

V O L U M E II

N O . VIII

*The  
New Voice*

O F N E B R A S K A



DAVE A. HUSTAK © 1985

# The New Voice

## October 1985

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THE NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA

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68103

# Our Turn

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Comments and Opinions from The New Voice staff

COVER- Untitled Photograph by Artist and Photographer Dave A. Hustak who lives in Omaha.

I would like to congratulate The Club which recently opened in Lincoln and has added a touch of class to the gay community. The bar is located in the Board-Walk Complex at 20th and "O" and is the only quiet bar in Lincoln. Give this beautiful new bar a try.

Also congratulations is in order for The Max which recently celebrated its 1st Birthday. The Omaha Bar is already well known across the country and has been described as one of the finest bars in the midwest.

Imaginations, another Lincoln Bar recently changed ownership and will be closed for a short time for remodeling. Look for announcements in upcoming issues of the magazine.

Many of our readers have asked where and when they can find The New Voice. You can find the magazine at several gay and lesbian bars in Omaha and Lincoln. The magazine is also located at The Antiquarium Bookstore in Omaha, Womens Resource Center at the UNL Student Union and most of the larger organizations in the two cities. The New Voice is seen approximately the 10th of each month. This sometimes varies and the magazine may be out a few days earlier or a few days later.

A section of the magazine is dedicated to Gay Parents. Many gay men and lesbians have children from previous marriages and have unique problems and difficulties.

I wish to apologize to Chantelle Lace, former Miss Gay Nebraska for not mentioning the performer's outstanding contribution to the pageant. --Larry Wiseblood

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## Gay Parents

What a double-edged sword life is for a gay parent--with both joy and pain. I have a very unique lifestyle because I am a member of a minority within a minority within a minority. Depending on the definition used, I am either a male homosexual or bisexual, who is lovingly and consciously committed to a marriage with my wife (who is also my best friend). I am also the proud father of two beautiful boys, ages 7 and 1.

Because I did not want to put any possible offspring through a similarly tormented childhood and sexually confusing early adulthood that I had

## A Double Edged Way of Life

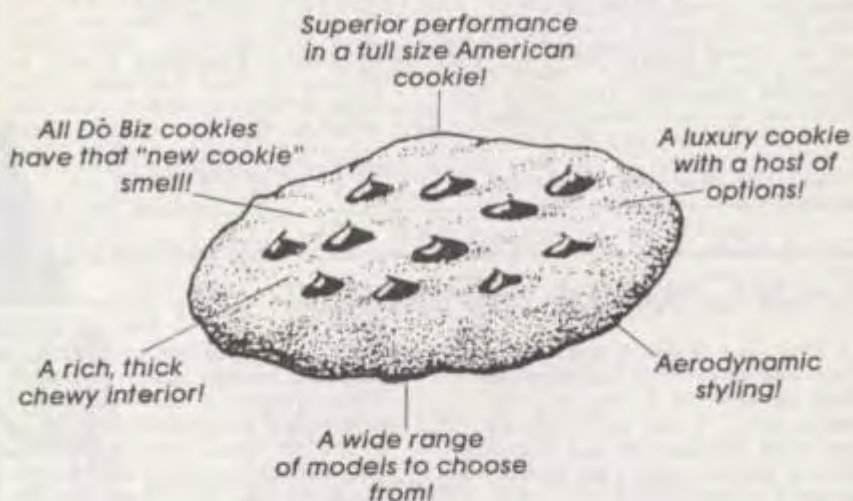
experienced, I decided that I did not want children. But, due to imperfect birth control methods I became a gay parent. Now I am determined that my sons will have the best childhood my wife and I can provide.

The joys of parenting have been for me: receiving the unconditional love a child gives his/her providers, knowing there will always be someone somewhere who is a part of myself, watching the many facets of my sons' development, and listening to the wondrous storytelling of everyday events or fantasies. In essence, to experience your own child's growth and development is like look-

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ing into a mirror that reflects an image of your own childhood.

My major fear as a gay parent is that my sexuality (which society as a whole considers unacceptable) will somehow affect their sexuality. My fear is that my otherwise straight son may possibly in rebellion think of himself as gay or being gay, think of himself as straight. There is also the fear that they will discover my dual sexuality in an inappropriate way or time.

I feel the best way to combat my fears and maximize the joys

of being a parent is to give the most honest and open, loving care to my sons that is possible. I have also resolved not to live my life in a closet anymore, but to provide my sons with as many honest answers and as much information about my sexuality, my loving marriage to their mother, and my gay lover as they are capable of handling. With this approach, I believe I will be giving my sons the best childhood possible, and I will be helping them to develop their own sexualities whether they be gay or straight.

A Married Gay Father

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## Gay Couples — Parents

"I wish you weren't gay, Dad," This was part of a discussion that my son and I had several weeks ago. I was not sure at the time whether he was wishing that I weren't gay, or that I weren't different.

I told him I understood that he probably did not want a dad who was different from other kids' dads. Part of the reason for the discussion was that he had told someone I was gay and had gotten an adverse reaction. He decided that it was not something that you tell everyone, that you keep it under your hat, so to speak.

Well, what does a gay parent do? Surely, there must be easy answers someplace. The pain my son experienced was real and difficult to watch. I was not sure at times how to help him, other than to tell him I loved him and that I understood. He is now in the closet about my being gay, except for family and some other folks.

This article is more personal than the past ones because the issue is very important to me. I have a partner also who has a child. We are both parents and stepparents. Our relationships

with the children are pretty good most of the time. It has taken years to develop them, however. Stepparenting takes a lot of work. In my work with stepparents and in the reading I have done, it is estimated that stepparenting relationships take about seven years to develop. I believe that! Trust is an important issue in any relationship, but it appears to be even more of an issue with children.

Another issue is the loyalty children have to their natural parents. I do not know how many times I have heard in my office and at home, "You are not my dad and you can't tell me what to do." That statement hits at the core of the loyalty children feel and their sense of who is in authority and who is not. Because of this loyalty, I believe that the stepparent needs to start out more as a friend than as a parent. If a friendship can develop first, the actual parenting and disciplining is easier later. Trying to tell a partner's kid what to do usually does not go over very well, especially if the child is over four or five years old.

continued ...

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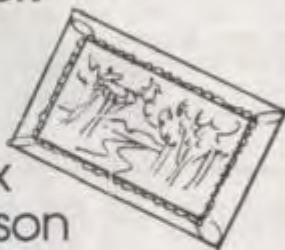


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I don't think that I can deal with all of the issues of being a gay parent and stepparent in this short article. I believe that as a gay parent, I can use all the help I can get. It has been important to me to talk to other gay parents and stepparents, and it may be that you will need to do the same. It seems to me that we have to be extremely creative in dealing with the issues surrounding ourselves and our children.

I keep hoping that my son will have an easier time as the world becomes less homophobic, but that may not come in his lifetime. Probably the most frustrating question I get from straight folks I know is, "You don't want your son to grow up to be gay, do you?" I don't know how to answer that question. I am usually at a loss for words, and I simply ignore it.

I would say that it takes a lot of courage to be a gay parent and to live your life as an open gay person, but it may be that our children are the ones with the most courage in the long run. Take care and happy parenting.

There is one international organization for gay parents--it is the Gay Fathers Coalition International. It is not just for men, however, and recently, the chapters elected their first woman to the national board. They have an international conference once a year in the summer time.

For more information, you can write to:

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--Mike Fitzpatrick

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## Parenting — An Interview

(The following interview was taken from a phone conversation with a gay male parent who is 34 years old, has custody of his 9-year-old, and lives with another gay parent. All names have been changed.)

IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, WHAT WAS YOUR SEXUAL DIRECTION UNTIL YOUR MARRIAGE?

I can look back now and see the things that were there that made me decide I was indeed gay. There was no great change, it was a matter of understanding the definition and importance. I didn't know the significance of all the little signs at the time, I assumed I was feeling what everybody else was feeling.

SO YOU DIDN'T REALIZE THAT MARRIAGE WASN'T RIGHT FOR YOU, . . . IT WASN'T A MATTER OF COVERING UP ANYTHING?

Right.

HOW LONG WERE YOU MARRIED?

About six years.

WHEN WAS YOUR GIRL BORN?  
Not quite a year after we were married. That was important, we both wanted a kid.

HOW FAR WERE YOU INTO MARRIAGE WHEN YOU REALIZED THERE MIGHT BE A PROBLEM?

It surfaced about our third year. It really happened when a lot more became available, in Los Angeles. I'm not just talking about gay life but people were more "loose" there.

UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES DID YOU SPLIT AND WHAT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU HAVE WITH YOUR WIFE NOW?

It has run the gamut. At first, it was quite amicable. We did get along and we could still talk. The problem was I was more interested in ending the relationship than she was. It has since then run all kinds of feelings. Right now, things are pretty much ambiguous. She's in California, and that

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helps. We rarely talk, just about when Mary (their daughter) goes back to visit. I don't know whether things will get hot again.

IN TERMS OF MARY AND THE DIVORCE EDUCATE ME ON HOW YOU GOT CUSTODY.

It was a fluke. At first we had joint custody. That's rather ambiguous. At that time Beth (his wife) was living in Omaha and we visited a lot. Then Beth moved, and we didn't change anything. Mary stayed with her and visits were less frequent. Then Beth visited and asked me to keep Mary so she could move to California. I had Mary about three days and Beth came back, took Mary with her, left town with her. That's when there were suits and countersuits, all the dirty stuff.

YOU SAID ALL THE DIRTY STUFF. DID HOMOSEXUALITY COME OUT? It never came out in court. I am sure the opposition lawyer mentioned it to the judge because of the speed he acted on a couple of things. That's unethical at best. But we never came to a point in the actual court proceedings it was mentioned. It did come up in a deposition taking.

GO ON.

We had one hearing. Mary had been awarded to me because Beth left the state. Then we had another hearing which was a big fiasco. We spent hours getting nothing done. The whole proceeding ground to a halt. We settled out of court. By this time Beth was going back to California. She would have custody, Mary would come back here for Christmas and summer. The pretty basic arrangement. By the time that was actually arranged, it was summertime, so Beth left Mary with me for the summer. Beth left, got remarried, got a job in California. One year ago, Mary went to California for school. She decided she didn't want to live in California with mom, she wanted to live in Nebraska with dad. Beth called up last Christmas and asked if I want to change the arrangement. The lawyers

drafted the arrangement and basically flip-flopped it. I ended up with custody. But the gay thing never really entered into it, except when Beth got really angry.

SO YOU'VE NEVER REALLY SPENT THAT MUCH ENERGY, SAY IN COURT, FIGHTING ABOUT THE GAY ISSUE?

No. In fact, it would have been a good test case because, frankly, I'm in a pretty normal type situation. John and I have been together for awhile and neither of us is weird. Besides, Beth earlier agreed summers and long weekends were okay; it would have been hard for her to change that. But just from the deposition information, they were ready to use the gay issue.

WHAT DOES MARY KNOW ABOUT YOUR SEXUALITY?

I sometimes wonder. Any questions she asks get answered. She knows things are different here. It doesn't take much for a kid to realize she's living with two men instead of a man and woman. We're very open about affection. She's accepted that. I don't know if she's aware of any more. She knows it's more than two men who are just friends.

YOU DON'T THINK SHE'S UNCOMFORTABLE?

There doesn't seem to be a problem. I guess I'll have to hedge. . . she sleeps over at the neighbor's house but there's not the reciprocation. I do wonder why the neighbor kid doesn't come over. . . not as much as Mary goes over there.

DO YOU THINK YOUR SITUATION IS SO MATTER OF FACT, EVERY DAY, THAT MARY MIGHT DISCUSS IT WITH OTHERS WITHOUT EVEN THINKING?

I think she's gotten enough negative information, especially during the trial, that she's probably hesitant about using a word like gay. I'm not sure exactly what the rest of the neighborhood thinks. They know we're here. But it's a three bedroom place and they probably think just about whatever they want to. As far as I've seen, nothing appears as

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though any of the neighbors were ostracizing her in any way.

AS MARY GETS OLDER, DO YOU THINK MORE MIGHT DEVELOP: KIDS TEASING AND SO ON?

Sure, but that can happen for every reason imaginable. I don't know exactly how to handle that. It will be honest. We'll have to talk about how one can be discreet without being two-faced.

I THINK PEOPLE LIKE MARY WILL ULTIMATELY CHANGE THE WORLD BECAUSE OF HER UNIQUE SITUATION.

She's seen a number of gay people going out together.

WHAT DOES MARY THINK OF JOHN AS?

We've never given him a title. I don't know if she thinks of John as compared to her mother's second husband. But we've never tried to put any name on that.

IN TERMS OF RAISING MARY, HAS YOUR BEING GAY CHANGED ANYTHING? FOR INSTANCE, WE TEND TO BE LESS BIGOTED ABOUT OTHER GROUPS BECAUSE OF THE WAY WE OURSELVES ARE SOMETIMES TREATED.

I'd say that's something I can appreciate. I think I can tolerate a bit better than other people.

DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE BLESS'D WITH SOMETHING MANY GAY PEOPLE WON'T EVER HAVE: A CHILD?

I'm very aware of that. I think a lot of our gay friends appreciate kids and relate, play and talk to them. But among at least some gay people there's a problem: a lot aren't comfortable with kids. It does put us in a minority. It does put some restrictions on gay parents, but it would do that to anybody. Kids are a blessing if you want them.

IS IT A PROBLEM THAT MARY IS GROWING UP WITHOUT A FEMALE ROLE MODEL?

She has an open enough relationship with her mother that a lot of these things can be taken care of there. There are other people in my family. I think it'll be something I'll have to be aware of. I hope she'll develop relationships as she needs to with female relatives, teachers and so on.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MARY SOMEDAY WERE TO TELL YOU SHE IS GAY HERSELF?

I don't know what kind of difference it would make. I suppose we'd be a little more capable of handling the problem. Along with that thought, I would hope if something were to come up in school, if one of the kids or teachers were rumored to be gay, Mary would feel informed enough to speak intelligently about it. I would hope she could shed some light for others.

ANY OTHER THOUGHTS?

Communication with other gay parents is important and probably will be more so as the kids get older. We did go to a national conference for gay fathers and it was enlightening. The organization is called Gay Fathers Coalition International. I would like to see something happen (in Omaha). It would be important for the kids, too. Gay parenting is an issue you can benefit from by discussion with other people. Just because people may not have custody or may even be denied visitation is not a reason to stay away from such a group.

(The Gay Parents' Support Group in Omaha can be contacted by phoning 553-2308)

-- Gary

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## Who's Sorry Now?

Certainly not me! My story sounds much like most you've heard before, but brings a ray of hope for those of you feeling that there are only clouds ahead.

Having been born and raised in the deep south, being gay was certainly taboo. Letting someone think you were gay was the next thing to death. So, to fulfill society's role for me in life, I met and fell

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In love with a beautiful lady, with the certain knowledge in the depths of my soul that my sexual preferences were being denied. During that outward display of manhood, two sons were born, both of whom I love very much.

After six or so years of pleasing society, reality began to knock at my door. I knew that I had to give this charade up if I were ever going to be myself and totally happy. This knocking became a pounding after almost eight years. But, there was a price to pay: two very wonderful sons. It was with great reservation because of my sons that I finally ended the marriage and began facing my being gay. Facing it was much less of a task than I had anticipated. Losing my sons had to be the worst heartache that I had ever experienced. It took over six months before the crying in my sleep ceased. I finally began accepting their absence but never lost my love for them.

Some problems have occurred with their mother over the last seven years but I vowed to stay on good terms with her in order to always see the boys. I have seen them every summer. They visit for at least a month each year and occasionally I

have them at Christmas. You see, they live almost seven hundred miles away.

Out of that seven years has come a little sadness but also a little hope. My oldest son and his stepfather had severe problems dealing with each other. He's almost fourteen and through a common agreement between him, his mother and me I now have legal custody of him for at least one year. It was to be his decision at the end of the year whether he would remain with me or return to live with his mom. I have since learned that both sons were being physically abused and am now seeking full custody of both my sons.

I have complete faith that with the help of God, my sons will be with me permanently. I am sorry that my sons have had to experience the pain of abuse, but maybe I'll have the opportunity to ease a little of that pain with their father's love. I know the next few months will be an uphill battle in the courts but I know that with God on my side and the continuing support of my wonderful partner of almost seven years I will win.

-- Joe

## EVENTS & ORGANIZATIONS

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### Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie will perform at UNL

Women's music duo Teresa Trull and Barbara Higbie will present their first Nebraska concert on October 18th at 8:00p.m. at the UNL Student Union, located at 14th and R.

Since their unlikely meeting on stage at a rodeo in Reno, Teresa and Barbara have fused their diverse talents to create a style of performing and playing that reaches the outer limits of fun. Their live shows are always sparked by an abundance of musical energy.

Trull's powerful vocal fireworks coupled with Higbie's instrumental prowess and heartfelt singing make their duo a perfect balance. With versatile styles including R&B, country and jazz combined with their contagious, offbeat sense of humor, they radiate a very expressive and exciting type of energy. Since the release of their critically acclaimed album UNEXPECTED on the Second Wave Label, Teresa and Barbara have toured both nationally and internationally performing for a growing audience of all kinds of music lovers.

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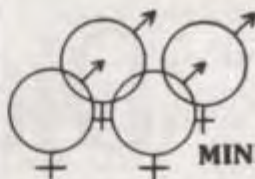
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# Coalition Hosts Legal Expert

Rhonda R. Rivera, an attorney specializing in sexual orientation law, will be the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights on Sunday, October 20. She will also present two workshops in the afternoon, one on child custody issues and one on Legal Life Decisions (how to write wills, real estate contracts, etc.)

Rivera will also speak in Omaha on Saturday, October 19 at 1:00 in the Dodge Room, 3rd Floor, Milo Ball Student Center, UNO,

60th and Dodge. Also several UN-L organizations will co-sponsor her appearance in Lincoln on Monday, October 21.

The Coalition is working with Rivera and the NCLU to arrange a workshop for attorneys on representing gay and lesbian clients, to be held Monday, October 21.

Rivera is associate dean of the Ohio State University College of Law and one of the leading American authorities on lesbian/gay legal issues.

Sandy

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## Documentary Film to be Shown in Lincoln

The award-winning documentary film, Before Stonewall--The Making of a Lesbian and Gay Community, will be shown at the Coalition's annual meeting in Lincoln on October 20. The following is an excerpt from a review by George De Stefano (The Nation, July 6, 1985):

"Inspired by John D'Emilio's important book, Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities, Before Stonewall hews to the historical materialism and time frame of its model, sometimes expanding and in a few cases attenuating the source material. The filmmakers have constructed their account of a community's evolution from archival footage, Hollywood film clips, home mov-

ies and interviews with the men and women who lived gay life in the decades before Stonewall. Enlightening and entertaining, full of iconoclastic humor and a feisty, committed spirit, Before Stonewall embodies that elusive something known as gay sensibility. Before Stonewall makes a convincing case that the gay and lesbian community will survive, even flourish, because it is deeply embedded in the fabric of American life, born of profound social change and of a heroic, tenacious freedom struggle."

The San Francisco Examiner calls the film: "A ROOTS for gays."

The film will start at 8:00 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

Sandy

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## Nebraska Aids Project Announces Plans

The Nebraska AIDS Project (formerly, the Omaha AIDS Project) will be opening a telephone line for information about AIDS and referrals for persons with AIDS or associated illnesses.

The phone line will be operated by volunteers from the community who will be trained by area psychotherapists. Volunteers will be required to attend training

sessions stretching over the weekends of Nov. 16 & Nov 17 and Nov. 23 & 24. Subjects to be covered in the training include interpersonal relationships, peer counseling skills, AIDS medical information and community resources (e.g., housing, general assistance, and medical resources).

The projected target date for beginning of operation of the

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phone line will be December 1. Phone volunteers will be asked to make a 6-month commitment to answering the phone in their home via a call-forwarding system, one evening every two weeks during the 6 months. Volunteers will have continuing access to AIDS Project organizers for new information and support.

Presently, 17 people are signed up to work on the phone line, and projected needs are for a total of 35-40 people. People interested in helping staff the telephone line should call or write (see phone number and address below), and plan to attend the training on Nov. 16, 17, 23, & 24. Training sessions are free and will include meals and training manuals. Volunteers are also needed for an AIDS "buddy system." Buddys will assist persons with AIDS or AIDS-related diseases in everyday activities, such as shopping, medical appointments, and just plain support. Buddys will also be asked to attend the November training sessions, along with additional training in areas such as emotional support and death and dying. 10-15 people are needed in this area.

Aside from volunteer support, the Nebraska AIDS Project also needs financial help from the community. Costs are quickly accumulating for training ses-

sions and manuals, telephone and operating costs. Tax-deductible donations should be directed to the Nebraska AIDS Project at the address below.

Finally, the Nebraska AIDS Project needs feedback! If you are interested in getting involved, if you have ideas for other projects concerning AIDS, or if you have questions about what we are doing, contact us!

AIDS is here in Nebraska, and our community must organize to deal with this tragic disease. The Nebraska AIDS Project does not wish to duplicate the efforts of other groups in this area. We would like to communicate with other groups working on AIDS, divide the tasks at hand, and deal with AIDS in the most efficient way possible so that resources available can be used to the best advantage. Please contact us to get involved, give feedback, or share information. The next meeting of the steering committee is on Oct. 13.

Write or send tax-deductible contributions to:

Nebraska AIDS Project  
P. O. Box 3512  
Omaha, NE 68103  
Phone: 342-4233 or  
341-9448

---Marty Hopkinson

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## Safe Sex Seminar to be held at the Max

Sunday, October 20, 1985 at 1:00 p.m. at the Max in Omaha there will be a safe sex seminar sponsored by the Imperial Court of Nebraska in conjunction with the University of Nebraska Viral Clinic. This seminar will relate safe sex practices which have been encouraged particularly in light of the spread of AIDS. Contrary to some radical alarmists, it is believed that gay sex can still be experienced. The gay community has fought

long and hard for the right to engage in same gender sex between consenting adults. As adults it is time to determine that what we are consenting to does not present a life threatening situation to either party.

Available for your dialogue will be professional people that work hard to keep updated on the medical and psychological aspects of the treatment of AIDS patients. Also avail-

continued ...

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able will be people from the gay community who are well read on what is being done by various gay communities across the country. Kevin G. and Don Flowers recently returned from Washington, DC and New York City where they met with a wealth of informed people. Nebraska is a conservative rural area which makes our approach to the gay/non-gay communities unique. You can learn what is meant by safe sex in the confinement of your

sexual experiences. As we face added prejudice from the non-gay community we need to work together to educate them to the fact that we are not out to destroy ourselves and them with AIDS.

Come out to the seminar--bring your friends--bring your questions--watch a demonstration of how to put on a rubber--expect to learn something new and exciting.

Jerry Peck

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## Chorus Year in full Swing

It's Year Number Two for the River City Mixed Chorus! After auditions in early September, the Chorus is currently up to 30 singers, one accompanist, and Music Director John Zeigler.

Over Labor Day Weekend, two members of the Chorus joined forty other choruses in Washington, D.C., for the GALA Choruses national conference. There was a lot of give-and-take, with the Omaha representatives picking up a lot of good information, and handing out some, too!

Back in Omaha, the Chorus had a booth at the Imperial Court of Nebraska picnic, and performed at the Meatpackers show at the Max.

September brought the first "public" Chorus performances!

On September 21, the Chorus proudly sang at the new exhibit at Western Heritage Museum. The two performances that day were very well-received by the audience.

Although auditions for this Concert period have ended, the Chorus is always looking for people to share their talents in areas other than singing. Just a few of the areas needing capable people include fund-raising, show producing, and promotion . . . plus, of course, a few hands at each performance to help set up, take tickets, etc.

Now's the time to get involved with one of our community's fastest-growing organizations, the River City Mixed Chorus! For more information, just call 455-2334, or write Box 315, Omaha, 68101.

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## G.L.S.A. Elects Officers

On Thursday, Sept. 12, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association held election of officers. Appointed were: President, Rodney A. Bell II; Vice President, Maria Carpenter; Secretary, Emily Shultz; Treasurer, Paul Good; Education Coordinator, Jim Ehrlich; Public Relations Director, William M. Richman II; Internal Affairs Director, Kevin Kissinger.

Events for October include: Oct. 10, PFLAG - Parents and Friends Reactions to Gayness; Oct. 17, Movie - "The Word is Out." Several lesbians and gays tell about their experiences in the world; Oct. 24, Assertiveness for Sexual Minorities: Learn to stick up for yourself responsibly; Oct. 31, Halloween Come to the Gay & Lesbian Costume Ball, 8-11 p.m. in the UNL City Union Ballroom. Come in your favorite costume! There

Continued . . .

## NEW COPY MACHINES



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## LESBIAN/GAY RESOURCES

### NEBRASKA STATEWIDE

**AFFIRMATION OF NEBRASKA.** Box 80122, Lincoln, 68501. United Methodists for gay/lesbian concerns. Meets alternately in Omaha & Lincoln second Fri. of month. 476-9913 or 476-1205.

**IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA.** Social organization for advancement of gay society. Omaha meeting 1st Mon. of every month, except holidays. 342-5710.

**NEBRASKA A.I.D.S. PROJECT.** P.O. Box 3512, Omaha, 68103. Center for information, support, & coordinator of A.I.D.S.-related community efforts. 345-5637 or 341-9446.

**THE NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA.** Box 60619, Lincoln, 68501. Staff meets first Wed. of month alternately in Lincoln & Omaha. 475-7740 or 345-2161.

**VIRAL SYNDROME CLINIC.** Jerry Gopwold, ASCW, 559-4420. Jan Hopp, RN, 559-7331. Dr. Jonathan Goldsmith, Physician.

### CRETE

**DOANE COLLEGE GAY/LESBIAN STUDENT ASSOC.** Meets weekly. Contact Dr. Marcia Freer, Doane College, 626-2946, ext. 259, or write Doane GLSA, P.O. Box 5512, Station C, Lincoln, 68505.

### LINCOLN

#### GAY/LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

**COMMUNITY OF GRACE.** Box 8661, Lincoln, 68506. Interdenominational worshipping community of lesbians/gays, & those associated. Meets Sun 7 pm.

**GAY/LESBIAN INFORMATION & SUPPORT LINE.** Meets third Wed. of month. 475-4697.

**LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP.** Informal discussion group for lesbians, all women welcome. Meets weekly. Contact Women's Resource Center, Room 117, Nebraska Union, Lincoln, 68508. 472-2597.

**LINCOLN COALITION FOR GAY & LESBIAN CIVIL RIGHTS.** Box 94862, Lincoln, 68509. Advocacy group which lobbies for lesbian/gay civil rights, provides educational presentations, publishes a newsletter & sponsors cultural & political programs.

**LINCOLN LEAGION OF LESBIANS.** Box 30137, Lincoln, 68503. Lesbian-feminist collective providing newsletter, confidential referral, & support groups for lesbians. Sponsors cultural & social programs.

**MINISTRY IN HUMAN SEXUALITY, INC.** Box 80122, Lincoln, 68501. Non-profit agency providing counseling, education, & supportive action for those seeking growth & understanding in the areas of sexuality & relationships. Benjamin Roe, Executive Director. 476-9913.

**OPEN DOOR MINISTRY.** minister in a supportive way to the gay community. 474-3390.

### PARENTS/FRIENDS OF LESBIANS & GAYS --

**CONFRISKUM.** Box 4374, Lincoln, 68504. Support group for parents, friends, & relatives of lesbians/gays. Meets 4th Tue. eve of month. 466-1151.

**S.D.A. (Seventh-Day Adventists)** Contact Tamey at 476-0229 or Howard at 464-0902.

**SUPPORT GROUP FOR GAY/LESBIAN STUDENTS AT NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIV.** Contact Dr. Mary Smith, NWU, 50th & St. Paul, Lincoln, 68504. 466-2371.

**THIRDCULTURE.** Non-residential subculture dealing with issues such as coming out, social behavior, the gay lifestyle, suicide, & drug/alcohol abuse. Contact Pei at 474-2213.

**UNL GAY/LESBIAN STUDENT ASSOC.** Room 222, Nebraska Union, Lincoln, 68506. Political, social, & educational organization for students & interested others. Meets Thu. 8 pm. 472-5644.

### OMAHA

#### GAY/LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Phone 345-9916 for times/locations.  
**SCATTERED/ABUSED GAYS/LESBIANS (SAGL).** P.O. Box 5141, Omaha, 68105. Provides support through mutual self-help to gays/lesbians involved in abusive situations with ones they love. 345-5797.

**DIGNITY OF OMAHA.** Providing common experience through Mass & meetings for lesbians/gays & their friends. Regular Mass 2nd Sun. of month, St. John's Celebration Room (basement), 25th & California. Discussion 4th Sun. of month. All faiths. 341-1460 or 553-2308.

**GAY PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP.** Support group for gay parents who have children. Phone 553-2308 for times/locations.

**IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA BOWLING LEAGUE.** Over 50 people bowling weekly on 14 teams. Sun. 4 pm at King Louis Rose Bowl. Phone 451-1662 if interested in next league forming.

**LUTHERANS CONCERNED OF OMAHA.** Society of gay/lesbian Christians & friends together to foster within church a climate of understanding, justice, & reconciliation among all women & men. 562-1209.

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA.** 420 S. 24th St. Chartered church with Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Sun. worship 10:30 am & 7 pm. Wed. eve. Praise/Prayer/Healing 7 pm. 345-2563.

**PARENTS/FRIENDS OF LESBIANS & GAYS (P-FLAG).** Box 3173, Omaha, 68103. Support group for parents, friends, & relatives of lesbians/gays. 345-2563.

**RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS.** Box 315, Omaha, 68101. Volunteer community chorus for gays/lesbians & gay/lesbian-sensitive men & women, with goal of musical excellence in performance. Rehearsals Mon. eve. 455-2334 or 345-5797.

**SEXUAL MINORITIES IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS.** Gay/lesbian/bisexual health professionals or students in health professions. 345-5637 or 341-9446.

**T.W.O. MOTORCYCLE CLUB.** 712 S. 16th St. Omaha, 68102. Meets second Sun. of month. 342-9995.

**VOLLEYBALL TEAM.** 2599 Ellison Ave., Omaha, 68111. 451-6464.

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is no charge, but all donations to GLSA are appreciated.

**New Additions:** The GLSA has now established a coming-out support group which meets from 7-10 p.m. on Saturdays at an off-campus location. For infor-

mation, call 472-5644.

For further information on GLSA or any of its programs, individuals may contact the UNL-GLSA office at 472-5644.

--William M. Richman II

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## The Max Celebrates 1st Birthday

On Friday, September 20 The Max marked the end of one successful year of service to the gay/lesbian community. The "happy hour" escorted in three hunky men that danced atop the bar. Fortunately they were allowed to remove their clothes so they wouldn't get overheated.

A buffet was catered by Lafayette and Jim Wilson. Some of the items on the menu were: caviar, stuffed crab meat puffs, liver pate, fruit ambrosia salad, Greek spinach pie, baklava, try-pita, fresh shrimp cocktail, marinated vegies, ham, roast beef and turkey, cheeses and breads. Superb!

The disco area was hung with streamers and a multitude of balloons which met with their demise throughout the evening. A late night treat was a performance by Lafayette and Muffy. Among the respected guests were Cindy from the Diamond and Alma from the Chesterfield. Regretfully, Bruce was taken by the flu and unable to attend. The Patio was officially open, but not used much due to the weather.

We wish Bruce and Don many more successful years at the Max.

Jerry Peck

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## NEWS & FEATURES

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### Protection of Gays Debated by ASUN

Last spring the student senate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln passed a resolution which would have banned discrimination on several grounds by ASUN. This action was vetoed by Student Body President Gerard Keating because it included sexual orientation as a protected class, and also because of some overbroad language in the statute itself.

A few weeks ago the student Senate again took up the issue. After the vote was over, sexual orientation was still not included in the list of protected classes, though other minorities are now protected from discrim-

ination by ASUN. The measure had again been approved narrowly by the Students but was vetoed by Student Body President Gerard Keating. Following the vote I spoke with one of the senators, Jerry Roemer, who had been the origination sponsor of the bid to include sexual orientation and its primary supporter on the senate floor.

Roemer, a junior from Hooper, Nebraska, and an agriculture major who hopes to go into agricultural law, told me that he was exposed to minorities when he worked at Camp Easter Seal, a camp for handicapped children. He

continued ...



said that that experience taught him that people who are "different" are still people. He also said that many of his fellow senators initially expressed apprehension about including blacks, to a large degree because many of them have had no experience with blacks. He believes that sexual orientation didn't pass for the same reason--senators who have had no personal contact with gay people have nothing to go on except stereotypes.

Roemer also said that there was a difficulty convincing some people that discrimination does in fact exist on UNL Campus. Prior to the passage of the bill last spring there was no provision against any sort of discrimination, and consequently nobody had any way of documenting whether minorities were being discriminated against or not.

There were no black senators at this time, and no openly gay senators, though approximately one-third of the senate is female. Jerry Roemer said that sexual orientation was deleted for emotional reasons: "There was an emotional bandwagon, particularly about what the folks back home would think." During the senate debate one female senator said that she had polled her classmates and only found one who opposed the addition of sexual orientation. Roemer, who chaired the committee that drafted the bill, said that

he was "shocked" to learn that there was no bill already in place to protect minorities. He also said that he was surprised at the number of senators who originally voted to include sexual orientation last spring but who changed their votes when it came to an override of the Keating veto.

Jerry Roemer said that there were few senators on either side who were really comfortable dealing with this issue. He again pointed out that few senators have had opportunity to deal with gay people as people and suggested that it was good that the bill was discussed because if nothing else it made people aware that this is an issue.

During the discussion one opponent of the measure, Jim Rogers, told the senate that being gay was like having a taste for okra--it is an acquired taste and people who wish to discriminate based on a liking for okra have the right to do so. Roemer found that argument "strange."

There has been discussion on possibly putting the issue on the ballot for the student body as a whole to decide under the co-sponsorship of the Gay/Lesbian Student Group, the Womens' Resource Center and Young Democrats. At press time it was not known if that route would be taken or not.

--Mel Dahl

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## Out & About in Omaha

Thank God Labor Day only comes once a year. There were so many things planned for that weekend that only the very young and healthy could get to all the events. I'm not as young as I would like, but I tried. I

missed the "Miss Rural Gay Nebraska" contest at the Alley but did go to the Cabaret dinner show which was great. I allowed myself to be auctioned off for an evening at the Max. My date has a "rain check" and

Continued ....





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I hope he knows it doesn't have to rain for him to collect. I heard an outstanding sermon by Pastor Jan at MCC and saw a very unusual shaped cake brought in for the ice cream and bake sale. And of course I joined in the burn-o-thon at the Warehouse.

During this fund raising weekend I was impressed by the efforts put forth. The Imperial Court committee did a superb job of co-ordinating events. The Diamond hosted male dancers, Stars restaurant hosted events and the Max was the site of many activities. Some skeptics say that the bar owners only do this so they can sell drinks-- Bull! One example was seen as Velvet went on the auction block for the rest of the evening. Don bought Velvet for \$100 and put him back behind the bar. Last year Cindy of the Diamond bought herself out of mud wrestling for \$250. The bar owners

that cooperate in the fundraisers have always given more than "a place to hold the event." Thanks to each of them.

Over \$30,000 was raised by the Imperial Court during the week. The money will go for AIDS research, patient assistance, and political lobbying efforts.

The Stage Door is remodeling again. A mural decorates their entrance, the pool tables are on the disco side and the quiet room is being closed off temporarily. The Max opened the patio and the Alley opened another door into the Gold Crown Room. The Diamond moved the pool table to the west end of the room. The only thing that seems not to change is the welcome familiar faces of friends.

Jerry Peck



## Personal Profiles — Vincent A. Percy

Many words describe Vincent A. Percy that include illusionist, entertainer, dancer, and star. Who is this charismatic figure who has personified enthusiasm, creativity, and excitement? His show name is "Velvet" and

he recently won the prestigious title of Miss Gay Nebraska.

I recently interviewed Vince at The Max where he works as a bartender and at his home where I viewed a large collection of show costumes, props, and accessories. I also previewed his attire that was being put together for the Miss Gay America pageant. I was quite impressed by his wide range of talents and personable nature.

His involvements with female illusion started when he was a male dancer for his former lover "Satin". In 1981 he put on his first female face as merely a joke, prompted by friends who wanted to try drag on people who never tried it before. His name evolved when he was introduced as "Satin's" sister at his first stage appearance. His first serious show was held at the end of 1981 and the song, "You Should Hear How She Talks About You", by Melissa Manchester was an instant hit. It wasn't long before Velvet was doing more shows and he remembers putting on benefit productions for the Metropolitan Community Church.

continued ...



His first involvement with the Imperial Court came when he was asked by Empress Toadie to be Princess Royale. In 1984 he won the title of Empress IV and was very active in fund-raising and community involvements with the Imperial Court.

Vince describes himself as an entertainer who is able to walk off the stage and put his character back in the closet. "I want to be a man. Not a man who runs around in drag", exclaimed Vince.

He sees female illusion as a true art as it takes a great deal of time and work. He sees innovation as very important to keep the audiences attention and interest. Vince stressed the importance of new songs, new ideas and new moves. He uses imagination and creativity in his stage props, outfits, and dance productions. Such innovation was seen at the Miss Gay Nebraska pageant when "Velvet" was carried on stage in a African fishing net secured by an 11 foot bamboo pole. Two men carried him to the stage.

He performed to the song, "Beast in Me", by Bonnie Pointer. He is always looking for unusual items and Vince has searched in friends houses, garage sales, and antique shops. He sometimes draws ideas down on paper and his friend Beth can design the outfit or come up with new ideas. Vince describes Beth as remarkable and says she is a perfectionist at whatever she does.

He was totally shocked and surprised when he won the crown of Miss Gay Nebraska. He was especially proud to be the first performer in Nebraska state history to win two major titles in a row.

Vince stands 6'1" tall, has brown hair and brown eyes and is 24 years old. He is very large and tall compared to other illusionists and this adds problems which he has to work around.

Vince has gone a long ways in a very short time. He sees new challenges in the future and may enter other contests such as Miss Gay Midwest.

---

## A Pastoral Chat

Does life sometimes seem to sweep you away in an endless round of activities, some of them meaningful, most of them not?

I must confess that one of the most difficult tasks I face, day in and day out, is the setting of priorities. It is true in planning both my work schedule and my own private time (if I don't do it well in my work schedule, it usually means I don't have as much private time.) I know that I am not alone in this dilemma as I see so many other chickens racing about to and fro without their heads on.

Pastors are expected to talk about stewardship and tithing. The expectation is usually in terms of money. However, I believe God also calls us to be

good stewards of our time. After all, each moment, each day, each year is as much a gift from God as is any other blessing in our lives, and when God demands that we love God with our whole heart, mind, and strength, it seems obvious that this is going to require that we make some time for God in our lives.

The amazing and wonderful effect is that when we make time with God in prayer, meditation or devotional reading (preferably at the beginning of our day), all those other activities seem to go so much smoother and be so much more positive. A closer relationship with God results, and that can only be of benefit to us as we learn more and more of God's love.

---Pastor Jan

continued...



# Classifieds

The New Voice has had problems with individuals and businesses not meeting deadlines, which causes unnecessary delays. Articles and advertising must be received by the 20th of each month.

## LINCOLN

Every night is college night at the Board-Walk and The Club. You only have to be 17 with proper ID. Soft drinks served to anyone under age. Lincoln's liberal gay bar.

Everyone welcome!

Roommate wanted: gay male student seeks performing arts student to share two bedroom apartment. Immediate occupancy \$167.50 + 1/2 utilities. Near South Neighborhood. Call 476-2278 after 2:00p.m.

The Board-Walk and The Club welcome women from Omaha, Council Bluffs, Grand Island, Kearney, and surrounding areas. In town, on business or need to get away. Stop on in.

Park once and party all night. The best mixed drinks in town. The Board-Walk and the Club.

## OMAHA

Male housemate wanted to share house in Mutual of Omaha area. Private room, full house benefits. Cable TV, laundry, etc. Call after 5:00 p.m. 343-8743

Safe Sex Seminar- Sunday, Oct. 20th at 1:00pm at The Max. Come & learn a new technique for fun sex.

The positive, sensitive, exercised basically terrific person looking for another 30-40 soulmate/softcore BB send pic and phone today. P.O. Box 31284, Omaha, NE, 68131

In Memory of Rock Hudson.

In Memory of Rock Hudson who died on October 2, 1985. It took courage to be yourself. You helped thousands of other AIDS victims with your own struggle. Your movie roles earned you the respect of millions of Americans.

## Gail's Hit List

### GAIL'S HIT LIST

\* \* \* \* October

1. DRESS YOU UP (remix)  
Madonna
- \*2. OH, SHEILA  
Ready for the World
- \*3. EATEN ALIVE  
Diana Ross
4. BIT BY BIT  
Stephanie Mills
5. PICKIN' UP PIECES  
Brenda K. Starr

6. GOODBYE BAD TIMES  
Osake/Moroder
- \*7. TAKE ON ME  
Ah Ha
- \*8. OUT OF THE GAP (special  
Thompson Twins Hits  
Remix)  
Thompson Twins
9. ONLY FOR LOVE  
Limahl
- \*10. STRONGER TOGETHER  
Shannon
- \*11. SOME PEOPLE  
Beluis Some

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