


V O L U M E II

N O . I

*The
New Voice*

O F N E B R A S K A

Our 1st Anniversary 

Learning from the Past

Looking to the Future



Capital Times

SEPTEMBER 11, 1981

Lincoln Gay News

Lincoln, Nebraska

August 1978

GAIN GAY AWARENESS IOWA NEBRASKA

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Omaha, Nebraska 68101

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The New Voice

March
1985

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Our Turn

Comments and Opinions from The New Voice staff

Why should gay men care about the Wimmin's Movement? While most wimmin support the Movement to some extent, few gay men express an interest in the social condition of wimmin, gay or straight. Actually, the Wimmin's Movement is closely aligned with Gay Liberation because both movements can threaten the ideology of male supremacy, a basic tenet of the "New Right." The New Right, as we all know, threatens the human rights of all homosexuals.

The Right ideology generates an economical, political, and sexual force seeking to oppress a majority of human beings: wimmin, non-whites, the poor, and homosexuals. If the Right succeeds in controlling these groups, the "ideal" will seem secure: nuclear families, producing a posterity of conservative voters and consumers. To ensure this social structure, wimmin must play the role of a domestic servant, an unpaid laborer, dependent on men. The Wimmin's Movement can obviously cut away at the foundation of this male-supremacist ideology.

At the same time, the Gay Liberation Movement challenges the traditional thinking about human relationships, family structure, and even male supremacy. The Gay Movement allows for love relationships and families not focused on reproduction. As a result, the Right increasingly attacks the rights of both wimmin and homosexuals, and in both cases, the attacks are sexist.

In a capitalist society such as ours, freedom of sexual orientation is not valued; the dominant value of male supremacy

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

ideology is competitiveness-- therefore, profit supersedes human concerns and sexual preferences. Although sexual orientation is a human condition and should constitute a series of related rights, these rights are abused and denied by the New Right, which very much defines human value according to conservative, heterosexual standards. These "standards" are based on ignorance and fear. The Right is paranoid that homosexuals are everywhere, promoting a deviant lifestyle, converting little children. The same people who are attacking gays also oppose abortion, social programs, nationalized child-care, and especially the Wimmin's Movement.

While almost anyone who is anti-gay is also anti-woman, quite a lot of gay-male culture itself is anti-woman as well. Gay men are not sexist by nature, of course, but their culture has come to resemble some of the sexism in society. Very few gay men consider the status and concerns of lesbians. It is, after all, a male-centered culture which values the male--whether he is occasionally dressed like a woman or not.

As such, it is clear that gay men and wimmin cannot submerge their unity in being gay. Under this definition, we are too susceptible to divisions caused by sexism, separatist interests, racism, and class contradictions. If we are to succeed in our struggle for gay-lesbian rights, we have to respect one another's concerns, recognize our common enemies, and work together to eliminate all forms of social and sexual oppression. Only then, can we hope to celebrate a united victory in Gay Liberation.

--A. Freeman-Goltiszyk

advertisers, subscribers, organizations, and contributors who have donated time and money. I would also like to thank the artists and writers who have provided excellent talents to each and every issue. Finally, I would like to thank the people of Lincoln and Omaha as well as those in outstate Nebraska who have attended our fund-raisers and have given our volunteer staff the thoughtful praise they deserve.

--Larry Wiseblood.

Our 1st Anniversary

In a nation that has celebrated a Bi-centennial, in a state that has celebrated a centennial, and in an area where businesses have celebrated their Diamond Jubilees--what significance is there to having your first anniversary?

The New Voice of Nebraska has not only survived for one year, but the magazine has won a court case, endured several personnel changes, and grown in the process. In a country where free enterprise allows easy success, even this is not significant for a celebration--so why all the hullabaloo?

Our magazine is not called The "New" Voice by accident. We offer an opportunity for the gay people of Nebraska to speak out. Homosexuals have been confined by society to a closet and are seldom heard. Perhaps the greatest advantage of our having such a publication is that we learn that we are not

alone in our feelings of oppression.

One of my aspirations as a worker for The New Voice of Nebraska is to facilitate action against oppression of gays. We have knowledge, and that knowledge can unite us, and united we too can overcome.

I am proud to be a part of The New Voice of Nebraska staff. Our cause is important to me, and I am committed to that cause. I have seen great energies exerted in verbal speculations of actions to be taken and I have seen people give up before the conversation ended. Others initiate action and never follow through. In view of the many fizzled enterprises, I look forward with anticipation to beginning a second year of publication, and I invite your participation in our action.

--Jerry P.

Tell our advertisers that you saw their ad in THE NEW VOICE and thank them for their support.

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Many Publications Have Come and Gone

Lincoln and Omaha have seen several publications come and go since the early 1970s. The early newsletters from the Lincoln Gay Action Group were the first to appear and had many varied titles, including The Newsletter, New Newsletter, Forum, Gay News, UN-GAG LIN-GAG News, The Gay Answer, and The Liberator. The Gayly Nebraskan was the first stable and long-lasting publication and appeared bi-weekly. The Gayly Nebraskan, besides providing information about the Lincoln Gay Action Group and University Gay Action Group, also had gossip and local and national news. The early publications were usually mimeographed. This lent to their seeming to be poor quality publications that sometimes looked as though they had been put together hastily.

The next major gay publication to come on the scene was GAIN (Gay Awareness in Iowa and Nebraska), which started its first issue in June 1977 and continued until late 1979. GAIN was a political and social group located in Omaha that had an emphasis on Gay Rights, locally and nationally. GAIN, a monthly newsletter, was the first publication in Nebraska to accept advertising and print photographs.

The Lincoln Gay News started as a monthly publication of the Lincoln Gay Action Group, but later became

independent after the Lincoln Gay Action Group folded. The publication started in the spring of 1978 and lasted until the summer of 1979. A special issue appeared in July 1981. The Lincoln Gay News emphasized news and events. Photographs and colored paper gave the Lincoln Gay News a distinct flavor. The monthly publication also was the first to use a smaller size--7" x 8 1/2". The Lincoln Gay News will always be remembered for its professional content and for a better "look" than had been previously seen in Lincoln gay publications.

The Capital Times was a short-lived monthly publication that started in August 1981 and had died by the year's end. Articles stressed organizations and events.

Other newsletters deserving mention include the MCC Newsletter of Omaha, (Metropolitan Community Church), LLL (Lincoln Legion of Lesbians) Newsletter, and the Coalition Newsletter. Other groups such as R-flag, Community of Grace, and the UNL Gay Student Association have distributed fliers and newsletters. A new entry, The Big "Ball" News, can be seen in Omaha bars and is distributed by the gay bowling league in Omaha.

--Larry Wiseblood

History of *The New Voice*

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

In December 1983, I distributed fliers at The Office and at The Sanctuary asking interested parties who felt that there was a need for a publication to attend a meeting at Commonplace U.M.H.E. The first meeting was attended by 6 enthusiastic people in early January, 1984. Individuals offered their time and support, and future meetings were sometimes discouraging as only a few people showed up.

I almost gave up when this occurred. But the effort continued, and the first publication was set to go to press sometime in February, 1984.

The first major obstacle was having a financial base to pay expenses. I called friends and asked for contributions and 5 people donated \$75 each to enable the first issue to get off the ground. Delays occurred because of a small staff, a lack of articles, and problems with layout and design.

The 1st issue was distributed on March 11 with a circulation of 500 copies and a total of 12 pages. Cost of printing was \$99, and other expenses used up the remaining 33%. It had been decided that the publication would be

continued on next page....

free and would be run by a volunteer organization. Advertising, subscriptions, and contributions would pay the costs of each issue.

A meager start snowballed, and every issue looked better and

showed more artistic qualities. The staff grew in size and The New Voice of Lincoln became The New Voice of Nebraska by the 4th issue. The rest, as they say, is proud gay history!

--Larry Wiseblood

One Tough Year for *The New Voice*

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

Our first issue in March 1984 was 12 pages long, had a circulation of 500, and had few ads. Most of the content introduced organizations and publicized local events.

Issue II doubled in size and introduced several features and new advertising. From that time, The New Voice snowballed into what it is today. Our circulation has doubled, we have many new subscribers, and we went beyond Lincoln to become a statewide publication.

However, things were not always rosy. The New Voice had several roadblocks along the way. Our most severe blow occurred in July 1984 when Bryant News, Inc., owner of the Hickman newspaper called The Voice--News of Southern Lancaster County, requested an injunction to try to stop The New Voice from using its name. A temporary restraining order was refused by Judge Jeffrey Cheavront on July 2nd, 1984. This led to a full-blown trial that cost the magazine a great deal of money. The New Voice staff

fought to the end, even though for some it meant disclosure and publicity that changed some people's lives. The trial on August 6 was long and exhausting. It turned into a bitter ordeal with accusations and bigotry thrown into our faces. Justice prevailed, however, and on August 23, Judge Jeffrey Cheavront denied an injunction, and The New Voice won the lawsuit.

Another major obstacle involved our stance of allowing controversial issues and opinions to be addressed. Our name says it all, as we have always reflected the voice of the entire gay/lesbian community--no matter how diverse the opinions might be. Some within took offense to this and labeled us pro-pornography and anti-feminist. Some within tried to destroy The New Voice by writing letters to all of our advertisers and promoting lies and misconceptions.

We also made some mistakes along the way that hurt our reputation. A mistake in an ad, for example, canceled a major halloween event. We forgot to give credit to some of our supporters. We have been delayed because of lay-out and design problems. Or we missed some important events along the way.

But we have always tried to do our best, and we will continue to serve the gay/lesbian population of Nebraska. Let's be proud of who we are and grow along the way.

Our first anniversary! -- Learning from the past, building for the future.

--Larry Wiseblood

Thank You

Heidi and I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Imperial Court of Nebraska. The Court invited us to represent The New Voice at their function February 20 at the Omana Firehouse Dinner Theatre.

The evening proved to be very

pleasurable. We enjoyed a nice dinner and watched the play The Odd Couple, which was put on without a hitch.

Thanks again, Imperial Court, for allowing us to share in your festivities.

--Chasla Brown-Schreiber



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The New Voice Looks to Future

The New Voice enters its 2nd year with high expectations and goals. Our recent theme issues have been popular and enjoyable. We will continue having these issues intermingled with poetry, short stories, reviews, popular features, local news, events, and information from gay and lesbian organizations. Some of our former popular features will return: Here and There, Consumer Watch, and Different Points of View. New items are always being solicited, and The New Voice would like to see more creative articles and features. We have had voids in several areas, and we welcome your input and advice in order to become a more varied publication.

Also, advertising and contributions are vital if The New Voice is to continue being a free publication.

We will need to continue asking for your help and support.

Upcoming themes of future issues:

April: Coming Out to yourself, family, and friends.

May: Drug and Alcohol Abuse; Imperial Court Coronation

June: Gay Pride

July: Rural and Small Town Gays

NOTICE -- NOTICE -- NOTICE

IMPORTANT DEADLINE INFORMATION

The New Voice is determined to be out before the 5th of each month.

To accomplish this, we recently changed printers and set up strict deadline policy. It is very important that these deadlines be met by our staff, contributors, and advertisers.

Our April deadlines are as follows:

Wednesday--March 29:

Last day to accept articles.
Last day to accept advertising needing typesetting or changes.

Monday--March 25:

Last day to accept camera ready ads.
Last day to accept classified ads.

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EVENTS & ORGANIZATIONS

Twin Cities Chorus Gives Stunning Performance

On February 23 at Kimball Hall on the UNL campus, an audience of over two hundred were treated to a night of excellent music and fine showmanship.

The Twin Cities Men's Chorus, a volunteer community chorus of gay and gay-sensitive men of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, presented a stunning program, ranging from choral classics to

camp, from Broadway to Bruckner's "Ave Maria."

A reception was held, following the concert at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery's Great Hall catered by Desserts 222.

The concert and reception were presented by the American Foundation for the Fine Arts with the support of the Nebraska Arts Council.

--Tom Pasco

GLIS Spring Benefit

With the coming of spring, GLIS, Gay and Lesbian Information Support Line, is planning its second annual fund raiser for Sunday evening, April 28 at the Rogers House, an Historic Preservation project in the Emerald Hill District. Stroll through the house and patios while enjoying the music of popular local musicians and partake of a banquet of exotic desserts catered by Desserts 222.

The GLIS line was created to provide information about agencies and support groups which provide services to the gay/lesbian community, friends and relatives of gay and lesbian people.

This benefit is designed to fund the line for the 1985-86 fiscal year and continue its excellent quality of service. The hours of the line are:

Sun-Thur: 8 pm-12 am
Fri-Sat : 8 pm- 1 am

and can be reached by dialing

(402) 475-4697.

For more information on the Spring Benefit, call Darrell at 476-3667.

Please set aside this date to help an organization that is here to help you.

--Darrell

LLCSW's Ninth Annual Dinner Draws 800

February 2, 1985, was a night to remember at The Cornhusker. It was the annual celebration with the Lincoln Lancaster Commission on the Status of Women as they marked the accomplishments of 1984 and began to focus on the issues for 1985. The attendance, doubled from last year, set a tone of excitement and camaraderie for the evening. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the distinguished Alice Paul Award--to a woman in the community who is a leader, mentor, activist, feminist, and an outstanding role model. This year's recipient, E. Shelton Burden, will wear the 14K-gold medallion, specifically created for this award, throughout the year.

Also featured during the evening was the Minneapolis Women's Theatre project performing Make It Better. The vignettes illustrated the humor, the tragedies, and the frustrations of life as a health care professional. The finale was provided by JAMALIKA--Lincoln's only all-woman band. They provided a wide variety of music for both listening and dancing.

LLCSW would like to thank all those who supported the Commission this past year. For your copy of the Annual Report or any further information about the Commission, call 471-7716.

--Kit Boesch



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P. FLAG Seeks New Horizons

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Cornhusker (PFLAG), in cooperation with the JSAT of Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, plans to initiate a parents' group in the Scottsbluff area sometime this spring. Although there is a definite need in that area, we need to reach a few parents who would be willing to commit themselves to coming to an initial meeting. The meeting would be held in a location in that area selected for ease in assuring confidentiality. PFLAG would be the connection to national PFLAG, and the new group would start as a satellite. Along with JSAT, we would arrange for and sponsor the initial meeting and provide organizational support for the group to get started.

This is the point at which we need your help! We need the

names and addresses of parents and supportive resource people (friends) in that area. We would only contact them with your express permission and in whatever manner you'd suggest. The confidentiality of our list is guaranteed--we share it with no one.

If you would like to come to the parents and friends meeting here in Lincoln to see what we're like, please let us know. You are welcome anytime. Since our space depends on the home we are in, advance notice is helpful but not essential. We're a small and informal group.

It's almost spring. Your interest and help are needed! (Contact Jean at 345-4688, evenings; or Helen at 444-1151).

--Jean C.

Imperial Court News

The past month has been a restful month for the Imperial Court. The major project has been the Firehouse Dinner Theater's production of *The Odd Couple*, which was billed as "A Gay Ole Night." The turnout was about 60 people, which was good, and it was a fun night for all attending. Very few "nights out" (outside the bars) have been offered and the Monarchs feel that it was a success. We would like to thank the Management and Staff of the Firehouse for helping us in this endeavor.

On the March agenda is something different offered by the Court. On Sunday, March 24, the Imperial Court will sponsor a "Closet Ball '85" at The Alley at 8 pm. This consists of male walk-ons, then a one-hour preparation into female drag, then the perform-

ance of one number. All entrants will be sponsored by an established female impersonator. All rules and applications will be at participating bars, and a \$10 fee is requested when applications are turned in. Trophies will be given to the winner and to the 1st runner-up, as well as to their sponsors.

The next Imperial Court Board of Governors meeting will be held April 1, 1985, at 6:30 pm at The Alley. Thanks for all of your support and be prepared for a fabulous coronation!!

--With all sincerity,
Gary West--Emperor IV
Velvet--Empress IV
Scott R.--Secretary, B.O.G.

New Support Group at Doane

A new gay support group now exists at Doane College. DOANE GILSA.

It is:

*A support group of students who are concerned about sexuality.

*An organization that strives to be aware of issues, concerns, and questions about being lesbian or gay.

DOANE GILSA is an anonymous organization that will hold weekly, off-campus meetings. For information about meeting times and locations, contact:

Dr. Marcia Freer
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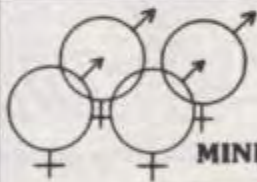
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Election of New Officers for GLSA

On January 24, the Gay/Lesbian Student Association held elections of new officers. Michael Sinn was elected President and William Richman was elected Treasurer.

At the February 11 meeting of GLSA, a photographer from The Journalist contacted members of the student group in relation to a future story on the gay community. Two of the members of the Gay/Lesbian Student Association posed in a photograph for the story, which was printed February 26. The Journalist is the newspaper published by the UNL Journalism Department.

The officers of GLSA have started a publicity campaign and have set April as Gay Student Month. Events are planned throughout the month, including two fund raisers. The purpose of Gay Student Month is to instill awareness among Lincoln's gay community concerning student issues.

UNL-GLSA has recently been in contact with the Doane Gay/Lesbian Student Association, a new addition to Nebraska's gay

student community. Two Doane students have attended UNL-GLSA meetings in order to gain useful information in beginning a grass roots group.

UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association held a Spring Semester party February 22, 1985, at the president's house. The movies Tootsie and Arthur were shown. It was an evening of fun and socializing.

--Randall Barron

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 14: Unity Night
Straights and Gays Together.
Bring a straight friend this evening--it could be fun!
- March 21: Politics & Human Rights Movement
Speaker yet to be determined.
- April 1: Costume Contest!
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- April 4: Movie Night!

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A Personal Profile—Shirley Marsh

One walks into the office on the ground floor of the capitol building and hears Bach. One notices office walls and a desk full to capacity with pictures and other mementos of family, of places she has been, of honors she has received. One sees a desk piled high with projects in process and finds, seated behind the desk, a pleasant, middle-aged, white-haired woman who looks more like a schoolteacher or your grandmother than the senior woman in the Nebraska legislature.

Some people have a characteristic that stands out from all other characteristics. Senator Shirley Marsh's is compassion. When she starts to talk about her accomplishments in the 17 years she has been in the Unicam, she begins with child abuse legislation, passed in 1973. One of her major goals for this legislative session is passage of an incest bill which would remove the statutory requirement that a charge of incest be corroborated. Nebraska is the only state with such a requirement.

Shirley Marsh's compassion for those not able to defend themselves may have begun in 1956 when she spent three months in the hospital with polio. She says that the most important lesson she learned in the hospital is that it is essential to be part of the human race.

After a 21-year absence, she returned to school to complete a B.A. in Social Welfare and went to work for the Lancaster County Public Welfare office. Four years later, she was elected to the legislature.

At the time, her husband was Nebraska's lieutenant governor, and Frank and Shirley Marsh became Nebraska's first husband/wife legislative team. According to Mrs. Marsh, they really were not much of a team since they do not see eye to eye on many issues. One newspaper, however, editorially endorsed her opponent on the grounds that there was a conflict of interest in having one's spouse as one's presiding officer. That same newspaper retracted its position at the end of the first legislative session. The only time their husband/wife relationship asserted itself was when Lieutenant Governor Marsh asked Senator Marsh, "Hi, hon, what's for dinner?" through a telephone that was connected to an open microphone he thought was off.

One of Senator Marsh's important commitments is to the Methodist Church. She is a member of the Methodist Church's Social Concerns Committee and was a delegate to the last two conventions, including the one in Baltimore that voted not to license openly gay and lesbian persons as clergy. Senator Marsh admits to being disappointed by that decision but feels the Methodist Church will change in time.

Becoming a grandmother rather than a senator, Shirley Marsh told me about her own children, including four foreign exchange students who spent time in the Marsh home. Her family includes two Indonesians, an Italian, and a Ghanaian, as well as six children of her own. Shirley Marsh is mother and grandmother to a large family that takes in whomever it meets.

--Mel Dahl

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Gay Couples (Part 2)

In this article, I want to talk about the first stage of coupling. In the book Male Couple, this stage is called "Blending." Sometimes I think of it as merging because the two men or women do everything together. It is almost as if they begin thinking as one person. It is a great time and usually has a lot of sexual activity.

"Falling in love" is the usual name for this stage. It is an important stage for any relationship. The bonding that goes on in this stage helps the couple build the foundation for the rest of the relationship. Sometimes the partners feel at this stage that they can read each other's mind. The main mode of operation is compromise and "let's do it together." Most couples remember this stage with a lot of nostalgia. When couples move out of this stage, there is a tendency to mourn it and wonder if they ever will feel that much in love again.

Doing everything together tends to lead couples to give up, for a time, their individuality. This is normal and useful in the beginning, but does not work over the long run. Each individual will remark at times about how much he or she has in common with the other partner. This may or may not be true. During this stage, each individual has a tendency to say he or she likes something not because he or she likes it, but because he or she knows that his or her partner likes it and it is fun to do it together. Remember, compromise is the name of the game. Moving in together usually happens sometimes during this stage. If couples were not "in love" during this process, they would probably not make it through the first six months. Let's face it--dirty underwear on the floor is dirty underwear. But it can be seen as romantic or cute during this stage. The tolerance for each other's habits is at the maximum here and facilitates the couple living together. Roommates have a much more difficult time, because the oil of love is not there to grease the way.

The second stage in the Male Couple

is called "Nesting." This stage continues the building that started in the first stage and, as McWhirter and Matison write, it also brings ambivalence. The feeling of being "in love" begins to diminish. This can cause panic if the couple does not recognize this as a stage of development. What is happening is that the couple is changing the way they love each other. It is a time when each partner begins claiming his own space emotionally and physically.

Unless one or both partners have been in previous relationships and have gone through this stage before, when the intensity of their feelings begins to wane, many couples feel that they are falling "out of love" and the relationship is over. It takes a lot of work and faith to maintain through this stage. I think it is helpful for couples to talk to other couples to find out what they did during this stage.

This is not to say that there are relationships that need to end. Probably in the cooling down period of stage two, it is easier to see that things are not working and that the two of you are not compatible. The problem that I see is that many folks assume that when things cool down, the relationship is over, and thus they never seem to get beyond stage one in a relationship. Since gay relationships are not legally binding, it may be too easy to leave at times. The couples I have worked with that worked through this stage usually end up with a stronger relationship. Intimacy begins to take on a different meaning, and differences in each other are tolerated, and many times are enhanced to the betterment of the couple. For example, instead of always cooking together, one partner might take over most of the cooking and the other partner might do more of the cleaning up.

Keep in mind that ambivalence is normal in any relationship. It comes and goes in each stage and does not mean that the relationship is over. I believe that it is the way we balance the intensity of being "in love."

--Mike Fitzpatrick, M.S.W.



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The Untold Nova A.I.D.S. Story

The February 12 NETV's airing of NOVA was important in two respects: it presented a rational perspective on the medical aspects of A.I.D.S., and it did so in a way that educates both those most susceptible to the disease and the general population. Few who heard Kevin McConville's voice as he spoke of the joy of life and the right to dignity in the face of death will ever forget him.

When such positive educational uses are made of television, one hates to criticize, yet if NOVA's presentation brought a perspective not yet seen in the media in regard to A.I.D.S. on one level, on another level, it maintained a perspective all too usual in the media: glorious medical science, selflessly saving lives through totally objective research for the good of everyone.

Don't misunderstand: I have nothing but praise for the doctors and researchers portrayed in the broadcast; I think the planet is in their debt. But the discoverers of RLTV-3-LAV were not the only dedicated researchers. Research has also progressed because of doctors and researchers who followed theories other than the familiar notion of a transmittable virus; who often were shortchanged on research funding and, who, because they were willing to investigate less than orthodox possibilities, often found themselves facing the stigma and hysteria associated with A.I.D.S. without the authority and support of major governmental and medical institutions:

Yes, that's right, there are any number of ways to explain A.I.D.S., even in medical terms. What's more, the GAY doctors who identified the first cases of A.I.D.S. and brought them to the attention of the medical community were not portrayed in the broadcast. Neither were the numerous medical practitioners such as "Dallas Doctors Against A.I.D.S.," who continue to think that an M.D. gives them some kind of expertise in the "Morality Department," or those who fought government funding for A.I.D.S. research because it might mean less money available for their own research specialties.

Furthermore, the Center for Disease Control, a federal agency highly influential with both the media and the government, is not the selflessly objective chronicler of an unavoidable epidemic as one might believe from the broadcast. The C.D.C. devotes considerable energy to telling people that A.I.D.S. is incurable, that everyone who gets it dies of it, but that the "general public" has nothing to fear. The effect of this government "line" is to discourage everyone with A.I.D.S., as well as everyone who wants to FIGHT A.I.D.S. Furthermore, government funding for medical research under Reagan is directly proportional to how many rich, white, heterosexual males are affected by a particular disease. The fact that the blood banks in the United States constitute a \$2 billion dollar a year business had a great deal to do with overcoming the medical profession's "scruples" about the "advisability" of spending large amounts of money on A.I.D.S. research.

Finally, and this is not a criticism of NOVA, but an observation: there is still an untold story: what can we do to prevent the spread of A.I.D.S.? What can we do about A.I.D.S. once it hits? What about the political and social aspects of A.I.D.S.? For example: why are employers (like United Airlines) being permitted to fire employees who are diagnosed as having A.I.D.S.? (How will this encourage people to seek medical help?) Why should gay men voluntarily refrain from giving blood when their employers and churches are expecting them to prove their "heterosexuality" by doing so? (And what legal recourse does a gay man have if fired because his employer suspects that he's gay?) When will people diagnosed with A.I.D.S. be entitled to disability status? (Or is the government immune from any responsibility to keep people from dying in the streets?) And when will homophobes like Jerry Falwell, Pat Buchanan and Paul Cameron be brought to account for their irresponsible attempts to exploit anti-gay prejudice in their quest for power and attention?

--Joel Brodsky

Out and About

The Stagedoor's former Red Room has bit the dust, and the dust is still rising. New, large restrooms have been completed in earth tones. European computerized lighting is being installed. The main rectangle bar has been moved south to double the dance floor, and the furniture for the quiet bar has arrived. It will be something to see!

The Alley has extended the music in the Piano Bar with Jim and Vera providing music nightly. The "Stars" Restaurant is nearing completion. There are some changes in the DJ booth too.

The Run is embroiled in a controversy concerning the need of a license requirement by the City of Omaha to allow dancing on the premises.

The BAGL Fund Raiser drew a profitable crowd to enjoy Geraldine and her cast, including Empress IV, Velvet, Miss Gay Nebraska, and many other female impersonators.

The MCC is holding Bingo games at The Run each month now, and did you know that PICKLES were a fund raiser for the church?

The Max has their elegant, quiet bar, The "Ms Flowers Lounge," open on weekends. There is nothing skag about that lounge.

The Max has chosen Muffy as Miss Max last month.

And most important: Spring is around the corner, and the joggers are blooming in all the parks! HURRAY!

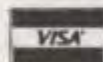
The Imperial Court's "Night on the Town" gathered about 55 members of the gay community at the Fire House Dinner Theatre and gave new meanings to some lines of The Odd Couple. The "Ms Flowers" laugh broke up the actors, and they broke us up!

--J. Peck

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The God People

The God People were out and about at the recent Twin Cities Mens Chorus concert. Yes, indeed, there they were and they were very anxious to know whether or not we knew Jesus. Those of us who went to participate in a relaxing evening of fine music were greeted by the (Constitutionally protected) love-by-intimidation group. They could love a person to death . . . if a person weren't careful. What a shame, how shameFUL, and what a sham (minus the "e").

Well, I know Jesus Christ very well, thank you, and even then I don't know Him as well as I want to or as well as I will some day. I don't believe I will ever know Him completely in this life. I don't believe God can be categorized, filed and stuck in a file drawer. I don't believe He is bits and pieces of self-serving information which can be pulled out on file cards (or printed on little, tiny brochures).

These people, so fervently in love with their God, asked us whether we knew Jesus, and I assume they meant the Jesus Christ of the New Testament. Yet, their material didn't quote Jesus. Their material used a few Old Testament pieces. Why then, was the Jesus they asked about, not included in their material? Why no quotes from the Saviour? The answer, as tough a pill to swallow as it is, is this:

There are no quotes from Christ on the issue of being gay.

I do indeed know Jesus Christ well enough to know that He didn't "forget" to bring it up, that He wasn't "afraid" to bring it up, that He didn't worry about "turning people off" or the "acceptable topics of His day."

He preached a Gospel of love and full human fellowship. He preached a Gospel of non-judgment, reserving judgment to the Father. He told us very clearly what God

expected of us: love of Him and love of each other. And . . . He got angry. When His Father's temple was desecrated by those who twisted the meaning of God and twisted the Love of God and made God self-serving, He Threw Them Out. It was not a hateful anger, it was a justified anger. Those who twist the Gospel of the New Testament, those who re-interpret the clear, simple, great Commandment to love God and each other and try to make it different than it is; those who interpret it to exclude gay people, those who sit judgmentally, those who use twisted interpretations as a blanket for abuse and hatred . . . are wrong.

How great it would be if such Christians, if all Christians, put as much effort and energy into loving God and each other, as they do trying to tell other people HOW to do that. How great it would have been if those who stood outside Kimball Hall had the fortitude to step INSIDE Kimball Hall and witness the musical tribute so eloquently expressed to their God during parts of the performance.

To every gay person at the concert that night who spent any time at all feeling dirty, unloved by God, unsure, because of the acts of these people in Christian clothing, I say to you and urge you: pray for them, that they may come to know the truly gentle, loving Spirit of their God. And for each and every one of us: Claim your God, because He is the God of each of us. No more defenses, no more rationalizations of "why we are right." Those who believe God is theirs despite the preaching of others, ARE right. You don't have to defend it. Simply enjoy the full life which comes with knowing it and living it.

And for those of you who were pushing pamphlets in front of Kimball (and yes, I know you read The New Voice), it's really too bad for you: you missed a great concert.

--Father David Glaze,
Orthodox Priest

A new toll-free national gay information service called Gay 800 is designed as an alternative to gay guidebooks. A feature of the service is that it is computerized and always

current. The switchboard for Gay 800 is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Those wishing to reach the service for referrals should call 800-223-7030.

Nate and Eric

"The Meeting"

Eric, with his blond hair, blue eyes, and Nordic good looks, was, by most standards, the All-American male. He loved his looks, and tonight he wanted to look his best. He chose his faded, tight 50ls, a light blue oxford button-down, his white canvas deck shoes, and a splash of Polo.

Eric poured himself a glass of white wine, put on Madonna's latest, and prepared for the night.

Across town, Nate was a mess. It was 10:05 and his dark hair was still wet and matted to his forehead. He needed a shave. His roommate Sarah was in the bathroom applying Nair to her legs.

"Jesus, girl, what are you doing in there? The complete Mary Kay makeover!"

The door swung open, and Nate was beamed on the head with a sanitary napkin.

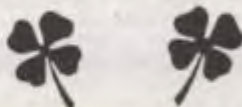
"Cool it, Kid!" Sarah was not amused.

An hour later, Nate and Sarah arrived at the bar. Sarah checked their coats while Nate went for their cocktails--rose for Sarah and a lite beer for Nate. Nate turned to look for Sarah and peered directly into the eyes of the most gorgeous blue eyed, blond hunk he had ever seen.

It was at this time that Nate chose to forget to step down from the bar. The fall was the longest one he could remember. (Sam Peckinpah would have been pleased.) His left hand swung gaily forward, pouring rose all over Eric's blue oxford button-down.

Thus began the rather unique and mystifying relationship of Nate and Eric.

--Tom Pasco



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SOME THINGS ARE UNDERSTOOD.

Astrology

When using Solar Astrology (Sun Signs), remember that the sun is only one part of a complex natal chart (horoscope). The moon, eight planets (earth is excluded), the ascendant or rising sign, and other factors must be considered along with the sun, as well as the way all these combine and relate.

During my second year of "star gazing" for The New Voice, the significance of the Elements, the Modes of Expression, and the sun sign compatibility will be briefly defined.

ARIES - The Ram
March 21 - April 20
"The Originator"

Ruling Planet: Mars
Element: Fire
Key Words: I Am
Mode of Expression: Cardinal

Aries: the first sign of the Zodiac . . . begins with spring each year. Aries is of the Greek element fire and is cardinal in mode of expression.

The term "mode of expression" refers to patterns or methods of activity and adaptability to circumstances. The keyword for the "Cardinal Mode" is action or activity. Here is a "doer." Aries, ruled by Mars, is the most active, and frequently there is more action than thought. Good initiators, Arians often have difficulty with follow-through.

The "Elements" deal with facets of individual temperament. The fire of Aries is the "Fire of the Head" (the head is ruled by Aries), the untamed fire of impulse, ardor and emotion. Fire signs represent energy and enthusiasm. Fire sign individuals tend to be positive, assertive, often even aggressive, ardent, and to appear (at least sometimes) to self and others to be inspired. Fire seeks to display leadership; in Aries, this desire manifests itself as a decisiveness in spearheading new efforts and undertakings.

Aries is least compatible (by sun sign) with Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces (signs of the water element), and Capricorn. A relationship between Arians would tend to be fantastic or terrible, rarely in-between.

Aries is most sun-compatible with the other fire signs--Leo and Sagittarius--and with Gemini and Aquarius, both air signs. With Libra--the 3rd air sign--opposite Aries in the Zodiac, relationships can be very pleasant if a balance between the two is achieved.

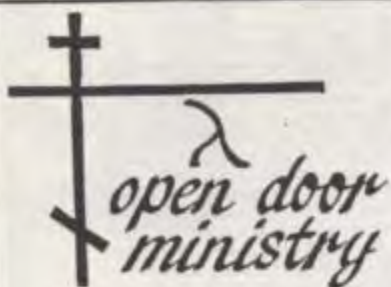
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ARIES!!

NOTE: The art of astrology has complexities far beyond the limitations of this or any other magazine column to adequately cover. If, however, there is information you specifically want covered in this column, please write to The New Voice, Attention: Phoenix, and let us know your interests.

--Phoenix

Gail's Hit List

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. MATERIAL GIRL
Madonna | 7. NOW YOU'RE MINE
Helen Terry | *12. TAKE ME WITH U
Prince and the Revolution w/
Apollonia |
| *2. LOVERGIRL
Teena Marie | *8. DO YOU WANT IT RIGHT
NOW
Siedah Garrett | 13. SUGAR DON'T BITE
Sam Harris |
| 3. NEUTRON DANCE
Pointer Sisters | *9. THE MEN ALL PAUSE
Klymaxx | 14. HOW TO BE A -
BILLIONAIRE
ABC |
| 4. CENTIPEDE
Rebbie Jackson | 10. LIKE A VIRGIN
Madonna | *15. BORN TO LOVE
Claudia Barry |
| *5. NEW ATTITUDE
Patti LaBelle | *11. PLEASE DON'T GO
Mayode | + Number 1 last month |
| *6. TOUCH
Kim Wilde | | * New entry |



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Plays Have Gay Themes/Characters

This past season, the gay and lesbian community was fortunate in having several plays with major or minor gay/lesbian characters at the Howell Theater on UNL Campus. Starting off with Mass Appeal, with David Landis playing a bisexual seminarian, the season progressed to My Blue Heaven, a lesbian play; The Hostage, in which Jeff Talbott played a flaming number named Rio Rita; and The Fox, a story about a lesbian couple whose lives are changed by the entrance of a young man who decides he wishes to marry one of them.

I spoke with Dr. Rex McGraw, head of the Theater Department, to ask if the large number of plays with gay/lesbian characters was significant.

Visiting with me in his office in the Temple Building, Dr. McGraw, who is in his ninth year at UNL, said that when plays are selected, the University tries to find plays that represent everything. This year, it just happened that the number of plays gays and lesbians can lay some claim to is larger than usual.

Dr. McGraw also indicated a desire to bring Bent, a play about the oppression of gay people during Nazi Germany, to Lincoln. The play contains two explicit scenes where two concentration camp inmates bring each other to orgasm through their conversation. It also has a scene where an actor walks across the stage naked. Dr. McGraw said he did not expect these two things to be problematical because the University has already produced plays with nudity in them.

Statistically, approximately 10% of the population is gay or lesbian, according to generally accepted figures, with an even higher proportion among artists. Yet, according to Dr. McGraw, at UNL, that figure seems to be lower and so non-gay actors and actresses often play homosexuals. That does not seem to present much difficulty for heterosexual thespians. "An actor works from within himself. He puts on a character, much like putting on a suit of armor."

--Mel Dahl





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LES'PEAKS

Girls are aware early that they are treated differently than boys. Their freedom and opportunities to learn about the "harsh realities" of life are limited, expectations for subdued behavior are greater, and their adult role (whatever their accomplishments) is strictly defined. It is from this awareness that their first rebellion arises.

Women are protected and treated like children. They are not allowed to grow up, and if they act or dress like men, they are considered butch or unwomanly. It is from this awareness that their first feminist protest arises.

It is not surprising that lesbians subject their gay brothers to searching and critical appraisal, and shudder slightly at what they see. It is as though the gay male wants to be protected and treated like a child, in a world with limited opportunities, subjected to expectations of subdued behavior (if he wants to be successful in the world) and strict role definitions in the gay subculture. Since these are the very things the lesbian seeks to avoid, it is very difficult to understand why they are so important to her brother.

Nor is it surprising that lesbians protest and rebel against their gay brothers when they encounter the same sexist exclusion they found first as children and then as women.

The contemporary gay subculture is one that lesbians instinctively distrust because the issue of sexual freedom seems to be split off from the larger issues which insure the freedom of sexual expression. For example--defense of bath houses and pornography become more important than human health and welfare, criminal abuse (rape), and equal pay for work of equal worth.

Traditionally, women do not welcome men into their affairs, and men are conditioned to exclude women from their deliberations. Lesbians accept with poor grace the inclusive expectations of gay men when gay men so obviously ignore values which lesbian women hold to be self-evident.

This space is a challenge to both gay males and lesbian women to sort out the problem areas which exist to separate and divide them. The goal is to provide increased understanding of differences of viewpoint, if not an actual unity of thought.

--Pat Arwell

POETRY

A Wish

May the heart of a man
Bring you love and warmth

May the eyes of a man
Bring you trust and understanding

May the hand of a man
Bring you close and hold you

And may the soul of that man
Want you to be

His friend

--Steve Sadler

• Mike Fitzpatrick MSW, ACSW •

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success.



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Jerry

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much!

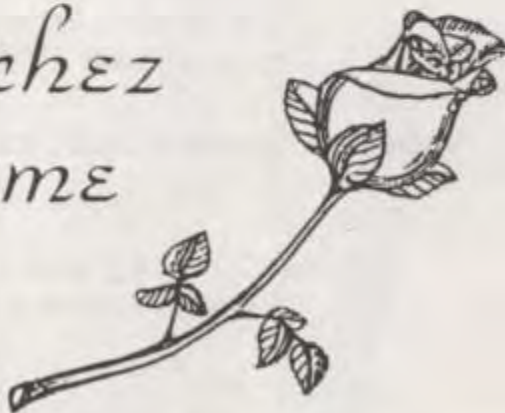
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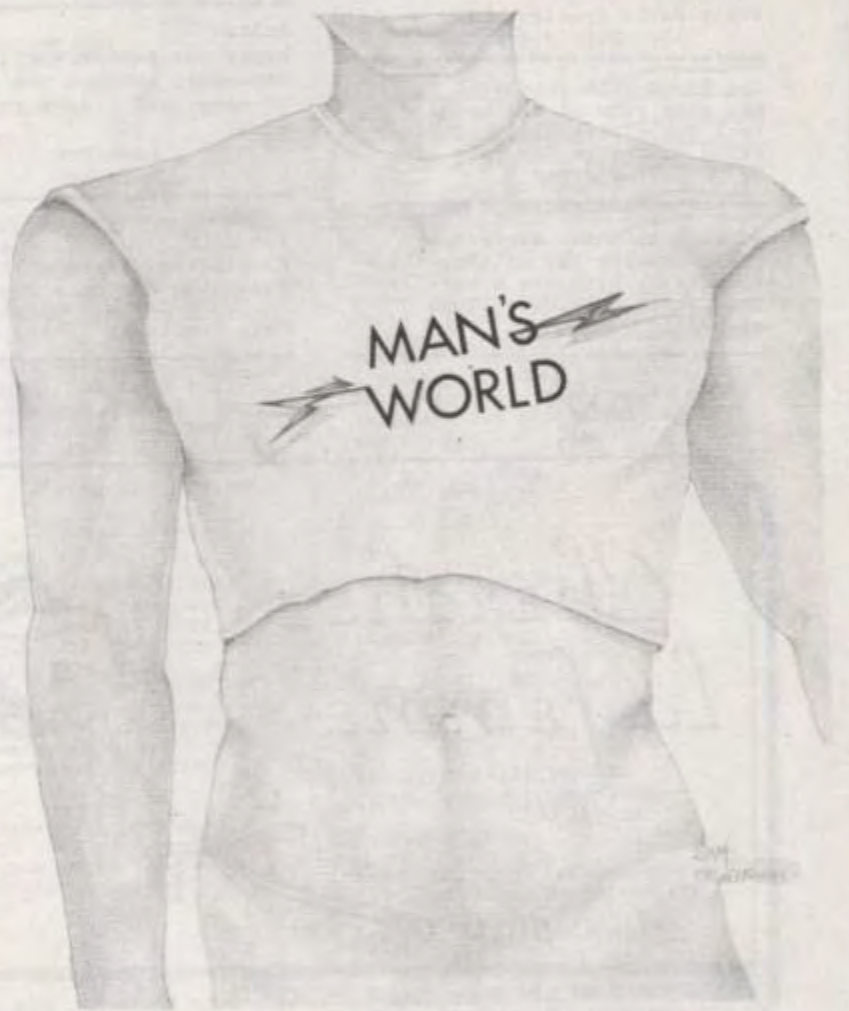
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GAY/LESBIAN RESOURCES

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- *Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous 345-9916 WEEKLY MEETINGS:
Fridays: 8:15 pm. Lutheran Medical Center, 3rd Floor. Open to all.
Saturdays: 1:30 pm. Omaha Chapter House, 216 North 48th. Open to all
Sundays: 4 pm Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church 1023 N. 40th
Men only, please
- *S.A.G.L. (Battered/Abused Gays/Lesbians) P.O. Box 8141 Omaha, NE 68108 345-5797
Providing support through mutual self-help to gays/lesbians who have been involved in abusive situations with ones they love.
- *Black & White Men Together (BWMT) 556-9561 P.O. Box 31291 Omaha, NE 68132
Multi-racial organization, with goal to realize human equality. BWMT engages in educational, cultural, and social activities to further these goals.
- *Dignity of Omaha 341-1460 or 553-2308
Providing common experience through Mass and meetings for lesbians and gays and their friends. Regular Mass 2nd Sunday of month. Discussion 4th Sunday of month. For all faiths. Phone for location
- *Gay Men's Rap Group MCC Omaha, 420 S. 24th St. 345-2563 or 345-5797
Community rap group, combining planned format with general discussion. Other activities planned. Meetings every Monday at 7:30 pm
- *Gay Parents Support Group 553-2308
Support group for gay parents who have children. Please phone for meeting times and locations.
- *Imperial Court of Nebraska 342-5710
Social organization for the advancement of gay society. Omaha meeting first Monday of every month except when falling on holiday. Phone for location.
- *Imperial Court of Nebraska Bowling League 451-1662
Over fifty people bowling weekly on 14 teams. Sunday 4:00 pm at King Louie Ross Bowl. Please phone if interested in next league forming.
- *Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha 420 S. 24th St. 345-2563
Chartered Church with Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Sunday worship 10:30 am & 7:00 pm. Wednesday Bible study 7:00 pm. Wednesday Praise, Prayer & Healing, 7:45 pm -- Rev. Jan D. Kross, pastor
- *Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) P.O. Box 3173, Omaha NE 68103 345-2563
Support group for parents, friends and relatives of lesbians and gay men. Phone for information.
- *River City Mixed Chorus P.O. Box 3173, Omaha, 68103 345-5989 or 345-5797
Volunteer community chorus for gay & lesbian, and gay-sensitive men and women to sing together with musical excellence in performance.
- *T.W.O. Motorcycle Club 717 S. 16 Omaha, NE 68102 or call Diamond Bar for information (402) 342-9595
- *U.N.O. Gay and Lesbian Support Group 554-2730 or 556-2355
Meetings every other Tuesday at 8 pm in U.N.O. Milo Bail Student Center. Please phone for more information.

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LESBIAN/GAY RESOURCES

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- *American Foundation for the Fine Arts. A non-profit foundation committed to making a positive contribution on behalf of gay men and lesbians to Lincoln's cultural life.
- *Community of Grace
Box 81645 Lincoln Nebraska 68501
An interdenominational worshiping community of lesbians, gays, and those associated with us.
Meets weekly on Sunday evenings at 7 pm.
- *Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous
456-5214. Groups meet weekly.
- *Gay/Lesbian Information and Support Line. Call (402) 475-4697
- *UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association. 228 Andrews Hall, UNL
Meets Thursdays, 3 pm.
- *Lesbian Support Group 472-2597
Informal discussion group for lesbians, all women welcome.
Meets weekly. For more information, contact the Womens Resource Center, Room 117, Nebraska Union, Lincoln, 68588
- *Lincoln Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights. Box 34882. Lincoln, NE 68509
An advocacy group which lobbies for lesbian/gay civil rights, provides education presentations, publishes a newsletter and sponsors cultural and political programs
- *Lincoln Legion of Lesbians
Box 30137 Lincoln, NE 68503
A lesbian-feminist collective founded in 1978. Provides a newsletter, confidential referral and support groups for lesbians and sponsors cultural and social programs.
- *Ministry in Human Sexuality, Inc.
Box 80122 Lincoln, NE 68501
476-9913 -- A non-profit agency which provides counselling, education and supportive action for those seeking growth and understanding in the areas of sexuality and relationships. Contact:
J. Benjamin Roe, Executive Director
- *The New Voice of Nebraska Box 80619
Lincoln, NE 68501
Magazine staff meets the 1st Tuesday of the month in Lincoln; 2nd Tuesday in Omaha
- *Open Door Ministry 535 F St.
Lincoln, NE 68508 474-3390
A project of Holy Archangels Orthodox (Old Catholic) Church to specifically minister in a supportive way to the gay community.
Mass: Sunday evening at 5:30 pm at 535 F Street. Contact: Father David Glaze 474-3390
- *Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays-Cornhusker Box 4374 Lincoln, NE 68504 466-1151
A support group for parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians and gay men. Meets in the evenings on the 4th Tuesday of the month.
- *Support Group for Gay/Lesbian Students at Nebr. Wesleyan Univ.
Contact Dr. Mary Smith NWU, 58th and St. Paul Lincoln, NE 68504 466-2371
- *Third Culture. Contact Pat at 474-2213
A non-residential subculture that deals with issues such as coming out, social behavior, the gay lifestyle, suicide and drug & alcohol abuse.

CRETE, NEBRASKA

- *Doane College Gay/Lesbian Student Association.
Meeting weekly: For information contact: Dr. Marcia Freer/ Doane College/ 826-2946 ext 259 or
Write: Doane GilSA P.O. Box 5512,
Station C. Lincoln, NE 68505

