
- **Vaginal intercourse without condom.** There are case reports of transmission of AIDS to women whose sex partners had AIDS or were in high-risk groups.

GENERAL FACTORS

Since sexual compatibility is important, it is best to discuss your concerns about health before taking the step with a new partner, and learn his or her attitudes as well. Denial of the problem bodes ill for the relationship and possibly your health. Fantasies are frequently an important element, and sharing fantasies can substitute at times for high-risk behavior. It is generally conceded that sex with anonymous partners carries a higher risk because these initial steps cannot be taken.

Sex in groups may expose you to risks carried over from encounters with others in the group. Adherence to only the safe practices reduces the risk in group situations.

Cleanliness is important in disease prevention. Showering with your partner before sex can be erotic as well as cleansing, and also affords the opportunity to find lesions or other problems beforehand. Another shower after sex is also advisable. Encounters in situations where such facilities are not available (parks, restrooms, backrooms) are unsatisfactory from this standpoint.

There are no studies indicating direct correlation between AIDS and recreational drugs except when IV needles are shared. However, reduction of rational thinking by drugs can impair your resolve to "play safe" and lead to high-risk activity. Perception of pain may also be diminished, leading to trauma and increased risk of exposure to the AIDS agent.

Take good care of your body and general health. Recommendations include adequate rest, good nutrition, physical exercise, reduction of stress, and avoidance of alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

In this health crisis there are seeds for positive social growth. Sharing our fears and concerns with partners, friends, and discussion groups can convert frustrations into effective community action. We must give emotional and financial support to those who have or are suspected to have AIDS, and foster a community network to provide a supportive atmosphere. We need to maintain intimacy while avoiding sexual contacts which increase risk to ourselves and our partners.

This brochure was written by the Scientific Affairs Committee of the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights.