

December

1991

The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A

HOLIDAY GREETINGS



Amy Marie * Carla * Dick * Gary * Larry * Lee * Mark * Pat * RJ * Sharon & Sharon * Terry

OUR TURN

AND THEN THERE WAS MAGIC

By Carla

MAGIC! MAGIC! MAGIC! Those words have echoed through the stands in many a gymnasium, but early in November, the stands grew silent as basketball fans of all ages heard the deafening announcement: Magic Johnson had tested positive for HIV, and he was retiring from professional basketball.

My first reaction was "how awful," but before I'd even had a chance to process the announcement, my thoughts were interrupted by a discussion I overheard. One woman was obviously upset, she'd just heard some gay rights activist say that now maybe the rest of the country would take AIDS seriously and there'd be some funding for research. The activist appeared happy that someone so well known had tested positive and had told the world. A voice inside me agreed with the hope that yes, maybe now more people would realize that AIDS is a threat to them, but a far bigger part of me was angry that a gay activist—no, that anyone—would appear happy over one more HIV+ diagnosis. That made me angry.

Maybe it's because I love basketball, maybe it's because in my fifteen years of teaching I attended over 55 basketball games every year (that's a whopping total of over 825—and that doesn't even count the ones I attended in grade school, junior high, high school or college). I mean I love basketball. I mean that other 40 year old woman who you know has dug a two foot by two foot hole, mixed the concrete to fill it, and helped assemble and mount a basketball goal for her spouse's grandson and plans to do it all over again so she can have her very own goal to shoot hoops. I do love basketball, but you know, I don't think my love for basketball has much at all to do with my anger. You see—I don't really like pro basketball—I don't think I have even seen a whole game with Magic.

But I know who Magic Johnson is, and so do hundreds of thousands of kids from age 3 to 33. As I thought about this, I really was overwhelmed.

How would they deal with this? What would be the impact of this announcement? Who would be their hero now? We all know how quickly fame fades.

Saturday when I went to teach, I asked my seniors to write about their reaction to the announcement. They don't like to write much, and a lot of what they write is not so good, but Saturday, they wrote from their hearts. As one of them said, "I don't even care how he [Magic] got it. I just know one of life's greatest legends is over because of it." They all knew who Magic was—WAS. What an awful word.

Then Sunday, I opened the *WORLD HERALD*, and there on the editorial page was a cartoon. Oh, how true was the thought I expressed. A youngster who looked about 10 sat leaning against a basketball goal. He was bundled up for winter (and a long one it will be); his chin rested on his hand, and his eyes were cast down in a stare at the basketball with Magic's name on it resting on the ground.

How many kids all across this country have just lost their hero? Thousands, I am sure.

December 1 is AIDS Awareness Day. I'd say "Thank you, Magic, America is aware."

To that gay activist I'd say, "Who do you know who has died with AIDS? Name them. How do you feel about that?"

I'm angry. David S. died; Jerry Peck died; you all know many more than I do. So what? What are we going to do about it? What are WE going to do about it? It really is up to us to do something. No solution is magically going to appear. If we want more done, we're going to have to do it.

We are the ones to fund AIDS research. We are the ones to write and call our legislators until they get so damn tired of hearing from us that they just give in. We are going to have to support the Nebraska AIDS Project. We are going to have to come out of the closet. We are going to have to pave the way for those who are HIV positive to come out of the closet. We are going to have to love and take the time to care for our brothers and sisters and all the children with AIDS. We cannot

leave AIDS awareness to magic, and we cannot leave AIDS awareness for a day in December.

Look where that has gotten us:

John	Michael
Dem	Michael
A.J.	Norm
Ron	Harold
Chris	Ken
Norman	Steven
Paul	Lynn
Dennis	Anthony
Dean	Roy
Jamie	Yolandra
Bob	Jon
Martin	Jonathan
Cleus	Katy
Tom	Gary
Edward	Mark
Mark	Dick
Michael	Don
George	Mark
Alan	Max
Rich	Scott
Neil	J.D. "Joe"
Helen	Lois
David	Duane
Jerome	Derek
Rick	Cheryl
Harold	Doug
Ernie	Billy
Johnny	Rez "Dolly"
Mark	Charles
Jerry	Bernard

Have you read these names? All of them—each and every one of them? This is only half the list. There's more, and the list just keeps growing!

Walter	Gary
Don	Chip
Coola	Gary
Marc	Troy
John	Jim
Jeff	Tim
Chris	Tim
Darroll	Joe
Greg	Richard
Sam	Jeff
Jimmy	Jeff
Greg	Jim
Richard	Wayne
Doug	David
Michael	Ralph
Steve	Arian
Kathy	Raymond
Kevin	Chuck
Dwight	Roy
Ronald	James
Ray	Scott
Kevin	Steven
Harry	Dennis
Robin	Jim
Bob	John
Brian	Louis
Larry	Greg
Mark	Stuart

So now what? Magic will not stand alone; the months ahead are going to hold many more shocking announcements, and for me, each announcement is a tragedy, a tragedy that just keeps growing. Now is the time for us to turn our awareness into action and to continue promoting the fight against AIDS on all fronts, and now is the time we can reach out with compassion to a country that is just beginning to feel the pain.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MATCHING FUNDS

September, 1991

Dear Friend:

America's lesbian and gay community has recently been dealt several defeats at the hands of the Federal government. Like you, I have watched in dismay and disgust as Congressman William Dannemeyer helped ban HIV-positive travelers and immigrants, as Jesse Helms championed mandatory testing of doctors and nurses, and as the Defense Department continued to harass gay men and lesbians in the military. We have taken a beating at the hands of homophobes in Congress and the White House, and it's time to fight back.

Who defends us against this political gay-bashing in the Capital? Who speaks for you in Washington? The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. NGLTF has served you well by lobbying congress members to sponsor the Federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill, collecting and publicizing statistics on anti-gay violence, and mentoring grassroots activists through their Creating Change conference.

As a longtime supporter and a recently elected board member of the Task Force, I strongly believe in the need to help the group that represents our interests to the nation. There are over 20 million gay Americans, and only one in one thousand is currently a member of the Task Force. I urge you to back NGLTF with as generous a contribution as you can possibly give (sent to NGLTF, 1734 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-4309). I am so confident that the Task Force deserves our support that I pledge to match any contribution you make to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force dollar for dollar. Just write or call me and tell me how much you have donated, and I will send a check for the same amount to the Task Force offices. I can be reached at the following address:

Drew Siegel
1420 Clayton St., Apt. 203
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 552-8382

Don't let Helms and Dannemeyer bash us with impunity. Support the men and women who fight for your rights every day, and join the Task Force!

Warmly,
Drew Siegel

October 9, 1991

To The Editor:

I recently wrote to your publication and of-

fered to match any contribution that your readers made to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, an organization that serves as our community's most eloquent and forceful voice in Washington, DC. Many people contacted me to ask more about my offer, so I am writing to clarify my "Matching Fund Appeal."

I will match any contribution of between \$35 (the minimum amount for regular membership) and \$500 that is sent to the Task Force as a result of this particular appeal. Contributions must be received by NGLTF by December 15, 1991, and should be sent to 1734 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-4309, attn: Heidi. Please note on the check that this is in response to the Drew Siegel Appeal. Then write or call me and tell me how much you have donated, and I will send a matching contribution to the Task Force. I can be reached at the following address:

Drew Siegel
1420 Clayton St., Apt. 203
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 552-8382

Several individuals have asked if this is a serious offer: you bet it is! Aren't you sick of getting stepped on and ignored by spineless politicians and self-serving homophobes? Support the folks battling for the rights and dignity of all lesbians and gays, and join the Task Force!

Warmly,
Drew Siegel

SPREAD THE QUILT

Dear Friends,

Amidst the crisis of an epidemic which continues to challenge all of us in body and spirit, it seems difficult to step back and view AIDS from a more global perspective. But the occasion of World AIDS Day invites such reflection.

As we at the NAMES Project work daily with groups around the globe who want to learn about the Quilt, we are horrified to hear stories about how the HIV pandemic is spreading worldwide.

- * In Uganda, one in eight citizens above the age of 15 is infected with HIV;
- * In Russia, where 200,000 cases are expected in this decade, the criminalization of homosexuality has made educating one risk group, gay men, nearly impossible;
- * In India last year, an HIV+ man was arrested and held in isolation for 271 days and only after extraordinary efforts by family, released in 6 months house arrest;
- * In Tanzania, 140,000 teenagers are HIV+

and an estimated 50,000 children have been orphaned by AIDS;

- * In Cuba, all citizens who test HIV+ in a mandatory government testing program are isolated for life - or until there is a cure;
- * In Rumania, 92% of the AIDS cases are in children - but true infection rates are unknown since "officially," homosexuality and drug use do not exist.

Perhaps it is very American of us to see AIDS as a disease of gay men and drug users - limited to impoverished, urban communities - but the true HIV pandemic knows no boundaries - whether they be of gender, life style, sexuality, geography, or race.

This December 1st, sections of the Quilt will be on display in over 50 cities around the world - a record for us. Among the sites will be displays in Chile, Scotland, Hungary, India, Guatemala, The Netherlands, Australia, Brazil, Ireland, Surinam, and Russia - plus over 30 displays here in the U.S.

To date, there have been over 70 displays of the Quilt internationally. But in each of these countries, our goal has not been to export the Quilt, but to encourage others, once they have seen our Quilt, to adapt the idea of a fabric memorial into their own cultures - and use their creations to educate their own populations.

Our efforts, supported in part by the World Health Organization and other international organizations, have yielded NAMES Project Affiliates in 17 countries around the globe, many the result of past World AIDS Day displays.

In the coming year, we hope to bring the Quilt to many new countries - among them Poland, where a teacher has described the Quilt as the "only effective AIDS education she has seen" and South Africa where the Reverend Desmond Tutu is helping with efforts to bring the Quilt to this divided, and rapidly changing society.

But our greatest hope for 1992, is to make the October display of the Quilt in Washington a truly international event - by encouraging our affiliates from all over the world to bring their panels and help us convey the international dimensions of the AIDS pandemic - for the entire world to see.

We need your ongoing support to make sure that these efforts continue. The future of the AIDS pandemic is a frightening profile of ignorance, hysteria, misguided policies, and a lack of compassion.

We are grateful for your past support of our



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

efforts. As we observe this World AIDS Day and move forward with plans for next year, we ask you to join us again by helping to sponsor our activities, both internationally and here at home.

Thank you,
David Lemos, Executive Director
Jeannette Koijane, Director Int'l. Programs

P.S. By the time you read this letter, there will be 18 sections of the Quilt on display in Moscow - our first display in the Soviet Union. Within a matter of days, similar "firsts" will take place in India, Chile, and Hungary. This work is possible because of your continuing support. Donations of any amount are welcome. Send donations to:

The NAMES Project
2362 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

WHO REALLY OWNS THE "NEW" METRO?

Dear Editor:

Whenever a new business opens within the gay/lesbian community, it becomes another symbol of our gaining political and economic strength. But, is this the case of the "new" Metro Light and Sound? Is our community being duped again by its owner, a man who holds little respect for gay people? Are the current management and staff really running the place?

When the Metro Light and Sound originally opened, the welcome mat was pulled away for gay people, and many times they were told to leave. If the current management and staff are just fronts and the bar's previous owner holds the real power in the place, what justification exists for its past anti-gay policies and its current about-face except the rape of the gay/lesbian community's pocketbook?

In defense of the current management of the Metro and the gay people frequenting the bar, the bar's past anti-gay policies may not be common knowledge. Also, it is possible a true change of heart has taken place. If so, will the "new" Metro give back to the community who are paying its bills? Only time will tell.

Our community must keep a watchful eye on businesses with such strongly homophobic pasts, and it must remember one of its real weapons against discrimination and prejudice is its pocketbook. We must support those businesses and organizations that give back to our community. Let's hope the Metro is for real.

B.G.

THE METRO IS A JOKE!

Dear Editor,

The Metro is a joke! I remember when we were not welcome in that place and now it's OK. I know the MAX is gay owned and operated by gay people for gay people. Look at all the things the MAX has done for this community. I think we better look at this and ask ourselves do we want our entertainment dollar lining the pocket of a straight man out to make a buck, or spend where we know we will always be welcome because the MAX was created for our community by 2 of our own people. I personally won't spend a dime at the Metro or any other non-gay owned business. Think about it, if we lose the finest place in town, what else is there? My dollars are for the MAX.

Careful Spender in Omaha,
E.J.

THE METRO RESPONDS

(In keeping with New Voice policy, the Metro Light & Sound was invited to give a response. Sharon Van Buset, Editor.)

Dear Sharon,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to letters you received regarding The Metro.

Metro Light and Sound is Omaha's newest gay owned and operated dance bar. We intend to be a positive member of Omaha's gay and lesbian community, offering people a choice of entertainment. We are proud to be a part of Omaha and are currently planning upcoming events which will benefit gay and lesbian organizations in Omaha.

It is our sincere wish that the community continue to support all of the establishments which have been serving it over the years and that they take full advantage of the diversity which makes Omaha a unique and enjoyable place to live and visit.

Sincerely,

Jay Carson and Dan Archibald (Arch)

TURN OFF THE TV

Dear Editor,

Tuesday, October 29th, was "Turn Off Your TV Day" - a publicity stunt orchestrated by the American Family Association (AFA), Christian Leaders for Responsible TV (CLEAR-TV), Morality in Media, and other anti-gay censorship groups. Members and supporters of this coalition were mobilized to make phone calls, write letters, and stage protest rallies aimed at the major television networks, local affiliates, sponsors, and advertising agencies.

Their goal is more than to just protest shows like *thirtysomething*, *L.A. Law*, *Designing Women*, and other programs that have shown lesbian and gay characters in positive light. What this anti-free speech coalition really wants is to scare the networks from showing gay and lesbian characters at all.

It is fortunate that our local community was made aware and involved with countering this stunt. I say we were fortunate because the local Omaha affiliates were, in fact, contacted by the right and this coalition of doom. Without the involvement of our local gay and lesbian community, and those who value free speech, the right wing message of exclusion and censorship would have gone unchallenged.

The action clearly demonstrates the importance of local communities stepping up to the challenge of ending discrimination against lesbians and gay people and stopping, or at the very least, sending a message that would balance the right's attempts at pushing lesbians and gay people back into the closet.

For those who did not participate, it's not too late: call or write a message to the networks; identify yourself as a lesbian or gay consumer who supports and expects inclusive programming that depicts positive lesbian and gay characters.

Special thanks to Cha Chi, Scott Rezak, and Dick Brown for their help and encouragement. It's you and I, with the help of the rest of you out there, who must fight back against this kind of hate and censorship. This counter-demonstration

is but one piece of evidence of the importance of balancing these right-winged attacks and to the powerful voice we have. We will be counted, we will be heard, and we are creating positive change.

T. Sweeney

THANKS, ICON, FROM HCGA

11/10/91

Dear Editor:

We recently received the following letter from the River City Gender Alliance. Since it includes comments regarding organizations throughout our community, I'm asking you to please share it for us.

Carla P., President, ICON

Oct. 29, 1991

To: Imperial Court of Nebraska

To whom it may concern:

The River City Gender Alliance, here in the Omaha area would like to express our appreciation for all the efforts put forth by the Imperial Court of Nebraska, and all the related organizations.

Your forward thinking about your lifestyle has in many ways made it easier for our crossgendered group members to come out of their closets. It may be difficult for you to understand the ways in which yours and our lifestyles parallel one another. All that we can express in this small enclosed donation [\$20] and give you a big THANK YOU for your supreme efforts.

Thank you again and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Rena C., President
River City Gender Alliance

PEN PAL?

Dear Leo,

I'm writing this to see how to go as it to get the new letter, *The New Voice*. My name is Day Schriber, and I was reading a few that (a friend) has. And we where talking one night, he told me to write you, and you would be able to tell me how to get them. And if you know of anybody out there that would like to write I would be glad to write them back.

I have always lived in northwest part of Iowa all of my life, up around Emmetsburg, and Spencer, Iowa. I would be glad to meet more people like or have the same life style that I am. In them small town where I was born & raised up at there are still in the closet. But everybody knows me, but don't want to run around with me or talk to me unless it's on the phone where nobody can see them.

So if you know of any lonely people out there tell them or pass the word on. I would be more than glad to write them back. Yes I am gay, & love it too.

Hope to hear from you soon about the New Voice. Thank you very much for your time & B/ I close, is that place MAX hard to find?

Take care, thank you,
Dan Schriber, 1006876 (1B)
Highway 218 South
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

The New Voice offers free subscriptions to all Nebraska inmates upon request as part of our continuing community outreach efforts. If you know of someone who is incarcerated in Nebraska who might like to receive *The New Voice*, have them contact us.

Lee Donehower, NVN Prisoner Project

WORLD AIDS DAY Dec. 1

WE ARE ALIVE

A performance for a vigil at the Iowa State Capital Building in Des Moines.
by Donald Engstrom

Walk to the microphone humming the tune to We Are Alive. Clap three times...and read:

Our pain is real,
as real as a knife blade cutting
into our flesh.
Our pain is real,
as real as the hate screamed
from a passing car.
Our pain is real,
as real as a parent's
rejection of his own child,
her own flesh.
Our pain is real,
as real as the death
sweeping through our communities.
Our pain is real.

Our rage is burning.
Our rage is burning away all lies.
Our rage is burning away all fears.
We have the flaming courage to
face the truth
about our selves,
and about the worlds we
live in.
We are prairie fire,
transforming the dead
into the power of new life.
Our rage is burning.

Our grief has clawed at our
hearts without mercy.
Our grief has given us the
red eyes of wild cats.
Our grief has brought us to the
doors of unknown powers.
Our grief is a deep well,
filled to the brim with
healing tears.
Our sorrow brings the waters of
change to a dry and
barren land.
Our grief is flooding the streets
of our cities,
the roads of our counties,
the lanes to our hearts.

We are awakening.
We are remembering. Where we pass,
native flowers are reborn.
Where we weep,
lightning dances across
the quiet hills.
Where we scream,
the winds howl like
the wolves on a full moon night.
Where we bury our dead,
the Earth closes Her womb,
holding our lovers in the
dark land of rebirth.

We are awakening.
We are remembering.

We will not be comforted by pretty words
and empty promises.
We will not be comforted by polite tears
and platitudes.

Do not tell us
that it is going to be O.K.
It is not O.K.
It has not been O.K. for years.

We miss our sweethearts,
those golden ones who have
gone so far away.
We miss our sweethearts,
they are dead.

Our pain is real.
Our rage is burning.
Our grief has changed us into new beings.

We are remembering our powers of old.
We are remembering the color purple.
We are remembering the pink triangle.
We are remembering the labrys.
We are remembering the panpipes.
We are remembering the bull dykes.
We are remembering the fagots
burning so brightly at the
bound feet of their witch sisters.
We are remembering our powers of old.

Not so long ago,
we were the shamans,
we were the healers,
we were the priestesses and the
priests
of beauty and pleasure.

Not so long ago,
we were the shrine builders,
we were the teachers of the
holy ways,
we were the go between's,
the bridges connecting
all worlds.

We are remembering our powers.
We are reclaiming our powers.
We are the sacred children of Mother Earth.

We are alive,
as the Earth is alive.
We have the power,
to heal our own bodies.

(Pause and then begin to chant the complete
chant.)

We are alive,
as the Earth is alive.
We have the power,
to heal our own bodies.

If we have courage,
we can be healers,
like the sun we shall rise.

If we have courage,
we can be healers,
like the moon we shall shine.

We have the power
to live our own lives.
We have the power
to make our own freedom.

If we have courage,
we shall be healers,
like the sun we shall shine.

If we have courage
we shall be healers,
like the moon we shall rise.*

(Leave the microphone while humming We Are
Alive several times over.)

*This chant is based on a piece written by Rose
May Dance and Starhawk.

The musical notation is written on three staves. The first staff has the lyrics: "We are a - live as the earth is a - live". The second staff has the lyrics: "We have the pow - er to heal our own bod - ies". The third staff has the lyrics: "If we have courage we shall be heal - ers like the sun we shall rise, like the moon we shall shine". Below the staves is a decorative wavy line.

LOCAL NEWS

1992 PRIDE WEEK PLANNING BEGINS

by Dan Buck
Pride Week Committee Chair

A.N.G.L.E., Inc., is pleased to announce that preparations for 1992 Pride Week and National Coming Out Day have begun. As we venture into the upcoming year, we will be needing the support of individuals, businesses, and organizations in achieving new gay and lesbian endeavors for our entire community.

The national and local theme for 1992 Pride Week is PRIDE EQUALS POWER, and we believe power can be achieved through teamwork, networking, and multitudes of ideas from all aspects of the gay/lesbian and lesbian community.

WE NEED YOU! If you are interested in helping to plan 1992 Pride Week Activities or the National Coming Out Day Events, please contact Dan Buck, Pride Week Committee Chairperson or Brandon Shaik, National Coming Out Day Chairperson, immediately via the Gay/Lesbian Information Line at 558-5303. Again, thank you for your continued support.

NAMES PROJECT QUILT TO COME TO OMAHA IN '92

Kathy England has announced that a preliminary agreement has been reached with the NAMES Project Memorial Quilt for a portion of the Quilt to be displayed in Omaha on December 4, 5, & 6, 1992. This will be shortly after the October display of the full quilt in Washington, D.C.

Those of you who helped bring the NAMES Project Quilt to Lincoln in 1990 will remember the tremendous amount of effort that went into the preparations. That same degree of commitment and dedication will be needed again if we are to have the same successful outcome. In 1990, the Quilt significantly raised AIDS awareness in Nebraska as panels were displayed during a Nebraska football game as well as at the State Fair Grounds. Over \$10,000 was raised for the Nebraska AIDS Project during that display.

If you would like to help bring the Quilt to Omaha, start getting ready. A full report will be in the January issue of the New Voice. In the meantime, contact Kathy England at the Omaha PFLAG number (291-6781) for more information.

MCC-O & THE MAX HOST BENEFIT PANCAKE FEAST

Ninety-seven friends of MCC-O lined up to eat all the pancakes, eggs and sausage that they could stuff in to support the fund raising efforts of Metropolitan Community Church as they continue their campaign for the building fund. The benefit raised \$440 thanks to the donations of THE MAX, the workers at feast, and everyone who participated. Look for details in this issue about another similar event coming your way December 15.

FIRST ANNUAL MR. D.C.'S WESTERN/LEATHER

On Sunday, Oct. 27, Omaha was witness to a very delightful competition. The first title holders for D.C.'s Bar were chosen. There were three contestants in both the western and leather categories. The winners were put through private interviews, questioned on stage, and did formal wear presentations. In addition to the regular activities, the leather participants were also asked to provide a fantasy segment, and, boy! did they ever! We saw everything from hot wax to electricity to some very enlightening uses for common tools from your favorite tool box. The judges certainly had their work cut out for them in both categories, but only two winners could be chosen. We are proud to announce that the new titles belong to Mr. Emerson Briney (Mr. D.C.'s Leather) and Mr. David Brady (Mr. D.C.'s Western). Congratulations to both and hats off to Dan, Charlie, and Tim for all of their hard work that produced quite a fine show for Omaha! See ya next year....

Yours in Leather,
Amy Marie Meek

LOCAL BOWLERS STILL SCORE HIGH IN TOURNEYS

Local bowlers continued their winning ways in recent tournaments. The Kansas City Heartland Classic, with 80 bowlers and 20 teams competing, ended with Dan White taking 12th in the singles competition and 13th in the All Events. Elyse Mueller took 3rd in the All Events and Ron (Torgy) Torgeson took 5th in the Doubles.

The team of Scott Rezek, Charley Wade, Bob Andresen, and Kevin G. took 7th place with a 2571 in the Dallas International Columbus Day Tournament. Scott and Bob teamed up again in the Doubles to take 11th place with a 1299 while Daryl Karlsson placed 14th in the All Events.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE
STEERING COMMITTEE
OF THE
NEW VOICE
AND ITS ADVERTISERS**

ANGLE KICKS OFF "PRIDE WEEK" LOGO CONTEST

Kicking off already as part of "Pride Week '92" is the annual contest conducted by ANGLE (Achieving New Gay/Lesbian Endeavors) to select a logo appropriate for the week's theme. As annual sponsor for Omaha's "Pride Week," ANGLE has opted to join again for 1992 the national Pride theme, "PRIDE = POWER." Pride Week in Omaha is scheduled for June 14-21, 1992.

The contest is open to anyone. Rules are few and simple. Any design submitted should take into account it would be used on both buttons and T-shirts, so legibility in varying sizes is important, a maximum of two colors is allowed; the foreground color and background color. "Shading" can be accomplished, if desired, by cross-hatching, dot stippling, or other means. Submitted entries should be no larger than 5" x 7" with the designer's name on the backside (not front) of each entry. Persons may submit any number of entries. Any design should consider the year's theme PRIDE = POWER. All entries become the property of ANGLE, Inc. Deadline for submissions is midnight Saturday, February 29, 1992. Submission may be given to any ANGLE member or mailed to ANGLE, Box 31375, Omaha, NE 68131.

The 1992 Pride Week logo winner will receive, courtesy of the *New Voice of Nebraska*, a year's subscription to that publication, *Nebraska's* monthly magazine for the lesbian or gay person, plus two tickets, courtesy of ANGLE, to the Pride Week Awards Dinner. ANGLE has been working with the Imperial Court of Nebraska (ICON) on the possibility of presenting the June 19 Awards Dinner in conjunction with and immediately preceding ICON's Out-of-Town show, part of the annual Coronation festivities.

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LOCAL NEWS

LINCOLN CABLE TURNED OFF "THE PISS SHOW"

November 5 the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported general manager of Lincoln Cablevision, Dick Bates, stated he will never air the controversial program, "The Piss Show" produced for the public access channel by Donny Smith. The 22 minutes show had been scheduled Sunday, November 5, but was canceled. Cablevision's advisory board deemed the show "indecent" but said it could run. However, Bates would not run the program. He stated, "Somebody has to take a stand in terms of the abuse of the public access channel. This was not what it was intended for. We are not going to be purveyors of that programming in this community. We'll take the heat for whatever happens."

"The Piss Show" depicts a man urinating into a toilet with narration including descriptions of male genitalia, dictionary quotes, and comments from the Cable Television Advisory Board. Donny Smith created the program partly as a protest because he was frustrated by the advisory board's treatment on past projects. One, "The Milk Show," showed two men kissing and included references and gestures regarding milk.

Smith said "The Milk Show" mistakenly ran in the afternoon instead of late at night as he had asked, prompting a barrage of angry calls to Cablevision. Smith later got death threats and went through considerable disputes with Cablevision before the show was re-aired last spring. "I think everyone on the Cable Advisory Board is an idiot, and they demonstrate it in every meeting," Smith said. "I made notes of that and

incorporated it in a voice over in "The Piss Show."

On the other hand, Bates said he was uncomfortable judging program content but had been dismayed over massive negative reaction provoked by public access shows produced by White Aryan Nation Resistance, a white supremacist group, and by the Gay rights group, Queer Nation. He stated that he felt Cablevision was at a disadvantage because they are forbidden by city and federal law to censor material on the public access channel. He wants the city to enact stricter laws regarding program content or to consider whether public access channels should exist at all, since they are being misused by small groups of people in cities across the nation.

Smith contended that "The Piss Show" was not offensive, especially when contrasted with the extreme violence often seen by children on regular shows. "There are incredibly gory things on TV, and no one considers them offensive," Smith said. "What do they think is indecent? A natural bodily function or something that hurts people? It just makes no sense to me."

The Lincoln City Council will be forced to decide if Lincoln Cablevision has breached its franchise. If they determine a breach of franchise has occurred, Cablevision will have 30 days to correct it or have a hearing before the City Council. The council could then potentially impose a penalty or terminate the franchise.

LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR SPEAKS ON CENSORSHIP

While the editorial staff of *The Star* were not complimentary about the video in question, neither were they ready to support Cablevision. Their editorial stated: "There is chaos and confusion on the public access front because of three controversial shows. The first, offering a white supremacist viewpoint, was followed by a show produced by a gay rights group involving two nude males pouring milk over each other and kissing."

"This week the head of Cablevision, Dick Bates, refused the latest in immature silliness—22 minutes of toilet scenes. 'Somebody has to take a stand,' Bates said. His stand is part protection of community standards and part protection of his company. Citizens vent their ire on Cablevision when controversial shows air, though the company has no legal control over programs. In fact, Bates' refusal to air this program is likely illegal. It is not his job to censor."

"Two issues are at work here—censorship and parental control over material accessible to children. Complete censorship is a dangerous precedent. There are individuals and groups who would ban such books as 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' from public libraries because they find material objectionable. Cable access is not entirely different from a library where people are free to pick from a selection of materials, ignoring those they find offensive."

"Maintaining freedom of expression re-quires tolerance. Now a few defiant are testing our tolerance by seeking to air programs that many will find disgusting. City leaders can make it clear we will not compromise First Amendment principles, but will not air offensive programs near prime-time hours. Folks who don't want to watch can change or program out the channel. Folks who want to catch the latest in defiance can wait until the wee hours or set VCRs to tape the show."

"IS VIOLENCE OFFENSIVE?"

"The video that brought Lincoln's public access channel to its knees is not pornographic—simply tasteless. The combination of scripture with toilet scenes would offend many. But its fundamental flaw is that it is merely an immature defiance of culture's discomfort with body parts. It is not artistic; there is no serious thought or talent involved. It is simply stupid. But Donny Smith, producer of the toilet documentary, makes a legitimate point about public outcry over his pointless piece. Smith argues his show is not offensive in comparison with the extreme violence often seen by children on network TV shows."

The Cable Television Advisory Board has labeled Smith's video indecent. The cable company is refusing to air it at all. Yet there is hardly a peep over the equally indecent gratuitous violence that fills many television programs and movies.

WRITERS NEEDED FOR GAY/LESBIAN ANTHOLOGY

SISTER AND BROTHER, an anthology about relationships between Lesbians and Gay men is seeking personal and insightful essays by G/L on how they get along, how they feel about one another and what they mean to one another. Write to: John Preston/Joan Nestle, Box 5314, Portland, ME 04101 for guidelines. Manuscripts due in spring 1992.

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LOCAL NEWS

GAY/LESBIAN INFO LINE RECEIVES OVER 700 CALLS DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS

A.N.G.L.E.'s (Achieving New Gay/Lesbian Endeavors) Gay/Lesbian Information and Referral Line was established in March, 1991, to provide a source of information on organizations and activities in the metropolitan Omaha area. The G/L Info Line began service April 1, 1991, staffed entirely by ANGLE volunteers.

During the first six months, from April through September, 706 calls were recorded. Of these 706 calls, 133 calls were pranks or hate calls. One of the most disturbing calls was made by a young child who was being coached by an adult whose voice was audible in the background telling the child what words of hate and profanity to use. There was a dramatic increase in the number of hate calls after the stabbing in front of the Run last summer but these quickly dropped off. ANGLE members anticipated another increase after the National Coming Out Day ad ran in the World Herald on October 11, but no hate calls were received. A number of prank calls seem to be made by people dealing with their own sexuality because the same voice may make two or three prank calls and then call back and make an honest request for information. 294 calls were hang-ups with no message left. In 13 cases the volunteers were not able to reach the person at the phone number left on the voice mail, even after several tries. The remaining calls were recorded according to the PRIMARY reason for the call. Those

results are as follows.

Requesting Information on:	20
Support Groups	82
Organizations/Activities	53
Bars/Clubs	4
Religious Groups	2
AIDS/HIV Resources	4
Gen. Information/Speakers	23
Where to Meet People	16
Requesting Referrals to:	
Counselors	10
Lawyers	9
Doctors/Dentists	6
Reaching ANGLE members	14
Calls from:	
People Visiting in Town	11
People Moving to Area	13

The Information Line is being underutilized in the reporting of discrimination and hate crimes. Citizens for Equal Protection and Homosexuals Against Hate Crimes are trying to obtain information of the extent of discrimination and hate crimes in the area. This information will be used to help develop and support legislation to protect the rights of gay and lesbian people. Persons who have been the victims of discrimination or of hate crimes should call the Gay/Lesbian Information and Referral Line at 558-5303.

The monthly costs of the Gay/Lesbian Information Line are currently funded by the Imperial Court of Nebraska. Additional funds have been donated by individuals and a fundraiser by the Two Wheelers of Omaha, M.C.

CHORUS NOTES

by Stan Brown

The River City Mixed Chorus is getting ready for the holidays just like you. We're rehearsing for performances in the community as well as our concert in January.

Friday, December 13, we will be caroling at the bars starting at The MAX at 6:00 for Happy Hour and continuing after dinner in the Old Market. Our next stop will be DC's at 8:00, Chesterfield at 8:30, Gilligans at 9:00, The Run at 9:30, The Metro at 10:00, and the Diamond at 10:30. Hope you'll all get a to hear us that evening! We sing at MCC on Sunday, December 15 for the 10:30 service. The next Sunday we perform in ICON's benefit "Toys For Tots" at the MAX at 9:30. Our Winter Concert is Saturday, January 25, 7:05pm, Straus Performing Art Center. Tickets available from Chorus members, calling 558-9900, or writing Box 3267, Omaha 68103-0267. Tickets are \$8 for Adults, \$4 for Students/Senior Citizens. Discount rate available for groups of 10 or more.

The Chorus would like to send special thanks and wishes to Karen Jensen who is moving to Minneapolis. Karen has been involved in the Chorus as board member and singer the past few years. She will be missed by all in the Chorus. A board member was elected to fill her Board position last month.

RCMC would like to wish the staff of The New Voice and all its readers very "Happy Holidays" and a great 1992!

DOLLARS AND SENSE

Businesses That Make Sense With Our Community
.... And Our Dollars!

The Employee Association for Gays and Lesbians (EAGLE) and *The New Voice of Nebraska* feel that it is important to know businesses who deal fairly with lesbians and gay people, both as employees and customers. Businesses that respond, as well as those who do not, are speaking loudly and clearly to you!

The Questions

1. Do you welcome lesbians and gay people as customers?
2. Would you hire a person, who was qualified, if you knew she/he were lesbian or gay?
3. If it came to your attention that your employee is lesbian, gay or a person with HIV, would you retain them in the same position?

Yes to all three questions:

New Realities
Pathfinder Bookstore
Merchant of Venice Bookstore

No Response:

Kiesers Bookstore
Little Professor:
5411 North 90th
8052 South 84th
13455 West Center Road
Mary Book Exchange
Railway Educational Bureau



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LOCAL NEWS

RIVER CITY BOWLING

After 9 weeks of bowling, the River City Mixed Bowling League is still dominated by Gilligans, now 5 games ahead of 2nd place Running Rebels. Gilligans #2 has dropped back to 5th place. D.C.'s is now 4th. 6 Balls & A Old Bag moved up to 3rd place in the standings from 9th place last month.

Bud D. of the 16th place Centerfolds now holds Mens High Game with 269 and 2nd High Series with 635. Dan C. holds 2nd place Mens Game with 246 and Mens High Series with 676. Dwight W. has 3rd high Mens Game with 240. Darwin B. has 3rd High Mens Series with 626.

Marcia K. still holds Womens High Game with 215 and 3rd High Womens Series with 487. Elyse M. has 2nd High Womens Game with 203 and High Womens Series with 518. 3rd High Womens Game is held by Sandy G. with a 192 who also has 2nd High Womens Series with 489.

The High Team Game (Handicap) is held by Gilligans with 807 while 6 Balls & A Old Bag hold 2nd High Team Game with 785. Ernie's Book Store has 3rd High Team Game with 780. Gilligans also has High Team Series (Handicap) with 2279, while 2nd High Team Series is held by the 19th place 3+1 with 2215. 3rd High Team Series is held by "Y" Knot DC's with a 2175.

Special congratulations to Joe B. who bowled 93 pins over average and to Dan C. who bowled 83 pins over his average, which is the highest in the league at 194.2. Congratulations to Cheryl C. of the last place Yosemite Sam's who took High Womens Game and Series for the 8th week of

bowling with a 173 game and a 462 series, and to three unnamed bowlers who tied for the week's high game with identical scores of 225.

Team standings as of the 9th week are:

	Won 44	Lost 12
1. Gilligans	39	17
2. Running Rebels	38	18
3. 6 Balls & A Old Bag	35	21
4. DC's	33	23
5. Gilligan's #2	32	24
6. Real Men	30	26
7. Ernie's Book Store	30	26
8. 3 Men & A Little Lady	29.5	26.5
9. "Y" Knot DC's	29	27
10. DC's Tool	28	28
11. D.I.D.I.T.'s	27.5	28.5
12. The Golden Girls	25	31
13. The MAX	25	31
14. Diamond D.J.'s	25	31
15. Metro Mixers	24	32
16. Centerfolds	21	35
17. Ex Lover	19	37
18. Inconsistently Inconsistent	15	41
19. 3+1	15	41
20. Yosemite Sam's	11	45

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TOYS AT TRIANGLE BAR

Saturday, December 7, Sammi Bennett will host a benefit show at the Triangle Bar, Polk at Railroad Avenue. All proceeds from the show, "Toys from Santa", will go to the "Toys for Tots" project of the US Marine Corps which buys new toys which are given to the Salvation Army and other charities to distribute to needy children at Christmas. The show will feature Sammi Bennett along with several of her special friends including Nicole Blake, Amanda Fox, Jennifer Jett, Jodi Karrington, Mac, Phoebe Tate, Viktoria Towne, Santa's Elf, and more. The show will begin promptly at 10pm. There is no cover charge for this show.

T.W.O. AND A.N.G.L.E AT THE DIAMOND

T.W.O. and The Diamond hosted a fund raising show Nov. 10 to benefit the A.N.G.L.E. gay and lesbian information line. Jerry served as D.J. and Guy emceed the line-up that included some of Omaha's finest: Stella Dallas, Phoenix Fallentino, Princess Royale XI; Mae, Empress XI; Kevin, Mr. Gay Nebraska; Sara; Deb; Reba Lynn; Jodi; Mother to all Athenas, Athena II, & Athena III—Jolo, Carla, and Tami; the Grand Marque XI, Sharon; and T.W.O.'s infamous pair; Tammy Faye and Jimmy Bakker, alias Joe and Marge. The benefit netted \$236.00, which came entirely from the tips donated by all the performers and one generous donation at the end of \$50. This benefit raised enough to fund the phone line for about three months.

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LOCAL NEWS

ARBOR MOON EXPANDS

It's time to think about your holiday gift list. Arbor Moon has available many gift items for the Holiday season including womyn's music, calendars, jewelry, magazine, and womyn created arts and crafts, along with books on all sorts of topics. The Arbor Moon is now open Monday through Friday, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; and Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Arbor Moon is now accessible to everyone including those with disabilities. Arbor Moon is located on the first floor, in the two back rooms of The Gathering Place. The Arbor Moon can be entered directly from the back entrance on the 15th street side.

A lesbian, gay, multicultural book discussion group meets the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. They have recently discussed Tillie Olsen's book, *Silences*. A womyn's incest survivors group began meeting October 13th. The response has been very positive. New groups for incest survivors will begin in January. For details, call Wally at 476-7398 or 489-4634.

On November 14, Arbor Moon showed the film, *Lesbian Tongues: Lesbians Talking About Life, Love, and Sex*, featuring JoAnn Loulan, JEB, Joan Nestle, Barbara Grier, Jewelle Gomez, and Mimmie Bruce Pratt. The Arbor Moon hopes to develop this into a regular womyn's video night on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Rene Meaker taught a free Tarot Workshop throughout November. Watch for similar workshops to come.

Arbor Moon is able to survive thanks to the dedicated efforts of their volunteers but more volunteers are needed to help staff the bookstore, especially during this time while the store is not yet showing a profit. During this time Wally is going on to a counseling practice called Alternative Therapy. This self-directed approach to therapy provides resources and information in regard to the necessary tasks of self development and healing. However, the client, not the therapist, chooses the goals, objectives and the methods.

The Gathering Place, home of the Arbor Moon Alternative Bookstore, offers a safe, sensitive place to meet, to learn, and to grow. Luncheon gatherings are held from 11:30 to 1:30. Mondays are Book and Author talks, Wednesdays feature noon speakers, while Friday is noontime videos. Free evening Soup Suppers are served daily. Hope to see you there soon!

ANGLE BENEFIT AT MAX

In a show prepared by Stan and hosted by Pat Phalen and Inga, \$345 was raised Nov. 3 at The MAX to promote pride week and National Coming Out Day activities for 1991 and 1992. River City Mixed Chorus made a generous donation of \$75.

Though the weather was cold and nasty, the crowd was warmed through and through by the entertainers who had a wild assortment of numbers prepared. Some of my favorites were Jennifer Jett, Viktoria Towne, Brandon, Inga, Mae, Jodie, and Sharon and Carla.

REVEREND HOWARD TO REMAIN AT MCC-O

The congregation of Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha is pleased to announce that Rev. Howard will continue his pastorate here.

In August Rev. Howard, who came here from Pueblo, Colorado, 2 1/2 years ago, had submitted his resignation effective Dec. 31, 1991. Through discussions with the Board of Directors, the Pastoral Search Committee, Rev. Howard and congregation members, the general consensus was that everyone wanted Rev. Howard to stay and that they were willing to make corresponding changes in the expectations of the one who fills the pastor's position. The details of those changes will be worked out in the upcoming months following discussion at the Annual Congregational Meeting, held last Sunday in Nov.

For now, both the congregation and Rev. Howard are pleased that their relationship will continue.

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LOCAL NEWS

LINCOLN COMMEMORATES WORLD AIDS DAY

Lincoln has joined a number of major cities across the nation in commemorating world AIDS day on December 1. Lincolnites are gathering in the Grand Ballroom of the Nebraska Union at UNL. They came with all sort of items representing the talents and arts that we have lost, bringing sports equipment, briefcases, microscopes, paintings, trophies, make-up kits, etc. to make a silent collage, and bringing flashlights to make circles of light. This day of action and of mourning is possible thanks to the organizing efforts of Julie Shearke and Missy Thibodeaux, two heterosexual, caring women who wanted to raise consciousness and awareness in Lincoln as to the far-reaching impact of this tragic disease.

MCC-O TREATS D.C.s TO SLOPPY JOES

The congregation of Metropolitan Community Church was out in full force Friday, Nov. 8. At 8 p.m. sharp, members and friends of MCC-O gathered at D.C.s to treat the staff and patrons to free sloppy joes and chips. About 30 MCCers participated in an evening of pool, pinball, dancing, and socializing. Two crockpots of sloppy joes were consumed, but there was still plenty to go around. Be watching for signs. MCC-O plans to visit all of the bars in the city with goodies of some sort to say thanks to the owners, managers staff, and patrons for their support in 1991. MCC-O invites everyone in the community to join in and share an evening of fun at a favorite local bar.

NEWS FROM THE IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA by Carla

Hope you caught Food for Thought last weekend! What a time! Thanks for your support. Next month we'll give you a rindown of the proceeds that were split between PWA Thanksgiving Baskets and the MCC-O Food Pantry.

This month we have another big show planned for you: Toys for Toys! The Grand Czarinas has pulled out all stops and promises an evening of toys and joys for good girls and boys! See you at The MAX, Sunday, Dec. 22, 9-30 p.m. The proceeds from this show are earmarked for toys for the Children's Crisis Center, toys for the kids of PWAs, and other needy kids, not yet identified by the deadline for this magazine. Please join us in making Christmas time a time of joy for the children throughout our community.

Help! Help! We need you—or at least some of you. Due to recent resignations, the Board of Governors has a mere eight members plus the three monarchs. If you have a desire to get involved in fundraising for the gay/lesbian community, are a resident of Nebraska or

Pottawatomie county, have no felony warrants or insufficient fund checks with gay/lesbian businesses, and are free to attend monthly meetings on Monday evenings, we invite you pick up an application at your favorite bar and join us at our next meeting—January 6, 6:30pm in Sosh's Saloon at The MAX.

The first meeting in December we elected new officers for 1992. We'll announce them at Toys for Toys. They'll take office at January's meeting.

ICON is pleased to announce this year's Coronation theme: A Night of Animation. Coronation Festivities will be held June 19-21. Most events will take place at the Airport Ramada Inn. We are excited to be working with A.N.G.L.E. this year in coordinating events as the Coronation dates fall within Pride Week. The joint venture will give Nebraskans and Iowans a week(end) to remember! Mark your calendar now, and start making those plans to attend.

JEAN DURGIN-CLINCHARD REGIONAL DIRECTOR

At the annual national convention of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays the Great Plains Regional Caucus selected Jean Durgin-Clinchard as Regional Director for the next year. Federation guidelines allow Regional Directors to serve a one year term with the possibility of serving up to four consecutive terms. Regional Directors serve on the Board and are the only Board members chosen directly within the regions. The Great Plains Region was restructured to include Manitoba, Canada but no longer includes Kansas other than metropolitan Kansas City.

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SATURDAY

Queervo \$1.50
Jack Daniels \$1.35

SUNDAY

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Gill Marys \$1.50
Beefeater's Gin \$1.35



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LOCAL NEWS

DECEMBER AT THE MAX

Oh! The weather outside is frightful, but the people at THE MAX are so delightful. We have it all — Dance Music, Country Music, Trash Disco, Daily Drink Specials, The Finest Entertainment Every Week, No Cover Charge Monday through Thursday and \$2 cover Friday and Saturday. You asked for it and only one club in the entire Midwest gives it to you, THE MAX.

The winter continues to heat up. December 1, Midwest Men will show you how to keep warm. Five hot men are going to strip and strut just for the men of THE MAX. Sunday, December 8, Miss Max 7, Dorian Drake will host the Miss Gay Nebraska U.S.A. Pageant. Miss Gay Nebraska 1990, Phoebe Tate, will pass on the title that she held so successfully. Featured performer for the evening will be Miss Gay U.S.A. Sable Chanel. Aunt Mike is at it again so get out your long underwear for Underwear Night 7, Brief Encounters. Once again our upstairs bar will be the place to be for men in their briefs.

THE MAX is welcoming back country singer, Jeff Miller. Jeff will visit Sosh's Saloon on December 15 to spend a country Christmas with all of Omaha's country cousins. If country isn't your thing the disco will feature Trash Disco all night long.

It's become a tradition. It's our third annual

Christmas MAX-OUT, Thursday, December 19. I know a lot of holiday cheer will flow along with all our drink specials and surprises we have planned.

I.C.O.N., THE MAX, Gloria Revelle, Jay Lawrence, and Kymm will host Toys for Tots on December 22. All proceeds will go to P.W.A. Kids and the Children's Crisis Center. It's an all Christmas show, so come out and see what Omaha's finest entertainers have in store for you.

High Heel Productions present the 1991 Barbie Awards, Sunday, December 29. Vote for your favorite entertainers and guests on December 6 & 7, see who you think is best!

Every New Year's Eve there is only one place to be and this year is no exception. It's THE MAX. This year promises to be the biggest and best New Year's Party ever. Don't miss out when the clock strikes twelve.

Our Weekly Specials Continue through the winter, so check us out. We are pleased to announce NO COVER CHARGE, Monday through Thursday, and \$2 Cover Charge Friday & Saturday. We give Omaha just what it asks for and we've been doing it for seven terrific years. There is only one, THE MAX.

Happy Holidays from all of us at THE MAX.
Gloria Revelle

MCC-O REJECTS BOARD OFFER ON NEW BUILDING

In a vote of 25 to 12 at a special meeting held Nov. 3, the members of MCC-O rejected an offer made by their Board of Directors to purchase Grace Apostolic Church, located just south of 22 & Leavenworth. A three-fourths majority is required for the purchase of property. This vote ends several weeks of discussion and negotiation between the Board and a representative from Grace Apostolic Church.

In a related move, the membership voted to take funds from the building fund and pay off the remaining balance on the land contract for the property at 420 S. 24 Street. Approximately \$5000 is still owed on that property.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting the last Sunday in Nov., members of MCC-O discussed what course of action they would follow now in their search for a facility that would house the growing congregation. Watch for details in the next issue.

Wondering what to do?
Check the
Community Calendar
There's Lots Going On!

1992 LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE THEME IS "PRIDE = POWER"

The Imperial Court of Nebraska

&

THE MAX

Present: TOYS FOR TOTS!

Hosted by Empress XI, Mae & Grand Czarina XI, Gloria Revelle

Featuring:

M.G.N. America Jennifer Jett	Empress IX Felice Whitney	M.G.N. U.S.A. '90 Phoebe Tate
Miss Gay Omaha Amanda Foxx	Emperor VII Dick Brown	Empress VI Veronica O'Rourke
Athena III Tarni	Emperor XI Gerald	Princess Royale Phoenix Fallentino
Stella Dallas	Viktorja Towne	Mr. MAX II Michael
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Live Performances by Rodney and the River City Mixed Chorus
Sunday, December 22, 9:30 p.m.

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LOCAL NEWS

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA AIDS PROJECT

As of October 31, the Nebraska AIDS Project has received financial support from more than 300 individuals and 41 organizations this year, in addition to grants it receives. The organizations include United Way of the Midlands, United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County and the Combined Federal Campaign which are actually conduits for individual contributions. (The only money that comes from United Way is money individuals have designated specifically for NAP; NAP does not get a grant from United Way.) Other organizations held fund-raisers for NAP.

Individuals gave money in several ways: as memorials, in support of a specific fund-raiser, or simply as a donation. NAP is very dependent on the support of individuals and organizations. The NAP board, staff, and clients are grateful to the growing number of people who enable us to continue our work.

NAP wants to thank all of the people who worked on the following fund-raisers:

Summer White Party (Lincoln)	\$2,794
Cosmic Comics (Lincoln)	330
Upbeat Aerobics	600
Matasovsky Birthday Party	1,200
Gallery Brunch	485
Artists Walk	125
Blue Barn Theatre Performance	507
Jazz Cabaret	645
Freed/Davis Masked Party	1,300

Matching contributions have been received from U.S. West and from Union Pacific. U.S. West employees who volunteer over 60 hours a year at NAP earn \$5/hour up to \$500 maximum for NAP. NAP received \$1,000 in 1990 from this program. Union Pacific matching contributions raised \$345.

NAP still needs to raise about \$7,000 to end 1991 in the black. If you are willing to raise money for us, please call.

MEMORIALS

During 1991, over 100 memorial donations have been received. NAP sends cards acknowledging these gifts both to the donor and the companion and/or family of the deceased (donor must supply addresses for the acknowledgement card). NAP has received over \$3,600 in memorial gifts this year.

RENOVATION

NAP has taken over the office space formerly occupied by the Operating Engineers Union, Local 571. Doubling the size of NAP's office means several important additions. A new conference room will provide space for a future full-time employee (hopefully a volunteer coordinator). In addition, a counseling room for therapists and caseworkers will be added, as well as a kitchen/common room and a file room. This renovation is nearly complete, with the exception of furnishings

and final touches. A number of generous companies and individuals have made NAP's renovated office possible. Newson Construction provided remodeling at a discounted price, and David Rice, Inc., donated interior design services. Grants from The MAX and the Baer Foundation have paid for a little over half of the construction costs. In addition, carpeting has been donated by a NAP client. Anderson/Sullivan Painting of Lincoln provided primer paint. Lighting Specialists and Lighting World donated lights. Nebraska Custom Kitchens gave NAP a cabinet.

NAP Case Management Census Oct, 1991

Open Cases October 1, 1991	158
New Cases	10
Clients Deceased	3
Clients Moved From State	1
Open Cases As Of October 31, 1991	164

Client Services Provided in October, 1991

Advocacy	206
Transportation	174
Shopping, Cooking, Etc.	118

If you know someone who is HIV+ or has AIDS, feel free to refer them to NAP. If you would like to volunteer, call the Nebraska AIDS Project for an application.

AIDS nebraska AIDS project

NAP
3624 Leavenworth
Omaha, NE 68105

AIDS Hotline

HIV Testing

Support Groups

HIV Testing

Buddy Systems

AIDS Hotline

9am-5pm & 6pm-11pm Monday-Friday;
6pm-11pm Weekends.
Omaha: 342-4233
Statewide: 800/782-AIDS(2437)

7pm-10pm Mondays and Thursdays

LOCAL NEWS

KEARNEY NEWS: TO EVERY SEASON..... (TURN, TURN, TURN)

By Tom G.

As we look forward to our one year and one day anniversary celebration, (December 7) I am reminded of the many people that have made it possible for us to accomplish what we have. Lack of space, and anonymity, prevents me from listing people that have made a big difference in this region of the state. Also I would undoubtedly forget someone and that would never do. Those special people that have helped did not do it so that they could see their name in print anyway. They did it because they are good people wanting to make a difference. Why didn't more people help? Does this make them bad? I doubt it. Everyone has seasons to their lives. Seasons when we grow, seasons when we lay dormant...and for many, the seed has just been planted. The greatest tragedy, in my mind, is to never have stood for anything worthwhile, to have had someone plant the seed, others water and nurture it, and then to take the finished product and not use it.

We all have varying degrees of talents. Many used and continue to use those talents to make a better climate for other "family" members...many more let the chance pass them by. Someone once said...the greatest shame does not come from failure but rather in never trying in the first place.

I'm reminded of the cartoon I saw a long time ago. One guy is laughing at the other for buying a lottery ticket. "Do you realize that you only have one chance in a million of winning the lottery?" The other guy says, "yep, it's only one

in a million but without a ticket you haven't any chance at all of winning." This concept applies to helping out others. You may only be able to give a little but it's still got a better chance of helping than those that will never give at all.

I am truly amazed at those that dedicate such a large portion of their free time to the support of the gay community without pay. They have my respect and that of all others, that like myself, have worked hard to change things. Those with a vision...those with the courage to follow the vision are very high on my hero list.

The Empty Closet turns one year old this month. I take special personal pride in taking the group to where we are today. Not all individual goals set for the group were reached but most were. Could we have done more??? Might we have done better if we had done it in some other way??? Maybe, but who cares. Something is better than nothing...and except for Kearney P-FLAG...nothing is just what we had.

The time for a changing of the guard is coming soon to the E.C. Support Group. As I type this column I can not be sure exactly how much future time I will spend working with the various E.C. programs. The personal mission of mine a little over a year ago was to start and run a support group for a year. This being completed, I now set out to find others willing to commit of their time and talents. Should I find such people...great! If not, that's okay, too.

For even as the earth turns, changing our seasons, we know that what lies buried by the snow will one day again soon be in full blossom for all that will to appreciate it. So, too, we should not totally be saddened at the possible loss of the Empty Closet. We do not lie crushed by those that would wish us to be gone. Rather we are in a stage of waiting for one or more to bring us to life.

Thanks to all that have passed our way during the last year.

YULETIDE CD/TAPE

The Turtle Creek Chorale of Dallas, Texas, is proud to announce to release of two "Peace", a Yuletide treasure featuring instrumental accompaniment by the Tesoro String Quartet, harp, and handbell choir. The 15 selections include such favorites as O Holy Night, The First Noel, White Christmas, and Silent Night. "From the Heart" presents 15 selections chosen by the men of the Chorale. It features the world premier of "When We No Longer Touch," by composer-in-residence, Kris Anthony. All profits from this recording will be donated to AIDS education and research and support of persons living with AIDS. "From the Heart" will be available January, 1992.

For either recording send \$16 for compact disc, \$11 for cassette, plus \$2 per item postage and handling, to: Turtle Creek Chorale, P.O. Box 190806, Dallas, TX 75219-0806 or Call 214-526-3214. Master Card and VISA are accepted.

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Jimmy James
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Watch for Details**

**Tuesday, December 24th
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Tuesday - Sunday
Watch for Specials**

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Join us for New Year's Eve
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**Thursday - Saturday
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LOCAL NEWS

MCC-O NEWS by Carla

Thank you, thank you, to all of you who joined us at The MAX for pancakes. We hope you will join us on December 15, as we go all out and treat you to a full fledged brunch at the MAX. Garret and Joe are planning a menu of Quiche Lorraine, smoked fish, bagels, pastries, hot spiced fruit, and other goodies, and Wayne has promised to have special "warm-up" drinks available for those who want them. Food will be served from 11:30 to 2pm. You can share in the brunch for only a \$5 donation to the MCC Building Fund. Baked Goods for the Holidays will also be available for sale, so you can go home with some of those special Chocolate Croissants that Garret has promised us, or homemade cinnamon rolls, or Christmas cookies, or whatever appeals to you.

On Saturday, December 14, MCC will be continuing their holiday tradition of caroling at Golden Manor for the elderly and disabled residents. If you would like to join us for this event, we will be gathering at the church between 6 and 6:30pm so we can be at Golden Manor by 7pm.

There will be tree trimming, decorating the church, and goodies that same night. Check the announcements next time you're at church for details on this.

The holiday singers are busy preparing for Christmas. They will be performing at several services, including the MCC Christmas Eve service at 10:30 pm on December 24. We hope you plan to join us for our special and the regular services during the Advent Season.

An adult education class held in Nov. explored the "kingdom within" each of us as explained by John Sanford. Nine participated in the study. Ten friends of MCC-O joined us as members following the membership class the last Saturday in October. This brings our total membership to 83. However, since the beginning of 1992, we have averaged about 135 different attendees within each month.

We invite you to join us each Sunday for worship at 10:20 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at 420 S. 24th St. Until next month, see you in church!

KC YELLOW PAGES EDGED WITH LAVENDER

It was reported in the Lesbian and Gay News-Telegraph of Kansas City and St. Louis that Dr. Terry L. Norman, a licensed counselor practicing in Kansas City, had wanted to reach Gay and Lesbian client. However, when he first tried to purchase a Yellow Page listing in the Southwestern Bell Directory, he was told he could not purchase advertising with the words "Lesbian" or "Gay" in it. After several phone calls to SW Bell officials, Dr. Norman was forced to threaten legal action. Finally, in late September, an official "at the top" of the company's legal department informed Dr. Norman that his advertising would be accepted. Dr. Norman plans to advertise under four existing categories for counseling, including religious counseling.

As reported previously, the Human Rights Project of Kansas City had attempted to place a listing under a separate heading for Gay and Lesbian Organizations, but SW Bell had refused to create such a listing. SW Bell officials did tell representatives of the Human Rights Project that they could purchase one line of advertising which informed their customers that they "welcome/cater...to Gay/homosexuals/Lesbian clientele. A Southwestern Bell representative stated that the confusion about what was and was not allowed was partially due to a vacancy in the company's top level management. This same representative indicated that she believed there was a good chance that the policy against a Gay and Lesbian heading may also be changed.

URGENT!! Just as the New Voice was going to press, the news broke about Presidential candidate Bob Kerrey telling a derogatory joke about lesbians. To find out current info, any protest planned, or how to contact Kerrey's office yourself, contact Citizens For Equal Protection by calling the Gay/Lesbian Information Line at 558-5303. Look for more details in the January Issue.

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LOCAL NEWS

SUPPORT GROUP FOR YOUTH BEGINS IN OMAHA

By Kathy England

Just nine months ago we told you about the conference presented in Omaha and Kearney for teachers and school counselors about Gay and Lesbian Youth: Equity for the Invisible Minority. Evaluations were very positive and encouraged us in providing support for families and friends and increasing awareness within the community of gay/lesbian individuals and issues. Six months ago, we began exploring the possibility of a support group for young people who are becoming aware that their own or a friend's sexual orientation might be different from the majority of their peers. In April we announced the beginning of a youth support group sponsored by P-FLAG through a letter to Counselors, a portion of which follows.

We are pleased to share exciting news with you. As you may already know, P-FLAG has for some time believed we need to have some kind of safe place for young people to meet where they might find caring, supportive adults to listen and to talk to them about their sexuality.... What if my best friend says "I'm GAY"? Could I be? How can I understand these different feelings?

"Is there a support group for kids in Omaha?" The answer to this question, posed by a participant at the recent conference on Lesbian and Gay Youth: Equity for Our Invisible Minority, was, sadly, NO. Not for lack of wishing, rather for lack of resources and people. Well, we believe the time has come to take inventory of resources and volunteers and move ahead. A number of people offered to help...we can still use more! Some of us met to discuss the possibility of starting NOW...and we are going to take the great leap of faith and trust that we find additional resources and people to make it happen. We envision this to be a small group at first with great potential for growth. Numbers are not the measure of success.

So we began! Our groups have varied from 1 to 8 young people with a variety of stories to share - some of acceptance by family and friends, some with great fear of being themselves. They have identified many topics of interest and areas of need. Our parents and counselors are busy looking for materials and individuals who are willing to talk with us on the kids.

Maybe you remember what it was like, being 15 or 17 or 18 and not knowing if there was anyone else who felt just like you. The feelings of isolation and fear and rejection are still very much a part of the awareness process. We want to be there as these kids come to terms with who they are, that they are OK, that they are loved for who they are by caring and concerned adults.

So...you may ask what's this to me? I'm OUT (at least to myself). That must be true, but there are lots of things you can do - select one or all, or any combination but please do consider some part - no amount of time, energy, money or concern shared is too small.

Share the news about the group with any youth (tentative guidelines would include ages 13 to but not over 21 years of age) who might be interested in a support group. We understand that this might not be an easy topic to discuss with kids, many may just be starting to explore their own sexuality, others may be quite certain of their sexual orientation. This is not meant to be a therapy group. We do not want to send any messages that this is an illness or that by coming

they are making any statement. By coming they are simply saying that they are looking for a safe place with caring adults where they may ask questions, learn about sexual orientations, and find that they are not alone.

Call us if you have questions about youth who may be interested, or if you know of parents who might want to talk with another parent who has a gay or lesbian child. P-FLAG has two objectives: 1) to provide support for parents, family members and friends of lesbians and gays, and 2) to educate our world to be more inclusive and caring for our children and all people.

We will not "advertise" the group. Our only source of referral will be from counselors and teachers, from friends like you and from the youth themselves. Of course, we have concerns about confidentiality and safety. This will be addressed in guidelines we are developing. At least one parent will always be with the group. Participants and facilitators will be asked to sign a contract clearly stating their understanding of the group's purpose, guidelines, and each individual's responsibility to the group. Screening of adult volunteers and youth will be done by a P-FLAG panel. Suggestions or feedback are always welcome. We hope that you will agree that this is exciting news and also a really big commitment for P-FLAG, so you join us in making Omaha a safer, healthier place for young people and families!

While we have only been working for three short months, we are pleased with the support we have received. However, if you know studies indicate one in every ten persons is gay, lesbian, or bisexual (the degree of orientation may vary on Kinsey's scale), one in every four families includes someone that is gay, lesbian, or bisexual, and that these young people are at three times greater risk to attempt suicide before they turn 24, then we have only begun to scratch the surface. In addition to usual P-FLAG brochures (Coming Out To Your Parents, Can We Understand Our Children?, Why is My Child Gay?, and About Our Children), we have the new issues papers about youth and an excellent bibliography (covering a wide range from accepting your child, about being gay, religion, youth, children of gays, spouses, and AIDS/HIV). These were published by national P-FLAG staff and may be of interest.

So once again, we ask for your assistance.

Help us share the word that this unique support group meets twice a month (2nd and 4th Saturdays at 4pm); that P-FLAG meets once a month (2nd Sunday at 3pm); that we have resources to share (books, videotapes, bibliographies, a national directory of parent groups and contacts); and that the P-FLAG phone (291-6781) is always open and that parents are willing to talk with you, your families, and young people any time. We are not professionals, nor experts dealing with questions of human sexual orientation. We are parents who are living with and loving all of our children in this homophobic society.

ALL IOWA AIDS BENEFIT RAISES OVER \$20,000

The fifth annual All Iowa AIDS Benefit was held on October 20 in the Grand Ballroom of the Embassy Suites Hotel in Des Moines. The overflow crowd was so large that the hotel was forced to open another section of the Ballroom in order to accommodate them.

Co-hosts for the event included Mary Brubaker from local TV channel 8, Peter-former Mr. Gay Iowa, Toby Richards - director of "In Stitches", and Naomi Delray.

The evening was filled with special acts of caring and generosity, including the mayor's proclamation designating that week as AIDS Awareness Week; Embassy Suite Hotel donating the use of the facility for the evening; the performance of "In Stitches"; an appearance by the Des Moines Men's Chorus; and an auction featuring a dinner for four auctioned off for over \$125, signed L'Etique crystal goblets going for \$175, and a Fantasia poster which sold for \$75.

By 11:25 p.m. the benefit had raised \$21,300. All costs of producing the benefit show will be paid by corporate grants and other community funding. All proceeds from the benefit will be distributed to agencies which provide practical and emotional support programs for people living with HIV infection or AIDS.

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FEATURES

"WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?" A SERMON BY NICOLE GRAY

My name is Nicole. I am one of the new deacons at MCC. This is my first sermon and I am nervous and afraid. Being nervous I probably will not overcome. Being afraid I learned to overcome.

It was my honor to be able to do a reading at a Holy Union. The reading, says, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your heart. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself." As I read, a little voice said to me, "Nicole, this is what your sermon can be about." I said (yes, folks, not only do I hear voices, I answer them) "Yes, I can talk about those verses." "Not so much the first one. At least for me, the more difficult one, 'Love our neighbor as ourselves.' God didn't put a condition on this 'Love our neighbor' thing. God didn't say 'Love our neighbor only if our neighbor loves us back...only if they go to our church...only if they meet certain standards (our standards) of living...only if they are not AIDS infected. (I am also referring to those who are HIV infected.)"

"But, Nicole, I love my neighbor." "I'm talking about REAL LOVE. Oh, we watch our neighbor's apartment. We take care of their pets when they are gone. We water their plants. We go places together and share things when needed. That's great, but now I have another question. 'Who really is our neighbor?' Jesus was also asked that question. His response was a parable about a man who had been beaten and robbed. Two of his own countrymen passed him by and moved to the other side of the road less than three miles and possibly dirty their clothes. Finally a stranger from an enemy country came by. This stranger nursed the beaten man's wounds, took him to an inn, paid for it, and gave the innkeeper extra money in case he needed other things. Then this foreigner said, 'I will pass this way again on return to my country. Whatever is spent over the amount I gave to you, I will reimburse you.'

Imagine that happening in this day and age. How many of us stop for strangers in need, not only needs such as food and shelter, but also emotional needs. We may say, "Well, we do take care of our own." Do we really? We have nursing homes filled with the aged, crowded foster homes filled with children who have been neglected and abused physically and sexually, people with

AIDS looking for a shelter from not only the outside storm but also emotional shelter from the raging storm within.

At this point, most people with AIDS are gay. Most of the people who take care of people with AIDS are...strait? Foreign people in a strange land helping strangers. I wonder what reasons our community have for not taking care of their own. What makes us so afraid to reach out and touch that human soul that is seeking some kind of shelter and warmth from their own kind?

Someone told me, "It's difficult to get close to someone that's going to die." Yes, it's difficult, but the question is "Who isn't going to die?" Does this mean we don't get close to anyone? What a lonely life it will be when that happens.

"We give money." That is great because they can use it, but that isn't what they truly need.

"Nicole, you just don't understand." You're right. I don't. I've been involved with this disease for four years. I've made and lost numerous friends and continue to make more, knowing I'm going to lose most of these friends as well. Yes, it is difficult and sometimes it can feel overwhelming especially when I see that for everyone that dies, two more take that person's place and still none of our own showing up to help. AIDS has become a deadend word in our community—a four letter word that people avoid using. If we don't use it, it will go away. Wrong, folks. It won't go away. People in this community hide the fact that they have AIDS. They know that once it's known, they will be shunned. Not only are they beaten and robbed once. They are again beaten and robbed by their own community. Since it has to be hidden, when they meet someone they really like, more than likely this will be kept from that person for fear that this will not only drive them away, but also mean exposure in the community. So they make a choice that wouldn't be necessary if we accepted and welcomed them? Do I let this person I go or do I risk exposure? Most choose to let the person go.

Sometimes we blame the straight community. "If they would only accept us, we'd be able to live a better life." How can they accept us when we don't accept our own? The straight community has more love, compassion, and understanding for our people who have AIDS than we do. One other thing. Because a person's lover has AIDS doesn't mean that person is AIDS.

"Nicole, I am afraid." So was I. Let me tell

you how I overcame my fear. I met my first buddy on a Saturday. He had only been diagnosed with AIDS for 3 weeks. He had pneumonia. He was at home with an oxygen tank. I spent most of Saturday with him. By the time I left, I felt like part of his family. He asked if I'd come back on Sunday and he'd make me lunch. When I went back I had the best potato soup I'd had in a long time. When I left the apartment it hit me what I just did. Now, mind you folks, I had been to Hotline training, to Buddy and Practical Support training, and to Test Site training. I knew how I could or could not get this disease—at least my head knew. My heart hadn't gotten the message yet. My instant reaction after I left was, "My God, what have I done?" It took me about two hours to convince my heart that I was not infected. My friend died on Tuesday. I think him for getting me through my fear, to help me realize. It's okay to be afraid and it's more okay to overcome the fear.

"But, Nicole, what if someone from the community sees me? They'll jump to conclusions." So what? They are going to jump to conclusions anyway. If these people ask questions, maybe you can educate somebody else and maybe you can teach someone that it's okay "to love our neighbor as ourselves."

"Okay, okay. NEXT time I'll take pity and show some kindness." Two things I ask you consider. First, WHEN is the next time. Second, They don't want pity or sympathy. They don't want to be a Jerry Lewis poster child for AIDS instead of MD. They don't want to be an example of how people with AIDS SHOULD live.

Some other things they don't want are to be shunned. They don't want to be told "Let's go for dinner, coffee, or whatever," and then they never hear from us again. You want to know something else? They don't even want us to have sex with them. What an ego we have to think that's what they really want from us.

"So what do they want?" They want to be treated with dignity and respect. They want our friendship. They want us to pick up the phone and call them once in a while and truly mean it when we say, "Let's go to dinner or coffee." They need to be able to talk to us about their illnesses and their eventual death without us attempting to change the subject or turning to speak to somebody else. They want and need to know it is safe to come out of hiding and that they will be accepted. They don't want us to tell others about their disease. They want honesty and, folks, I tell you they will know when we are not honest with them. If you cannot handle their disease, tell them. They'd rather know it's the disease than to think it's something they did or said. What they want most is our unconditional love. This means that when they get angry and frustrated and perhaps tell us to F--- off, they want to know we will come back. It means we will not judge them for things they say or don't say. It means we accept them for who and what they are. It means we accept their life and their death as part of God's plan. It means when we accept God's challenge to "love our neighbor as ourselves," we accept the grief that goes along with it. We also accept the joy, happiness, and enrichment of our life that this person has freely given to us.

"Love your neighbor as yourself." It must be on this. Try it. You'll like it.



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FEATURES

HOW I SPENT MY AUTUMN VACATION

Chicago in October is actually colder than Nebraska. Imagine that. I ended up there for Living in Leather VI. This is the annual conference of the National Leather Association. This organization is pansexual/s/m-fetish group with members worldwide.

We converged on the Windy City for four days of conversation, education, and fun! Thursday got going with the Mack McKimmon Travel Fund Auction. This fund contributes to offset the travel expenses of Mr. and Ms. NLA throughout the year. Among the items auctioned off were various leather goods, a set of wooden stocks, a piece of the Berlin Wall, and even your gracious correspondent, me. I donated an hour of my time to this great cause—an hour of anything. Needless to say, being the generous soul I am, I ended up giving eleven hours to the highest bidder—what a bargain. (At least that's what she said!)

Anyway, things got rolling bright and early Friday morning with the first of 58 different workshops dealing with subjects ranging from living clean and sober to whip dynamics to SM/leather activism and everything in between. Speakers came in from all over the world to discuss, educate, and demonstrate. Whether one came as a novice or a twenty year veteran of the scene, there was something to learn.

Friday night was spent on the top floor of the Doral Plaza overlooking the night lights of the city. We gathered for the opening ceremonies

finding ourselves listening to the keynote speech given by Perry J. Watkins. For those of you not familiar with Sgt. Watkins, he is one of the modern heroes of the gay and lesbian movement. He is the first openly gay male to have his right to remain on active duty in the U.S. Army upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. The remainder of the ceremonies consisted of the introduction of all clubs and organizations present, and awards were presented to those individuals responsible for the weekend. A special recognition was made to those NLA members whose lives were lost over the past year. They will be missed.

Saturday contained even more workshops and meetings. For those not attending workshops or who took breaks from the action, there was quite an impressive selection of vendors to selling equipment, clothing, books videos and much much more. Saturday night was spent at Carol's Speakeasy for the Mr./Ms. NLA competition. Fifteen individuals competed for the titles. Mr. and Ms. NLA travel the country throughout the year representing the NLA and speaking out for the rights of adults to practice whatever lifestyles they choose to in a safe, sane, and consensual manner. Our own hometown favorite, Dustin Logan, took first runner-up with the title of Mr. NLA going to Bill Salzman from New York. Ms. NLA went to Laura Goodwin from Connecticut. Way to go, Dustin!

Each night of the conference afforded people the opportunity to play at the dungeon spaces



provided by the Chicago Hellfire Club. For those choosing not to go to the public play parties, the hotel's rooms were the host of many a private party. The Executive House Hotel certainly had an interesting weekend.

Sunday was the final day of the general conference. The crowd was slowing down due to a lack of sleep and too much playing, but we all managed to finish out the workshops and settle in for a night of entertainment at the afterglow party held at The Vortex. This show is very similar to the one we're used to at Fantasy here in Omaha.

It can be said that Chicago will never be the same and neither will the participants involved. Just wait until next year....

Yours in Leather,
Amy Marie Meck

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Sun., Dec. 15, 11:30-2:00 p.m.
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REV. MATTHEW L. HOWARD, PASTOR

From CRUISES to SAFARIS TO OUTDOOR and UNDERSEA ADVENTURES, this packet contains information on OVER 40 different vacations that are available for the Gay/Lesbian public to enjoy in 1992. And there's more. So if you're looking for something new to do in '92, send an **\$8.00** check or money order along with your name, address, and phone number to:

VACATIONS '92
P.O. BOX 2154
NEENAH, WI 54956

Offer Ends February 1, 1992
All information is confidential

DEALING WITH VIOLENCE

A Guide For Gay & Lesbian People

Edited by T. Sweeney

Part three of this series is Dealing With Victimization. If you are a victim of a hate crime or a witness to a hate crime, please contact Homosexuals Against Hate Crimes (HAAHC) through the ANGLE information line at 558-5303.

No matter what precautions we take, violence can still happen to us. Surviving an assault can be a devastating and life-changing experience for anyone. The aftermath of a violent attack is a time when most crime victims feel isolated, singled out, and responsible for what happened.

There are real and specific responses that people experience as a result of a trauma. They include a general inability to function, feelings of not being in control, depression, anxiety, sleeping and eating disturbances, sexual dysfunction, and phobia. Some people feel as if they are going crazy.

"The worst part is that my body has gone numb. I don't know what is wrong with me. I can't understand it. It was a man who attacked me. But now I can't get my lover touch me at all. I don't know how to explain it to her."

The aftermath of an assault is a time when victims need to feel supported and understood. When crime victims break through their own isolation and try to find help and reassurance they often find their normal support systems are not responsive. When someone is victimized, everyone in that person's life feels vulnerable. "It could happen to me, too." One way many people try to magically feel safe again is to hold the victim responsible for the attack: "I would never wear what she wore"; "I would never go where he went"; "I would never go out with at type"; "I would never be that stupid." Instead of finding empathy, victims often find themselves blamed.

In addition to the trauma experienced by all victims, gay and lesbian victims have some special emotional issues to deal with. Their experience of an assault will often touch feelings they have

about their sexual identity; this is true regardless of whether they are assaulted for being gay or for some other reason. Such feeling is can affect gay peoples' perceptions of why an assault happened and how they behaved during the course of it.

"The first stupid thing I did was take him home. He seemed to go crazy. I became paralyzed. He took what he wanted and left. I always felt like a nelly-coward. Anyone else would have fought back. Now, I feel I can't do anything."

As a result of an assault, many people question their entire way of life, feeling badly about things they thought they had resolved.

"My father has been dead for years. One of my most treasured moments was when I told him I was gay and he told me that it didn't matter and that he loved me. When he died, he left me his watch, and that is what the gay took. I wonder now what my father would think of my gay lifestyle."

For many gay and lesbian victims, getting help becomes in itself a trauma. Deciding who to tell is not easy. Some people lie about what happened or pretend nothing happened. Others find that telling involves coming out to people who don't know they are gay or lesbian. Even telling people who do know may involve confronting their misconceptions about your way of life.

"When my lover was raped, the first person I wanted to call was my mother. I couldn't. When I had told her I was a lesbian she said she was really sorry, that I would have a hard and unhappy life. Going to her for help would only prove her point."

People in relationships often turn to their lovers as their main source of support and with tremendous expectations of help. For victims, this can lead to grave disappointment. They may find their lovers confused and unable to meet their needs. Lovers and others close to the victims are also directly affected by the assault. As

"secondary victims" they experience many of the same symptoms that the victim does. Secondary victims often feel guilty for not protecting the one they love, and angry at the victim for what happened. "Why didn't she fight?" "Why didn't she scream?"

Secondary victims often experience grief at having come so close to losing someone they love and may feel that their lover and their relationship will never be the same. Being a gay or lesbian person, the lover may feel equally vulnerable to a future attack and may feel guilty that this "unacceptable" relationship led to the attack. Lovers of gay or lesbian victims often feel the same isolation experienced by the victim, but it is the victim who receives whatever support is offered. This is a time when communication is most difficult. This is a time when communication is also most important.

"I always felt like I was the stronger one. Jim seemed vulnerable and I felt like I had to protect him. After I was attacked in the elevator of our building by a neighbor, everything changed. I felt vulnerable and afraid and certainly unable to protect Jim. I was terrified something would happen to him and felt powerless to do anything for him. The tension between us increased. I decided we really needed to talk. It turned out that Jim could really understand. He said that he wanted to help, but that I had been pushing him away. I came to realize that it was okay for me to be vulnerable and that Jim was able to help."

After an assault, victims often feel as if the pain and trauma will last forever, affecting every aspect of their lives. It is difficult for victims to realize they are actually survivors. It takes tremendous strength to survive an assault — the same strength we utilize to live in this society as gay and lesbian people. Within each one of us who survives an assault is the power to heal.

As gay people, each of us must strike a balance between our sexual identity and the world, choosing how and when to come out. This balance is our way of surviving. Experiencing an assault upsets this balance, causing us to question our choices. It can destroy the security we have struggled to achieve.

"Being gay was a very small part of my life. My closest friends are also my co-workers at the bank, where I've been for thirty years. No one there knows I'm gay. I took this guy home from a bar one night. He beat me up real bad. I just couldn't call the police, and when I went down to the hospital I told them a lie that they probably didn't believe. Suddenly I have had to lie to everyone. I thought staying in the closet was safe. Now, I'm totally alone."

After an assault, lesbian and gay victims usually must turn to services in the straight community for protection and assistance, not knowing what to expect. We may feel as if we are turning for help to people we can't trust. At a time when we are feeling most vulnerable, we don't know whether we will find support or prejudice.

An assault is experienced as a total loss of control. For victims, making any decision after such an experience can be overwhelming, and yet this is the time they are required to make vital and painful choices. Making these decisions is the first step in the healing process. It is the beginning of taking back control. Although friends and

BUSH SIGNS DOJ BILL

by Lisa M. Keen

President Bush signed legislation on Monday, October 28, which should take care of problems Gay activists have had in getting law enforcement agencies to record Gay-related hate crimes.

Although the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act, signed into law by the President in April of last year, called for the collection of statistics based on hate crimes against Gays, the Department of Justice arm which collects data on crimes did not have that responsibility, or crimes based on religion, specified in its mandate. That arm, the Community Relations Service (CRS), said its national hotline number, this would not be able to accept data on Gay-related or religion-related hate crimes.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force took the lead to rectify that mandate, and one month later the CRS said it would begin to collect data. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, NGLTF began lobbying Congress to make CRS's mandate explicit, both in collection of data and in providing other services, such as grants. By the time the FY 92 appropriations bill for the Justice Department was signed by the President, the bill's conference report included language which NGLTF believes will force CRS to include crimes based on sexual orientation and religious prejudice.

Although the new language does not mention Gays specifically, it states that Congress expects CRS "to respond to hate crimes as defined by the Hate Crimes Statistics Act." That Act defined hate crimes as being motivated by "religion, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation."

Washington Blade

FEATURES

family may want to help by making the decisions, it is crucial that victims be allowed to make their own choices and receive sensitive assistance and support.

"I felt so helpless. Nothing I did would be right. I just couldn't think. She held me and told me she would stay. I could take my time and we could talk until I figured out what to do. That was the first moment since the attack that I felt any hope at all."

Many assaults cause physical injuries. No matter what the circumstances of the assault, everyone deserves medical attention. Because certain injuries are not always evident — especially in cases of sexual assault — it is vital that a doctor performs a proper examination.

Going to the hospital emergency room or a clinic can be frightening and confusing after an attack. Nevertheless, it is possible to retain a sense of control. You have the right to ask questions about what is being done and why. You can refuse treatment or seek treatment elsewhere. You can decide what information about the incident you are going to share. You have the right to ask for a crisis counselor to help you through the medical process. Many hospitals have rape victim advocates on call.

Some hospitals will automatically call the police when a crime victim is brought in. Whether or not they do, you have the right to insist that evidence be properly collected, especially if you think that you will report the crime.

There are many demands on emergency room personnel, and they may not always seem responsible. You may have to be assertive to get your needs met. This is never easy. If possible, find someone to accompany you to the hospital who can provide you with support and act as your advocate or intermediary with medical personnel.

In most states crime victims are eligible to file for compensation for medical, counseling, and rehabilitation expenses, and loss of earnings due to the crime. However, these can only be collected if the crime has been reported within a specified period of time after it has occurred. Your local police or victim services agency should be able to assist you in obtaining victim's compensation.

If you think you may report a crime against you, it is important to write down what happened in as much detail as possible, including any information about the perpetrators and any witnesses present. It is advisable to do this as soon as possible after it occurs; do this yourself or

dictate to a friend if that is easier. Your written account may prove to be helpful if you testify in court, which is likely to happen long afterward — when your recollection of the incident may be incomplete or confused.

If you have any visible injuries, arrange to have them photographed. (Bruises may take several days to fully appear.) If you are receiving threatening notes or phone calls or are experiencing other types of harassment, keep a journal of these incidents. Retain copies of all notes you receive and, if possible, take the nuisance phone calls. This information will also be valuable in investigating and prosecuting such crimes.

Just as victims should not be blamed for what they did or didn't do during an assault, they should not be judged for their course of action afterward. No matter what decisions are made, the emotional trauma that follows an attack can be devastating. Although these wounds are not visible, the pain is real and should be taken as seriously as physical injury.

All crime victims can benefit from talking to someone who is supportive, neutral, and informed; someone who can empathize with their plight and relate to their needs in a non-judgmental way. The services of a qualified professional counselor are invaluable at this time.

Finding someone who is sensitive to the needs of gay crime victims can be difficult, but it is important to remember that you deserve the help. You may have to talk with several counselors before you find the one who is right for you. Your instincts are your best guide and you will know what you need and whether someone is helping you. Referrals can be obtained from local gay/lesbian organizations, crime victim service agencies, rape crisis centers, and women's organizations. There are also local and national violence hotlines — such as the National Gay/Lesbian Crisis Line — which provide support and referrals, and can be called anonymously.

"It happened to me ten years ago. I thought I was over it. After my lover was assaulted, all the feelings came back. I felt like I was going crazy. A friend told me there was a number I could call. They gave me several names and I found someone who really seemed to understand. It has been painful, but I'm glad this time there was someone who could listen. I'm finally starting to heal."

*Next Month: Part IV:
Dealing With The Criminal Justice System*

7th DAY ADVENTIST KINSHIP WINS VICTORY

A lawsuit against the gay and lesbian support group Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International Inc. by the Seventh-day Adventist Church resulted in a victory for gay rights.

The General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists, with a membership of 6.7 million, filed the suit December 7, 1987, in U.S. District Court seeking to bar the Kinship organization from using the name "Seventh-day Adventist" or its acronym "SDA" in their corporate name and advertising. The church, who holds trademarks for the name, sought to disassociate itself from the Kinship organization, claiming that the organization was committing trademark infringement, unfair competition, and false advertising since they were not officially affiliated with the SDA Church.

Kinship's argument that their membership is made up of gay and lesbian members of the SDA Church and that the name "Seventh-day Adventist" is a generic term describing its members was upheld by the court in a decision handed down October 7. U.S. District Judge Mariana R. Pfaelzer said, "There is no term that adequately describes an adherent to the religion of Seventh-day Adventism other than 'Seventh-day Adventist.'" The term is, therefore, generic because it refers to a religion and is not entitled to trademark protection, said Pfaelzer.

Michael McLaughlin, president of SDA Kinship, stated, "This decision is important in that it says the church can't take away the name which signifies our belief system." McLaughlin said that good has come from the lawsuit since many of the church's members are now aware of Kinship and its ministry because of the publicity and tremendous expenditure of church funds that has accompanied the suit. "If the church would assume the responsibility of educating its members and ministering to the needs of gays and lesbians," said McLaughlin, "Kinship would not be needed."

SDA Kinship is an organization for gay and lesbian members, former members, and friends of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The organization has 500 active members and a mailing list of 2,000 people in 17 countries. Kinship maintains area group meetings and a toll-free support hotline at 1-800-4-GAY-SDA (442-9732).



¡ FEB. 29, 1992 DEADLINE!

Pride Week Button Contest

- PRIZE** One-year New Voice subscription plus 2 tickets to Pride Week Awards Banquet
- RULES**
- o Suitable for both buttons & T-shirts
 - o Entry size 5" x 7" maximum
 - o 2 colors max. (foreground & background)
 - o Consider 1992 theme **PRIDE = POWER**
 - o Consider Nebraska/Western lowa region
 - o Put name on *backside* of each entry
 - o Entries become property of ANGLE Inc.

Mail to: ANGLE Box 31375 Omaha 68131

Name _____

(Name for publicity if winner)

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

GAYS AND THE SOVIET COUP

Sharon Van Butsel, Editor
The New Voice of Nebraska
 P.O. Box 3512
 Omaha, Nebraska 68103

Dear Ms. Van Butsel:

I am a member of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays here in Omaha. In July, after graduating from college, my son went to Russia as a representative of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, based in San Francisco. After attending a conference in Moscow, he stayed on in Russia. I have enclosed two articles, one of which was written by my son, Tom Boellstorff.

I thought the *New Voice* might like to use parts of the articles for an upcoming publication. If you feel these are not timely, my feelings will not be hurt, but I thought they were of interest.

Sincerely,
 Neva Cozine

SOVIET GAYS HOPE TO RECOUP THEIR IDENTITIES

by Carla Marinucci

San Francisco Examiner Staff

MOSCOW - The whereabouts of the gay and lesbian movement's headquarters in the Soviet Union is a closely guarded secret.

High visibility for gay activism isn't a safe strategy in a country where homosexuality is constitutionally forbidden, where citizens commonly consider it a sickness, and many believe it

should be dealt with through capital punishment.

Nevertheless, Roman Kalinin is out in the open. As president of the Moscow Union of Lesbians and Gay Men, Kalinin, 24, is the leader of the Soviet Union's fledgling gay movement.

He works out of a working-class apartment building, up seven flights. There, armed with a Macintosh LC, a copy machine and a laser printer, Kalinin conducts his battles - with more than a little help from friends in San Francisco and elsewhere.

Tom Boellstorff, 22, a former Stanford student and Queen Nation activist from the Bay Area who now lives in Moscow, moved Kalinin out of his apartment because the Soviet gay leader faced possible arrest by the KGB.

Then Boellstorff and other gay activists worked to continue to publish Kalinin's gay newsletter *Tema*.

Their efforts, partially funded by the San Francisco-based International Gay and Lesbian Rights Organization, helped maintain what has become a lonely beacon of hope for gays and lesbians in the Soviet Union.

Kalinin has a soft-spoken manner that belies his focused resolve to build a gay-rights movement.

The product of a middle-class family and son of an engineer, Kalinin says, "I knew all my life I was gay."

"All the bad things that could happen to me (for being gay) did happen," he says, sitting at the kitchen table and chain-smoking. "I was put in a psychiatric institute. In the Soviet Union, being gay is considered an illness, a psychiatric problem."

It could have been worse, he says.

Within five years of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, Soviet officials began regulating the sex lives of citizens. These laws, passed between 1922 and 1926, defined homosexuality as a "crime against nature" and specifically outlawed oral sex.

The 1925 Marriage Law set forth the official view that sex was something that happened between men and women within the family framework. To make the official view perfectly clear, Article 121 of the Russian Constitution outlawed homosexuality.

The general Soviet attitude toward gays was illustrated in a recent poll on the subject published before the coup. Even in "cosmopolitan" Moscow, 30 percent of respondents thought homosexuals should be killed, another 30 percent recommended imprisonment, and 30 percent suggested psychiatric confinement. Only 10 percent said they believed that gays should be free to follow their own lifestyle.

"In rural areas," says Boellstorff, "nearly 85 percent (of the respondents) were in favor of the death penalty for homosexuality."

"The only place gay people can meet here is parks, baths, and toilets," says Kalinin. Economic difficulties make privacy a rare commodity. Even grown men and women must live with their parents, because it's so difficult to get an apartment.

And even when they do have their own residences, friends and lovers must be careful.

Despite the difficulties, Kalinin refused to pretend he was straight, and last year he began publishing *Tema*.

"That was the beginning of the movement here," he says. "I got letters from everywhere, so I knew there were other people with my problems."

The magazine features articles on safe sex, gay life and history, and personal viewpoints. It has 2,000 subscribers from as far away as Siberia and draws classified ads from all over the world. It is produced on the Macintosh and distributed widely in the secretive gay community.

Boellstorff, accustomed to San Francisco's liberal attitude toward gays, says he is appalled at the repression in the Soviet Union.

"Roman is the only person who is 'out' to his parents," he says. "There's a real worry about being blackmailed or jailed. I know someone who was in a relationship for a year and never gave his lover his last name. It's very much a double life, and trust is in very short supply."

But Kalinin and Boellstorff say they hope to change that. Their first order of business now, in the post-coup period, is to appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and other Soviet leaders to repeal the article in the Soviet constitution that outlaws homosexuality.

They say their gay rights group will urge San Francisco Mayor Agnos and other civic leaders in the United States to make their own calls to Soviet officials to urge gay equality as a human rights issue.

"All we are asking for is the right to be happy, the right to have freedoms that gay people know in the West," Kalinin says.

Continued on Page 25
 See A Gay Reporter's
 Notebook

NEW REALITIES

BOOKS • GIFTS • ETC.

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HOLIDAY GIFT ITEMS

- LESBIAN AND GAY TITLES
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- SELF IMPROVEMENT AND RECOVERY BOOKS
- ENVIRONMENTAL AND RELAXATION TAPES
- CRYSTAL, JEWELRY, WINDCHIMES, ETC.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, Nov 30-December 2
NAMES Project Quilt, Wichita, KS

SUNDAY, December 1
New Voice Steering Committee, 1pm.
MCC-Omaha, 420 S. 24th Street

Midwest Men, Erotic Dancers Perform at
The MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha

MONDAY, December 2
Imperial Court of NE Board of Governors The
MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha, 6:30pm.

Bisexual Support Grp Open to all sexes,
Cornerstone, 640 N. 16, Lincoln. 7:30pm

TUESDAY, December 3
Kearney HIV/AIDS Support Grp, 6:30pm
Call for info: (308)234-6500.

A.N.G.L.E., Inc. UNO Religious Center,
101 North Happy Hollow, Omaha, 7pm.

WEDNESDAY, December 4
Lesbian, Gay, Multicult. Book Disc, Arbor
Mood, 1448 E, Lincoln, 489-4634 7pm

THURSDAY, December 5
Gay/Lesbian Resource Cntr Business Mtg.
Rm 342, Nbr Union, UNL, Lincoln, 7pm.

SATURDAY, December 7
G/L Coalition 1st Sat Event, Cornerstone, 640
N. 16th, Lincoln, "G/L Lit II" 7-10pm

Benefit for Marine Corps Toys for Tots, host:
Sammi, Triangle Bar, Polk at RR Ave, 10pm

SUNDAY, December 8
Omaha Men (OMEN) meeting, 1:30pm.
Write: OMEN, Box 3706, Omaha 68103

PFLAG - Omaha, "Nat'l Convention" 3pm 1st
Meth Educ. Wing 7020 Cass 291-6781

ANGLE Soup/Sandwich Supper 5:30-7:30
Funds Pride Act., DCs 1019 S 10, Omaha

Jimmy James as Marilyn Monroe, 9pm,
The Metro, 1516 Jones, Omaha

Miss Gay Nebraska USA Pageant, 9:30pm
The MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha

MONDAY, December 9
AIDS Interfaith Network Service, 7pm
St Cecelias, 40th & Webster, Omaha

THURSDAY, December 12
Womyns Video Showing, Arbor Moon 1448 E,
Lincoln, 7pm, For info: 489-4634

Underwear Night 7, at The MAX, Omaha

FRIDAY, December 13
River City Mixed Chorus Caroling Omaha
TheMAX 6pm, DC's 8pm, Chesterfield
8:30pm, Gilligan's 9pm, The Run 9:30pm, The
Metro 10pm, The Diamond 10:30pm

SATURDAY, December 14
P-FLAG Youth Support Group for gay,
lesbian, bisexual youth 13 to 21. 4pm,
Confidential location. Omaha, 291-6781

River City Gender Alliance, enjoy Cross Dress
community/All orient. No sexual encounters,
Bx 680, Council Bluffs 51502

MCC Caroling at Golden Manor Care Cntr
Meet at MCC, 420 S 24, Omaha

Presbyterians for Lesbian/Gay Concerns,
Call for location: Cleve 734-1360

SUNDAY, December 15
Holiday Brunch \$5 Donation, 11:30-2pm
Also Bake Sale, Proceeds to MCC Bldg Fund
The MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha,

DC's Xmas Party, 9pm-7, Bring can food for
PWAs, Door Prizes 1019 S 10, Omaha

Country Christmas: Jeff Miller in Saloon, also
TRASH DISCO, at The MAX, Omaha

TUESDAY, December 17
P-FLAG, Cornhusker Chptr, 7pm, Holiday
Happening PotLuck, Unitarian, 6300 'A', 435-
4688, Lincoln Youth meet same time

Kearney HIV/AIDS Support Grp, 7:30pm
Call for info: (308)234-6500.

Grand Island HIV/AIDS Support Group
Call for time location: (308) 381-5175

Gay/Lesbian Coalition Board meeting,
St. Marks, 13th & R, Lincoln, 7:30pm

THURSDAY, December 19
G/L Resource Cntr Bus. Mtg, Lincoln, 7pm

3rd Annual Christmas MAX-OUT
The MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha

SUNDAY, December 22
Parents-FLAG/Kearney, St Luke Episcpl
2304 2nd Ave, Call (308) 237-3870, 3pm

ICON "s Toys for Tots" Benefit for toys for
PWA's Kids & Children's Crisis Center,
The MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha 9:30pm

MONDAY, December 23
Lincoln AIDS Interfaith Network Service,
St. Marks, UNL Campus, 13th & R, 7pm

TUESDAY, December 24
Christmas Eve Services, 10:30pm
MCC-O, 420 S. 24, Omaha

WEDNESDAY, December 25
Merry Christmas to All!!

SATURDAY, December 28
P-FLAG G/L/B Youth Support Group ages 13
to 21. 4pm Omaha, 291-6781

SUNDAY, December 29
The Barbie Awards, Special Celebration at
The MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha, 9:30pm

TUESDAY, December 31
NEW YEARS EVE PARTIES AT ALL
THE BARS, so we suggest: Celebrate
at your favorite or make the rounds,
Just make sure you have a designated driver
so you arrive home safely!!

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY
Metropolitan Community Church
420 S. 24 Street, Omaha, 345-2563.
Worship: 10:20am, Communion Svcce 7pm

Omaha Frontrunners/Walkers, 10am,
Running/Walking Club, Various Locations

Grand Island Alcoholics Anonymous,
Open Mig for G/L, 12noon (308) 234-6500

River City Mixed Bowling, SkyLanes,
The Center, 42 & Center, Omaha, 3pm

Living in Hope HIV Anon. 4pm Prairie Rm,
Lincoln General, 2300 S. 16, Lincoln

MONDAY
Alternate Test Site Nebraska AIDS Project
3624 Leavenworth St., Omaha, 7-10pm

River City Mixed Chorus Rehearsl 7:15pm
Lowe Ave Presb, 1023 N 40, Omaha

TUESDAY
"Out In The 90's" Gay Broadcast News
Service, Cable Channel 14, Lincoln, 7pm

Gay/Lesbian Support Group, 7:30pm,
MCC-Omaha, 420 S. 24th St., 345-2563

WEDNESDAY
Omaha Frontrunner/Walkers, 6:30pm,
Ford Birthsite, 32nd & Woolworth, Omaha

P-FLAG AIDS Support Grp, Lincoln, 7pm
Call AIDS Info Line: 475-2437

Empty Closet Support Grp, Grand Island/
Hastings alternate Call: (308) 234-6500

Lesbian Discussion Grp Lincoln 7:30pm 14
& R, Neb Union, Women Resource Cntr

OA, Lambda Plush, Family/Frmds, 7:30pm
3622 N 90 Omaha 341-7716/978-8777

THURSDAY
Alternate Test Site Nebraska AIDS Project
3624 Leavenworth Omaha, 7-10pm

UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Assoc., 8pm
Cornerstone, 640 North 16th St, Lincoln

Empty Closet Support/Discussion Group
Kearney meetings (308) 234-6500

FRIDAY
AIDS/HIV Support Group, 7pm, Omaha
Call 345-4747 for location and information

Gay/Lesbian Alcohol Anonymous 8:15pm
Pella Luth, 303 S. 41 Omaha 345-9916

SATURDAY Women Support Grp, 11am
MCC-Omaha, 420 S. 24th St., 345-2563

LINCOLN

Arthur Moon Alternative Bookstore, Gathering Place, 1448 "E", Lincoln 68502. Hours, etc. call Wally: 476-7389/489-4634.

G/L Alcoholics Anonymous, Call 438-5214

Gay Mens Support Grp, Counseling Cntr, 1234 Admin Bldg, UNL, Lincoln 68508. 472-3461. Confidential support for gay men

Lesbian Support Grp, Womens Resource Cntr, Rm 117, Neb Union, UNL, Lincoln, 68588. 472-2597, weekly discussion group.

Lincoln Legion of Lesbians, 624 N. 25, 68509 Feminist collective, newsletter, support

Nebraska Bookstore, 14th & R, Lincoln, Alternative Lifestyle Sec. for The Advocate

Neb Scholarship Fund for G/L Students, Box 30681, Lincoln, 68503. 477-1664. Non-profit scholarship fund with NU Foundation.

New Directions Cntr, 476-2802. Short term counseling/support coming out, relationships

New Freedom G/L info/support. 466-4627

Open Door Ministry (402) 423-8070. Orthodox spiritual counseling. No charge.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG). See Nebraska Statewide listing.

Southeast Comm Col. G/L Student Assoc, Box 30681 Lincoln 68503, 477-1664/477-9216 Student, G/L, education, social, political

Support Group For Bisexuals/WB 80913, Lincoln, 68501. All sexes. Meet 1st Monday 7:30pm, Cornerstone, (upstairs) 640 N 16 St.

University Bookstore, 14th & R, Lincoln, Gay Studies Section: Books on G/L Life.

UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Assoc Rm 342 Neb Union, Lincoln 68588, 472-5644. Social support for G/L Students, meet Thurs 8pm

UNL Gay/Lesbian Alumni/ae Assoc., Inc., Box 30681, Lincoln, 68503, 477-1664. Social, education, political network for UNL G/L alumni/ae, faculty, staff, & students.

UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center, Rm 342 Neb Union, Lincoln 68588-0455, 472-5644 Social activity, referrals, support.

The Wimm'n's Show, 12-3pm Sunday, KZUM, 89.3 FM stereo.

Womens Journal Advocate, Box 81226, Lincoln, NE 68501 Feminist Monthly News.

Youth Talkline (402) 473-7932, Fri & Sat 7pm-Midnite. Emotional support, referrals, AIDS info for those 23 and under. Project of Coalition for Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights.

OMAHA

Affirmation-Omaha, 556-7701. United Methodists for G/L concerns. Meets monthly.

A.N.G.L.E., Inc. (Achieving New Gay Lesbian Endeavors), Box 31375, Omaha, 68131. Networking, and PRIDE activities.

Citizens For Equal Protection, Box 3173, Omaha, 68103. Legislative action group working for Human Rights ordinance.

EAGLE-Omaha, Employee Assoc of Gays, Lesbians. Resource group for US WEST employees. Contact S. McCartney, 1314 Douglas on the Mall, 8th Flr, Omaha 68102.

Frontrunners/walkers, Bx 4583, Omaha 68104 Run/Walking Club (SASE for info)

Gay/Lesbian Info/Referral Line 558-5303

Gay/Lesbian Support Group, MCC-O, 420 S 24th, 343-2563. Tuesdays 7:30pm.

HAIR CARES, Nat'l Foundation hair-dressers help others with AIDS. 1-800-HAIRCARES Omaha, Judy 333-3329

Metropolitan Club, Bx 31331, Omaha 68131 Social alternative to bar scene Promote positive perspective within our community

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha (MCC) Mail: Box 3173, Omaha 68103. Services: 420 S. 24th, Omaha, NE. Sunday worship: 10:20am, 7pm. 345-2563.

Mishpach Chavrim. Social/support for Jewish Gays/Lesbians, 551-0510. Gary.

Omaha Meatpackers, Leather/Levi Club, focus on AIDS fundraising. Call: 455-6876

Omaha Men OMEN, Bx 3706 Omaha 68103 Men interested masculinity/masculine image

OLIS (Our Love Is Special), Box 11335, Omaha 68111. Support/social group for women of all colors.

Overeaters Anonymous, Lambda Plush Group, Meets Wednesdays at 7:30pm at Family & Friends Building, 3622 N 90th, Omaha. Info: 341-7716/978-8777.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG). See Nebraska Statewide listing.

Presbyterians for Lesbian/Gay Concerns, (402) 733-1360. Cleave. Meet last Sat. Jan-Oct, 2nd Sat Dec, No Nov mtg.

River City Bowling League, 346-4110 [Scott] 551-0322 [Charley]. Bowl Sunday, 3pm SkyLanes, 42 & Center, Omaha

River City Gender Alliance Box 680, Council Bluffs, IA 51502. For all who enjoy cross-gender community. All orientations. No sexual encounters. Meet monthly.

River City Mixed Chorus, Box 3267, Omaha, 68103-0267. 558-9900. Volunteer chorus for Gay/Lesbian/Sensitive people.

Seventh Day Adventist Kinship, Inc., Meeting, info, support for Lesbians/Gays. (402) 451-5631 or 1-800-4-GAY-SDA.

Two Wheelers of Omaha (TWO) Motorcycle Club, Box 3216, Omaha, 68103. Meets 1st Sunday, 12noon, Diamond Bar.

UNO Gay/Lesbian Student Org, Box 134, UNO, Omaha 68182. Call Steve: 558-8121, Maggie Zarger: 293-7862.

Womens Support Group, MCC-Omaha, 420 S 24th, 345-2563. Meet Saturday 11am.

Youth Support Group, sponsored by Parents & Friends of Lesbians/Gays, Omaha. For gay/lesbian/bisexual youth 13 to 21. Meets 2nd and 4th Saturday, confidential location. For info, contact P-FLAG at 291-6781.

STATEWIDE

AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power-Nebr., Box 30681, Lincoln 68503 477-1664. Statewide militant, for AIDS improvements, fight homophobia, discrimination. Coor: Rodney A. Bell II

Alcoholics Anonymous, Grand Island, Open Mig 12noon Sundays, (308)234-6500.

Coalition for Gay/Lesbian Civil Rts, Box 94882, Lincoln 68509 Advocacy/lobbies/G/L civil rights, newsletter, socials. 3rd Tues, 7:30pm, St Marks, 13 & R; 1st Sat Evnt, Cornerstone 640 N. 16, Lincoln, 7-10pm

Gay/Lesbian Support Grp Bx 2381, Kearney 68848 (308) 234-6500 Turn in Kearney; Wed GrandIsland, Hastings alternate

Imperial Court of Nebraska, Box 3772, Omaha 68102 Social org for advancement of gay society

The New Voice of Nebraska, Box 3512, Omaha, NE 68103. Monthly magazine for the Lesbian/Gay community.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG) *4011 19th Ave., Kearney, NE 68847: meets 3pm, 3rd Sun at St Luke's Episcopal, Call Bob or Reenie Baker (308) 237-3870.

*Box 4374, Lincoln, NE 68504, (402) 435-4688. Meets 4th Tues., 7pm at Unitarian Church, 6300 'A' St. Special group for family members of people with HIV meets same time & place.

*2912 Lynnwood Dr., Omaha, NE 68123, 291-6781. Meets 2nd Sunday at 1st United Methodist, 6900 Cass Street.

Queer Nation. Activist organization to eliminate homophobia currently reforming.

Continued from Page 22

A Gay Reporter's Notebook IMAGINE JESSE HELMS

SEIZING POWER

by Tom Boellstorff

MOSCOW - Imagine what it would be like to wake up and find out that Bush had been arrested in Kennebunkport and that Dan Quayle, Jesse Helms, and Colin Powell had taken over the country. This scenario is the best analogy I can find to my recent experiences in The Soviet Union. The three-and-a-half days of the coup were some of the most exciting and fearful in my life. I had the rare opportunity of experiencing a pivotal moment in history firsthand and seeing how such a crisis affected the gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities in Moscow.

My first hint that something was wrong came at 7:30am, August 19, at the end of a routine phone call from the San Francisco office of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (the organization with which I am working in the Soviet Union). At the end of the phone call, I was told that I should check the newspapers because Gorbachev had supposedly fallen ill.

But when I told this to the two gay men who share an apartment with me, they reacted with shock and immediately turned on the TV. All of the channels were showing the same program - a nature documentary featuring lakes, rocks, and an occasional tree.

I asked if this was customary when a head of state had died. They replied that it was not a death - Gorbachev had been overthrown and the TV stations, fearing a reprisal if they showed anything that could be construed as against the coup, were showing the documentary to be 'neutral'.

This feigned neutrality, however, wasn't enough to satisfy the coup leaders, for twenty minutes later every station except for the official state channel went dead. Brief announcements were made stating that Gorbachev was ill and Yanayev, the vice-president, had assumed power and declared a six-month state of emergency.

Then, the state channel returned to showing Stalin-era films and documentaries. Most radio stations were shut down and foreign broadcasts jammed. We eventually found an operating station on the radio, where we learned that the where-

abouts of Yeltsin, Popov (the liberal Mayor of Moscow), and other pro-democratic leaders was unknown.

Official broadcasts said authorities would target 'immoral elements'. This was interpreted by gay, lesbian, and bisexual Russians as a codeword for them. Also, on the first day of the coup, the authorities forced a doctor at the AIDS clinic in Moscow to compile a list of all HIV-positive people served by the clinic (about 600) and turn it in to them. (To date, the whereabouts of this list is still unknown).

Roman Kalinin, the President of the Moscow Union of Lesbians and Gay Men and the editor of *Tema*, the first and largest gay publication in the Soviet Union, was intensely afraid. He said that if the government started arresting social activists, he would be in the first thousand if not sooner.

We immediately decided that Roman would stay with me as much as possible in the hope that arresting him would be more difficult with an international observer (with a camera) present. He also decided to move into the apartment in which I was living, since its location and phone number were kept secret.

Roman decided that he and I should go to his own apartment as soon as possible, since the KGB knew its location and might raid it.

The taxi drive across town was eerie. We were moving through the outer parts of town and there were no signs of the military. It seemed that there were fewer people in the buses, fewer cars on the streets - but for the most part, life continued as usual.

Upon reaching Roman's apartment, we took everything valuable - hidden money, subscription lists, telephone numbers - and put them in a bag to bring to the apartment in which I lived.

I ended up going to a hotel further from the center of town to exchange money. By this time (around 4:30pm in the afternoon) announcements by pro-democracy leaders like Yeltsin had been posted at the entrances to Metro subway stations,

surrounded by crowds of eager readers. These announcements would end up playing a large role in the work of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people against the coup.

Returning home, I found Roman and two other gay friends preparing dinner. It was announced soon after I came home that all newspapers except the official Communist papers had been banned. *Tema* was now an underground paper. As we ate dinner, Roman and the other gay men were more tense than I had ever seen them.

On the next day, the apartment in which I lived - relatively safe because the landlords knew only that an unnamed American was living there - became the center for several kinds of action.

We walked to the headquarters of the Moscow City Council, which supported Yeltsin and was issuing statements by him and other pro-democracy leaders. We took copies of these proclamations, which were typed and photocopied so poorly that they were barely legible, and returned to the apartment.

There, we had a Macintosh LC, a LaserWriter, and a photocopying machine, all provided to gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in Moscow by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. This equipment made the apartment in which I lived one of the most advanced publishing centers in Moscow which had not been shut down by the Communists.

We took the proclamations from the Moscow City Council, along with the other announcements (such as a statement made by the Moscow Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church on the radio), typed them up on the Mac and made high-quality leaflets. We then printed hundreds of copies on our photocopy machine. At the same time, we began "Operation Exodus."

I began collecting information on gay, lesbian, and bisexual people who wished to leave the country and faxed the data to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission in

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MICHAEL D. McCLELLAN
Attorney at Law
510 Farnam Building
1613 Farnam Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

346-0974

Civil Litigation
Real Estate
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OUT OF THE DARKNESS ©
L.S. WELCH
GAY = HAPPY

AIDS/HIV RESOURCES

INFORMATION & REFERRAL*

*More info call Neb AIDS Project 342-4233

AIDS Educ Project, UNL G/L Resource Cntr, Rm 342, Neb Union, Lincoln 68588, 472-5644

American Red Cross,
1701 'E', Lincoln 68501 (402) 471-7997
3838 Dewey, Omaha 68131 (402) 341-2723

Community Prescription Service, AIDS Info, medicine, supplies by mail, 1-800-677-4323

Douglas County Health Department,
1201 S. 42, Omaha 68105 (402) 444-6875

Grand Island/Hall Co. Health Dept,
105 E. 1st, Grand Island (308) 381-5175

HAIRCARES, Hairdressers helping PWA's,
1-800-HAIRCARES, Omaha; Judy 333-3329

Lincoln Cancer Cntr, 4600 Valley, 483-1872

Lincoln-Lancaster Health Dept 2200 St Mary
Lincoln 68502, 471-8065 Testing, counseling

Neb AIDS Educ/Training Center, AIDS education to health care professionals, UNMC,
600 S. 42 Omaha 68198, (402) 559-6681

Nebraska AIDS Project, 3624 Leavenworth,
Omaha 68105, 342-4233 or (statewide) (800)
782-AIDS [2437] AIDS Hotline, HIV testing,
practical support, counseling, AIDS awareness.

Neb Dept of Health, 3423 2nd Ave, Kearney
68847, Call Sharon (308) 234-8709

NE Dept of Health, Craft St. Office Bldg, 200
So. Silber, NorthPlatte 69101 (308) 535-8133

Neb Regional Hemophilia Center, UNMC,
600 S. 42, Omaha (402) 559-4227.

People of Color Consortium Against AIDS
2226 Leavenworth, Omaha (402) 341-8471

ScottsBluff Co Health Dept, County Admin Bldg,
Gering, NE 69341 (308) 635-3866

Veterans Adm Medical Center, 42 & Woolworth,
Omaha 346-8800; Dean Pierce, x 4119

Viral Syndrome Clinic, Univ of NE Medical
Center, 600 S. 42nd, Omaha, (402) 559-6202

LEGAL

Mowbray, Chapin, & Walker, P.C., 201 N.
8th, Ste 242, Lincoln 68508 476-3882; Jim

Neb Bar Assoc, 635 S 14, Lincoln, 475-7091

Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, Box 81455,
Lincoln 68501, (402) 476-8091

PASTORAL CARE

AIDS Interfaith Network, 100 N 62, Omaha
By: Wm Woeger 558-3100 (Chancery) 7pm,
Service: 2nd Mon, St Cecilia's 4th & Webster

AIDS Interfaith Network, 215 Centennial
Mall So., Rm 411, Lincoln 68508, 474-3017,
Services: 7pm, 4th Mon, St Marks, 14th & R

HIV TESTING*

*We urge you to inquire about anonymity
& confidentiality before testing.

Charles Drew Health Center,
2201 N. 30, Omaha 68111 (402) 453-1433

Douglas County Health Department,
1201 S. 42, Omaha 68105 (402) 444-6875

Equilibria Medical Center, 544 S. 24,
Omaha, 68102 Call (402) 345-2252

Lincoln-Lancaster Health Dept, 2200 St
Marys Ave, Lincoln 68502 (402) 471-8065
Alternate test site available 2nd Tuesday

Grand Island-Hall Co Health Dept, 105 East
1st St, Grand Island, (308) 381-5175

Native American Community Developm
Corp, 2226 Leavenworth, Omaha, 341-8471

Nebraska AIDS Project, 3624 Leavenworth,
Omaha 342-4233 or (800) 782-AIDS [2437]

Nebraska Association of Farm Workers,
4939 S. 24, Omaha, 68107 (402) 734-4100

Nemaha County Health Department,
1824 N, Auburn, 68305 (402) 274-4549

COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

AIDS/HIV Support Group, Fridays at 7pm in
Omaha, spiritual atmosphere HIV challenged,
family, others. Call 345-4747 before 10pm

Grand Island Area HIV/AIDS Support
Group, Meets 3rd Tuesday, (308) 381-5175

HIV Anonymous, "Living in Hope" 12 step
recovery group for at risk/HIV challenged.
Sunday, 4pm, Lincoln General, Prairie Rm,
Lower Level, 2300 S. 16th Street, Lincoln.
Write: Box 67185, Lincoln, 68506

Kearney Area HIV/AIDS Support Group,
1st Tues at 6:30pm, 3rd Tues at 7:30pm,
(308) 234-6500 or Sharon (308) 234-8709

Lincoln Caseworker, (402) 474-4243

Nebraska AIDS Project, 3624 Leavenworth,
Omaha, individual counseling, support groups
in confidential locations. (402) 342-4233

North Platte Area Support Group,
Call: (308) 535-8133

Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays-Lincoln
(P-FLAG) AIDS Support Group, Box 4374,
Lincoln 68504 Wednesdays at 7pm,
AIDS info/support line (402) 475-2437

Western Nebraska HIV/AIDS Support
Group, Scottsbluff, Call (308) 635-3606

AIDS JOKE DEMONSTRATES FEAR

By Steve Jackson

Friday at work I heard the first joke about
Magic Johnson. It ain't funny.

My prayers were with Magic for the long
road ahead—cruel, heartless, senseless jokes
by people possibly too afraid to face the reality
of the situation. For me, this situation is more
real. The reason I am so adamant about Magic's
situation is it hits so close to home. In August
1987, one of my best friends told me he had
contracted the AIDS virus. I didn't ask how. I
was too afraid, dumbfounded. All I could do
was cry. Damn. This wasn't supposed to hap-
pen this close to me, not to someone I know and
care about. But it did. His friends disappeared
and so did his family. Only I stayed. I didn't
know how to leave; not that I wanted to, but I
just couldn't. He moved into the spare bedroom
in my apartment, and I began a two-year ordeal
which ended in his death. At first I was afraid of
catching AIDS by drinking from the same glass
or cup he used, even after they had been
washed. Forks, spoons, knives, even sitting in
the same spot he sat in on the couch frightened
me. I knew I was being ridiculous. So I educated
myself. There is no proof any of the myths I
spoke of are true. Data is available on how
AIDS is contracted. Educational materials are
available free of charge. For two years I was the
primary care giver of a person with AIDS. For
two years I watched this man suffer with no old
friends or even family for support. He made
new friends at a new church and at the University
of Nebraska Medical Center among health care
workers. He fought the disease with all he had,
only to die alone without the people he loved

the most by his side. Fear is one thing, but
ignorance is entirely different. AIDS is not just a
"homosexual" disease. Since my friend died,
I have worked with the Med Center and other
groups speaking about AIDS care giving. I
have met many people, gay and straight, but all
wonderful and many with the AIDS virus. A
husband and wife, two beautiful heterosexual
women, hemophiliacs, and, yes, gay and bi-
sexual men. Each with a different story, yet
each the same. All experience anger at the
ignorance and prejudice of family, friends,
employees, co-workers, physicians, nurses—
you name it. But each time a person or family
member accepted them with love and under-
standing it made me feel good inside, made me
know there are loving, kind people out there. I
pray daily for the people with AIDS. I'm happy
for the love and support they have that my
friend didn't have. I feel sorry for those who
don't have AIDS and don't want to educate
themselves. For religious groups who seem not
to care that this is a life or death matter, for
parents who don't want their children "ex-
posed" to information about a "homosexual"
disease, for those who point fingers and place
blame.

God be with them all. And God be with
Magic and his family through this all. Sooner or
later the joke may be on one of us.

So don't laugh. It ain't funny.

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PROJECT OPEN HAND

Project Open Hand located on 17th Street in San Francisco has been feeding people with AIDS a hot, nutritious meal daily for over six years. Open Hand began in 1985 when Ruth Brinker began delivering meals she cooked herself to seven people with AIDS.

Every evening, hundreds of volunteers arrive at the kitchen of Project Open Hand to pick up hot, freshly prepared dinners. Then, using their own cars and gasoline, they fan out across the whole city of San Francisco — as well as Oakland and other parts of Alameda County — bringing their health-enhancing cargo to over 1,000 people with AIDS who otherwise might not eat.

Project Open Hand's mission has always been to prepare meals using only the freshest vegetables, fruit and meat. Our menus are prepared with the knowledge that well-nourished people with AIDS are better able to fight the disease and to tolerate the medical treatments that will help them live longer and better. And it's working!

Almost daily, notes are received from people like Richard, who wrote to say:

"Your meals have meant the difference between eating and not eating. When you started bringing meals to me, I had lost 30 plus pounds. I had just come home from the hospital and was in no shape to cook. In the last month, thanks to your 'open hands' (the meals, too), I can not get around and have started to put on weight."

Continued from Page 25

San Francisco, where visa preparations began. All of this work kept us busy and gave us hope, but as night fell the situation in Moscow grew more tense.

Around 10pm the tanks began moving towards the Russian Parliament, and we listened to pro-democracy radio operating from inside the Parliament Building as the citizens fought back. We heard that several people had been injured and at least three killed. Some of us started to cry. We went to bed not knowing what we would find in the morning, but fearing the worst.

The next day (August 21), I went to the Russian Parliament with the same group of people I'd been with to Red Square the day before. Our goal was to distribute the flyers we had made and see the place where fighting had raged only 12 hours before. Even in the cold, pouring rain, a couple of thousand people huddled under umbrellas outside the building. Citizen militias, unarmed, guarded and fortified the barricades which now surrounded the Parliament.

Most queer Russians with whom I have spoken have expressed optimism about the prospects for greater freedom and rights in the Russia to come. Certainly the downfall of the hard-line Communists and above all the demise of the KGB are reasons for hope.

But in post-war Russia, we see in many different groups vying for power, and some of them, in particular the nationalist (even 'Tsarist') groups, are no friends to queer people. Polls taken before the coup showed that in 'cosmopolitan' Moscow, 30 percent of respondents thought queer people should be killed, 30 percent recommended imprisonment, 30 percent thought queer people should be confined in psychiatric wards, and only 10 percent felt that queer people should be free. In rural areas, the percentage wanting the death penalty for queer people hovers around 85 percent.

Obviously, one-person, one-vote democracy in the Soviet Union could be just as disastrous for queer people as Communist rule was. But the hope remains that with the upheavals now occurring in Soviet society, a crack may be opened through which a real dialogue can begin.

Tom Boellstorff will be speaking on: *Oppression & Hope, Status of Gays in The Soviet Union* on Sunday, January 12, 1992, at 1st Central Congregational Church, 421 South 36th Street, Omaha.

Sponsored by:
Citizens For Equal Protection

PRESCRIPTION SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR HIV+

Community Prescription Service, founded by AIDS activists, Stephen Gendin and Michael Callen, provides an economical way for those who are HIV+ challenged to obtain essential medications and medical supplies by mail as well as regular updates on AIDS news and services through the AIDS Information Service. Membership in both services is free to anyone by simply calling 1-800-677-4323 toll free (9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST).

Community Prescription Service has registered pharmacists as well as knowledgeable insurance specialists available Monday through Friday to answer questions. They will bill insurance companies directly and will ship orders UPS second day air. Automatic refills are available and pharmacists will contact your physician directly when further refills are needed.

Each member will receive a packet of AIDS information approximately every three months. The AIDS Information Service provides timely updates on experimental treatments, information about alternative treatments available through PWA buyers' clubs, hard-to-find information about holistic and alternative treatments, data on recently approved drugs from the Food and Drug Administration and pharmaceutical companies, sample issues of newsletters from AIDS service and activist organizations, and news clippings, articles, and press releases of interest.

All that it takes for a person with AIDS to start receiving meals from Project Open Hand is a phone call. Usually their first meal is delivered to them that evening. There's no red tape, no papers to fill out, no waiting list. As I said, no one's ever been refused service — not once.

Clients can request regular meals, vegetarian meals or meals that are culturally specific. A typical weekly shopping list prepared by Head Chef, Susan Beach, includes 1200 pounds of chicken, 2000 pounds of beef, 1000 pounds of other meat such as turkey, \$3500 in fresh fruits and vegetables, 200 pounds of beans, 250 pounds of rice, 400 pounds of pasta, 100 1/2 gallons of milk, 300 pounds of hard cheeses and tofu, 850 dozen eggs, and \$10,000 in other grocery items.

Fortunately, because of the volunteer efforts of our over 1000 volunteers, the donations of food and time, and the efficiency of everyone involved with Open Hand, a person with AIDS can be served nourishing meals and groceries for just \$5 a day. The people who receive our meals give when and what they can, but most support comes from individual donations. Very little — less than 5 cents of every dollar — comes from city or federal money.

Donations of any size are welcome. A donation of \$35 will feed a person with AIDS a daily nourishing meal prepared with love — for one whole week. A gift of \$105 will feed them for a month. Donations may be sent to Project Open Hand, 2720 17th St., S.F., CA 94110-1405.

YOU MAY BE AT RISK!



HIV/AIDS

RISKY BEHAVIORS?

- *UNPROTECTED SEX
- *CASUAL SEX
- *MULTIPLE SEX PARTNERS
- *SHARING NEEDLES



FOR CONFIDENTIAL/ANONYMOUS
INFORMATION*REFERRAL*TESTING*COUNSELING

THE LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.
(402) 471 - 8065

FOR OTHER TESTING SITES, CALL:

DOUGLAS COUNTY	402 444-6875
GRAND ISLAND/HALL COUNTY	308 381-5175
NEMAHA COUNTY	402 274-4549
NORTH PLATTE	308 535-8133
SCOTTSBLUFF	308 635-3866
KEARNEY	308 234-8709

CLASSIFIEDS

LOOKING FOR LOVE? Make sure that's all you find. Use a latex condom every time. DCHD at 444-6875.

LONELY?

Looking for a friend/lover? We can help. Call Infinity, a matching service for gay men. 1-800-334-2366. Leave name/address. We send application.

COUNSELING — Individual and relationship — lesbian/gay issues, life changes, identity, decision making, disability, abuse. Judith M. Gibson, M.A. (402) 477-6985

Attractive male transvestite wants friendship and safe fun with attractive TV, transsexual, drag queen, or woman. Photo and phone desired, but not required. Write: L., Box 81401, Lincoln, NE 68501

For Sale: Rental Property

5 unit conversion - Owners "NEED" to retire for health reasons. Located at 3412 Dodge. Make offer. Listed at \$65,000. Assumable Loan. 571-7051 evenings.

For Rent: 1 Bedroom furnished Apartments, Heat Paid, 3412 Dodge Street. \$200 - \$225. 571-7051 evenings.

Fledgling Gay Restaurant looking for small and large investors. Downtown location in the heart of gay Omaha. Contact Bob: 341-0751.

PEN PALS WANTED

So your editor is a push over. These two men from Belgium sent such a charming letter that I just had to share it with you.
Brussels, November 4, 1991

Hello!

We'd like to place an ad in your magazine "New Voice" to contact other boys. We join an ad to this letter. If you can publish it, that would be very kind. If it's not possible or if we must pay to publish it, could you tell us how much is it? We'll send you this ad again with a cheque.

Thank you very much! Kisses!
Eric & Bernard

Here is the ad: Hello! Two young Belgian gays would like to correspond with young American boys (under 30). We are both 27 years old, attractive and very good looking. We work in computer science and we have many interests (sports, music, plants, cooking, reading, art exhibitions, and...don't you guess?)

If you are sweet, alone or in couple, you are welcome. We'd like to visit United States next year and we aim at showing you our small but welcoming country. If possible, could you send us a photo? It's more attractive! All the letters will have an answer. We hope to read you very soon and we send you kisses from Belgium.

Eric DEMOL & Bernard CREPIN
Av. Dr. Zamenhof, 22/37
B-1070 Brussels
BELGIUM

Bars & Restaurants

Omaha

The Chesterfield 1951 St. Marys, 342-1244
DC's 1019 S. 10th, 344-3103
The Diamond 712 S. 16th, 342-9595
Downtown 619 S. 16th, 341-0751
Gilligan's 1823 Leavenworth, 449-9147
The Max 1417 Jackson, 346-4110
Metro 1516 Jones, 342-2202
The Run 1715 Leavenworth, 449-8703

Lincoln

Panic 200 S. 18th St., 435-8764
Grand Island

Affairs 4th & Walnut, (308) 382-9843

CELEBRATION THEATRE

Celebration Theatre, Los Angeles' only Gay and Lesbian theatre, is hosting its first annual New Play Competition in 1992. The plays must portray the Gay and/or Lesbian experience in a positive light.

Winners will receive: 1st Place, \$200.⁰⁰, 2nd Place, \$100.⁰⁰, and 3rd Place, \$50.⁰⁰. For guidelines send a SASE to Celebration Theatre, New Play Competition, 4470-107 Sunset Blvd., Suite 353, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

Write your ad here

The NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA
Classified Ad



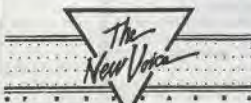
Order your one year subscription by mailing \$19.⁰⁰

Subscribe Today!

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The New Voice of Nebraska
P. O. Box 3512
Omaha, Nebraska 68103

The New Voice is mailed in a plain brown envelope.

Information: Classified ads in the New Voice of Nebraska are \$3.⁰⁰ for 20 words or less. Each additional word is 20¢. Ads must be received by the 10th of the month preceding the month you wish your ad to appear.

Ads are to be mailed to:

The New Voice of Nebraska
P.O. Box 3512
Omaha, NE 68103



1019 South 10th Street
Omaha, NE 68108
344-3103
*Plenty of Free Parking - North Entrance

December 8

A.N.G.L.E. Benefit for Gay Pride '92

Power Up with Soup & Sandwiches

5:30 - 7:00

1992 LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE THEME IS
"PRIDE = POWER"

DC's Christmas Party

Christmas time is the time for giving ...
so help out the NAP-PWA program with your
gifts of food items or health items and
win a chance at some great prizes for yourself.

Sunday, December 15, 9:00 - ??

You'll find the latest and best
in Country Dance and Lessons at DC's.

Dance Lessons

Wed., & Sun. — 8:00 PM

Friday — 9:00 PM



Come Down and See Us for Our Daily Specials!

**Sunday's
Bloody Marys
Noon - 4:00**

**Sunday's
After Bowling Party
Happy Hour Drinks**

Join Us For Our New Years Eve Party!!

OPEN: MON-THURS, 2p.m.-1a.m. FRI,SAT,SUN, Noon-1a.m.

**Giving Omaha Everything
For The Holidays & Everyday**

- December 1- Welcome Midwest Men**
The Hottest Dancers in the Midwest
- December 8- Miss Gay Nebraska U.S.A., 1991 Pageant**
Featuring Miss Gay U.S.A., Sable Chanel
- December 12- Brief Encounters, Underwear Night 7**
- December 15- It's a Country Christmas with Jeff Miller**
In Stosh's Saloon celebrate the season with us
In the Disco it's TRASH DISCO
- December 19- It's our 3rd annual Christmas MAX-OUT**
- December 22- Toys for Tots The Christmas Show**
- December 29- The Barbie Awards**
A special celebration for all of Omaha
- December 31- New Years Eve**
Be here for our biggest party ever

Everyday Of The Week We Give You Our Best

NO COVER MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

Monday

\$1 Well Drinks & \$1 Draw Beer

Tuesday

All Night Beer Bust

Wednesday

\$1 Jagermeister Shots

Thursday

\$1 Margaritas All Night

Featuring Deluxe Nachos during Happy Hour

Friday & Saturday & Sunday

Stop By Stosh's Saloon

\$2 COVER EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

THE MAX

LIVE AT THE METRO



Dec. 8th **9:00 p.m.**

MR. JIMMY JAMES

*A Live Visual and Vocal Impressionist
Recreates Marilyn Monroe and Other Famous Legends*

and Mr. Bubba McNeely as MC and Vocalist