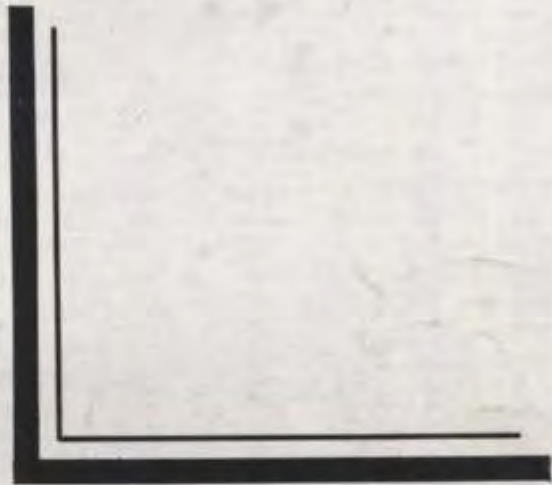


# The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A



# Our Turn

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

## The Time Has Come

As a result of the recent death of Jamie Miller, we should all take a closer look at conflicts that are not completely resolved. Too often we go through life with conflicts between ourselves and others. Too often we put up walls between us to hide behind, rather than trying to resolve those conflicts. It's time for all of us to take a long hard look at ourselves and others, to resolve the differences that need to be resolved. We need to respect these differences that make each of us unique within our community.

It's time to begin the process of change and start working together. We need to take those walls down and begin to build bridges. The time is now for all of us to work together and give each other the support we all need to survive, as well as the respect that each of us deserves.

*Sandy*

## Similarly Abled

I'm glad we as a staff chose, for the July issue, to take on the topic of those who are differently abled. We attempt this from scratch, with little resources and expecting only to break a little ground -- this time. Next year we anticipate being more able to represent this sector of our community.

I am one who can get lost or found in analogies and could not pass up this opportunity to try again. I perceive us all as having been born with the potential to be differently abled. Take our physical attributes: having blond hair, blue eyes, and being 5'8" tall might have enabled me to be a very successful, genteel looking lesbian model. However, I am 5'3" tall, have dark hair and am more prone to athletics. I perceive myself as being differently abled because I'm taking what I've been given physically and emotionally, and channeling toward the most positive end, helping myself and at

times others. Those I know who are born with physical limits, and who seem to be content, have done just that. I find it comforting that once again I'm not seeing differences between myself and others, but similarities. Finding similarities may be the bridge from isolation to companionship for those differently abled within our community, as well as for ourselves. Have a fun month!

*Chris*

## Hello, I'm Chappie

When I was asked by Sandy and Chris if I wanted to introduce myself to the community, I thought to myself, "Sure, why not?"

Now comes the dilemma of what to share with you, the reader. I have two main reasons for joining the staff of **The New Voice** as a reporter. The first is that I am a people person. I enjoy listening to people's problems and in my own way helping them work out their problems by themselves.

The second reason that I joined the staff is that I had been wanting to get back into journalism for several years. I had been on my high school newspaper, but that was nine years ago, and I didn't know if I could write any more. I set up a meeting with Chris and that is when I became a member of the staff.

I will be writing on various topics every month. If you have any ideas for me, you can reach me through the **New Voice**.

Again, let me express that I will be writing for you, the readers.

--Chappie

*The  
New Voice  
needs  
new voices  
(yours)!*

## July 1987

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# Letters

## Bisexuality

Hello to *The New Voice* from a recently transplanted Californian. Finding *The New Voice* was like a breath of fresh air in my effort to survive the "Culture Shock." It was chronic depression that set in as I found the gay/lesbian/bi community somewhat stifled and disorganized, fighting a battle long since resolved, in principle, in California or the West Coast in general.

My first encounter with *The New Voice* was the April issue, proclaiming strength in the face of adversity and the wide ranging theme on "Health." I looked forward to May's issue focusing on bisexuality. Jodi U. and "R" seemed to have continuity of thought on bisexuality from the viewpoint of the truly bisexual person. Contrary to some beliefs, I trust my own judgement that I am living proof that "we" do exist.

One element seemed to be conspicuously missing in the diagnosis and prognosis of the bisexual: the factors of dominant, passive and submissive roles in the dilemma of companion, affectionate and sexual preferences. This has been a third dimension of the subject of bisexuality for some time on both coasts. This emotional influence appears to control the force and direction of the "bi" more so than the gay/lesbian person, but still plays an important role in "where" any of us places ourselves on Kinsey's zero to six scale.

A dominant bisexual will choose his next experience, controlling its force and effect; a passive can be led either way by the focusing dominant force; while the submissive will wait to be told what their next experience will be. Confronting deep-seated emotional influences, many choose to lead, others choose to follow and the remainder choose not to choose; all of us being totally committed to our positions and content in our inner beliefs and the reasoning used to arrive at our destinies.

Noteworthy is that the "bi community" has no headquarters, no local chapters of national renown, no steering committee or central banner, nor is it likely that we need one. Being at comfort in both worlds provides the bisexual person with the ability to coexist with both factions. Of concern is the fact that we regularly encounter both gays and lesbians who would have us believe their unwavering opinions that they alone exist for each other in gender. Isn't it contradictory that both ends ignore the middle majority, while they themselves stand quasi-united in such a publication as *The New Voice*?

Bisexuality may possibly be the best of both worlds, or the curse of the unyielding gay/lesbian community. The answer to that lies again in one's comfort in their own personal desires and innermost feelings.

Democracy alone prevails in the final analysis, as one element remains constant: Freedom of Choice. As long as more than one person - one idea - is afoot in categorizing the "perfect role model - stereotype bisexual," there will be a neverending cycle of complexities in the wonderful world of bisexuality.

--Another "R"

## Terms Of Embattlement?

Since the "Letters" column is a good place for voicing opinions and concerns, I'm going to take advantage of it. My concern arose during the June pride celebration. Due to controversy and dissension within our own community, the word "gay" was dropped from all announcements, posters, T-shirts, etc., dealing with our pride rally. I think that's a sad commentary on our community.

As I understand the situation, "gay" was dropped because some lesbians (perhaps the majority, I don't know) objected to the term, feeling that it referred most commonly to gay men, and they apparently

wanted nothing to do with any men. I'll refer here to this feeling and the actions it produces as separatism.

Separatism shows up often in *The New Voice* when we see a word such as "wimmin" used to avoid the spelling "women." That's a minor point. The major point and the grounds of my concern lies in the question of why this separatism is deemed necessary. When we consider all of the hassles, legal battles for equal rights, and discrimination we homosexual people face as an oppressed minority, would it not be more advantageous to fight our fight for equal treatment as a unified group? It's been said that there is strength in numbers.

We have a responsibility to the gay men and lesbians of the future. Like it or not, we are the ones forming the way their world will be, the way straights will be treating them. What kind of image are straights getting of us when there is dissension within our minority? Will they be thinking, "They have a pride week, but they're too embarrassed to even say what they're proud of," when the truth is that lesbians and gay men just couldn't agree on a term to use?

I live in Kearney. Sometimes it feels like the outskirts of nowhere when I think of the size of the (gay) communities in Omaha and Lincoln. We don't even have a (gay) bar here. The town is pretty conservative for its size. And maybe we homosexual people in Kearney are a little backwards or something, but most of us here seem to use the word "gay" as sort of a generic label for all of us. Can't we all adopt "gay" as a label in all our communities? At least then we would be able to name what we were being proud of.

Perhaps I just don't see the light of separatism. I believe that lesbians and gay men could benefit and learn from each others' experiences. But that will never happen so long as the women, or wimmin, and men

*continued*

keep themselves so distant from each other. Maybe I'm being politically incorrect or my lesbian sensibilities aren't fully developed yet, but I think cooperation makes more sense. Our actions determine the future for other gays and lesbians, just as others paved the way for us in years past. What kind of legacy are we going to leave with our passing? One of dissension and disagreement? Would anyone care to respond?

--Jean Mortensen

## To The Community

As a member of the UNL community for four years, I feel compelled to write a letter to the community to provoke, explain and clarify my involvement with the UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association (GLSA).

Why is the student gay/lesbian group important for the gay/lesbian community?

1. It has access to more rooms, services and resources than any other gay and lesbian group in the state.
2. It has the best access and environment to disseminate ideas about gays and lesbians.
3. It has credibility and prestige in the eyes of non-gay people.
4. It has often been in a better position than many other groups to provide speakers, political action and social interaction for students and non-students.

What are the excuses for non-involvement in GLSA by faculty or students? Apathy could be one. "The group is too political" is another. "The group only sits around and talks about gay and lesbian concerns." "The group is not social enough." "I don't have time." "I can't come out!"

It's a tragedy that more students and faculty don't participate. The group is limitless and is not just political.

As I leave UNL, I leave concerned that the community inside and

outside of UNL will once again ignore the value of this group. Without GLSA, other groups off campus, individuals at UNL, and non-students will lose.

Criticism is a useful tool utilized by some of GLSA, but the fact is that "You have no room to criticize unless you are doing something!" Too many people, who do so little, "bitch" far too much.

I leave the future of GLSA in the hands of people unknown. Get involved and make the changes you can be proud of. Do something for the community that you can be proud of. If you have never risked anything, you will have never grown.

My plans are indefinite at this point, but I am contemplating a Gay/Lesbian Alumni Association at UNL for faculty, students and former students and faculty.

--Rodney A. Bell II  
Past President  
UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association

The June Cover was done by Jan H.



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and Support Line

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## New Voice First Annual Raffle

Invest in *The New Voice* and take a chance at winning! *The New Voice* staff are currently selling raffle tickets (one dollar a ticket or six tickets for five dollars) with a chance to win the following prizes:

- UCLA vs. Nebraska Tickets
- a gift certificate to Graybeard's Collectibles
- Walkman portable radios
- a gourmet dinner for two
- a seven week aerobic course at the Lincoln YWCA
- a gift certificate to The French Cafe (Sunday Brunch for two)
- Dirt Cheap gift certificates
- a Sue Fink cassette tape
- a copy of The River City Mixed Chorus Cookbook

The drawing will be held at midnight, Saturday, August 1, at the Boardwalk.

# In Memory Of Jamie Miller

## Remembering Jamie

Many of us can look back and say that we remember Jamie Miller, and we all have our own memories and thoughts of him. Jamie was very active in the Gay/Lesbian community since 1975, but he also touched the lives of many non-community members as well.

Jamie was a doer for the most part; he helped to make a lot of ideas become realities. He worked hard in helping the "Coffee House" become a success, and he also helped in Lincoln's first Gay Pride Picnic. He was active in Lincoln's community until 1978, when he went to California. While there, he devoted time and effort to the gay/lesbian community events and voter registration. He gave this effort in addition to his job as a bar manager.

The community in which Jamie believed didn't stop with gays and lesbians, but extended to the rights of all people. In 1980, Jamie played a big part in the takeover of the Federal Building in San Francisco, which directed attention to the neglect of the Human Services office. This event helped to change the lives of many handicapped people.

Jamie returned to Lincoln in 1982, after spending some time in Houston. He returned to manage the Sanctuary Bar with long-time friend Phil Hogan. His dream -- of working again for and with the community -- was very clear. As manager of the bar, he was able to deal with people on a personal level. During this time Kelly E. and Jamie became friends, and Kelly started bartending for the Sanctuary. It was with Jamie's help that the idea of a wimmin's bar became more than just a dream (although this was not the first wimmin's bar in Lincoln). The negotiations began which would culminate in Cherchez la femme.

In 1983 Jamie helped sponsor the

first benefits, at The Office bar, for The New Voice and Gay/Lesbian Information and Support (G.L.I.S.); again, Jamie was motivated by the idea of the community working together. He spent many hours at this same time working to make Cherchez la femme a reality.

Many people will remember the day in 1984 when the "Gone Fishin'" sign was placed on the door of the Sanctuary. That was the day when everything owned by Jamie and his crew was moved out and the Boardwalk began to take form. Jamie became manager of the Boardwalk and spent most of his time and energy there. In 1986, he helped plan the 10 Year Reunion of the Coffee House and worked on the planning of Pride Week.

Though Jamie had differences with people, he always tried to resolve them and to work within the community. Jamie lived a full life, and touched many people's lives.

Jamie had a dream, and that was for people to stop fighting and start working together again. But that wasn't his last goal: he wanted the community to "wake up and realize that AIDS is real."

It was evident that he was able to bring people together. This was seen on Saturday, June 13, when many people spent time together in his memory. He touched a lot of lives and made the differences seem not so important.

Phil H. and Michael F. will be going out to San Francisco to give Jamie's remains to the ocean at Seal Point, one of Jamie's favorite places. A stone in his memory has been placed at his hometown cemetery in Elm Creek, Nebraska, and a photo album is being compiled.

--Sandy

**Editor's Note:** Thank you, Phil and Michael, for sharing these things with me. If the events or dates aren't exactly correct, please remember that this has not been the easiest time for any of us. Thanks again.

## A Letter About Jamie

(This is an excerpt of a letter sent to Michael Francis reminiscing about Jamie Miller.)

"Jamie was probably one of the first gay men I met in Lincoln. It was not so very long after I had come out, and I liked him instantly and became his friend. After meeting Lisa, I introduced her to him and he became her friend, also. When Jamie was working upstairs at The Sanctuary, Lisa and I would spend more time with him rather than being downstairs with the women. When he went to The Boardwalk, we went there, too. There was something about Jamie that lit up the places where he was at. Out of all the changes, both people and places in the gay community of Lincoln, Jamie's friendship to us was always constant. I know he worked hard and spent long hours with the bar, but no matter how tired or involved Jamie was, he always had a smile and cheerful word for anyone. I've never known anyone to be so well liked and respected by both the men and women of the Lincoln community, and I know that feeling for him goes well beyond Lincoln."

--Suzy and Lisa



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W

e were drifters all, but . . .  
moments hold like interwoven vines  
across the distant years.  
Our feelings for each other  
were strong and intertwined;  
we shared . . .

Judy Collins

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## In Memory

We are sad to announce that we have lost another loved one to AIDS. Jamie Miller, Michael Francis' loved friend, died in Omaha on June 9. Michael's parents are members of PFLAG. Jamie was aware that he and Michael were surrounded by caring family and friends in the last hard days and our hearts go out to them in their grief. Jamie's death is a personal loss as well. I knew Jamie before I became involved in PFLAG. PFLAG donated to a special fund set up for Jamie. Some of you knew him personally, and some of you may remember that he came to talk with us. He will be remembered. He was twenty-nine years old.

--Jean Durgin-Clinchard  
PFLAG CORNHUSKER  
June, 1987



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Michael Francis  
and  
the staff and management of  
The Boardwalk/Club

would like to thank everyone for  
their support during this difficult  
time.

We hope and pray that you will  
all enjoy long, healthy, and  
happy lives.

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## Local Events

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### ICON News

#### Out With The Old - In With The New

The Royal Family of the Imperial Court of Nebraska (ICON) is in transition. Last year's elected representatives put on their "Stepping Down Show" on May 17. A great show was given, with all members of the Royal Family performing separately and collectively in a finale.

One number from this show stands out in my memory. Dick Brown, President of ICON, lip-synced the songs "Empty Chairs/Empty Tables" and "Who Am I" from the musical "Les Miserables." He received a well-deserved standing ovation.

\*\*\*

On Saturday, June 6, an after-hours party was hosted by Dick Brown, candidate for Emperor VII, at the Mandina mansion with sandwiches and free beer and soft drinks. It was excellent opportunity to get to know Dick better and discuss issues of concern.

\*\*\*

On Sunday, June 14, Vince (Velvet) hosted a champagne brunch and show at The Max. Velvet was joined by a good number of female impersonators, Dick Brown proclaiming in song that he was proud to be an American, and the d.j., Larry. The evening's emphasis was the need to vote yes for both Velvet and Dick, even though they were running unopposed for Court royalty. Velvet's performance included a backward walk into the hem of her white gown and a consequent graceful fall.

### ICON Crowns New Royalty

The Imperial Court of Nebraska, a part of the national court system, hosted Coronation VII weekend beginning with a show for out-of-towners at the Ramada Inn on Friday, June 20.

The Coronation took place Saturday evening at The Warehouse. The crowd was in shorts, tuxedos with shorts, suits, white tie and tails, leather, and from tacky frocks to a gown allegedly valued at \$5000. Seven out-of-state courts were represented (most by a group including reigning monarchs). This was indeed a "crowd watcher's" event. Some of the titles took longer to read than the act performed. All of the performances were superb. I especially liked Katrina's numbers from "Camelot." It was also impressive to see the three courts of Texas be presented to the court and then stand united.

Various groups and organizations were presented to the court, including the River City Mixed Chours, which gave a command performance. ICON shared the profits from ticket sales with various organizations. An award was presented to the Diamond Bar for the number they performed when presented to the court, and which resulted in a hand-holding, swaying circle of unity in the audience.

The evening culminated in the crowning of Emperor VII Dick (Richard the Lion Hearted) and Empress VII Velvet. My heartfelt congratulations to these fine men, and my wishes for a successful year of reign in an atmosphere of unity.

Sunday after was a time of brunching at the Ramada Inn, where the various courts dished the dirt on one another and awards were presented by the retiring royal family, including one to The New Voice.

On Sunday evening, The Max was the scene for a Victory Show, which was indeed a marathon drag show which drug on at times. A host of out-of-towners performed, from Minnie Mouse to Miss Brooks, who came to America from England and was doing drag when WWII broke out. We also saw an undertaker dance up a storm (a former Omaha person transplanted to Santa Monica). Many performers surrendered their tips to ICON for contribution to Nebraska AIDS projects, raising \$305 that evening. It would take a book to recount all of the entertainment, and I would omit someone and offend. I did indeed enjoy the entire weekend.

Throughout the weekend I was struck by the various expressions of cooperation, commitment and devotion to the cause of unity. I have attended a number of annual events, from church conferences to national business organizations. The emotions of such events bring out some very fine intentions which are often not realized. That is human (not gay) nature. Another natural occurrence is that when the same people are hypocritical, they hear themselves in time, and often correct the problem.

A number of very tired people could tell you why coronation is not a monthly event, and so -- as a gay/lesbian community -- we shall have to endure the hypocrites until, year by year, they mature. Meanwhile, we must continue to work together. I believe that our newly elected, as well as our new retired, imperial families have shown us what words cannot express. I am encouraged, excited and proud as I look forward to the reign of Emperor VII Dick, and Empress VII Velvet, and to what those of us who are involved can do!

--Jerry Peck





Emperor Dick Brown, Empress Velvet



Stepping Down Show



ICON Board of Governors

## Coronation VII



One of the seven visiting Courts

River City Mixed Chorus







Visiting Heartland Chorus sings with R.C.M.C.

PRIDE  
EVENTS '87



Rosemarie Walase -- Keynote Speaker at Rally



Midwest Gay Arts Festival





Scenes from Omaha Pride Parade



Pride Picnic in Lincoln



Sue Fink In Concert

## Health Fair Planned At Boardwalk

The Boardwalk and The Club would like to start an annual Health Fair. They are in the planning process, looking toward mid-August as the target date for this annual event. At this time, Dr. Goldsmith and social worker Ann Lamb from the Viral Syndrome Clinic in Omaha are planned to speak at the first Health Fair. Other speakers, and organizations to help in planning and executing this event, are being sought. If you have any ideas or time to volunteer, please feel free to call Michael Francis at The Club from noon to 7 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, at 474-9642.

## "Summer Kamp" A Success

The Midwest Gay Arts Festival concluded on Sunday, June 14, with a wonderful performance by the River City Mixed Chorus (RCMC) of Omaha. The Heartland Men's Chorus from Kansas City was the special guest of RCMC. In addition, Sue Fink and RCMC had the privilege of performing together in their respective concerts.

The "La Cage Aux Folles" medley was delightful and, at one point, quite poignant. The sincerity and image of the chorus singing "I am not free until I can say, 'I am, who I am'" lingers on. At this point a special RCMC ensemble remained on stage to perform several tunes, one being "Somewhere, Out There," the theme song from "An American Tail." Two members of the chorus came out in drag for "Bosom Buddies," a song depicting two catty older women. Perhaps most entertaining was "We Go Together," a tune most of us remember from "Grease."

The synchronicity between Gina Skaggs and her group, the Heartland Men's Chorus, was impressive. This chorus performed several songs before the RCMC joined them under the direction of RCMC conductor Kevin Jones. The conclusion had the choruses leaving single file, maintaining a final verse, via the main entrance rather than going backstage.

Several unique and impromptu touches were obvious throughout the evening. As a first time partic-

ipant, one feels encouraged to follow the RCMC more closely. A source of pride for the RCMC is that they are a mixed chorus, composed of men and women. The RCMC is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses. Every three years the Association produces a choral festival. In 1989 the festival will be held in Seattle, Washington.

--C.M. Carroll

## "Outrageous" Feminism With Sue Fink

Sue backstage vs. Sue/Sufa onstage made one thing clear: the audience brings out the "outrageous" in Sue Fink. The concert was soon a journey, begun in Atlantis, reconvened in Omaha, Nebraska. Tinges of Shirley MacLaine came through Sufa, Sue's medium. Sufa assisted in certifying the audience "outrageous" and wrote one of Sue's favorite songs.

The audience's connection with Sue was most obvious as we obediently stuck a finger on our foreheads, awaiting further instructions. We were being hypnotized, based on such common bonds as eating, breathing, . . . Obviously, Sue has the stage presence and pizzazz necessary to be a successful performer.

Talent to match abounded. A casino player at five months of age, Sue graduated to choral singing and directing in her adult years. Her voice range is wonderful, and several of the upper notes she held were impressive, especially from a rock performer.

Sue Fink does rock music with a feminist touch. A personal favorite was a song about a soldier wanting to fight a "justifiable war." All the cuts designated for her new album deserve stars of excellence. Her current album is a combination of political and romantic tunes that most concert-goers gladly purchased. Sue adds a "personal" touch to all she does. She was appreciated.

-- C.M. Carroll



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# Differently Abled

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## Insights: A Conversation With A Blind Gay And His Lover

At dinner the other evening, Dad was discussing Doug's blindness with our houseguest. As Dad commented about Doug's unique problems, saying such things as, "I don't see how he does it; I couldn't," Bob -- who is also blind -- interjected comments here and there. Finally, as though to sum up the topic, Dad said, "I don't know what Doug would do without Garry." After a pause -- some writers would have called it a pregnant pause -- Bob replied succinctly with the most apt response: "What would Garry do without Doug?"

Just as there are many euphemisms for the word "death," the same can be said for words such as "disabled" or "handicapped." "Differently abled" seems to be a nice inoffensive substitute for using words like blind, deaf, paraplegic, and so on. It is more comfortable for people to use softer, less harsh words than the cold, harsh, often blunt words.

"Being blind," Doug says, "not only has its frustrations, but also has its advantages. Like Christmas shopping: I can usually part the crowds and get right to the sales clerk or cashier." Garry comments that "...when we are in a crowded mall or store I usually let Doug go first so he can clear a path."

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### *"Being blind ... also has its advantages."*

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Doug chimed in with a comment that seems to apply to many of the sighted people: "Sometimes when shopping, I have a bitch of a time finding a sales person, and it's not that the store is understaffed, it's just that they don't know what to say or expect. Maybe they think they will get blind germs or feel that dealing with a 'differently abled'

person is above and beyond the call of duty."

Doug commented on a couple of his frustrations. "When we go to the store, or to a meeting, especially in summer, Garry will often say something like 'Look at that hunk mowing the lawn.' He usually embellishes his description with phrases like blond, tan, hairless, with a body that won't quit. It is discouraging not to be able to see the perfect 10. It's amazing how people depend on visual input, both to see and be seen.

"Another hindrance occurs at parties or gatherings. Obviously, many times I don't know who is there simply because I can't see them. Perhaps it's my paranoia, but are they avoiding me because they don't want to speak to me? Or are they avoiding me because of other differences such as age, sex or other interests? Or are they so involved with their group that they don't really talk to anyone else? I'm getting better at voice recognition, but it still takes time and practice. I still call people by their wrong names, or to save a lot of embarrassment, I don't use names at all. A few people have come up to me and started the conversation with 'Hi, Doug, this is so and so,' mentioning their name. I appreciate that."

Garry related some of his feelings and thoughts. "First of all I think of Doug as a very special person who happens to be blind. I don't think of him as a blind person. Obviously we have a lot of interests in common. Upon reflection, I guess the only area that is 'my job' is doing all the driving. It would be nice to have someone else take care of the transportation periodically. But it sure is nice to come home after work and see that dinner is made once in a while. We both love to cook, and it is interesting to see how meal preparation is handled. It never is 'Your turn tonight, I made dinner last night.' We both have developed a sixth sense about who is going to cook the dinner, and there are many times we both are in the kitchen, each preparing a different part of the meal. It's that

kind of sharing that makes the relationship so good. We have each other to lean on. I have often said that the best thing for Doug was the eight months he spent in Lincoln." (Doug spent time at a state agency orientation center learning coping skills, alternative techniques, basically ways to function as a blind person in a sighted world.) "The fundamental difference was his change in attitude. The negatives were changed to positives; the cannot's were replaced with can's, and his whole attitude turned around completely. The pain and agony of living alone for those eight months was well worth it. The school in Lincoln made him a better person and that made me a better person."

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### *"If you don't have a sense of humor, I don't know how you can get through life."*

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Both Garry and Doug have a good sense of humor. "If you don't have a sense of humor, I don't know how you can get through life," Doug said. "Life is a banquet and most poor SOB's are starving to death. I suppose that some people are repulsed when I tell them about the blind guy who picked up his dog guide by the tail and twirled it around over his head and said to the clerk, 'I think I'll just have a look around.' Now, not only do I have the blind community on my ass, but the ASPCA as well."

On a more serious note, Doug relates that it is interesting to see how many people expect so little from him. "I guess the sighted world doesn't think you can do much expect sit in a rocking chair and -- if you are really good -- listen to the radio. As in all walks of life, there are the do-ers and the do-ees. I suppose it is human nature that makes people assume I can't do. I just wish they would ask and not assume. I'm not afraid of saying no (or yes)."

Doug related some of his experiences at school. He is halfway

*continued*

through getting two degrees, one in Culinary Arts and the other in Restaurant Management. "I never had problems with my classmates. But at first some of the instructors were apprehensive about me, especially with knives and things like slicing machines and other power equipment in the kitchen. It took about two or three months to convince them I was capable, and wasn't going to slice my fingers off and drop them into the salad.

"In fact, one instructor told me that I had opened his eyes (pardon the pun), and that I had opened the door for future blind students. I just hope he realizes that people have different goals and aspirations. I never want to be a role model or set standards of behavior. I just want to be treated as an individual." It is interesting to note that Doug has been elected treasurer for the food club at school.

"Every now and then," Doug concluded, "I will have to ask someone to give me some help. For example, I might ask a person I am working with to read a recipe, and the person will respond with something like, 'Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot you can't see it.' Down deep I tingle and feel good because I know they are treating me like they treat everyone else."

There is no real ending; life goes on and people will be people. In life, gay or straight, male or female, people always need support. It's just that some people need support in different ways.



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## "Most Times Now, Dreams Are Enough"

I was not always disabled. Before May 27, 1985, I never realized there were so many disabled people. I really notice canes, braces, walkers and wheelchairs now. I guess the things I miss the most are running, riding my ten-speed, and especially dancing. I was very active before my accident, doing benefits for various organizations at the bars, working several jobs, singing in choirs and choruses at church.

Suddenly I was bedridden, unemployed and coming off the walls emotionally. My one-and-a-half year relationship disintegrated; people who had been close friends ran like rabbits. There were a few who stood by, and those few -- along with new people who came into my life -- carried me until I was strong enough and willing to fight for myself. I really gave up for a while. People around me believed and hoped for me, and I hung on to them.

It took nearly a year before I stopped resenting my situation and took my first emotional steps toward working with what I had. In June 1986, I walked the Gay Pride Week March. It was like coming out all over again. I was surprised by the reactions of other people at the March. I was walking for myself -- partly to see how far I could go, partly to reestablish some sense of pride and self-worth in me. I wanted to be like everyone else, I wanted to belong. I will never forget the support and respect I received from total strangers. Hugs, tears,

even applause, as I completed the four-block walk. I didn't realize that other people would even notice me!

A few months after the march, I returned to the River City Mixed Chorus. The Chorus members have gone beyond the all of duty to accommodate my circumstances. They help me up and down stairs, give me rides, carry my purse and books, and provide me with a stool during concerts. One Chorus member recently told me that he sometimes wants to ask me if I need help getting up and down stairs, but that he didn't know quite how to ask.

Most people really don't know how to approach me, how to react to me. I am very seldom asked, "What is wrong with you?" or "What happened to you?" We really don't have any etiquette guidelines for the disabled except "Don't Stare!" There are always new terminologies and New Movements among the disabled. I read the other day that "they" are now wanting to call "us" people with "special needs." I would much rather be called "disabled" or "handicapped" than to be referred to as *needy*. I still have trouble accepting my limitations and asking for assistance. I think my pride gets in the way. Every time I ask for help, I feel helpless, and that's hard on the ego.

One of the brightest spots in my life is my new lover. I never thought anyone could actually fall for me, or find me attractive. Tamey (my partner) never knew me before the accident. Her love and support mean a lot to me. She believes in me, and even thinks I'm pretty and sexy! She has helped me overcome some of the feelings of alienation, different-ness, worthlessness and unattractiveness. There are a lot of

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behind-the-scenes things that she helps me with, like bathing and tasks that involve lifting, bending, carrying or prolonged standing. She and my die-hard friends have been a powerful force in my struggle to regain some self-confidence and incentive. They believed in me when I couldn't and I believed in them. There are a lot of things I can do!

Two weeks ago I did my first bar show in two years. People were wonderful to me, responsible and accommodating. It was like a miracle of sorts. I felt like "myself" again.

I still occasionally daydream about sneaking into rooms unnoticed, jogging a country road in the early morning, flying down a hill on my old black ten-speed touring bike, or dancing until I drop. Most times now, the dreams are enough. That's growth!

There is a grieving process, there is denial, there is rage, there is self-pity, there is fear; and then comes a gentle tolerance that borders on acceptance. I guess a lot of my ability to accept myself comes from the ability of others to accept me. I am learning again to love myself by being loved -- just as I am.

Jacqie Coleman

## Incidentally, I'm Going Blind

When I sat down to write this article the first thought that came to me was "Boy, does this topic hit home with me." The reason for this is that I am a differently-abled person myself. As I began writing I encountered so many emotions, but the most important thought was "Where do I start?" From the beginning, of course.

I entered the United States Army nine years ago in perfect health, excited because I was entering a new phase of my life. I went through a twelve-week basic training course and then an additional eighteen-week training course with flying colors. I then received my orders for my first duty, which was in Frankfurt, Germany.

By the end of that first year I noticed a change in my eyesight. I went on sick-call and had my eyes examined. The doctor who had examined my eyes didn't know what was the matter. I was sent to an eye specialist.

It was during this appointment that the doctor discovered that I had acquired an eye condition called "Kerataconus." I know exactly what you are thinking: "What in the heck is that?" In lay terms, this eye condition is the deterioration of the cornea lens. The doctor had many questions for me. Did I know of anyone in my family history who might have this condition? No. The doctor was baffled. He explained to me that this condition is usually an inherited condition. Had I had any eye problems before this time? Again, no. He explained to me that his eye condition usually happens in young children and can be corrected by a cornea transplant. The doctor told me that if I would have acquired this condition as a child they would have been able to do something about it. He felt that

it would be too dangerous to even attempt, and that the only thing they could do for me was to fit me with glasses. Later on I would have to wear glasses along with contact lenses.

*During this whole process I kept thinking to myself what life would be like being blind..*

During this whole process I kept thinking to myself what life would be like being blind. The other question I kept asking myself was what I had done to deserve this eye condition.

Nine years have passed since I found out that I was going blind. It has only been in the last few years that I have been able to come to terms with my condition. I am to the point of having to wear the contact lenses along with the glasses.

When I go to the library I have to go to the large print section to get books. I am also a musician; I am

*continued*

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now having to get large print sheet music because I am unable to read normal print.

I have only ten years of eyesight left. Each and every day that goes by I realize how precious eyesight is. The only advice that I can give to those who read this article is, "Please take care of your eyesight because it is so precious."

--Chappie

## Lincoln Lawyer Understands Deafness

Sometimes I have sudden realizations that can change my perspective on the world, as well as my place in it. Obviously, being gay was one such realization. Another important one was when I discovered the issues of my feminism, and my past insensitivity to them. Well, it happened again the other day! I went to Omaha with a friend, and spent the evening with some friends. It was like any other Sat-

urday night -- there was dancing, joking, laughter, and the joy of spending time among close friends. The only thing wrong was that one person was not dancing or laughing. Someone didn't fit in, and that person was me. This was because I do not know American Sign Language (ASL), and everybody else did. I was definitely handicapped -- I could not communicate! I had never before considered myself differently-abled, and this was quite a shock. My friend, however, was very considerate and translated for me.

This article is about that friend. A native of Chicago, Mark Wojcik, 25, moved to Lincoln last July (after graduating with distinction from the John Marshall Law School) to take a position as judicial clerk with the Nebraska Supreme Court. As an attorney licensed in both Illinois and Nebraska, he has written many articles, not only for *The New Voice*, but for professional journals. His last article was published earlier this year by the John Marshall Law Review, and dealt with the unconstitutionality of AIDS testing.

He speaks German, and can read Spanish, French, and Russian. And now, if that isn't enough, he has also learned American Sign Language.

Why ASL? Mark quickly responded, "In Chicago, I would often see deaf guys in the bars, and was fascinated with their communicative abilities. How they used their hands and facial expressions was beautiful. In Lincoln, I later saw the movie 'Children of a Lesser God.' Soon after that, I learned about the Interpreter's Training Program at Southeast Community College and started taking classes." That was last January. In April, he started interpreting for the Metropolitan Community Church in Omaha. He was last seen with The River City Mixed Chorus at the Pride Week concert.

Mark continued, "As a lawyer, I am in a unique position to help the deaf. The deaf have special legal problems that cannot be addressed without some knowledge of deaf culture and ASL." As an example he showed me some work he is in-

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volved in concerning the Miranda warnings for the deaf and hearing impaired.

The Miranda warnings are those familiar legal warnings advising persons in custody of their rights not to answer questions, and to have an attorney present during questioning.

*When he couldn't tell the police his name (how could he?) he was searched for identification.*

"If you literally translate the Miranda warnings into sign language, many of the important concepts are lost. For example, if you literally sign 'under arrest' it comes out 'beneath arrest'. That obviously presents some problems because we're dealing with legal words on one hand and conceptual language on the other. While ASL is a very rich and beautiful language, it is a conceptual language that often does not easily lend itself to precise legal interpretation."

He also told me of a case in California where a deaf man was arrested and handcuffed. When he couldn't tell the police his name (how could he?) he was searched for identification. The police found some cocaine and arrested him for that. The case was later dismissed due to improper seizure of evidence, but it points out the necessity of being sensitive to others' abilities.

In August Mark will be moving to New York to work for the U.S. Court of International Trade. This will leave a void in our community, because there was seldom an interpreter for area events. Hopefully this link in the community will be quickly re-established; the fewer barriers within our own lesbian and gay culture that we have, the better. We can add more to society if we remove internal prejudices first.



## "Mikey"

My brother was "Mikey" long after the name was appropriate. Mike was born with ichthyosis, a skin disease which affects individuals to varying degrees. Mike had unique needs as a child. There were aveeno baths to soothe his dry, itchy skin. There was limited play time in the sun to avoid overheating. Mike's sweat glands are impaired. Meeting those needs were easiest and mother handled most of them.

Mike's need for acceptance of his physical appearance, by himself and others, was more difficult for us to deal with. As a child I tried to protect Mike from any feelings or rejection. Schoolmates often called Mike "redman" or asked him if he had been in a fire. I had a short speech memorized for such occasions. Such "special" handling may have told Mike there was more "wrong" with him than he realized. Mike on some level realized we were trying to isolate him from rejection and frustration. Frustration with the limits on playtime because of the heat. Frustration over constantly being in the hospital, with some minor ailment that his system couldn't handle. Ironically enough the sad looking small boy reflected in home photographs looked happy and much more certain of himself in the hospital. Reflecting on this I imagine the staff let "Mikey" have his own identity.

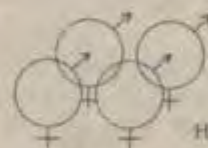
I grew to resent my protective role. I became angry with Mike for "whining" when he wanted me to bully someone who was bullying him. I wanted to be with my own friends without my little brother tagging along. I sometimes resorted to teasing him myself, then anger and the guilt for how I was handling it went to war.

Only now am I able to sort through the many feelings I have in accepting myself in relation to my brother. In processing, I can see a comfortable space for us to meet forming. I look forward to stepping into it.

--C.M. Carroll

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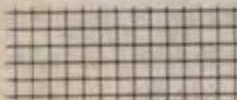


## Difficult Places To Access

Many places that are designed to accommodate handicapped individuals are designed to accommodate wheelchairs primarily. Hand railings are poorly designed for cane users and step-depths are frequently too narrow to facilitate walkers. Curves, shapes, and heights of hand railings, and the lack of handrailings, can be really difficult and sometimes impossible. Wheelchair ramps are very hard to walk up for most people who use canes or walkers. Lighting can be very important. Some difficult places in which to ambulate are:

- buildings with polished brick floors (entry ways without carpeting or rugs can be very slick)
- escalators
- cracked brick or hilly sidewalks, or those with high curbs
- crosswalks with quick-changing traffic signals or medians in the center
- city buses with high stairs; cars with low bucket seats
- rows of theatre seats set very close together
- fitting rooms with no chairs
- revolving doors and turnstiles

The list goes on and on. A lot has been done, but there needs to be much more awareness!

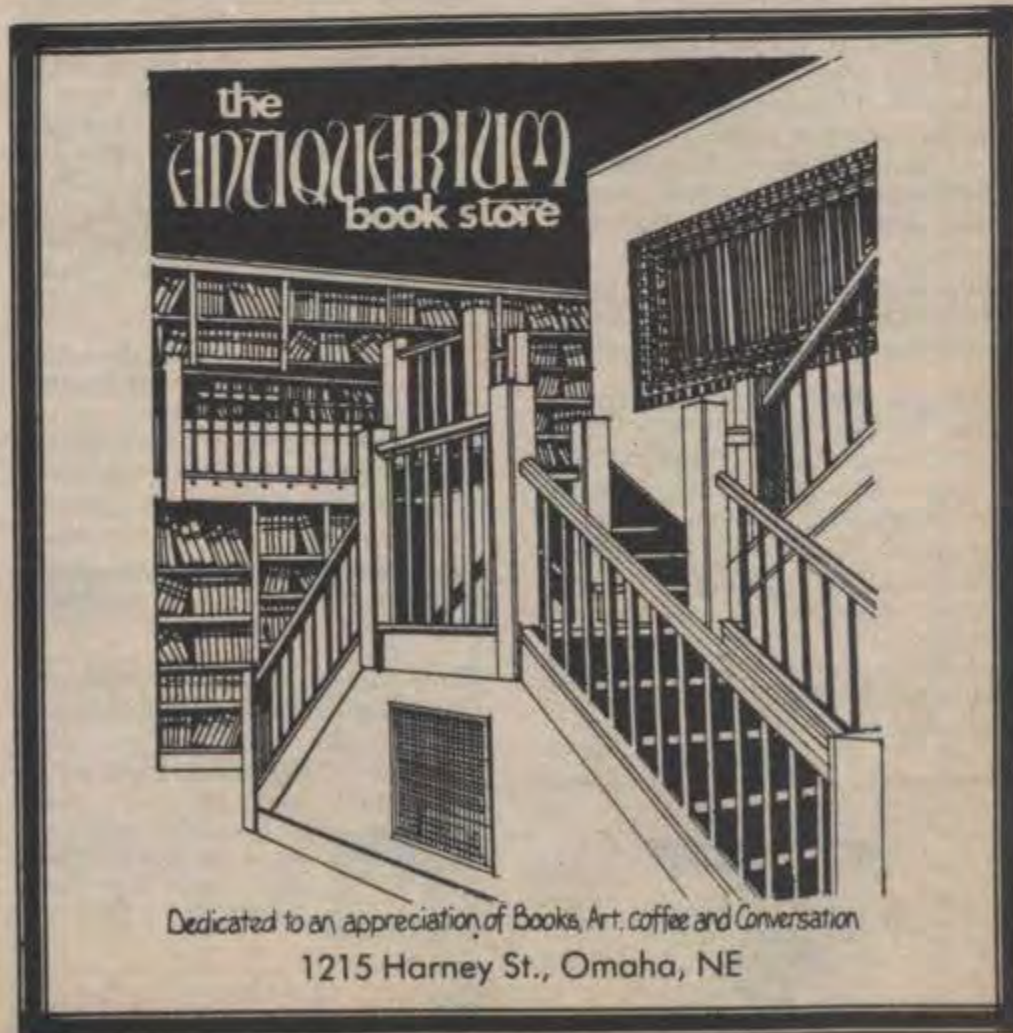


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# Features

## PFLAG Booknotes

In place of our usual book review, this month's review is concerning a quarterly resource published by AFFIRMATION: United Methodists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns. This resource for the Reconciling Congregations Program was originally called *Manna for the Journey* and is now called *Open Hands*.

Some of you may remember Mark Bowman and Beth Richardson, who led a workshop on reconciling congregations during the "Spirituality and Homosexual Persons Dialogue Conference" held at the Unitarian Church in Lincoln, NE, in February, 1986. They are the coordinators for the Methodist reconciling congregation program and the *Open Hands* quarterly. The Spring '87 issue completes their second year of publication and features "Minorities Within a Minority." Of the several interesting articles I enjoyed, this one, by Yee Lin, the most. It was originally printed as, "It Is Unthinkable to Disobey One's Parents If One Is a Properly Brought-up Chinese."

An article by Ben Roe, executive director of the Ministry in Human Sexuality and a United Methodist minister, entitled "Spiritual Gifts Lost," appeared in the Summer '86 issue. In that article he grieves the loss to his church of the spiritual gifts of one of God's children. This same issue featured journeys in other denominations, Unitarian Universalist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and the United Church of Christ. The Winter '86 issue featured civil rights. Included were three articles on the discriminations faced by lesbians and gay men in our society: "Abuse and Violence," "Loss of Parenting Rights," and "Loss of Housing and Employment."

I am happy to report that the Nebraska Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, held this month in Lincoln, NE, adopted the following resolution:

Therefore, be it resolved that this Annual Conference urges each local church to become a "Reconciling Congregation" through participation in the Reconciling Congregation Program, which affirms the full participation of all persons, regardless of sexual identity, in the life of their congregation.

Inquiries concerning the *Open Hands* publication may be directed to: *Open Hands*, P.O. Box 23636, Washington, D.C. 20026. Annual subscription is \$12, single issues are \$4.

--Elaine Z.  
PFLAG

## The Christian Gay

The following article is based upon the Scriptures as found in the New American Standard Bible. The N.A.S.B. is a highly scholarly translation of the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. It is not a paraphrase, nor does it incorporate inclusive language. Space does not allow reprinting of the text; your reading of the text is strongly recommended. This article is intended to be a Christian Gay's devotional and not a statement concerning political or social viewpoints.

### A Matter Of Righteousness

Text: Genesis 18:16 - 19:36

As Christian Gays and Christian Lesbians, we have often heard the account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Rather than accepting the account of others, we need to go to the Scriptures for our own understanding.

The text tells us that Abraham bargained with God asking, "Wilt thou indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" (A question which is appropriate in this day of charges that AIDS is God's punishment for the homosexual.) The question is one of righteousness -- not of sexual behavior. The bar-

gaining proceeded from sparing the cities for the sake of fifty righteous people to ten righteous people.

That which makes a person righteous in the sight of God is very often made complex by those who seek to place their standards upon others. For a person to be righteous, they must be in "right" relationship with God. Men have, through the ages, made commandments which they have attributed to God. Jesus declared the great commandments were to love God and your neighbor. (Matthew 22:34-40). As a Christian Gay, I can indeed love both my God and my neighbor.

The angels of God visited Sodom and were extended the hospitality of Lot, a righteous man. When the men of the city asked that the strangers be sent out to them, Lot offered his two virgin daughters to the crowd to "do to them whatever you like;" and we are not told if they went.

Lot, a righteous man, his wife and two daughters escaped the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt for turning back. Lot and his daughters went into the mountains. Lot's two daughters made Lot drunk and "Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father." (Genesis 19:36). Nothing is found saying that Lot was declared less than righteous, or destroyed for incest.

Scriptures do not tell us why the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were deemed not to be righteous. We are told of actions by the crowd at the strangers in their midst. My assumption is that these people allowed something to get in the way of their righteousness. If indeed a person's sexual drive interferes with their maintaining a righteous relationship with their God, then that may become their god. God commanded, "You shall have no other god before me." (Deuteronomy 5:7).

*continued*

I am confident that it is possible to be a Christian and also be either a gay man or a lesbian. It has become increasingly difficult to be openly gay or lesbian and maintain a relationship with many churches; but our righteousness can only be determined by our God -- not by the men and women of organized religious groups. If you are in a "right relationship" with God, celebrate that relationship and be proud to be a Christian Gay.

--Jerry Peck  
A Christian Gay

## Legal Briefs

### Nebraska Supreme Court Affirms Convictions in Gay Child Pornography Cases and Gay Sexual Assault Case

On June 19, 1987, the Nebraska Supreme Court affirmed convictions in a case involving a man's attempted sexual assault on a fifteen year old boy and a case involving gay child pornography.

Gerald High entered a plea of guilty to attempted second degree sexual assault, which is a class IV felony under Nebraska law. During December of 1984, High engaged in fellatio and anal intercourse with a fifteen year old boy. Accepting High's plea of guilty, Judge Jeffrey Chevront of the District Court of Lancaster County sentenced High to one to two years to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. The Nebraska Supreme Court found no error at the trial, and found that the sentence imposed was not excessive and would not be disturbed because it is within the statutory limits. A class IV felony is punishable by up to five years' imprisonment and/or a \$10,000 fine.

In a second case involving the same man, the Nebraska Supreme Court affirmed Judge Chevront's sentence of thirty months to eight years for generating child pornography. High had entered a plea of guilty to videotaping a certain fourteen year old boy performing acts of masturbation, fellatio, and simulated anal intercourse with other youths at an apartment in Lincoln,

Nebraska. The Supreme Court found that High knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently entered his plea of guilty and waived jury trial, and found that the sentence was not excessive.

The two *State v. High* cases follow by one week the Nebraska Supreme Court's affirmance of another gay child pornography conviction in *State v. Burke*, which arose in Omaha.

The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that the Nebraska Child Pornography Statute was not unconstitutional, and found that because Burke played or showed the "Cousin Bill" tape, he therefore "published" child pornography in the sense that he disclosed the contents of the tape and made them generally known. The Nebraska Supreme Court affirmed Judge Stephen Davis of the District Court for Douglas County, who sentenced Burke to two to five years at the Nebraska Penal and Correctional Complex.

--Mark Wojcik



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# Local Organizations

## Workers!

On Sunday, June 7, I was privileged to witness the gathering of a large spectrum of concerned people who are working in AIDS-related services. The wine and cheese gathering was called by representatives of the Nebraska AIDS Project and the Imperial Court of Nebraska's Project Concern, and was held at The Max.

People concerned about the AIDS crisis included: the Nebraska AIDS Project, the Imperial Court of Nebraska (Project Concern and Patients with AIDS), the Nebraska State Health Department, the Douglas County Health Department, the University of Nebraska Medical Center (Viral Syndrome Clinic), the American Red Cross (AIDS Education Coalition), AIDS Interfaith Network, the New Chance House, Planned Parenthood, Metropolitan Club, the Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, Two-Wheelers of Omaha, the Omaha Meat Packers, and The New Voice. My apologies to any representatives missed. Some of the people attending wear many hats.

The purpose of this gathering was to discuss the possibility of forming something like a Nebraska AIDS Alliance, which would be a state-wide, action-oriented group, legally separate from any single organization or group, and serving as an umbrella organization for all concerned groups. The primary purpose would be to keep other groups advised of what is being done by each group, avoiding duplication of efforts and offering support, advice, and assistance to others within the groups.

The discussion revealed some duplication in efforts to establish a respite/residence for AIDS patients. A common concern was the need for a media clearing house that would be instrumental in disseminating information to the public (not only the gay community). Concern was expressed over the legal limitations of some groups and

the difficulties that might come from the governing bodies of various organizations.

I felt proud to be a part of this meeting. The sexual preference of those attending was not in question; however, the gathering was organized by and hosted by members of the gay and lesbian community. AIDS is not only a gay/lesbian problem, but the gay/lesbian community is in the forefront of efforts to deal with the situation.

The New Voice looks forward to receiving authoritative information which can be passed on to our readers and supports the efforts of all people concerned with saving lives. My special thanks to Terry S. for his efforts along with the Nebraska AIDS Project in organizing this gathering and for his leadership in the brainstorming session. Thanks also to The Max for their hosting. Together, we can.

--Jerry Peck

## The Nebraska AIDS Alliance

My family is dying. Its members are Black, Caucasian, Asian, and sometimes Haitian. They are straight or gay, male or female. There are those who are young or old, plus those in the prime of their life.

In the meantime, we must finance AIDS research and support those who are currently AIDS patients in our community. This is a critical period, where we **all** must lay our politics aside to join in a more positive action to fight AIDS and support person with AIDS now.

During a reception by our AIDS organizations in Omaha, the groundwork was started for the Nebraska AIDS Alliance. The Alliance will comprise the leaders of organizations in Omaha, and also those individuals who share our concern over AIDS.

I am personally asking those people

in our community who are willing to volunteer their time to step forward **now**. We need the whole family to aid in this endeavor.

We do know that AIDS is a very costly disease. We must not wait for the government to decide how benevolent it wants to be in that case. Money is needed **now**, so research can be extended and enhanced. **Whatever** amount you give, please send it to the organization of your choice.

--Kerry Keyser  
Acting President  
Omaha Business

## GLRC News

The UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center had a successful and draining year. The achievements include: receipt of several grants, UNL Condom Day, the production of the play, "Torch Song Trilogy," formation of the Lesbian/Gay Programming Committee as a part of the University Program Council, as well as numerous other events.

GLSA/GLRC will be active during the summer. Call 472-5644 for complete details of our agenda.

The GLSA/GLRC will be at UNL in the fall. The Nebraska Union Board voted to let the group retain its office space in Room 342 of the Nebraska Union. The organization still needs students from UNL to serve in various capacities. Without students, GLSA **will not exist!**

The UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center and President Rodney Bell, II wish to thank the following groups and individuals for outstanding support - during the 1986-87 school year: Louis Crompton, Luis Perdomo-Diaz, Joel Brodsky (NCLU), UNL Women's Resource Center, The Boardwalk/Club, ICON, Gene Guenther and the cast of "Torch Song Trilogy," Arlene Gibbon (City/County Health Department), Margaret Wellis (University Health Center), and individuals who will remain unnamed.

# National Spotlight

## Civil Rights Laws Introduced

Gay and lesbian civil rights bills have been introduced into both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate in the 100th Congress. The House bill is No. 709, introduced by Rep. Ted Weiss (D-NY). The Senate bill is S 464, introduced by Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA). These bills, if passed, would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to bar discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation or federally assisted programs on the basis of sexual orientation.

Another important bill recently introduced into the House by Rep. Barney Frank is H.R. 1119, which would amend the current version of the Immigration and Naturalization Act, which treats homosexuals in a negative manner.

Sponsors and supporters are needed for all of these bills. Telephone, write, or visit your representatives and senators. Urge them to sponsor, or at least be a supporter. Ask your relatives and friends to do the same; and it is a good idea to thank those people who are sponsors already.

--PFLAG Federation Newsletter

## Quarterly Needs Your Writing

**Outlook**, a national lesbian and gay quarterly, will publish its premier issue on October 1, 1987. The magazine will be a national forum for in-depth exploration of lesbian and gay culture and politics. **Outlook** is calling for submissions of writing on the significant issues facing the gay and lesbian communities today. They are soliciting articles on politics, racial and ethnic issues, the social impact of AIDS, and the latest cultural developments. The quarterly is also looking

for "accessible scholarly writing, essays, fiction, opinion pieces, humor and satire, art, photography, interviews and book reviews."

Submissions may be sent to: **Outlook** at 18 Clipper Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

## Ad Deplores Court's Decision

To mark the first anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's **Bowers v. Hardwick** ruling, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) placed a full-page ad in the **New York Times** deploring the ruling. The Court ruled 5-4 that the Constitution does not protect private sexual conduct of consenting adults of the same sex. The full-page letter declared that "the majority opinion poses a grave threat to the constitutional freedoms of all Americans, gay and non-gay alike."

Public opinion polls have shown that a substantial majority of the American people disagree with the Court's decision. The open letter urged readers to tell the Court they opposed the decision and to send the advertisement to Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., the swing vote in the 5-4 decision, to alert him to the continuing unpopularity of the decision. Other individual rights cases, in which Justice Powell may again cast a deciding vote, will shortly come before the Court.

The letter also maintained that the Court side-stepped the issue of heterosexual sodomy, "leaving the door open for legal intrusions into all people's bedrooms," that the decision could affect previous court rulings such as those guaranteeing the freedom of choice to have an abortion and the right to use contraception, and also "could signal the end of the Federal judiciary's concern with individual rights and the beginning of an era of judicial deference to state control of our private conduct."

Those who want to let the Supreme Court know their opinions of **Bowers v. Hardwick** can write directly to Hon. Lewis F. Powell, Jr., United States Supreme Court, One First Street N.E., Washington, DC 20543.

--GLAAD Press Release

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## Women's Festivals

### Amazon Autumn Festival

P.O. Box 2104, Union, NJ 07083. (201) 567-7509.

### Boston Women's Theater Festival.

P.O. Box 469, Cambridge, MA 02238. (617) 547-1378.

### Celebration of Craftswomen

Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

### East Coast Women's Campfest

RR3 Box 185, Franklinville, NJ 08332. (609) 694-2037.

### Festival of Women's Music

Interart Center, 549 W. 52nd, New York, NY 10019.

### International Congress/Women in Music

G. Robinson/Music Department, Loyola, Loyola-Marymount,  
Los Angeles, CA 90045.

### Mangawhai Women's Festival

P.O. Box 46211, Herne Bay, Auckland, New Zealand.

### Mateel Women's Music Festival

R. Warren, Star Rt., Redway, CA 95560. (707) 923-3289.

### Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

Lisa Vogel/Boo Price, P.O. Box 22, Walhalla, Mi 49458. (616)  
757-4766. Also, P.O. Box 7430, Berkeley, CA 94707. (415)  
526-1810.

### Midwinter Minifest

Joy Rosenblatt, Mountain Moving Coffehouse, 828 W.  
Leland, Chicago, IL 60641. (312) 769-6899.

### National Women's Music Festival

Mary Byrne/Dino Sierp, P.O. Box 5217, Bloomington, IN  
47402. (317) 637-2906.

### National Women's Theater Festival

Wilma Marcus, Santa Cruz, CA. (408) 462-0501.

### New England Women's Musical Retreat

Kim Kimber, P.O. Box 728, West Hartford, CT 06107. (215)  
755-1007.

### Northwest Women's Culture Celebration

Evergreen College Women's Center CAB-214, Olympia, WA  
98505. (206) 943-7873.

### Sisterfire

Roadwork, 1475 Harvard NW, Washington, DC 20009. (202)  
234-9308.

### Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival

Robin Tyler/Lisa Ulrich-March, 13514 Hart, Van Nuys, CA  
91405. (818) 904-9495.

### Wimifest

Carol Boss, WIMIN, 2101 Altez NE, Albuquerque, NM  
87112. (505) 296-0949.

### Winnipeg Folk Festival

8-222 Osborne, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3L 1Z3. (204)  
284-9840.

### Women in Theater Festival

Sophie Parker, 64 Wyman, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

### Women's Annual Choral Festival

Calliope Womyn's Chorus, Sharon Henderson, 3211 35th Av-  
enue So., Minneapolis, MN 55406. (612) 722-3816.

### Women's One World Theater Festival

Pamela Cahme, 75 E. 4th, New York, NY 10003. (212)  
925-3683.



In 1969 there was Stonewall . . .

. . . In 1979 there was the first Lesbian and Gay March on Washington . . .

In 1987 we return to Washington, stronger and more determined, to proclaim  
for love and for life, we're not going back!

October 11, 1987

## The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights

On October 11, tens of thousands of lesbian and gay civil rights supporters are going to march on Washington to demand the rights that continue to be denied to us. Now, more than ever before, we need to unite, to show the world that we cannot be ignored, and that we **will** prevail.

We need your help. Please call the national office at (202) 783-1828 or write to National March on Washington, Inc., P.O. Box 7781, Washington, D.C. 20044.

As members of the lesbian and gay movement, we too are affected by rising racism and sexism which oppresses people of color and women; thereby the liberation of lesbians and gays is intricately linked to the struggles against racism and sexism. We realize that "none of us will be free until we are all free." We therefore call upon all of our sisters and brothers to actively confront racism on all levels both within our movement, and in the larger society. We demand an end to racist and sexist oppression. We demand an end to all social economic, judicial, and legal oppression of people of every race, age, gender, ability, class, ethnicity, faith, political ideology, and sexual orientation.



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# Sports

## Ride 'Em, Gay Rodeo

The fifth annual Rocky Mountain Regional Rodeo was held in Denver, Colorado May 29-31. This is an annual rodeo event sponsored by the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association and sanctioned by the newly formed International Gay Rodeo Association. Contestants from Colorado, California, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma and Texas were on hand to compete in some 13 sanctioned events.

This year a Nebraska contestant, Joan W., was sponsored by Cherchez la femme and Kelly's. Joan entered the bareback bronc riding, calf roping on foot, and breakaway calf roping on horseback. She placed fifth of 50 contestants in the roping events, and was the only woman to be entered in the bareback bronc riding event. Joan was an entry with the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association.

The concept of gay rodeo started in Reno, Nevada in 1978. In 1983 the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association sponsored its first annual rodeo. The purpose and objective of promoting the rodeos is to foster national and international amateur competition and related arts, and to develop amateur athletes and activities for competition. Many gay rodeo associations are non-profit and raise funds for such charities as Muscular Dystrophy, National Gay Health Education Foundation and Gay Task Force, and state AIDS task forces.

Rodeo week activities included "Hoedown Shows" featuring clogging groups from a number of major cities, special entertainment for the rodeo and dances featuring live entertainment. A special kick-off and awards party and barbecues highlighted the week of rodeo events.

An awards ceremony followed the Sunday performance, with the All-Around Cowboy and All-Around



Cowgirl each winning \$750 in cash, trophy buckle and championship trophy saddle.

The founding members of the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association based their ideals of the organization on the western image of strength, endurance and self-reliance. The Colorado association's second concern was that of gender identity in their association and community. They have worked hard to make the CGRA for gay people -- not men or women. They feel men and women are equally capable of whatever they choose to do. Gay rodeo associations take pride in their western heritage. Contestants exhibit competitive skills in a way in which each team member helps fellow contestants.

They demonstrate the integrity and support to further developing friendship and clean competition.

The next rodeo will be held in Oklahoma City when the Great Plains Rodeo Association and the Oklahoma Gay Rodeo Association sponsor the event from August 14-16. If any Nebraska residents are interested in attending or participating in the gay rodeos, contact Joan W. at 423-6954 or Cherchez la femme in Lincoln.

--Joan W.

### NAP . . .


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**\* Nebraska AIDS Project**

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

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# Classifieds

## Thanks for the Support

I would like to thank the entire community for their support during this unfortunate time.

Sincerely, Phil Hogan.

## Lambda House Needs Items

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



## Thanks Offered

Using a unique format of "a show within a show," The Max staged a very successful benefit for Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) on May 31st. Over \$700.00 was raised which will be used to help with expenses for General Conferences in July. MCC would like to thank Bruce and Don and their entire staff; Velvet, Pat, Terry, Dick, Muffy, Danielle, Connie, Katrina, Jacqie, and our MCC Choir for all their hard work and help.

## Roommate Wanted

Responsible third roommate needed to share large Dundee duplex. \$133/month plus 1/3 utilities/deposit. Phone 551-3749. Moving date is August 1.



## Living Space Offered

If you know of someone who needs a place to live, permanently or temporarily, call 474-1205. Ask for Gideon.

## Female Friendship Sought

Young bisexual looking for (female) companion, friends, and pen pals. Write to: Deb Miller, 920 1st Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410.



## The New Voice

**WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!**

**Upcoming Theme Issues.**

- **AUGUST**  
Golden Gays and Lesbians
- **SEPTEMBER**  
Welcome Back
- **OCTOBER**  
Planning Your Future

## Subscription Notice

Due to increased production costs, subscription rates for **The New Voice** will be \$16.00 annually as of August 1. You may still subscribe at the old rate of \$12.00 a year or extend your present subscription another year at the old rate if you act now.

We look forward to your continued support!

## Omaha Bars, Clubs, and Lounges

*The Chesterfield*, 1951 St. Mary's Ave., 342-1244.  
*The Diamond*, 712 South 16th St., 342-9595.  
*The Max*, 1417 Jackson, 346-4110.  
*The Run*, 1715 Leavenworth, 449-8703.  
*The Stage Door*, 1512 Howard St.,

## Lincoln Bars, Clubs and Lounges

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



# Gay/Lesbian Resource Directory

## Nebraska Statewide

- Affirmation of Nebraska.** Box 80122, Lincoln 68501. United Methodists for Gay/Lesbian Concerns. Meets alternately in Omaha and Lincoln, second Friday of the month. ☎ 476-9913.
- Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights.** Box 94822, Lincoln 68509. Advocacy group which lobbies for lesbian/gay civil rights, provides educational presentations, publishes a newsletter and sponsors cultural and political programs.
- Imperial Court of Nebraska.** Box 3772, Omaha 68102. Social organization for the advancement of the gay society. Omaha meeting first Monday of each month, except holidays. ☎ 733-1924.
- Nebraska AIDS Project.** Box 3118, Omaha 68131. Center for information, support, and coordination of AIDS related community efforts. Call in Omaha ☎ 342-4233 or toll-free statewide, ☎ 1-800-782-AIDS.
- The New Voice of Nebraska.** Box 80819, Lincoln 68501. Monthly magazine serving the gay/lesbian community. Staff meets in Lincoln the first Wednesday of each month. ☎ 475-7740 or ☎ 345-2181.
- Presbyterians For Lesbian/Gay Concerns.** Organization meeting scheduled for February 28. ☎ 733-1360 (Cleve).
- UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center.** Room 342 (Mail: Room 222), Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588. Hotline: 472-5644. Social activities, AIDS education project, roommate referral, support groups, and library.
- Viral Syndrome Clinic** University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. Jonathan Goldsmith, MD. ☎ 559-6202. Ann Lamb, MSW, ☎ 559-4420.

## Lincoln

- Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous.** Group meets every Tuesday and Friday. Call the AA central office for location, ☎ 466-5214.
- Capital City Couples.** Organization to promote positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships, create stability in those relationships, and to share and socialize with other gay couples. ☎ 423-1374.
- Gay/Lesbian Information and Support Line.** Box 94882, Lincoln 68509. Referral and support phone line staffed by peer counselors. ☎ 472-4697 in evenings.
- Lambda Resource Center.** 2845 R St. Meeting rooms, outpatient counseling, group activities. ☎ 474-1205.
- Lesbian Support Group.** Contact Women's Resource Center, Room 117, Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588. Informal discussion group for lesbians; all womyn welcome. Meets weekly. ☎ 472-2597.
- Lincoln Legion of Lesbians.** Box 30317, Lincoln 68503. Lesbian-feminist collective providing a newsletter, confidential referral, and support groups for lesbians. Sponsors cultural and social programs.
- Ministry in Human Sexuality, Inc.** Box 80122, Lincoln 68501. Non-profit agency providing counseling, education, and supportive action for those seeking growth and understanding in the areas of sexuality and relationships. J. Benjamin Roe, Executive Director. ☎ 476-9913.
- New Directions Center.** Short term individual counseling, support groups, classes, and workshops dealing with coming out, relationship issues, parenting. Sliding fee scale. ☎ 476-2802.
- Open Door Ministry.** To provide orthodox spiritual counseling to all people in need at no charge. ☎ 474-3390.
- Parents/Friends of Lesbians and Gays.** Box 4374, Lincoln 68501. Support group for parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. Meets fourth Tuesday of the month. ☎ 435-4688.
- Third Culture.** Non-residential subculture dealing with issues such as coming out, social behavior, the gay lifestyle, suicide, and drug or alcohol abuse. ☎ 474-1205 (Pat).
- The Wimmin's Show.** KZUM Radio 89.5 and 99.3 FM. 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. every Sunday.
- Woman's Journal-Advocate.** Box 81226, Lincoln 68501. Monthly feminist publication.

## Omaha

- Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous.** Group meets weekly, Friday at 8:15 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church, 420 S. 24th St. ☎ 345-9916.
- Gay/Lesbian ALANON.** Group meets weekly, Sunday at 4 p.m. at Lowe Ave. Presbyterian Church, 1023 N. 40th St. ☎ 556-9907.
- Dignity of Omaha.** Providing common bonds through Mass and meetings for gays and lesbians and their friends. Regular Mass second Sunday of the month, 7 p.m., St. John's lower level. ☎ 341-1460 or 345-9426.
- Gay Parents Support Group.** Support group for gay parents who have children. ☎ 553-2308.
- Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon.** Group meets Fridays at 8:15 p.m. at MCC. ☎ 556-9907.
- Lutherans Concerned of Omaha.** Society of gay Christians and friends together to foster within a church climate of understanding, justice, and reconciliation among all women and men. ☎ 592-1209.
- Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha.** Box 3173, Omaha 68103. Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday Mid-week Program at 7:30 p.m.; Adult Sunday School at 9:10 a.m. ☎ 345-2563.
- Omaha Business and Professional Club.** Box 3124, Omaha 68103. Networking organization of business and professional persons. Meets third Wednesday of each month. ☎ 493-3343.
- Omaha Meatpackers.** 2116 N. 16 Apt. 8, Omaha 68110. Scott Cruea, secretary. ☎ 493-3343.
- PACT (People of All Colors Together).** Box 3683, Omaha 68103. A gay/lesbian interracial organization that offers educational, political, and social activities. ☎ 895-0865.
- Parents/Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG).** Box 3173, Omaha 68103. Support group for the parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. ☎ 556-7481 (Ruth).
- Project CONCERN.** Box 3772, Omaha 68102. AIDS related information. Speakers, brochures, posters, and VCR tapes. ☎ 455-3701.
- River City Bowling League.** Dean Vanderpool, secretary. ☎ 344-3821.
- River City Mixed Chorus.** Box 315, Omaha 68101. Volunteer community chorus for gay/lesbian and gay/lesbian-sensitive men and women with the goal of musical excellence in performance. Rehearsals Monday evenings. ☎ 342-4775.
- Two-Wheelers of Omaha (TWO) Motorcycle Club.** 305 Turner Blvd. #8, Omaha 68131.



# The Max!



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**OF**

**JAMIE MILLER**

---

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*Considerations for this page donated to the Jamie Miller Memorial AIDS Fund.*