

The Gayzette

June 30— July 16, 2000

ART SHOW AT MEDUSA PROJECT BENEFIT FOR AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

"From the Mouths of Polish Mothers", an art show featuring the collaborative works of Dave Roszelle and Miko will be held at The Medusa Project Gallery at 16th and Harney Streets from July 14th through August 4th. The show will benefit The American Cancer Society and is in the memory of Miko's father, Wesley Pittack. Further information about the show can be found on SLAM Omaha's website, www.slamomaha.com, or at The Medusa Project's website, www.medusaproject.com.

PACO HOSTS BENEFIT FOR RESOURCE CENTER

June 30 at Connections Paco, candidate for Emperor XX of the Imperial Court of Nebraska, will be hosting a benefit show at Connections on June 20. This show will feature the best performers in the area in a fast-paced show that includes your favorite female impersonators along with the pure male sexuality of the "Fearless Black Diamond Latino Stallion," Mr. Paco Perez.

Along with the show, there will be a raffle by the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center. First prize is an electronic dart board, second prize is Rainbow Jewelry, and there are several consolation prizes as well.

For an evening of fun and a chance to support your Resource Center, plan to be at Connections on June 30.



DC's HAS FACE LIFT

If you are looking for the familiar chipped yellow paint on the front of DC's Saloon, you may just drive right on by your favorite watering hole. In preparation for the arrival of the contestants and fans for the Heartland Regional Rodeo, painters scrambled up ladders with cans of paint and did a complete make-over. DC's now sports a distinguished coat of dark red. Check it out. DC's, you're looking good.

WANT TO ADVERTISE IN THE GAYZETTE?

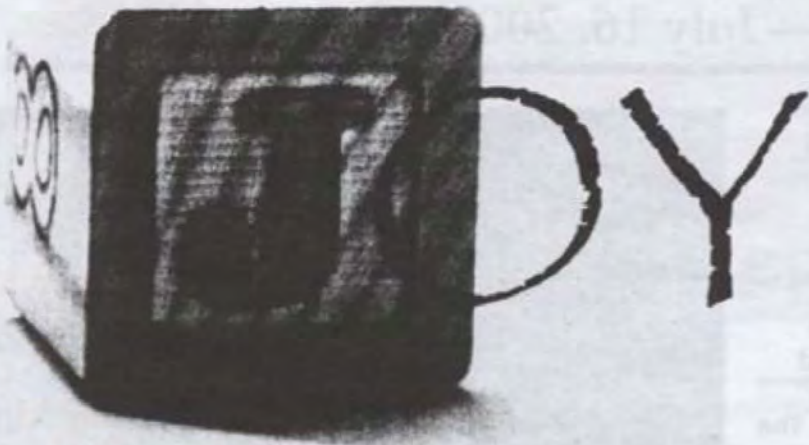
Advertising in the Gayzette is the best bargain around. The Gayzette is published every two weeks with a distribution of 500 – 1000 copies. Ad prices are:

Full Page (7 ½ by 10")	\$100
Half Page (7 ½ by 5 or 3 ¾ by 10")	\$50
Quarter Page (3 ¾ by 5" high)	\$25
Business Card (1 7/8 by 3 ¼")	\$15

To place an ad in the Gayzette, submit camera ready copy to Sharon Van Butsel or Caria Petersen at 556-9907 or 345-2563. Deadlines for advertisements and articles are the Saturday before publication.

Published by the Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource Center
1719 Leavenworth St., Omaha (402) 341-0330

OPENING SOON!



EXPERIENCE IT...

**Omaha's Newest Gay and Lesbian
Nightclub**

NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS!

Bartenders
Bar Backs
Cocktail Servers
D.J.
Security
Host

Interviews on the spot
July 10th, 11th, 12th
17th, 18th, 19th

10 am to 2 pm

516 Jones Street • Omaha, NE • 68102
02.341.7337

FOR
YOU
TO
PLAY
A
new
place
today

REV. HAMMER TO FILL TRANSITION TIME AT MCC

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha is pleased to announce that Rev. Diane Hammer has been hired to provide transitional pulpit fill in July and the first half of August. Rev. Hammer is ordained with standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Prior to attending Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, Hammer was a school psychologist in Blair, NE. She left Blair in 1990 to attend seminary. She now holds a Master of Divinity degree from Pacific. She served as Chaplain at Bethesda Convalescent Center 1993-94. Following that she was Associate Minister of Administration at First Christian Church in San Jose. Rev. Hammer will be leading services here and in Lincoln, and she will be doing spiritual counseling on a limited basis. A schedule for that will be announced via the Sunday bulletins. Rev. Hammer will join us for the July 2 services. There will be a social time following the service to allow people an opportunity to meet Rev. Hammer.

PFLAG PUTT-PUTT GOLF TOURNAMENT JULY 16

July 16 the Omaha Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) will host their annual Putt-Putt tournament at the Putt-Putt course at 90th & Center. You can count on seeing one of the master players of Putt-Putt working to take the title one more time. And you can count on seeing a group of dedicated amateurs chase the ball around the greens until they take their mandatory 5 count. Either way, it's a great time and a great way to support one of our favorite organizations.

PROUD HORIZONS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

There is a new way for all PFLAG supporters to contribute to our scholarship fund for Pride Horizon Youth Group. All occasion tribute cards are now available for \$10 a piece or 5 for \$40. Call Susie Silverman at 334-9492 and she will send a card out for you, keep a running account of how many cards you send, then bill you every month.

This is an easy way to support PFLAG by offering congratulations, condolences, "job well done" and almost any other sentiment to people you wish to honor.

Get in the habit of calling Susie whenever the need arises to recognize someone with something more than a usual greeting card!

OUT AND ABOUT IN NEBRASKA

Come out and play! Out and About in Nebraska is a friendship/activity group in the Omaha, Nebraska area. The group consists of local "Family" members that have come together. It is a group that enjoys doing activities in the outdoors, as well as building friendships and sharing common bonds. We participate in activities such as: hiking, biking, rock climbing, camping, movie nights, jet skiing, and weekend trips to nearby parks. (Worlds of Fun, etc.) We enjoy getting together for BBQs, potlucks, and just chatting! It is an alternative way to meet the community without getting involved in the bar scene. We pride ourselves in being simply a friendship group, not a support group or a dating service. If you have any questions, please contact the Rainbow Outreach Center or email: outabout@worldhsare.net. Check us out on the web at <http://travel.to/outabout>.



**METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
OF OMAHA**

Alive in Christ!

Worship Every Sunday 8:50 & 10:20 AM 819 S. 22nd St., Omaha 345-2563

OPEN BOARD MEETING
10 A.M. July 8
RAINBOW OUTREACH
GLBT RESOURCE CENTER.

YOUR "FAMILY" JEWELER

Valerie J. Vawter

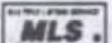
All types of Jewelry Repair
Platinum, Gold, & Sterling

Watch Repair, Watch Bands & Batteries
Unique Inventory

6119 Maple St. M-W-F 9-5:30
Omaha, Ne 68104 T-Th 12-5:30
341-1094 Sat 9-3:00



Buy - Sell - Rent - Invest - Manage



Proudly Serving Omaha's
GLBT Community!

Tim Reeder
415-6595



MARSDEN HARTLEY'S WORKS AT JOSLYN

Marsden Hartley (1877-1943) was at the center of the artistic and cultural maelstrom known today as early American Modernism. Like a true modernist, Hartley ran through the full gamut of options then open to avant-garde painters, from groundbreaking abstract works to lyrical landscapes. The retrospective exhibition *Marsden Hartley: American Modern*, on view at Joslyn Art Museum from July 8 through September 24, 2000, presents superb examples of Hartley's paintings and works on paper from every phase of his artistic development.

Included in the exhibition are Hartley's early, post-impressionist Maine mountain scenes, pre-World War I abstractions completed in Paris and Berlin, New Mexican landscapes, colorful still lifes from the 1920's and 1930's, pastels of the Bavarian mountains, stark portraits, and late Maine landscapes. In addition to 37 paintings and 16 works on paper by the artist, the exhibition features one portrait photograph of Hartley by Alfred Stieglitz, two portrait sculptural busts of Hartley by Arnold Ronnebeck and Jacques Lipchitz, and three photo murals.

A painter, poet, critic, and artistic rebel, Hartley witnessed momentous changes during the course of his lifetime. He joined a generation of radicals who shook off the weight of convention and tradition and worked to develop an original artistic voice. As a vanguard artist, he also stood beyond social and sexual norms as a gay man. Living long before the gay-rights movement of our day, he kept that side of himself hidden, expressing his homosexuality in his art rarely and only through highly guarded symbolism. This inability to express his authentic inner self was extremely difficult for Hartley, especially when his role as a modernist called upon him to do so. Critics argue that the insecurity of a closeted life helped fuel Hartley's need to recreate himself and his art over the course of his career.

Hartley constantly shifted from place to place, living abroad several times and in varying locales across the country during the course of his life. He lived abroad in Paris in 1912, painting a series of still-lives and developing a close friendship with the author Gertrude Stein.

With World War I, however, came the need for Hartley to redefine his art as a longing for security, order,

and simple virtues took hold. Soon after the outbreak of the war, Hartley lost a dear friend, and possibly lover, Karl von Freyburg, who died in battle. He began a series of paintings that paid tribute to Freyburg and other war dead while also expressing, in a very guarded way, Hartley's life in Berlin's vibrant homosexual culture.

Dr. Randall R. Griffey, assistant curator of American art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (Kansas City, MO), will give a public lecture entitled "Procedures of Concealment: Marsden Hartley's Sexuality and His Art" on Sunday, August 13 at 2pm in Joslyn's lecture hall. A noted Hartley scholar, Dr. Griffey will discuss the degree to which Hartley self-identified as gay in and with his imagery, as well as the extent to which the popular categorization of Hartley's imagery as "expressionist" applies fairly to his images that deal in varying degrees with his homosexuality. The lecture is free with Museum admission.

THE MAX FEATURES STEP-DOWNS OF FAVORITES

Sunday, July 2, the MAX will host the Step-Down show for Emperor 19 Michael Lyons and Empress 19 Laura Lee. Michael and Laura Lee were elected as monarchs of the Imperial Court of Nebraska last July and are holding their final show just one year later. During their reign they have lead the Imperial Court in donating over \$20,000 to the community. The largest recipient of their fundraising were causes meeting the needs of those living with HIV and AIDS. Over 100 families received grocery vouchers at Thanksgiving and over 100 children affected by HIV and AIDS received stacks of toys at Christmas time. In addition, the Board of Governors, the Monarchs and the Royal Families have provided a luncheon for clients, staff, and volunteers of the Nebraska AIDS Project each month. Come to the MAX on July 2 to applaud the hard work of these two individuals.

July 9 will be Step-Down show for Mr. MAX. The Latin Machismo of Paco Perez has made him a hit as Mr. MAX. He has represented the MAX well as he has been active in groups across the community as well as the major shows at the MAX. You can be guaranteed that this will be a night of hot, sultry entertainment.

JOHN G. TAYLOR
Attorney at Law

TAYLOR LAW OFFICE

122 N. 11th, Suite 200 (402) 475-0033
P.O. Box 82272 fax: (402) 475-0955
Lincoln, NE 68501-2272
TaylorLawJGT@aol.com

FREE/ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING

No appointment needed
Monday and Thursday, 7 pm - 9:30 pm

NEBRASKA AIDS PROJECT

139 South 40th Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3003
www.nap.org

**THE IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA
INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR...**

Coronation 20

Join TMIM Michael & Laura Lee
for An Imperial Crystal Midnight Masquerade
A Journey into the Millennium



19 Great Years of Fund Raising
With ICON Members Past & Present.

**Sat., July 15
6 PM**

**Sokol Hall
13th & Martha
Adm. \$20**

Coronation Ticket Is Your
**FREE Admission to After Hours
Party at the Host Hotel With
Free Food & Drinks!**

July 4

Picnic

Progressive Park



**1 - 6 PM
\$8 Adm.**

**ID Required
No Pets!**

**FREE Bus Rides
from The MAX**



Sun & Shade
Volleyball
Basketball
Horseshoes
Music
FREE Food
Vendors

Organization Booths

Located just over the South Omaha Bridge on the Iowa side of the river. Go east past Screamers and turn right (south) onto the gravel road. Follow the gravel road south around a 90 degree curve. It's less than two miles of gravel road. Watch for signs & rainbow flags!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

BENEFIT SHOW FOR

RESOURCE CENTER 10pm,
Hosted by Emperor Candidate Paco,
Connections, 1901 Leavenworth

SATURDAY, JULY 1

HEARTLAND GAY RODEO

ASSOC 2pm, DC'S Saloon, Omaha

PATIO PARTY Hosted by Emperor

Candidate Roger D. 5 - 8pm, The
MAX, Omaha

SUNDAY, JULY 2

ICON MONARCHS LAURA LEE

& MICHAEL STEP-DOWN
SHOW; 9:30pm, THE MAX.

MONDAY, JULY 3

ICON SHOW hosted by Empress

Candidate Feleena, 9:30pm, DC's

TUESDAY, JULY 4

ICON PICNIC, \$8 admission,

includes beer, soda, plate of food.
Take Bus from the MAX. 1-6pm;
Progressive Park, Council Bluffs

THURSDAY, JULY 6

IMPERIAL COURT STATE

DINNER AND AWARDS, \$10

Admission 6pm Cocktails, 7pm
Dinner, Connections, Omaha

SATURDAY, JULY 8

RESOURCE CENTER OPEN

BOARD MEETING, 10am,
Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource
Center, 1719 Leavenworth, Omaha

SIOUXLAND PRIDE FESTIVAL

Pemmel Valley Lodge in Stone Street
State Park. Sioux City; Info: [http://
people.goplay.com/siouxlandlgbt](http://people.goplay.com/siouxlandlgbt)

MARSDEN HARTLEY: AN

AMERICAN MODERN, on view at
Joslyn Art Museum, 24th & Dodge,
Omaha, through September 24

KARAOKE, 9pm, Panic, 200 S. 18,

Lincoln

SUNDAY, JULY 9

SIOUXLAND PRIDE FESTIVAL

Pemmel Valley Lodge, Stone St.
State Park. Sioux City, IA,
Info: [http://
people.goplay.com/siouxlandlgbt](http://people.goplay.com/siouxlandlgbt)

NAMES PROJECT OF THE

HEARTLAND PANEL-MAKING

WORKSHOP 2-4pm, Lincoln
Woman's Club, 407 South 14 St.,
Lincoln *Newcomers Welcome!*

MR MAX PACO STEP-DOWN

SHOW 9:30pm, THE MAX, Omaha

TUESDAY, JULY 11

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF

LESBIANS AND GAYS (PFLAG)

CORNHUSKER CHAPTER

7pm, Potluck Dinner;
Program: Spirituality; Unitarian
Church, 6300 "A," Lincoln

THURSDAY, JULY 13

IMPERIAL COURT "IN-TOWN"

SHOW 9pm, The Omaha Mining Co
1715 Leavenworth; No Cover

FRIDAY, JULY 14

FROM THE MOUTHS OF

POLISH MOTHERS ART

SHOW, Medusa Project Gallery,
16th & Harney. Omaha, thru Aug 4..
Info www.slamomaha.com, or
www.medusaproject.com.

ICON OUT-OF-TOWN SHOW

7-10pm, \$5 Admit, DC's, Omaha

PLAINSMAN 7-9pm, Support

group for FtM's (Female to Male),
Male Identified Females, TB
Butches, Drag Kings; Call 820-1267
or email FtMNebraska@aol.com

SATURDAY, July 15

THE IMPERIAL COURT OF

NEBRASKA CORONATION 20.

Sokol Hall, 13th & Martha, Omaha,
\$20 Admission, Doors open: 5pm,
Coronation: 6pm

KARAOKE 9pm, Panic, Lincoln

BI MOVIE NIGHT 7pm, Location

varies: Contact Teri Ann at
grrl4nu@hotmail.com

SUNDAY, JULY 16

ICON VICTORY BRUNCH,

\$15, Sheraton, 16th & Howard, 11am

PFLAG PUTT-PUTT GOLF

Putt-Putt Golf, 90th & Center

ICON WINDDOWN SHOW; 8pm,

\$3 Cover, THE MAX, Omaha

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

1ST UNITED METHODIST 7020
Cass, 8:30 & 10:45am

METROPOLITAN COMM.

CHURCH OF OMAHA 819 S.
22 Street, 8:50am & 10:20am

HEARTLAND UNITED

METHODIST Bellevue West
High School; 10:30am

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

3114 Harney Street, 11am

UNITY CHURCH, 3424 North

90, Omaha

METROPOLITAN COMM.

CHURCH OF LINCOLN, St.
Mark's, 1309 R St, 6:30pm

RIVER CITY MIXED BOWLING

LEAGUE, Mockingbird Lanes,

Every Tuesday

MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP, MCC-

Omaha, 819 S. 22 St., 7:30pm

KARAOKE WITH STACY 7:30pm

CLUB M, 15th & Farnam, Omaha

Every Wednesday

FRONTRUNNERS RUN/WALK,

6:30pm AkSarBen, Lot 5

Every Thursday

LESBIAN CENTERED

DISCUSSION GROUP 6:30pm -
8pm Info: Lesbiancen@ivillage.com
or LesbianCen@aol.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR: A SERVICE OF
THE RAINBOW OUTREACH GLBT RESOURCE CENTER

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

KARAOKE WITH STACY,
9pm, CONNECTIONS

Every Friday

RAINBOW BIBLE STUDY, 6pm-
7:30pm; Lowe Avenue
Presbyterian, 1023 N. 40, Omaha

FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES,
Rainbow Outreach GLBT Resource
Center, 1719 Leavenworth, 7:45pm

WILD ANNIE'S AMATEUR
STRIP CONTEST, The MAX,
7-9pm

Every Saturday

PROUD HORIZONS YOUTH
GROUP; Meet: 4pm - 6pm
Sponsored by PFLAG: 291-6781 or
e-mail: proudhorizons@yahoo.com

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Saturday

RIVER CITY GENDER
ALLIANCE Room Opens at 4pm,
Meeting at 7pm, For Details
Contact: 1-800-269-3444 or
rega@tgforum.com

2nd Sunday

BI CHOICE NE, BRUNCH &
DISCUSSION, McFoster's Natural
Kind Café, Upstairs, 1 - 3 pm, for
Info Call Marcella: 592-4250

LEARNING TO EXCHANGE
POWER L2ep@aol.com Novice
Leather Group; 1pm; DC's Saloon

2nd Wednesday

FLAT WATER BEARS 7:30pm
Diamond Bar, 623 S. 16, Omaha

2nd Thursday

PFLAG - OMAHA CHAPTER
First United Methodist Church,
7020 Cass, Mead Hall. 7pm

2nd Saturday

GLSEN Meeting 4pm

3rd Monday

IMPERIAL COURT OF
NEBRASKA Board of Governors,
MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 6:30pm

3rd Saturday

BI-CHOICE NE SOCIAL NIGHT
7pm Member Homes, Teri Ann,
491-0238

4th Sunday

PFLAG - OMAHA MEETING First
United Methodist, Mead Hall
7020 Cass, Omaha. 2pm

4th Tuesday

NAMES PROJECT OF THE
HEARTLAND E-mail:
AIDSQuiltOmaha@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 20

ANNETTE MURRELL
PERFORMS "LIFE, JAZZ &
BLUES 9:30pm, Q; 226 South 9th
Street, Lincoln; No Cover

SUNDAY, JULY 30

MR MAX PAGEANT; 9:30pm,
THE MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha

SATURDAY, August 12

"IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING"
BENEFIT FOR NAP; local Salons

HEARTLAND GAY RODEO
ASSOCIATION 2pm, DC's Saloon

PFLAG SWIM PARTY; Benefit for
PFLAG Endowment, 2-7pm; 6004
Dogwood Drive, Lincoln; \$10

SUNDAY, August 13

"Marsden Hartley's Sexuality
and His Art" Dr. Randall R.
Griffey 2pm, Joslyn

SUNDAY, Sept 3

EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES &
HATS OFF TO THE EMPRESS
DC's Saloon, Omaha

MONDAY, Sept 4

ICON LABOR DAY PICNIC

SATURDAY, Sept 16

ART FROM THE CLOSET

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

MISS GAY OMAHA PAGEANT,

SATURDAY, October 7

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY,

HGRA 5TH ANNUAL
BARNDANCE & HAYRIDES
Lakota Stables, Ashland, NE

SATURDAY, October 7

HGRA ELECTIONS & AWARDS

SUNDAY, October 22

ALL IOWA AIDS BENEFIT,
Des Moines, Iowa

SUNDAY, November 12

ICON FOOD 4 THOUGHT

SATURDAY, November 18

HGRA ROYALTY PAGEANT
Dallys, Des Moines, Iowa

SATURDAY, Dec 2

Night of 1000 Stars

SUNDAY, December 10

ICON TOYZ 4 TOTZ

SUNDAY, January 28

MISS MAX PAGEANT

TO SUBMIT DATES FOR CALENDAR

- Call the Resource Center
341-0330
- E-mail to:
ROCCNews@aol.com
- Mail to: PO Box 8583,
Omaha 68108
- Deadline is the Saturday before
Publication
- (July 7 for July 14 Publication)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR: A SERVICE OF
THE RAINBOW OUTREACH GLBT RESOURCE CENTER

TEACHING RESPECT FOR ALL ENDING HATE, BEGINNING IN SCHOOLS

GLSEN proudly presents the premiere national summit for those working to end anti-gay prejudice in America's K-12 schools October 6th through the 8th, 2000, at the Sheraton-Arlington Park Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

Now in its' fourth year, *Teaching Respect for All* has quickly become the premiere national summit for those interested in ending anti-gay prejudice in our nation's schools. Its back-to-back schedule of special events, interactive workshops, plenary sessions and special focus institutes offer the following:

- A way to get involved for those new to creating change in schools
- The best and brightest organizers in the field from whom both seasoned activists and newcomers can learn
- Leadership development opportunities for youth and their adult allies
- An occasion for inspiration as we'll hear from nationally recognized social justice leaders and thinkers
- A reunion for the growing national family of community members dedicated to ending homophobia in schools

Teaching Respect for All aims to build the capacity, conviction and number of activists

working to create a future in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Join over a thousand attendees at the largest-ever gathering of students, parents, activists, educators, and other interested in ending anti-gay bigotry in America's schools.

The three-day summit is sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), the largest nations organization fighting to end anti-gay bigotry in K-12 schools. Established in nationally in 1994, GLSEN now has 85 community-based chapters and provides support and resources to over 700 high school-based Gay-Straight Alliances. For more information, visit www.glsen.org.

QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV OR AIDS?

Call the Nebraska AIDS Hotline
1-800-782-2437
(from Omaha 552-9255)

Monday - Friday: 9 am - 11 pm
Weekends: 6 pm - 11 pm

IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA 20 YEARS OF SERVICE Coronation 20 at Sokol Hall July 15

The Imperial Court of Nebraska is gearing up to welcome guests from across the country as they celebrate their 20th Anniversary with Coronation 20, "An Imperial Crystal Midnight Masquerade... A Journey into the Millennium." The Imperial Court was founded in 1980 with the stated purpose to "further the cause of Gay society in Nebraska." Over the last 20 years, the Imperial Court of Nebraska has become one of the oldest and most dynamic service organizations in the state. Over \$500,000 has been donated to local, regional, national, and international charities, including such diverse groups as "Jerry's Kids," the American Cancer Society, the Nebraska AIDS Project, the River City Mixed Chorus, the Nebraska Humane Society, the Heartland Gay Rodeo, International Ms Leather, Names Project Quilt, the National Gay Lesbian Task Force and over 40 other groups and organizations.

The Imperial Court of Nebraska provided the first formal social events for the GLBT community. Members of the Imperial Court also organized the first Pride Parade, held the first community wide picnic, were the first to provide HIV/AIDS education to the community through Project Concern, organized the first Gay Bowling League, created the very popular "Closet Ball," and organized the first projects to provide Thanksgiving dinners and Christmas toys for families affected by HIV/AIDS.

The 20th Anniversary Celebration begins July 6 with the State Dinner and Awards at Connections, and continues through the In-Town Show at the Omaha Mining Company, the Out-of-Town Show at DC's, Coronation 20 at Sokol Hall, and the Winddown Show at the MAX. For details on these events, check the community calendar.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE INITIATIVE

As described in an article in PlanetOut, Nevada has more than enough signatures to put a "Defense Of Marriage Amendment (DOMA) on the November ballot. Some 30 other state legislatures have enacted laws to the same effect. A signature drive is underway for a similar but much broader ballot initiative in Nebraska. That proposal by the Defense of Marriage Amendment Committee would deny not only same-gender marriage but also "civil union, domestic partnership or other similar same-sex relationships." To qualify for the ballot, some 105,000 valid signatures must be collected by July 7. As the deadline draws nearer, efforts by the volunteers circulating the petitions will be stepped up. They have even called Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha to recruit volunteers to circulate DOMA petitions. Obviously, the DOMA Committee has not researched the local community very well. We encourage the community to not sign this petition and work to keep the issue off the November ballot.

OMAHA SHINES THANKS TO BRIDGES THAT UNITE ALL SEGMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Thoughts and Opinions from a Member of the TransGender Community

By Ronnie Rho

I'm a chatroom junkie, and I freely admit it. When I was living in central Nebraska, there weren't many opportunities to get out, so virtual conversations were the next best thing. Even though I've been a regular at the same transgendered-themed room for 4 years now, I'm still astounded by one thing: other cities don't have what we have. People across the country tell me there isn't much socializing between the different groups within our Community. The gays don't talk to the crossdressers, the lesbians don't like the bi's, the bi's hate the bears, and so on. When I mention how much communication and inclusion there is here, no-one believes me. They don't get it when I say we, lesbians, gays, straights, bi's, TG's, bears, leather lovers, were all invited to participate in the Pride Parade. They are incredulous about the diversity at the local bars and clubs. Maybe we are willing to reach out to each other because we feel outnumbered. This isn't the most progressive part of the country, so we all hang on to each other. There may be bigger communities in bigger cities across the country, but I like it here, where the social life isn't segmented.

Speaking of segmented, has anyone else noticed the large population of straight people at the Max for the last few months? I used to think it was great: a nice opportunity for public education and outreach. Lately, I'm not so sure. If straight people want to hang out at the Max, that's fine, but jeez! Stop staring! Yes, there are men in dresses. Yes, there are women with big biceps. And yes, those two guys are kissing. What did you expect at a gay bar? Hooters Girls and foosball? There are plenty of people who are cool with the whole scene, but there are also a number of folks who just don't get it. There are the frat boys who stand upstairs and say loudly: "Anybody wanna play pool with the DRAG QUEENS?" over and over again, just to get a rise outta someone. There are the straight couples who wander in and hang on to each other for dear life, for fear someone will steal their date away and "make them gay." And don't get me started about people without rhythm overrunning the dance floor! So, here's what we do: Everyone who comes in gets a hand stamp that says "Gay and Proud", and doesn't wash off for 3 days. Everyone parked in a 1 block radius gets a rainbow sticker on their bumper. House rule: No mixed couple dancing. I think that ought to weed out some of the undesirables, don't you?

But seriously, myself and other members of the River City Gender Alliance like to go out after our monthly meeting, (sometimes more often than that), and we like to socialize. I've not heard of a single complaint about the other clientele at the Max, or any of Omaha's

other bars, from members of our group. We tend to sit upstairs in a cluster, away from most of the other guests. While it may look like we're being exclusive, we're not. We sit together for a couple of reasons.

First off, it's easier to talk that way. And we do a lot of talking, because for some of us, it's hard enough to walk in heels, let alone dance! We also sit together, because often, we'll have someone with us who is out for the first time, and is usually a bit scared. No, they're not scared of the Max, they're scared because it's may be the first time they've been out in public in their chosen gender role. It can be a pretty frightening thing. Many of us are shy by nature anyway, and that doesn't help the situation. When someone is shy, typically, they don't like to let on. They'll adopt a look of aloofness. (Is that a word? It is now.) Other people don't approach the shy subject, because they look snooty, and the whole situation gets worse. That first person starts to think nobody likes them, because nobody talks to them, and they get more shy.

What I'm getting at is this: We may look like we're our own little club and don't want anything to do with anyone else, but it's not true. When you see us out, come over and say Hello. Everyone likes to make new friends, RCGA members included. Sure, we may dress differently, and act a little funny compared to other people you know, but hey! That's diversity. If you don't understand where we're coming from, ask. Most of us are pretty willing to talk, so let's reinforce the bridges we already have. We've got something good here in River City. Let's make it stronger.

Questions? Comments? Anecdotes? Send to ronnierho@hotmail.com

SIouxLAND PRIDE

Siouxland Pride will take place July 8th and 9th at Pommel Valley Lodge in Stone Street State Park. A map will soon be on our web site. Exact event details are yet to be decided. Keep checking our web site for further details and a map which will soon be available.

<http://people.goplay.com/siouxlandlgbt>

You may also email us at: SIouxLANDL-GBT@GOPLAY.

PANEL-MAKING WORKSHOPS

The Names Project of the Heartland/Omaha will be offering a Panel-Making Workshop on Sunday, July 9 from 2 - 4pm at the Lincoln Woman's Club, 407 South 14 Street, Lincoln. Gail Linderholm from the Nebraska AIDS Project Lincoln Office (488-1331) will host the workshop.

RODEO CONTESTANTS ARE TOUGH (AND MUDDY) BUNCH

4th Annual Rodeo Plagued by Storms

The Heartland Gay Rodeo Association managed to put together a successful rodeo despite assaults by mother nature. Torrential rains the night before the opening of the rodeo left the area a sea of mud. The Grand Entry became a grand walk along the grandstands on Saturday and several cowboys donned plastic raingear over their Levi's & western shirts. Pools of water along the outside edge of the arena made rows 1, 2, and 3 into "splash zones" reminiscent of Sea World's Shamoo exhibit.

The bareback bronco riding started with an unheard of situation. The cowboy carefully mounted the bronco in the chute, adjusted his grip on the strap and nodded to the arena crew to open the gate. But when the gate opened, the audience watched the horse's hindquarters sink slowly into the mud until it was belly deep in the mire. The crew pulled the cowboy off, got the horse back on its feet, repositioned the rider and threw open the gate. This time the horse stood there, turned its head, looked out into the arena and did not move an inch. Not only did it not buck, it didn't even move. It was as if the horse was saying, "I'm not stupid and I'm not going through that again." Needless to say, the cowboy got a re-ride with a different horse.

The afternoon continued with normal activity if you don't include the judge whose feet got stuck in the mud so he fell backwards onto his behind when he tried to take a step. And if you don't count the chute dogger who sank 2 feet into the mud under her steer. And if you don't count the cowboy whose horse threw him full length into a pool of muddy water. Or the longhorn steer who refused to return to the pen and repeatedly charged the horse and rider (until they turned a more docile steer into the arena and the longhorn quietly walked into the pen accompanied by its new-found friend.)

Sunday started off with a sunny sky but ended with tornado and severe thunderstorm warnings. While final results are not available as we go to press, suffice it to say that the cowboys and cowgirls of the Heartland Rodeo proved that they are made of some pretty tough stuff.

But tough as they are, they had wiped tears away openly as Bryn Geerdes led her 20 year old Tennessee Walker "Trouble" around the arena in the riderless horse ceremony. The ceremony was made more special by the addition of "memory badges" to the blanket, each one honoring someone who has passed away before their time. The emotion of the ceremony was further increased by Tamara Marks singing an original song by Derric Field, a longtime HGRA member who died of lung cancer last year. Tamara herself broke down into sobs as she finished the final lines of the song.

Our congratulations to the men and women of the International Gay Rodeo Association who competed with such courage and such compassion during the Fourth Annual Heartland Rodeo.



The riderless horse with blanket of memorial tags for those "...gone, but not forgotten."



Mud foiled the efforts of local cowgirls and cowboys alike. Here in top picture is 1999 Cowgirl of the Year Val taking a beating by the mud. ICON Candidates Feleena & Roger (pictured below) & Paco participated in the Grand Parade, which, thanks to the mud, was a walk across the front of the bleachers.



RESOURCE LIST

BARS

Club M, 15th & Farnam, 933-3061
Connections, 933-3033
1901 Leavenworth, Omaha
DC's Saloon, 344-3103
610 S. 14th Street, Omaha
Gilligan's Pub, 449-9147
1407 Harney, Omaha
The Diamond, 342-9595
712 S. 16th St., Omaha
The MAX, 346-4110
1417 Jackson, Omaha
Omaha Mining Co., 449-8703,
1715 Leavenworth
Panic, 435-8764
200 S. 18th, Lincoln
Q, 475-2269
226 S. 9th Street, Lincoln

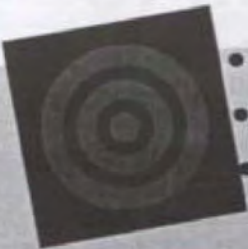
ORGANIZATIONS

Alias Jane Band, Lincoln (402)
435-8764 Kara & Kelly at Panic
BiChoice Nebraska, 9504 R
Plaza #106, Omaha 68127
592-4250 or
QUEST15@juno.com
Discussion Group meets every
Thursday 6:30pm-8:30pm
Committee for GLBT Concerns
218 Andrews, Lincoln 68588-
0333 (402) 472-1880 Deanna
Zaffke & Pat Tetreault
Flatwater Bears, PO Box 3751,
Omaha 68103 or
flatwaterbears@geocities.com
Group for hirsute men and their
admirers, meet 2nd Wednesday
at Diamond Bar, 7:30pm
Front Runners/Walkers, Box
4583, Omaha 68104 (402) 496-
3658 Fun Run/Walks 10am
Sundays, 6pm Wednesdays
FtM Nebraska, (402) 820-1267
FtMNebraska@aol.com;
Gay Men's Support Group,
Counseling & Psychology,
Discussion Group for Gay Men,
UNL Health Center, Rm. 214,
Lincoln 68588-0618 (402) 472-
7450
**Gay, Lesbian and Straight
Education Network**, PO Box
6051, Omaha 68106

**Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Straight
Alliance** 2229 J St., Lincoln
68510 (402) 436-1301 ext. 232
Ruth Kupfer
Nebraska Gaydads; email
group list who exchange emails
posted to the list for discussion
[www.radiks.net/mike2tom/nebras
kagaydads](http://www.radiks.net/mike2tom/nebras
kagaydads)
**Heartland Gay Rodeo
Association**, PO Box 3354,
Omaha 68103 (402) 597-1689
Imperial Court of Nebraska,
PO Box 3772, Omaha 68103
(402) 556-9907, Board of
Governors Meeting 1st Monday,
MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22
**Leather Engineers of Omaha
(LEO)** PO Box 8181 Omaha
68108 Gay men interested in
leather lifestyle
Lesbian Centered; for info:
Lesbiancen@ivillage.com
Lesbian Discussion Group,
Women's Resource Center,
UNL Health Center, Rm 340,
Lincoln 68558 (402) 472-2597
LinOma Bares, PO Box 8493,
Omaha 68106 Nudist/ Nourist
Club for gay/bi men
Mpower, c/o Nebraska AIDS
Project, 139 S. 40, Omaha
68131
Men's Support Group-Omaha,
c/o MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22 St.,
mike2tom@radiks.net
345-2563
**Names Project of the
Heartland**, Meet 4th Tuesday,
For location & other info:
332 N. 36th Ave, Omaha 68131
(402) 933-3940
rworkman@aol.com
AIDSQuiltOmaha@aol.com;
Nebraska AIDS Project,
Watanabe Wellness Center,
139 S. 40 St., Omaha 68131
Confidential Testing Monday
and Thursday Evenings
**Omaha Women's Riverboat
Cruise**, 4949 N. 73 St, Lincoln,
68507 (402) 467-5737 2nd
Sunday in September
Onyx Images, PO Box 31026,
Omaha 68132-9998 Fraternity
for African American Men

**Parents and Friends of
Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG)
Omaha Chapter** Call (402)
Meetings 2nd Thursday & 4th
Sunday, First United Methodist
Church, 7020 Cass, Omaha
**Parents, Friends of Lesbians &
Gays, Cornhusker Chapter**, PO
Box 30128, Lincoln 68508
Barbara Kimberly,
jbkimber@email.msn.com
Proud Horizons Youth Group,
Omaha, Saturday Afternoon, for
info: (402) 291-6781
River City Mixed Chorus, P.O.
Box 3267, Omaha, NE 68103-
1267, 402-341-SING
River City Gender Alliance, PO
Box 8076, Omaha 68108 1-
800-269-3444 or
emailrcga@tgforum.com
Social/Support Group for
transgender/transsexual/
crossdressers and supporters
SAGE, Box 22043, Lincoln
68542 Intergenerational Coffee
House 2nd Saturday, 6 – 9pm,
Lesbian Videos at 7:15pm,
3319 S. 46th
**Straight Spouse Support
Group** – Lincoln, 489-9088
**Trevor-24-hour National
Suicide Hotline for GLBT and
Questioning Youth**
1-800-850-8078
Women In Trades/YWCA, 1432
N Street, Lincoln 68508
(402) 434-3494 Martha
Hakenkamp/Barb Cheshire
WomenSpace, PO box 24712,
Omaha 68124 Quarterly
Newsletter (402) 588-4529
Mary Spillane
Youth Support Group, Lincoln
(402) 434-9880
Youth Talkline, Lincoln Fridays
& Saturdays 7pm – Midnight
(402) 473-7932

**We know there are lots
more organizations and we
need updates on the ones
we have. Please call 341-
0330 with additions and
corrections.**



July 2 — ICON Monarchs'
Step *DOWN*

July 9 — Mr. MAX
Step *DOWN*

July 16 — ^{ICON'S} Coronation
Wind *DOWN*

IN

J

U

L

Y

Get Down

to

The MAX

1417 Jackson

346.4110