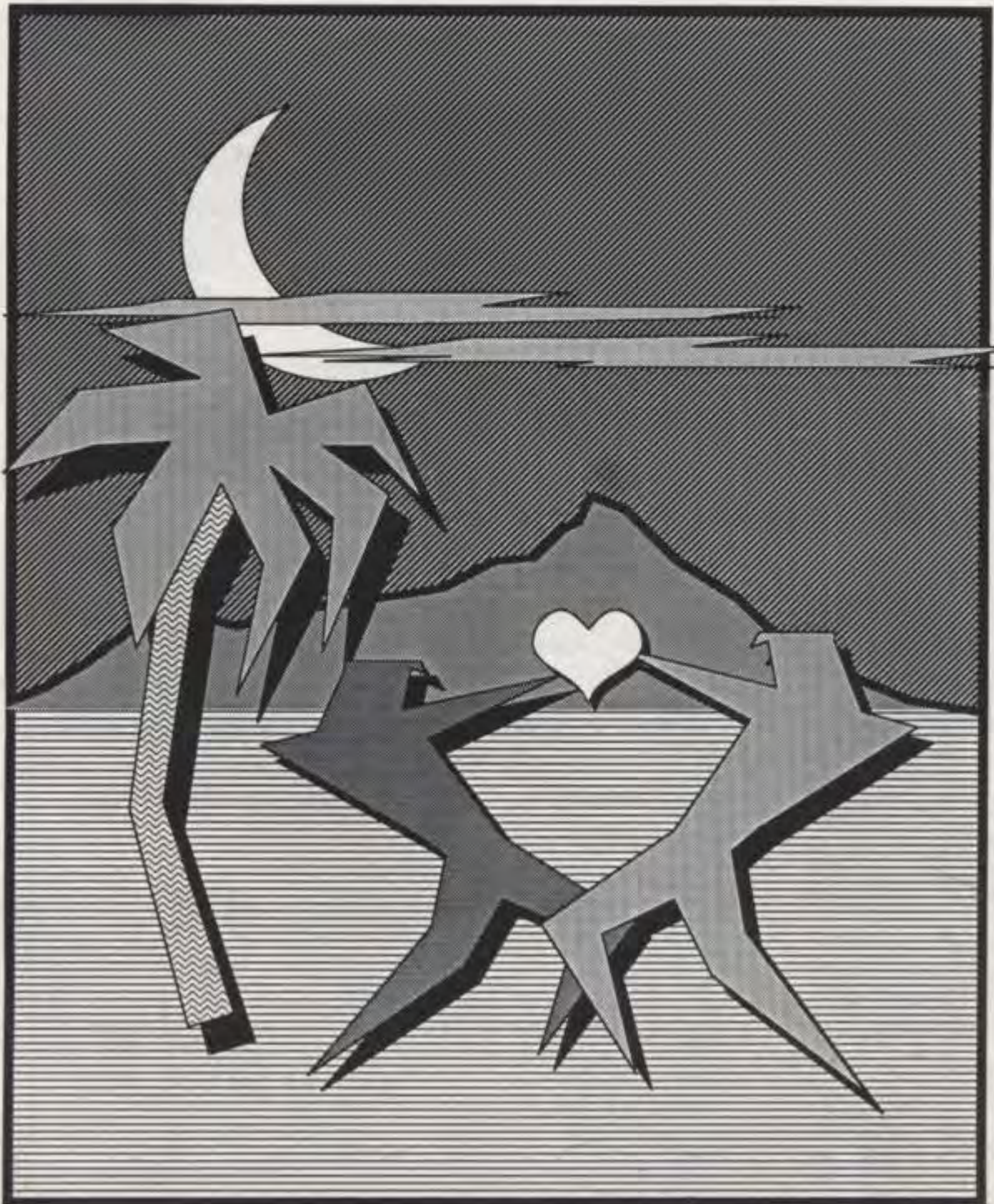


# The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A





# Our Turn

## Help

The past few months have brought many changes. First and foremost are the changes we've experienced in our staff. In April we welcomed three new staff members. Since then two others have resigned.

At this point in time *The New Voice* is surviving on a mere handful of volunteers.

Consequently, we have been unable to meet all the needs of the community. Therefore I am asking for help.

We need volunteers to help us in all areas, mainly reporting on any activities going on in the community.

We hope to continue serving the community and would like very much to receive help in any and all ways we can.

Again, please bear with the changes. I have faith that everything will work out and that *The New Voice* will continue to be a strong publication for the Lesbian and Gay community.

-- Sandy, Editor

## "Hi", I'm Chris

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

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

On another personal note . . . I am a high energy person and have come to realize that this energy must have somewhere to go or it

will flow back on me (not a pleasant experience). This position with *The New Voice*, Associate Editor, will fulfill all my energy needs. I hope to serve as a liaison between the community and the magazine. I will be gathering ideas, articles, and covering local events. I will assist and support Sandy with the many responsibilities she has.

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

*Chris*

## Editor's Response to Skip Cederstrom

We enjoy receiving requests for our magazine from someone outside of Nebraska. It's heartening to hear that you enjoyed *The New Voice*, which features a specific topic each

month. Thank you for bringing the topic of differently abled people to our attention. Our July issue will focus on these individuals. We encourage anyone to bring to our attention topics that we may be unaware of.

We welcome comments on anything appearing or not appearing in *The New Voice*.

--Sandy and Chris, Editors

## Editor's Response to Patricia Hines

Thank you for your letter that appeared in the April issue regarding the use of nudes on our cover. At this time *The New Voice* does not have a policy regarding nudes. All community input on any issue is appreciated. The submission of ideas for future covers would be appreciated and considered.

--Sandy and Chris, editors

cover by J. Stephen

## May 1987

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**COPY EDITOR—Gary Carey**  
**ART & DESIGN—Randy J.**  
**TYPESETTING—Randy F., Steve H.**  
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## Local Events

### Ames, IA. To Hold Freedom Week Garden Party

The Gays and Lesbians of Ames will put on a garden party as its contribution to Gay and Lesbian Freedom Week festivities in late June. Thursday, June 25 is "Ames Night."

The parade and rally in Des Moines will take place on Saturday, June 27. A picnic will follow, with the awards banquet that evening. The Des Moines Men's Chorus will give its premiere concert at the banquet. Other Des Moines events are set for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday of that week. The parade in Iowa City will be on Saturday, June 20.

Contributions to the Freedom Week budget will be graciously accepted. They will help pay for publicity and other expenses. This year there will be billboards in downtown Des Moines with the message "We Are Your Family." Make checks payable to Iowa Gay and Lesbian Freedom Week, and send them to Freedom Week, c/o Rich Joens, 652 27th St., Des Moines IA, 50312. Please mention whether your name is to be printed in the program.

(Printed with permission from *GLA Newsletter*, April 1987.)

### NWU Women's Week: A Repeat Success

Women's Week at Nebraska Wesleyan was the week of April 6-10. The week sponsored by W.O.R.T.H. (Women's Organization Reaching Tangible Horizons) featured many different panels, music, films, poetry, and comedy. It was a success with the participation of many Wesleyan students, UNL students, and community members.

Panels included "Women: Dependence and Independence," "Pornography -- A New Problem," and "Women Writers." Discussion groups consisted of "The Wedding Show," "Body Images," and "Sexuality." Many excellent guests helped share information and experiences.

Films were also shown as part of the week. Many showings of "Rosie the Riveter," "The Love Goddesses," "She Shall Be Called Woman," and "Maya Angelou: The Writer" occurred throughout the week.

Highlights of Women's Week included "Women's Voices," with performers Katie Boner, Lori McClain, and The Alligator String Choir Quartet; poetry readings by Twyla Hansen and Mary Smith; and comedy by Ellen Weissinger and Kim Moore.

It was great having the support of everyone who attended the events. Members of W.O.R.T.H. thank those who helped make the week meaningful.

--Sandy M.

### Beth Haldt Performed In Lincoln

On April 10, Beth Haldt performed at Cherchez la femme. Beth, who is from Lincoln, played to a nice-sized audience. She appeared relaxed at the microphone as she picked out some personal favorites on her guitar. The cross section of music was interesting; Anne Murray found herself with Kenny Rogers and a less familiar Jane Oliver. Beth's country tunes were quite upbeat and one even reminded me of revivals I attended as a kid. The opportunity to hear local talent was appreciated.



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## P•FLAG R.A.P.s Homophobia

R.A.P. on Homophobia! It was small but mighty. For a first such effort on the part of PFLAG Cornhusker we were very pleased with the quality of the panelists' presentations and by the attendance. Those of us who were involved in the planning and preparation, as well as the panelists themselves, felt rewarded and reinforced by the day. The *Sunday Journal-Star* gave nice coverage to the event. New people, as well as many people we already knew, attended the sessions.

The session on AIDS was particularly moving and was video-taped, as was the luncheon address by Elinor Kirby Lewallen, President-elect of the International PFLAG organization. Both tapes will be shown at future PFLAG meetings. The other sessions were audio-taped and will also be available for audiences. The panel on Religion

was exciting, and brought some of us to a new awareness of the complexities of the issues. It is our hope that this will be but the first of similar workshops. We hope that all interested persons will be able to attend the next PFLAG workshop.

--Jean Durgin-Clinchard, PFLAG

## Marc Almond / Soft Cell Convention Scheduled

Fans of self-proclaimed bisexual Marc Almond, and the group Soft Cell, will be gathering for their second annual American convention. The convention is scheduled for Saturday, July 4, 1987 in New Jersey. It will begin at 8 p.m., to continue indefinitely, at the home of U.S. fan-club president Mari Thelander, 22 Cottage Street, #3E, South Orange, NJ 07079 (phone 201/763-6451). There is no admission, but a contribution of food is requested for the pot-luck supper event.

Soft Cell are best remembered here for their 1982 hit, "Tainted Love." The group is much more well-known in their native England, where they produced 17 hit singles from 1980-84. Since 1984, former lead singer Marc Almond has had a successful U.K. solo career with eleven single releases, three albums and two EP's.

Almond collaborated with Communards vocalist Jimmy Sommerville (then with Bronski Beat) in 1985, leading to the single "I Feel Love" by Bronski Beat and Marc Almond. "I Feel Love," a remake of the Donna Summer hit, reached number one in 19 countries and was a huge club hit here. Meanwhile, Almond's outstanding live performances in Europe and Japan have inspired critics to dub him "England's Boss."

The second annual convention is sponsored by Gutteramerica, Marc Almond's U.S. fan club. The name is intended to reflect an affiliation with Gutterhearts, the official Almond/Soft Cell fan club in London. Gutteramerica is a strictly non-profit organization. For further information, contact Mari Thelander at the address listed above.

## Lambda To Note Anniversary

Lambda House is hosting an Anniversary Celebration on Friday, May 15 at 6:00 p.m. Guests are invited to bring a dish for pot luck. Community members and supporters are welcome. Call 474-1205 for additional information.

Common (voting) stock in Lambda, Inc., is available at \$1.00 per share. Preferred (non-voting) stock is available at \$50.00 per share. Lambda, Inc., welcomes your participation.



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Ask for Gideon.**



# Local Organizations

## Lambda House Report

Lambda House reports near full occupancy with a much healthier bank account. We are happy to report, as well, an increase in optimism for an even healthier future.

We have, however, lost our house manager, Russ, to a new job in Omaha. We will miss you, Russ, and wish you the best of everything in your new venture.

We have also lost our volunteer "Gideon." Jim's departure will leave a big gap in our service structure, and he will be missed for his warmth and wisdom. We hope he will return to Lambda House as often as possible, and stay as long as he can. In the meantime, Gideon will continue to respond to calls as quickly and efficiently as possible. Lambda House will not be as immediately accessible as it has been until we are able to locate people to fill this important position. If anyone is interested, please call 474-2015 (Lincoln) and ask for Pat or Dave.

RCSAD (Resource Center Supporters Anonymous Disorganized) has received \$200 in anonymous donations for the support of Lambda House. We greatly appreciate these valued gifts from our invisible friends and well-wishers. Without them, Lambda House would not have survived its first year of operation. If you would like to contribute to the support of Lambda House or buy shares in Lambda, Inc., call 474-1205 and ask for Gideon, or write to Lambda, Inc., 2845 R Street, Lincoln NE 68503.

### Thanks From Lambda

The Lambda, Inc., board and Lambda House management team want to thank Kelly and her staff for their time, effort and support given to the Lambda House benefit on April 16. Thanks also to the illusionists who performed; the management team is grateful for the \$160 that was generated for day to

day maintenance of Lambda House. This money is spent for supplies necessary to keep the house equipped and stocked for residents and guests.

## Cheers For "BOO"

BOO (Bars and Organizations of Omaha) is an organization or organizations. The group was established about one year ago when the Rev. Jan Kross, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, did some phoning to bring together the heads of Omaha's Lesbian and Gay groups and businesses.

The object was to share ideas and coordinate plans to avoid conflicts and to prevent groups from vying for the same audience at the same time.

The idea worked. BOO has met monthly for more than one year. Through a shared calendar, six (now down to four) Lesbian or Gay bars, religious support organizations, social and recreational organizations, support groups for Lesbian/Gay parents or parents of Lesbians and Gays, educational and fund-raising assemblies -- roughly 25 individual groups in all -- have worked together to coordinate Omaha's Lesbian and Gay community activities.

One of BOO's initial successes was planning and coordinating Omaha's 1986 Pride Week. The various BOO participants also worked together to make successful Labor Day and Memorial Day picnics. Through BOO, the Omaha Womyn's Group and River City Mixed Chorus invited not-for-profit groups to participate in a Monte Carlo night and share in the proceeds.

The apparent novelty of a cooperative organization such as BOO came to light at a national meeting in Minneapolis of Gay and Lesbian choruses (GALA). A River City Mixed Chorus member happened to mention, quite casually, at one session how BOO helped the RCMC avoid scheduling conflicts. Throughout the audience, eyes opened wide, and heads of participants from throughout the United States bent in unison as pens and pencils madly scribbled notes about

the cooperative and coordinating efforts of Bars and Organizations of Omaha.

BOO meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. The location rotates among the participating bars and M.C.C.

--Russ W.



## COMMUNITY RETREAT

for leaders and interested persons

Friday, May 15th  
5:30 p.m. — 10 p.m.

Sponsored by the Coalition

First United Methodist Church  
2723 North 50th, Lincoln

Reservations Required

Call N.C.L.U. at 476-8091



## "Dignity" Grows Despite Adversity

In October, Vatican City released a letter condemning homosexuality as "disordered" and saying its churches should withdraw support from pro-homosexuals (implying DIGNITY).

By happenstance, the monthly DIGNITY/Omaha mass in November was a home mass, away from any sponsoring church. December's mass, however, was back at the host St. John's Church and was celebrated by the church pastor. The mass was well-attended, including an increase in womyn's attendance. The pastor gave an excellent dialogue (participative) homily and visited with the congregation during the after-mass fellowship. DIGNITY still has mass at 7:00 p.m. the second Sunday each month at St. John's Church.

A local chapter of the national body, DIGNITY/Omaha sees hope in the ever-increasing attendance, particularly by womyn, and takes as a positive sign the apparent continued permission to have mass at St. John's Church, said Russell Warzyn, chapter president.

The Omaha chapter of Lesbian and Gay Catholics, in existence for about three years, operated initially under a coordinator. Last March the members formalized their structure somewhat as they started down the road from chapter in formation to full chapter status, with voting delegates to the regional and national boards. Chapter members this January and February prepared their nominations for election of new officers, which was scheduled after the March 8 mass.

Immediate tasks for the new officers will be working on chapter bylaws, as well as completing application for U.S. Internal Revenue Service recognition as a non-profit organization.

--Russ W.

## ICON News

The Imperial Court of Nebraska (ICON) has made some great strides toward uniting our community. A year ago, communication was difficult between ICON and other groups. Opening that same communication and responding to others' concerns became a goal of the sixth reign. While traveling to other Imperial Courts, we found ways of questioning and realizing that these problems are not unique to Nebraska. Taking this new awareness and putting trust in the leaders of organizations became fruitful. Today, we -- as a group -- can talk openly about our problems, as well as working with and including others. In our community, no one organization will succeed without the help of the others.

I am thankful and proud of how ICON has opened its communication doors. I am also proud to say that we can now go forward knowing we support and are supported by our community's organizations.

I am not sure if now is the time to recognize some of these leaders; if not now, maybe never. The support ICON has received from Jeff, Dave, Larry, Georgia, Kelly and Phil; Dick, Stash, Bruce, Vince, Carol, Sam, Herald, Terry and Jan stands out now as very personal. Many of you have become friends to me and to the Court. Thank you.

Reminder: To those who anticipate attending Coronation VII on June 20, vote responsibly! We as a community have an obligation to know our candidate and why he or she wants to be an elected monarch.

Taking the time to know, and voting responsibly, is a good first step to a *united community*.

In unity and love,  
Imperially yours,  
Pat Phalen  
Emperor VI



## T.W.O. Third Anniversary Run

The Two-Wheelers of Omaha (T.W.O.) Motorcycle Club is sponsoring an outdoor weekend in celebration of its third anniversary. Activities will involve a full camp-

out and run. Participants must furnish their own tents, sleeping bags, and other camping gear.

The Third Anniversary Run will be held June 12-14. For more details, and for information on run fees, contact T.W.O. at 305 Turner Blvd. #8, Omaha NE 68131.



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# Bisexuality

## Bisexuals: Barriers on Both Sides

*"I wanted only to try to live in accord with the promptings which came from my true self. Why was that so very difficult?" -- Herman Hesse, Demian.*

That one simple quote sums up bisexuality, or just sexuality in general for me.

So often, society tends to feel the imperious need to label people and categorize them into modeled stereotypes. Whether it be your race, religion, taste in music, or sexuality, someone is always standing by, ready to limit their vision of the person you are, because of their own perceptions.

Coming out to my homosexual side has fostered very interesting perceptions of myself from other people. Straights have commented that I am interested in women because of my "bad" experiences with men. Gays have commented that I am interested in men because I am afraid of homosexuality. And then I have run into people who just aren't that interested in expressing their opinions to me about their perceptions of my sexuality, because they value my being: not so much what I am, but who I am. It is these people, who do not label or judge me according to stereotypes, that I am the most comfortable with.

Labels and stereotypes seem to create barriers of letting our true selves "come out," whether it is coming out to our homosexuality, heterosexuality or bisexuality, or just an aspect of ourselves that we would like to explore.

But because we all live in a world where society sets such self-defeating standards, it is a true quest for the spirit of individualism to "live in accord with the promptings" that come from our inner selves.

--Judi U.

## Bisexuality: A Complex Reality

Bisexuality doesn't exist," said someone in Lincoln to me a couple of years ago. Bisexuals just can't have stable relationships. Bisexuals live in a "no one's land." Bisexuals are really gay people who just haven't come all the way out of the closet. Bisexuals are really confused about their identity. Bisexuals are indiscriminate in their sexual partners. The only way to be "truly" bi is to be active sexually with partners of both sexes equally. Bisexuals are incapable of monogamy. Bisexuality "doubles your chances for a date on Saturday night."

Perhaps some of these statements are familiar to you. The reality of bisexuality is often denied by gay and straight communities alike. Myths and stereotypes are a problem, just as they are for gay/lesbian people.

Individual bisexual persons may fit or believe one or more of these myths and stereotypes. But just as there is not just one homosexual lifestyle, there is not just one bisexual lifestyle, but a whole range of possibilities from which each individual makes her or his own choices and decisions.

Looked at in the context of the whole of what we know about human sexuality, sexual orientation is much more complex than simply the two commonly used hetero-

sexual-homosexual categories. It is even more complex than adding a third category of "bisexual;" yet, to talk about certain realities, labels sometimes make things a bit clearer.

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*. . . there is not just one bisexual lifestyle, but a whole range of possibilities, from which each individual makes her or his own choices and decisions.*

---

For the purposes of this article, bisexuality will be defined as the presence of significant degrees of erotic attractions, erotic fantasies, and emotional preferences for members of both genders, with some recognition of their significance. Note that behavior is not a necessary part of the definition, and that recognition, or self-identification, is important. This not a precise definition (if one were even possible), but it will do for our purposes. It is important to note that bisexuality is not a discrete category, but roughly fits the middle range of the Kinsey scale.

The Kinsey scale is a zero to six continuum which was designed by the Kinsey researchers in the 1940's to describe the reality they were discovering, that there were not just "two kinds of people" (heterosexual and homosexual), but in fact a whole range of behaviors and "psychologic reactions" from homosexual to heterosexual and all points in between. The scale runs

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from zero, exclusively heterosexual, to six, exclusively homosexual, with three being equal components of both.

There is not much research done on bisexuality or bisexual persons, but one study is particularly interesting. This study pointed out some of the ways bisexual persons are different from heterosexual and homosexual persons. Pat Saliba had self-identified heterosexual, homosexual, and bisexual persons rank themselves on three separate Kinsey scales: physical sexual activity, affectionate relationships, and erotic fantasy. Kaliba sums up her research: "Sexual orientation is complex, not simple." She found that people almost never rated themselves at the same point on all three scales. Within each self-identified group, there is diversity of ratings: all the homosexual persons and all the heterosexual persons weren't exclusively so, and all the bisexual persons aren't perfectly equal in gender preference.

*"Sexual orientation is not only much more than who you sleep with . . . but it is also where your affections lie, and even more importantly, how you integrate those affections into your sexual identity."*

She found that, among the bisexual group, affectionate relationships and erotic fantasies were "almost as important as sexual activity in their decision to self-identity as bisexual." This group also was quite diverse in the combinations of ratings among the three scales: some had only in-

cidental sexual activity with persons of the same sex, some had only incidental sexual activity with persons of the other sex. While affectionate relationships were frequently ranked equally, "erotic fantasies were as diverse as those for sexual activity."

Saliba found "tremendous variability, in all areas" among all groups. "And yet, the bisexuals are much more like one another than they are either the heterosexual or homosexual groups, and the same is true for each group." She also found that the way sex and affection are dealt with is more related to whether one is male or female. "Sexual orientation is not only much more than who you sleep with . . . but it is also where your affections lie, and even more importantly, how you integrate those affections into your sexual identity." ("Research Project on Sexual Orientation," *The Bi-Monthly*, newsletter of the Bisexual Center, San Francisco, Vol. 6, #5, Sept.-Oct. 1982, pp. 3-6.)

There are different kinds of bisexuality, as well: transitional, historical, sequential, and concurrent. Transitional bisexuality can be understood as a stage in coming out homosexual, and is primarily a behavioral reality, though attractions and fantasies can shift. Historical bisexuality is seen in the long sweep of a person's life, with greater or lesser mixes of heterosexual and homosexual components. Sequential bisexuality is also seen over a period of time, with relationships being first with one and then with the other gender. Concurrent bisexuality is the maintenance of relationships with persons of both genders at the same time (*Barry and Alice*, Kohn and Matusow, pp. 126-7).

In my experience as a counselor, bisexual persons often feel some confusion at sometimes being attracted to one and then the other gender. The either-or myth contributes greatly to this confusion. Sometimes the confusion is simply the changeability of their attractions from day to day, or week to week.

It is the homosexual part of being bi that usually gives the most difficulty, so bisexual people usually need the support of gay/lesbian

people, and so often are reluctant to identify as bi in gay/lesbian circles. This seems to be changing somewhat, at least in some gay groups, but homophobia will continue to make it difficult to "come out" bi in the general society.

***Bisexual persons are most often concerned about relationships rather than gender.***

Bi people are often particularly sensitive to the importance of self-identification, growing out of the common experience of others denying their existence or defining sexuality for them. Bisexuals may come for counseling to be more comfortable with a wide range of sexual options. They may want to be more comfortable in fantasy or behavior or both, with men and women. They may want to be monogamous. They may want to be nonmonogamous and still have a viable primary relationship with either a woman or a man. They may want to be comfortable with multiple relationships (and practice safer sex). They may want to be more comfortable defining their own sexual options, apart from partner, peer, or society pressure. They may want to be comfortable not being sexually active with both sexes, and have feelings and fantasies about both.

Bisexual persons are most often concerned about relationships rather than gender, with the capacity to express relationships genitally if it is fitting, desired, and mutual. Bi persons are also often concerned about managing these relationships not only in caring ways for their partners, but also in ways that honor their own self-understanding.

Bisexuality is a complex reality, perhaps as complex as sexual orientation itself. In my opinion, the experience of bisexual persons helps illumine the wide range of the gift of sexuality, and will continue to challenge our understandings and assumptions about sexuality.

--J. Benjamin Roe, D.Min.

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## Bisexual Happiness: A Personal Story

For thirteen years, from 1956 until my husband's death in 1969, I was married to a bisexual. Jack could, obviously, function in a relationship with a woman, but that took time and care and enormous trust; the involuntary sexual response -- the dry mouth, the short breath, the stirring of the gonads -- these were invariably caused by men. He told me before we married, and telling me was very hard for him. It made no difference to me; I loved what he was, and marriage seemed to me to be about a lot of things, but physical fidelity wasn't one of them. But having made a decision to marry, we also had to arrive at a way of accommodating Jack's homosexuality.

Jack's personal sexual tastes made it easier. He didn't like casual sex; his partners were almost invariably long-term friends as well as lovers. Some of our happiest times were occasions when his lovers came to stay with us, or we visited them and spent our time turning a triangle into a circle; I learned to love a lot of his friends. Some of them were married, too, but none had told their wives about themselves. That was something I really didn't understand -- how a marriage could exist with so large a part of one partner's experience unknown to the other. I myself, incidentally, remained faithful to Jack. That may not seem fair, but I knew that my taking a lover would hurt Jack deeply; his having lovers didn't hurt me.

---

*Jack's guilt and fear made it impossible for him to face the prospect of coming out, so we lied a lot.*

---

It wasn't all easy. One problem was Jack's ambivalence about his own sexuality. Homosexuals of his generation lived with a tremendous burden of guilt, and in some ways he wanted a kind of absolution from me that I couldn't give; I didn't think he had any reason to feel guilty. And somewhere deep in his psyche Jack had the notion that my lack of jealousy meant that I

really didn't love him. Part of him rejoiced in his freedom to be what he was; part of him felt there was something deeply wrong with me that I could accept him. That problem was made worse by our isolation from straight friends. Jack's guilt and fear made it impossible for him to face the prospect of coming out, so we lied a lot. Part of the sense of relief and ease we felt when his lovers came to stay was the simple pleasure of being able to talk freely, without constantly guarding our tongues.

The end of the story isn't happy; Jack eventually found it impossible to deal with the burden of guilt and the recurring bouts of depression that had hit him every three years or so since he was twelve. He took a massive dose of barbiturate. But in spite of this I still feel that happy and life-sustaining bisexual partnerships are possible. They need honesty, patience, and a sense of community support -- but any marriage needs those. We had the honesty, and the patience; we did not have community support. That's why I'm writing this for the gay/lesbian community. If there are other couples out there like Jack and me, I wish you well.

--Mary

---

## A Lifestyle Is More Than Sex

Does devoting an issue of the magazine to bisexuality mean that it exists in body, in spirit, or both? I've been told by both heterosexuals and homosexuals that there is no such thing as a bisexual; I've been told you're one or the other and saying otherwise is only avoiding an issue.

If I knew the answer to my opening question, the following would take on quite a different dimension. I'm male, mid-fifties, and in a comfortable financial position. I'm married and happy about it and in having a pleasurable sex life. I joyously fathered two children. Here's the kicker: I also enjoy sex with male friends. Granted, in my position, this is not often but nonetheless it's enjoyable. Am I heterosexual with

an occasional fling, am I homosexual using my wife to keep the closet door closed, or . . . ?

---

*For me, sexual arousal can be tender or rough, timely or untimely, and can occur without respect to gender.*

---

At one time I was told you are what you fantasize. No help there. For me, sexual arousal can be tender or rough, timely or untimely, and can occur without respect to gender. What I wish for in a friend is the same I wish for in a sex partner: kindness, friendliness, someone who delights in touch and feel, who likes to listen and talk, someone who understands my ups and downs, a hand to hold, a closeness not dependent on space, and someone who knows how to let out and pull back when the time comes. Does this sound like someone you know or would like to know? Does this someone sound female or male? With me it really does not matter if it's a female person or a male person, just as long as it's a comfortable person: a real person, not a phony one.

Since I have lived for some years I've had a great deal of time to question myself on my sexuality. My answers tend to confuse me; so no doubt, they would do the same to others. Do I like pornography? Sometimes. Do I want it to be female or male? Depends. Would I like a night on the town with my wife or a male friend? Yes. Does a breast bursting its blouse demand an admiring glance? Yes. And so on and so on.

Am I heterosexual or homosexual or what? Maybe I'm a human being who loves the feel of sex, who likes good looking people, who likes people who are comfortable with themselves and who make me feel comfortable. I have some lovely male friends and some lovely female friends; sex is not the all-consuming, all-encompassing issue. Sex is one of many attributes. I'll accept it and I'll offer it, but so will I offer and accept friendship, love, understanding, dislikes, phobias, and quirks, all of which makes up me and you. Can it be wrong to enjoy, to accept *all* aspects of another person?

--R.



## "My Two Loves": A Review

I want you to tap your memory circuits and return back to the time of your first love for a woman. The cherished memories of the excitement you felt in her presence, the shit-eating grin you got on your face every time you thought about the previous night of love-making when time stood still for an eternity.

Now that you are remembering the experiences, start feeling the emotions of fear that "lesbian" was permanently written on your forehead, or the confusion and guilt that those feelings were socially unacceptable to friends and family. Feel yourself running away, but at the same time wanting to stay and learn more about this dark place in your heart.

All this happened in the movie *My Two Loves*, starring Mariette Hartley, Lynn Redgrave, and Barry Newman. This movie is about one heterosexual woman loving a man

-- as she has all her life -- then finding out she can love a woman more passionately than she ever loved any man.

I appreciated them portraying a lesbian as a beautiful professional woman instead of a strong male likeness, as in most movies. *My Two Loves* portrayed real life situations, such as the mother catching the two women kissing, or the feeling of going crazy because of the emotions and seeking out professional help to continue with the process of coming out.

At the conclusion, Mariette Hartley chose to let go of both relationships. This left the viewer with a choice as to what conclusion would be best. This lack of moral judgement on sexuality is refreshing.

I think this movie helped the general population realize that you can experience your sexuality in a completely different way anytime in life. I would strongly suggest to anyone to watch this movie. Many people taped it from television last year, so ask around.

--Jill HB

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# Features

## PFLAG Booknotes

Rofes, Eric. *Socrates, Plato, & Guys Like Me: Confessions of a Gay Schoolteacher*. Boston: Alyson Publications, Inc., 1985. \$6.85, pb.

Eric Rofes is not a new face on the scene, but this book was new to me. In 1981 Rofes edited a collection of childrens' stories about themselves, *The Kids' Book of Divorce*. As a result of that effort, he and some of his students were interviewed by Phil Donahue, and the work received wide recognition. He certainly established his credibility as a caring and knowledgeable teacher.

Now, in *Socrates, Plato, & Guys Like Me*, we can read the autobiographical account of his first years in teaching, as well as the evolution of his need to allow his identity as a gay man to be recognized. Fresh out of Harvard, Eric was hired to teach at one of the private country day schools that abound in New England. He was already somewhat of a gay activist, as much as one can be from within a professional closet. He felt constrained to hide this aspect of his life from his employers. Homophobia in our society sometimes casts its shadow over the very people who are its objects, and Eric bought the untested notion that a gay school teacher would not be acceptable to the parents and school board.

Although this was his first experience in the classroom he soon displayed himself to be a gifted teacher, sensitive to the needs of his students, well-prepared in his subject matter, and like and respected by parents and fellow teachers. A happy compromise: teaching in his public life and privately a gay speaker, writer, budding political activist? The best of both worlds? Using a pseudonym as a gay man, constantly on guard that he would say or do something, or be seen some place, that would reveal his secret, Eric's personal growth did not allow him to be comfortable in this particular state of compromise.

True, compromise is often the oil that keeps the surface of life pleasant, but it is not the stuff of principle, or of self-acceptance.

Rofes reveals in this book how it became necessary for him to become fully open as a gay man. He allows the reader to become part of his process of "coming out" in a way that I think anyone can relate to. For me this book is one that I can recommend to anyone who needs to ask the question: "But why do 'they' have to tell everyone?" And if you don't need to ask that particular question you will still be appreciative of this highly readable account of a portion of his life. It's a quick read, and a valuable resource. We need role models, and Eric Rofes certainly qualifies.

--Jean Durgin-Clinchard  
President, Parents & Friends of  
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## Sisterfire Celebrates 5th Anniversary

*Sisterfire*, "the nation's pre-eminent women's music festival," (*Washington Post*) takes place June 27-28th with Pulitzer Prize winner *Alice Walker*, author of *The Color Purple*; legendary folk singer *Odetta*, celebrating 35 years of performing and a new album; nationally known singer, songwriter and activist *Holly Near*; and *Sweet Honey in the Rock*, the celebrated a capella quintet. They share the bill with reggae sensation *Casselberry-Dupree*; *Danitra Vance* of Saturday Night Live fame; Nicaragua's *Norma Helena Gadea*; and the *Asian-American Dance Theatre* and native poet *Joy Harjo*. Local D.C. favorites include the rockapella trio *Betty*, progressive jazz ensemble of *Kim Jordan and Top Flight*, and the *Toshi Reagon Band* -- a high energy combo of topical lyrics and pulsating rock 'n roll.

Sisterfire's fifth anniversary will be held at the Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD. This open-air festival also features *Kyoko Okamoto*, the classical Japanese koto player who opens Washington DC's Cherry Blossom Festival; the *Women's Chamber Music Society*; old-time banjo picker *Ola Belle Reed*; and many more.


One of the most exciting additions to this year's festival is the stage for deaf artists, programmed by deaf and hearing women and featuring, among others, the Detroit-based *Unity of Hands Deaf Chorale*.

Sisterfire '87 offers more theatre, humor, poetry, and dance than ever before, as well as storytellers, martial artists and fire-eaters. The festival also features:

- a Marketplace of over 100 craftswomen and food vendors,
- childcare and programming for children,
- sign language interpreting for all performances,
- wheel chair accessibility,
- camping and RV sites, and
- free shuttles from the Addison Road Metro to the Equestrian Center.

Everyone is invited to join in this vibrant and colorful celebration of women's culture.

Sisterfire is sponsored by Roadwork, Inc., a D.C.-based cultural production and resource organization supporting women artists.



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JULY — DIFFERENTLY ABLED GAYS  
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AUGUST — GOLDEN GAYS AND LESBIANS



# Poetry

## Cold Turkey Blues

After so many nights spent laying with you  
After so many days spent playing with you  
It's hard to adjust to this time all alone  
While you are away, and I am at home.

I stare at the walls in this house where I live  
And know that much comfort, they cannot give.  
I glance at the bed, unruffled and warm  
and wish you were lying there in my arms.  
But, Summer will come and Summer will go  
and time will tell us, what we need to know.

But, today I'm so lonely, with time on my hands  
And I miss you much more than I ever planned  
There was no easy way to prepare for this slow  
But, Cold Turkey's so hard when I love you so!

I'm waiting for lightning to strike from the sky  
to relieve the confusion of my troubled mind.  
I'm waiting for answers, for the right path to choose,  
And I'm anxious to cast off these Cold Turkey Blues!

For it's easy to give up the nicotine now,  
And alcohol does me no good, anyhow!  
And Food I can take or leave either way  
'Cause when you're eating alone, the tast ain't the same.  
I can't kick the habit of missing you, though -  
I'm addicted to love, and I need yours so!

--Kay



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# Sports

## Leagues Bowl Tenth Frame

The New Voice Bowling League completed its bowling on April 8 at the Ames Bowling Center in Omaha. We would like to express our gratitude to *The New Voice of Nebraska* for lending us its name for our league.

The final team standings are as follows:

1. The Chubbs (34-14)
2. D & J (30-18)
3. Piss & Moan (29-19)
4. Vanity's Other Halves (27-21)
5. Not Too Serious (27-21)
6. Out to Lunch (26-22)
7. The Farts (23.5-24.5)
8. 1+1=0 (20.5-27.5)
9. Rotten Apples (18-30)

--Howard Gunn

## ICON Summer League To Start

Summer bowling for the Imperial Court of Nebraska swings into action in May with two leagues forming.

The league starting times and places are: Sunday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the King Louie Rose Bowl; and Tuesday, May 19 at 9:00 p.m. at the Ames Bowl.

Bowlers can contact either bowling center or Dean Vanderpool at 344-3821 for more information.

--Tank Miller

## Omaha Bowlers Strike At K.C.

Easter weekend in Kansas City found over 150 bowlers from across the nation participating in the Mid America Kansas City Invitational Tournament (M.A.K.I.T. '87), aiming for \$5000 in prize money.

Twelve Omaha bowlers who entered the tournament won more awards than any other city. First place winners of the team event were A&E Video of Omaha (Vince Percy, Budda Wages, Don Flowers, Tank Miller). Tank Miller won second place in the all-events (scratch), while Jerry Wurgler picked up second place in the all-events (handicap). The Omaha bowlers did well in the doubles event, with Vince Percy and Budda Wages placing second, and Scott Rezek and Rex Wech placing third. Tank Miller bowled the tournament high game.

All the bowlers traveling to Kansas City would like to thank the Imperial Court of Nebraska and the King Louie Rose Bowl for their financial and moral support.

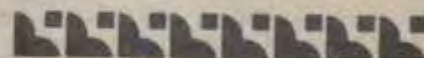
--Tank Miller

## River City League

April 13 brought the conclusion of the River City League with awards and prizes to many bowlers. Final standings were as follows:

1. O.B.G.
2. A&E Video
3. Ultimate MA
4. Maxipads
5. Run After Hours
6. J.R.'s Diamonds
7. Cruisers Crew
8. Station W.K.R.P.
9. Six Balls Plus None
10. Mona's Maulers
11. Run Blue Lights
12. Wild Ones
13. Betty's Bombers
14. Chesties II

--Tank Miller



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JUNE 20, 1987

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- **THURSDAY MAY 21 • INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES**  
MAX 9:30
- **MONDAY MAY 25 • MEMORIAL DAY PIC-NIC**  
MEET THE CANDIDATES CARTER LAKE WHSE.  
12:00-5:00
- **FRIDAY JUNE 19 • MONARCH'S OUT OF TOWN SHOW**  
AIR PORT RAMADA INN 9:00
- **SATURDAY JUNE 20 • CORONATION VII**  
CARTER LAKE WHSE.
- **SUNDAY JUNE 21**
  - **VICTORY BRUNCH AIRPORT**  
RAMADA INN 12:00
  - **SUNDAY JUNE 21**
    - **VICTORY SHOW MAX 9:30**





# Classifieds

## Living Space Offered

If you know of someone who needs a place to live, permanently or temporarily, call 474-1204. Ask for Gideon.

## Looking to Rent House

Do you have a house to rent? We are 3 women looking for a 3-bedroom to occupy on July 1. Can afford \$300 to \$350 per month. Prefer a fenced yard for we do have an 11-yr.-old dog who is very well trained. A garage would be nice too. If you have something that will be available on July 1, please call Sandy at 476-0272 or Lynn at 466-3506.

## Lambda House Needs Items

Lambda House needs: washer and dryer; garbage disposal; lamps; bedside tables; occasional chairs; lawn mower; book case; volunteers to assist house management with electrical wiring, plumbing and fixtures. Call Pat or Dave at 474-1205 in Lincoln.

## Art Display Space

Good art display space - shows welcome. Amen Art Gallery. 430 N. 27th, Lincoln, 476-8496.

## MCC In Lincoln?

Anyone interested in a Lincoln MCC? Call 474-1205 and ask for Pat.

## Need Some TLC

A lonely lesbian is looking for some TLC from another understanding and loving lesbian between 30 and 45. If interested please write and send photo if possible: Diane Brandsteeter; 5904 Henninger Dr. #106; Omaha NE 68104.

## Gay Pen Pals Wanted

Gay inmate seeks pen pals, no scams, just friends. Visits possible (if willing). Write: Offender #36705; P.O. Box 2800; Lincoln, NE 68502-0800.

## Religious Discussion Group

Anyone interested in a religious discussion group? Call 474-1205 and leave a message for Pat. Will call back!

## Art and Books: Buy, Trade

Amen Gallery - Art & Books. We need used paperback Western, mystery, science fiction. Will buy or trade. 340 N. 27th, Lincoln, 476-8496.

## Seeks Friendship

Warm, shy, sensitive, friendly 32 yr. old male seeks friendship and companionship with others. Likes movies, restaurants, theaters, and horseback riding. Write to Larry B.; P.O. Box 6714; Lincoln NE 68506.

## GWM Seeks Friendship

I'm a GWM interested in forming a close, cooperative friendship that encourages listening, supporting, sharing, being ourselves and respecting differences. I'm 39, 6', 166ish, hairy, toned and nicely defined, warm, direct, sensitive and centered with a healthy vanity and libido. Delights: Chinese food/Frank L. Wright/Gary Larson. Dislikes: lima beans/long lines/smokers. You're late 20's to mid 40's, independent, open, articulate and secure, masculine, muscular (or tightly trim). Let's work out physically and spiritually. Write today with photo and phone, please. P.O. Box 27231; Omaha NE 68127.

## Inmate Seeks Correspondence

Very lonely 20-year-old white male, 5'8", 140 lbs., light brown hair and blue eyes, in prison for at least another nine months. Would like to correspond with a sincere man. Age does not matter. Richard Deeds #14946; P.O. Box #607; Carson City NV 89701.



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*The Diamond*, 712 South 16th St., 342-9595.  
*The Max*, 1417 Jackson, 346-4110.  
*The Run*, 1715 Leavenworth, 449-8703.  
*The Stage Door*, 1512 Howard St.,

## Lincoln Bars, Clubs and Lounges

*The Board-Walk*, 20th & O, 474-9741.  
*Cherchez la femme*, 200 So. 18th (lower level), 474-9162.  
*The Club*, 116 No. 20th St., 474-5892.  
*Kelly's*, 200 So. 18th, 474-9962.





# Gay/Lesbian Resource Directory

## 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. Phone 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. Phone 733-1924.

**Nebraska AIDS Project.** Box 3512, Omaha 68103. Center for information, support, and coordination of AIDS related community efforts. Phone 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. Phone 475-7740 or 345-2181.

**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.

## Lincoln

**Gay/Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics.** Group meets Sundays. Call 488-3190 for location (late in evening).

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

**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. Phone 423-1374.

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

**Lambda Resource Center.** 2845 R St. Meeting rooms, outpatient counseling, group activities. Phone 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. Phone 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. Phone 476-9913.

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

**Open Door Ministry.** To provide orthodox spiritual counseling to all people in need at no charge. Phone 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. Phone 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. Phone 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. Phone 345-9916.

**Gay/Lesbian ALANON.** Group meets weekly, Sunday at 4 p.m. at Lowe Ave. Presbyterian Church.

**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. Phone 341-1460 or 345-9426.

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

**Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon.** Group meets Fridays at 8:15 p.m. at MCC. Phone 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. Phone 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. Phone 345-2563.

**Omaha Business and Professional Club.** Box 24973, Omaha 68124. Networking organization of business and professional persons. Meets third Wednesday of each month. Phone 345-2966.

**PACT (People of All Colors Together).** Box 3683, Omaha 68103. A gay/lesbian interracial organization that offers educational, political, and social activities. Phone 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. Phone 556-7481 (Ruth).

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

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

**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. Phone 342-4775.

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

**W/M Industries** Omaha's Only Gay owned and operated Button Manufacturers.



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DEGREE THAT CAN  
BE ATTAINED.

T H E M A X



## What's Gay/Lesbian and Read all Over?

People from all over the country are interested in reading *The New Voice of Nebraska*. When they leave our area they take the magazine with them to keep up with what is going on here, and many people in outstate Nebraska have subscriptions. We are now sending *The New Voice* to 19 states plus Canada and West Germany. Here are the cities we distribute to:

<i>Alabama</i>	Birmingham	<i>Missouri</i>	Kansas City		Superior
<i>Arizona</i>	Phoenix	<i>Montana</i>	Missoula		Wayne
<i>California</i>	Mill Valley Oakland Sacramento San Diego	<i>Nebraska</i>	Bellevue Bennett Blair Central City Fort Calhoun Grand Island Kearney Lincoln Malcolm Martell Milligan Murdock Omaha Ord Plattsmouth Stamford	<i>New York</i>	E. Northport Long Island New York City
<i>Colorado</i>	Boulder Denver			<i>Oregon</i>	Portland
<i>Iowa</i>	Ames			<i>S. Dakota</i>	Sioux Falls
<i>Idaho</i>	Boise			<i>Texas</i>	San Antonio
<i>Illinois</i>	Chicago			<i>Washington</i>	Seattle
<i>Kansas</i>	Galena			<i>Wyoming</i>	Green River
<i>Michigan</i>	East Lansing Pontiac			<i>Canada</i>	Montreal
<i>Minnesota</i>	Alexandria			<i>W. Germany</i>	Munich

**It's**

**For  
You**

## May Is Customer Appreciation Month

SUNDAYS - free popcorn & movies

MONDAYS - \$1 well drinks

TUESDAYS - 90¢ domestic beer

WEDNESDAYS - \$1.25 corona & heineken

THURSDAYS - \$2.50 long islands & 2\*4s

FRIDAYS - 50¢ schnapps

SATURDAYS - 50¢ schnapps

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