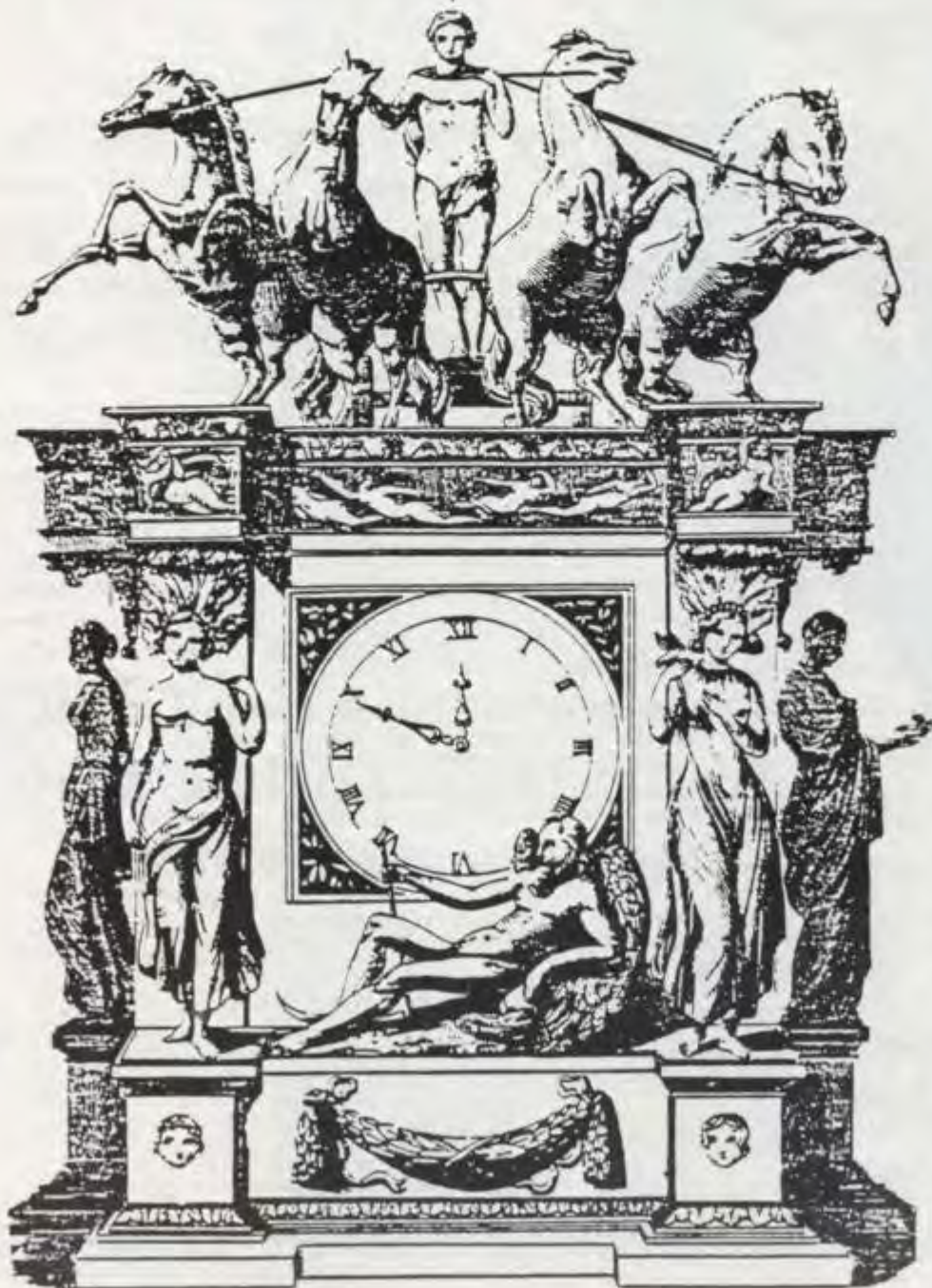


Vol. VI No. 11

January 1990

The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A



OUR TURN views and opinions by staff

To SPEAK OR NOT To SPEAK!

I'm in a quandary. Have you ever been there? I know I should keep my mouth shut and not say a word because the minute I speak I'm going to offend someone. Have you ever been in that spot?

If you have, you also know that the more you try to stifle or ignore your thoughts, the stronger they become. At least that's how it is for me. A snowball turns into a thundering avalanche.

And guess what? No matter whether I ignore my desire to speak up or if I speak up, that thundering avalanche still comes crashing down and dumps on me. What a mess!

By now you've probably guessed that I really am going to say those words that will bury me far below the avalanche. You're right, but before I begin, let me tell you up front—I don't want to offend anyone by what I say so please don't take offense.

Within the past six months I've been in several situations where the same topic came up: private conversations, letters to the community, ICON meetings, MCC Board meetings, shows at The Max, the NVN Steering committee meeting, and, of course, my own bedroom. The topic is this: Women. Now that sounds innocent enough, but it isn't. Everyone seems to be concerned about the women in our community. They're asking, "How can we get the women of the community more involved? What are the concerns of the women? Where are all the women? How do we get in touch with them? How are women's issues being addressed?"

DING! DING! DING! BLINK! BLINK! BLINK! A snowflake fell, and it's gathering others and beginning to roll down the hill towards me.

Several of the groups have done something to express their concern and to resolve the problems they see. ICON established the Athena position and reserved it for a woman. The New Voice set aside two positions on the steering committee for women. The Max started scheduling shows primarily for women, and recently they asked a group of women what they'd like to see in the upcoming year. MCC is planning a social event specifically for women. The New Voice is devoting an issue (February) to Women's Issues.

DING! DING! DING! BLINK! BLINK! BLINK! That snowball has grown, and it's picking up speed. Here's where I begin to hear the roar of the avalanche.

THANKS TO BILL S.

The Steering Committee and Staff of the New Voice wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Bill S. who has resigned the position he has held on the steering committee since the New Voice moved to Omaha. Thanks for your help and hard work.

by Carla

What is a women's issue? I'm serious—what is a women's issue?

I am a woman, and in my forty years, I have yet to identify an issue that is exclusive to women. Wages, child care, abortion—these three are frequently cited as women's issues, but I don't buy that! These issues are not exclusive to women. Men, too, have concerns about wages and child care and abortion. To exclude them from ownership of these issues is to treat them in the same manner which we have so long protested.

The roar is growing louder. A thundering shadow is about to engulf me. I think the next couple paragraphs ought to bury me completely.

Please don't think of me first as a woman, not as a friend, nor as a lover, nor as a teacher, nor as a member of any group. I'm first a person. As a person, I share more qualities with you and all of humanity (including men, of course) than I do if I just compare my womanly characteristics to those of another woman.

I'm a person first, and for me there's no such thing as a woman's issue. If there's an issue, then that issue belongs to me and to all
->Issues, page 2

ABOUT THE COVER

As we enter the Gay 90's and our third year of publication in Omaha, we chose this ornate clock to mark this issue with its focus on 1989 in review.



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Subscriptions: 1 year - \$18. Classified Ads: \$3 for 20 words or less with \$0.20 for each additional word. Display rates given upon request. Deadline is the 10th of the month prior to publication.

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Omaha, Nebraska 68103

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

There have been questions raised by the community about funds that were raised for the New Chance House. The benefit held was sponsored personally by Mr. Gary West at a time when he was not holding any title. The Imperial Court of Nebraska was not involved in the fund raising and did not sanction the function.

We at the Imperial Court wish to make it clear to the community at large that the Imperial Court is not involved in the New Chance House, has no knowledge of where the funds are at present, and we encourage the community to contact Mr. Gary West personally.

The Board of Governors
The Imperial Court of Nebraska

Issues (continued from page 1)

people--regardless of sex, age, nationality, religion, sexual orientation--you know the list. Let's not talk about women's issues. Let's talk about an issue that concerns you as an individual. Let's talk about an issue that concerns me as an individual. Let's talk about OUR human rights--OUR human dignity. Let's talk about what concerns us--you and me--and that discussion starts with the admission that something--anything--does concern you or me.

C - R - A - S - H !

Editor's Note: You'll have to excuse me while I look for my spouse. I think she's somewhere under this pile of snow. While I'm shoveling, why don't you jot down your responses and comments on just what issues concern you as womyn or men so we can include them in the February issue. I'd much prefer having to dig out from under a mountain of Letters to the Editor than to shovel all this snow.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS...A REVIEW

Several Sunday afternoons ago I spent a couple of hours at the Max. I wasn't there for the usual happy hour libation, but instead, to attend a local production of Mark Crowley's "The Boys In The Band". To put it simply, it was a wonderful change of pace.

The show was not what you'd call technically perfect, but that certainly did not detract from making this a show that you shouldn't miss. The script may be slightly dated, but it is one that we all can relate to and possibly identify with. I know I recognized myself a few times.

A combination of obviously dedicated direction and some dynamite performances made this a production that could easily warrant a higher admission fee than the \$5.00 charged. What made it really enjoyable is that I know these people personally, and to watch them in character was an absolute joy.

"The Boys In The Band" is the first in a series of productions that will be coming our way in the coming year. Scheduled next is a musical that is to begin showing in early March. Auditions will be held soon so keep an eye out if interested.



NEWS FROM THE MONARCHS

We extend a Happy New Year's greeting to you from the Imperial Court of Nebraska. We hope your winter holidays were relaxing and refreshing.

As you know, our holiday season was busy. "Food for Thought" kept us running in November. Here's the report on those receipts and disbursements:

DOOR: 499.50
TIPS: 256.00
RAFFLE: 232.00
TOTAL INCOME: 987.00
ICON PWA FUND: 480.00
(NAP Thanksgiving Dinners)
MCC FOOD PANTRY: 480.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: 960.00

We received a wonderful thank you note from NAP, thanking us for helping them to provide Thanksgiving "fixins" for all those who needed them in Omaha, Lincoln, and the surrounding communities. Thanks to all of you from all of us at ICON. Your generosity made the "Food for Thought" show a success! The crowning of Carla Petersen as Athena II ended that evening's festivities. Welcome aboard, Carla!

"Toys for Tots" filled our time in December. You'll get a report on the proceeds from that next month. A crowning of Empress IX, Billy Moreau, and the naming of Heidi Hess as Lady Royal and Vanessa as Princess Royal added a touch of the elegant to the festivities. Congratulations and best wishes to these three new folk in the court.

Speaking of congratulations--we also extend our congratulations to Dorian Drake for being named Miss Gay Nebraska USA.

Coming up soon is Snowball. Mark your calendars for January 21, and while you've got your calendar out, mark Tuesday, February 27. That's Mardi Gras, and we've got some really hot plans for that! There will be fun for everyone. See you then at The Max.

On a more serious note, ICON has a constant need for people to design and build posters and sets for shows. We're also always looking for new performers: singers, dancers, impersonators, etc. If you have talents you'd like to share with the community, contact one of the monarchs or anyone on the Board of

-> Monarchs, page 3

Toni Pastory, M.S., C.P.C.

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REMEMBER THEM...

"Remember Them..." is a newly formed organization in Nebraska. Our purpose is to bring the Names Project Quilt to Omaha in 1990. The reason for which we are doing this is to advance the education and understanding of the impact which AIDS has had upon the American people.

We are inviting all interested individuals, organizations and business to attend a meeting on January 29, 1990 at noon. This meeting will be held in room 123 of the College of Business Administration building at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The purpose of this meeting is to form a coordinations committee of individuals, organizations, and businesses from all walks of life who are interested in supporting this endeavor. In order for us to accomplish our goal we will need everyone's support.

If you would like to help us and cannot attend this meeting or if you would like additional information, please feel free to contact Heidi at 391-0694, Nancy at 397-4399, or Jerry at 331-4919.

Your help and support is greatly needed and appreciated.

Monarchs (continued from page 2)

Governors Speaking of the Board of Governors, there are openings on the Board. Here's an excellent chance for you to have an impact on behalf of Nebraska's lesbian and gay community. Contact a monarch or one of the current Board of Governors members for details and an application.

Until next month, we encourage you to support those in the community who support the community!

Joe and Carla

WHAT "BEING GAY" MEANS TO ME

by M. R. Scott

When someone asks me, "Why are you gay?" I have to answer them with a question, "Why are you straight?" Most of the time they don't know for sure other than it is natural for them. Well, that is the same for me. It is natural and right to be gay.

The need to share my life and to be close with someone is as strong and healthy as with any straight adult. The only difference is the person that I want to do this with is the same sex. If I wanted to live an unhappy life that never seemed to fill my needs or me fill my spouse's needs, I could live a straight life. No one would know that I would only be an actor and not a participant in my straight life. I will not live a lie anymore.

I did not choose to be gay. If that was a choice that God left to me, I would have chosen a straight life. Not because I think I am bad or wrong in my present life style, but because a straight life is a far simpler one to live. Society is set up to cater to the straight world. Many still shun the gay world and always will. I think a lot of people are afraid of gays. They don't understand us nor do they want to.

No one really understands why people are gay. For me, I can identify "Sexual Excitement" feelings toward my same sex when I was nine or ten years old. Sexual excitement does not determine your sexuality. In fact at that age I had not even heard the word "Homosexual." All I knew was something inside of me was excited to be with the same sex kids. I did not feel bad about it, I just kept it to myself. I was afraid to share my feelings with my closest friends. I was afraid of rejection, not of my sexuality.

One thing that I regret is not talking to parents about my sexuality years ago. I hid and denied my sexuality for 24 years. Finally, I was forced into talking to them about it. I was surprised to find out that they had known for 12 years that I was gay. We cried and for the

first time in my life I was honest to them about the most important part of my life. No longer do I have to be a stranger to my parents during holidays and weekends. I can tell them openly where I have been and my feelings towards significant people in my life. I have often put myself down for not talking with them sooner. For me, life would have been much easier.

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Monthly Columns

ARE YOU BREAKING THE LAW AND DON'T KNOW IT?

The first article I wrote was on felony sexual assault laws. The second article was on the misdemeanor laws dealing with sexual assault on children. This article will focus on pornography and children. Please remember that people under eighteen years of age are considered children in the state of Nebraska.

Once again I am copying the laws as they appear in the "Nebraska State Statutes"

Child Pornography Prevention Act

28-1463.02 Terms, defined. As used in the Child pornography Prevention Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

1) Child, in the case of participant, shall mean any person under the age of eighteen years and, in the case of a portrayed observer, shall mean any person under the age of sixteen years;

2) Erotic fondling shall mean touching a person's clothed genitals or pubic area, breasts if the person is a female, or developing breast area if the person is a female child, for the purpose of real or simulated overt sexual gratification or sexual stimulation of one or more persons involved. Erotic fondling shall not be construed to include physical contact, even if affectionate, which is not for the purpose of real or simulated overt sexual gratification or sexual stimulation of one or more of the persons involved;

3) Erotic nudity shall mean the display of the human male or female genitals or pubic area, the human female breasts, or the developing breast area of the human female child, for the purpose of real or simulated overt sexual gratification or sexual stimulation of one or more of the persons involved;

4) Sadomasochistic abuse shall mean flagellation or torture by or upon a nude person or a person clad in undergarments, mask, bizarre costume, or condition of being lettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained when performed to predominantly appeal to the morbid interest;

5) Sexually explicit conduct shall mean: a) Real or simulated intercourse, whether genital-genital, oral-genital, or oral-anal between persons of the same or opposite sex or between a human and an animal or with an artificial genital; b) real or simulated mastur-

bation; c) real or simulated sadomasochistic abuse; e) erotic nudity; or f) real or simulated defecation or urination for the purpose of sexual gratification or sexual stimulation of one or more of the persons involved; and

6) Visual depiction shall mean live performance or photographic representation. Laws 1985, LB 668 effective date July 17, 1986.

28-1463.03. Visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct; prohibited acts.

1) It shall be unlawful for a person to knowingly make, publish, direct, create, provide, or in any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct which has a child as one of its participants or portrayed observers.

2) It shall be unlawful for a person knowingly to purchase, rent, sell deliver, distribute, display for sale, advertise, trade, or provide to any person any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct which has a child as one of its participants or portrayed observers.

3) It shall be unlawful for a person to knowingly employ, force, authorize, induce, or otherwise cause a child to engage in any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct which has a child as one of its participants or portrayed observers.

Law 1985 Effective date September 6, 1985.

28-1463.04 Violation; penalty. Any person who violates section 28-1463.03 shall be guilty of a Class III felony for the first offense and shall be guilty of a class II felony for each subsequent offense. (Law 1985 Effective date September 6, 1985, Class III felony max. 20 years and minimum 1 year in prison or \$25,000.00 fine or both. Class II felony maximum 50 years and minimum 1 year prison, no fines)

28-1463.05 Visual depiction of sexually explicit acts related to possession; violation; penalty.

1) It shall be unlawful for a person to knowingly possess with intent to rent, sell deliver, distribute, trade, or provide to any person any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct which has a child as one of its participants or portrayed observers.

2) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a Class IV felony for each offense.

M.R. Scott
(Effective date July 17, 1986) (Class IV felony; five years imprisonment or ten thousand dollars fine, or both)

28-813.01. Sexually explicit conduct; visual depiction, unlawful; penalty.

1) It shall be unlawful for a person to knowingly possess any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct, as defined in section 28-1463.02, which has a minor as one of its participants or portrayed observers.

2) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor. (Maximum six months imprisonment or one thousand dollars fine or both) Effective date July 9, 1988.

As you can see from the dates at the bottom of the above laws, they are all new in the last five years. If you have a picture or a film of a child engaging or watching another engage in sex ... destroy it. Don't take the chance of going to jail over that stuff. There are no ways around these laws in the court system. If the police ever finds this material in your possession, you will go to jail. If this material is so important to you that you can't bear to part with it ... get help from a responsible therapist. Gays in prison are a lot of fun for others.

EVERYTHING IS FINE

To everyone who at one time or another gets down and feels there's nothing to live for or strive for:

My Lord--

I have so much to be thankful for--
The very fact I can live another day
The food on my table, the job I have,
The clothes I wear and even my car
The family and friends who I hold so dear,
Especially my mother who you've given
another year (93)

The weather so I can drive and not stand in the cold,

And when I'm down your hand to hold.

A place to live, dreams to share,

Loving people who really care

Teach me oh Lord not to give into the hurts
and disappointments that come my way,

Thank you for letting me walk with you
another day.

So on this Christmas of '89, I look back and
say EVERYTHING IS FINE!!!

CELEBRATION OF A RADICAL
HERITAGE

Jim Roche

Recently I've noticed a flurry of articles about a split within our community between those who are in favor of confrontational political tactics (i.e. ACT-UP) and those who are in favor of a more restrained mainstream approach when addressing gay and lesbian issues. These groups have the same goals; it's just that they want to use different tactics to reach them.

Well, surprise, this division of philosophy and tactics is nothing new for our community. We should take note that in the very beginning of the gay and lesbian rights movement in this country the same conflicts and divisions were present. When the police raided the Stonewall Bar on June 28th 1969, they expected another routine set of arrests of drag queens and gay bar employees. Instead for the first time they were met with resistance.

This year is a celebration of our more radical heritage. It's a celebration of a revolution that was started by what many would consider fringe members of our community. People they would ask not to be "too public, too out of the closet." It was a revolution started by a bunch of cross dressing, bag carrying, high heeled boys ... let's never forget that! They felt themselves to be abused and powerless, and did what the Gay Liberation Front, the Gay Activists Alliance and ACT-UP today would tell you to do when you are powerless - take power.

Charles Ortleb writes, "The only remedy to powerlessness is power." The story of oppressed people throughout history shows that to be true. Michael Denny says, "... it seems to me it should be abundantly clear to even the dimmest with that without power you will not get justice." "Straights," he says, who object to our "increasing visibility are basically objecting to the assertion of power that is implicit in that phenomenon. They would prefer that we continue to rely on their 'compassion and kindness.'" Compassion and Kindness? Sound like a familiar slogan from a recent political campaign? Relying upon someone's "compassion and kindness" isn't the way to bring about justice.

When it was revealed to members of the group that hired me as minister of my church that I was gay, one member, horrified at the revelation, said she should have been informed, that now she didn't know what to tell people, that she was shocked to be treated

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FOR THE S.F. BAY AREA LEATHER COMMUNITY

The recent devastating earthquake in northern California has had a tremendous impact on the entire population of this huge metropolitan area. While the Red Cross has stepped in to do noble works, and while federal aid is on the way, these are not enough.

The newly-established San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the National Leather Association (NLA) is coordinating a relief fund specifically directed at all members of the huge Leather/SM/Fetish community living in the quake zone. While loss of life within this community has been minimal, many individuals have had their homes or their

livelihoods destroyed. It is to help these members of our Leather/SM/Fetish family that the fund has been developed.

Throughout the country, various groups and individuals are hosting fund-raisers or supplying private donations to help the Bay Area leather family quake victims. If you wish to contribute, or to organize a fund-raiser, please contact NLA:San Francisco Bay Area Chapter at 484 Lake Park Avenue #26, Piedmont, CA 94610, or call 415-465-6008 for more information.

Surplus funds will be donated to local AIDS charities.

this way (not given confidence about my sex life) and finally, said to gay members of the group, "after all I've done to help you gays out ..." In other words, you've gotten where you are today because of me, and don't you forget it. Our rights, it would seem, within society as a whole, the church, at work, at home, with our families, are to many heterosexuals a gift for which we should be thankful. These rights are something gained not by our own hands, because it is just and right to claim them, but instead these rights are handed out because of heterosexual "compassion and kindness." WARNING: Any privileges gained through compassion and kindness, rather than being taken because they are just, are subject to recall.

At a gay and lesbian political meeting, members heard a speaker offer this advice: Take it slow. Don't ask for too much too soon. Progress is made through cooperation, not confrontation ... Apparently this was a speaker who didn't understand how the civil rights movement worked in this country. Laws were passed that said you will treat people justly. When that didn't happen troops were sent in to enforce those laws. Civil rights would never have progressed if they worried about being polite, quiet and acceptable. I don't want to change peoples' minds, I want to change the law and their behavior. But again, this speaker was probably a person whose vision of the civil rights movement came from seeing Mississippi Burning and feeling good to be a helpful white person like all the FBI agents in the movie. To me, warning gay and lesbian members of our community not to go too fast, to be cooperative and not confrontational, puts them in the same situation that judges put women who have been raped when they ask,

Timmy (continued from page 18)

As the days went on, all I did was cry and think how God chooses no favorites.

It was all over that Timmy had AIDS. People were confused and scared. No one would touch him! The teachers would not let him in any of their classes, and the principal would not let him do anything that would lead to blood being drawn. He was, as much as I hate to say it, an outcast--almost like a leper.

But, in the few years that he was alive, Timmy and I were closer than we ever were before. I still cared for him. I still thought that he was the same as you and me. No matter how discouraging times would get, he had a love that was a ripe as a peach! When he died July first, the same day as my birthdate, a part of me died along with him.

Before he died, Timmy had written a letter to me.

Dear Mary,

Well I guess my time has come for me to say goodbye. Ha! I did not even think I would make it this long. When you read this I will be gone. I want the priest to give this letter to you after services for my funeral. When I die, I don't want you to cry but to think that God has never brought an ace to the heart because of any act of his. Death is a part of life. Everybody dies sooner or later and now it is my time to go. You have only one chance to live so live it. Don't waste any time and that's an order. In case you wonder sometimes, I got AIDS because of a blood transfusion. I'll be watching over you up in heaven.

Love, Timmy Saunder
1976-1989

written by Mary Lynn Nicotero

-> Celebration, page 6

Features

A PATTERN PERSISTS

"Open gays create a style, closeted ones bring it to the mainstream and then straights claim it as their own."

This statement made on Wednesday June 21, 1989 in the San Francisco Examiner's "A Special Report: Gay in America" sums up for me the essence of this very special, very informative look at gay life in these United States.

This 16 part "issue" of 64 pages of newsprint covers territory dating from 1908 (the DASH, San Francisco's first gay bar opens), through current affairs; covers issues from not only San Francisco and other large cities, but also Volga, IA where Sean Lamphier wanted to open a hospice for people with AIDS but had to stop due to town pressure. National polls were done and their outcomes were published - even the odd facts (are there really 6% of the gay/lesbian population in the US that feel that homosexuality should be illegal?)

Every day for 16 days, the San Francisco Examiner featured articles which covered the gay movement - past, present and future, violence, religion, families - of origin, adoption, cultural, AIDS, death, teens, coming out, culture, arts and, of course, Gay Freedom Parade.

60 journalists from the paper were directly involved, taking almost a year in the planning

stages, looking at more than 30,000 photographs and 100,000 clippings, 800 gay/lesbian people and 5,200 nongay Americans were interviewed (over 27,000 phone calls were made to all 50 states to find these people - it took the pollsters 9 full days of calling to locate ONE out-of-the closet gay in Kansas!)

In the margins of this tabloid are tidbits of trivia about gay/lesbian history (did YOU know that rectal and prostrate massage were once advised as a possible 'cure' for homosexuality?). Also on each page is a question about gay/lesbian history, (in 1987, which TV station became the first in the nation to air condom ads? - San Francisco local KRON - Channel 4)

The stories presented are touching, caring, feeling works that convey an accurate side of the life that some people have called 'immoral', 'unnatural', 'sick'. While not all respondents agreed there is less discrimination today than 10 or 20 years ago, there does seem to be a general acceptance of 'gay families', with more and more states and cities having favorable records for letting gay/lesbian family units having custody of children, adoption, durable power of attorney, and domestic partner laws.

And what of the future? Having just celebrated 20 years of Gay liberation with the anniversary of Stonewall, what will happen in

Jerry the GAY 90's? Kate Clinton, feminist humorist, states: "It is 20 years since the Stonewall riots ... With one year to go to the Gay 90's, I know objectively we have made progress ..."

Edmund White, author, states: "Sexual identity is something no one chooses. Once we become conscious of it, however, we feel driven to express it. That's where the choices come in. Despite inner struggles we are always grateful for the chance to choose the identity that fate has thrust upon us."

That freedom to choose our destiny is what has been secured during the first 20 years of gay liberation."

(Reprints of this extraordinary work are available as a special reprint package. For \$5.00, you will receive a full 64 large newspaper-sized pages, printed flexographically (the ink won't come off on your hands). Every reprint comes with a bonus: the original 13 1/2 x 23 inch poster used to promote the series. The \$5.00 covers the cost of processing, postage and same-day shipping. The Examiner makes no profit from these reprints.

Quantities are limited: order soon from "GAY IN AMERICA REPRINT", 943 Howard St. #304, San Francisco, CA 94103. Make checks payable to SF Examiner."

Best of reading to you and your kin.

Celebration (continued from page 5)

"How short was that dress?"

Interviewing people in New York last May for a story about the Stonewall Riots I discovered that everyone had been there. Apparently it was the most undercounted crowd in history. One person I met, however, described the action in detail. His urban myth, went like this: "And then they started calling the cops, 'Pigs! Pigs!' Then someone yelled 'Come on girls! We've had enough of this shit!' History or myth, that's the kind of echo I would have liked to have heard in the streets of Manhattan that night. 'Come on girls! We've had enough of this shit!' Injustice calls for indignant words and nothing less.

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THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE MAX: AN INTERVIEW WITH BRUCE BARNARD AND DON MORAN

Probably the biggest thing to happen in Omaha during 1989 was the opening of the new side at The Max. It provided the stage for several other events, including Fantasy '89. Bruce and Stosh, the owners of The Max, agreed to talk with me, not only about The Max and the opening of the new side, but also about their personal success story.

Sharon: Stosh, Bruce, how did this all begin?

Bruce: It all started in a bar. Don's friend, Larry Koziol, told us that his liquor store was for sale. It was 1973. I had gotten my Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology and been in practice for two years. Don had just graduated with his Bachelor's Degree in Education. We bought that liquor store on land contract. We had to. We didn't have any money then. It was one of those land contracts where if you miss even one payment you lose the whole thing, so we had to make it go. We changed the emphasis of the place and it became the Wine Seller. We worked our tails off putting it together. We'd each put in over 70 hours a week.

Don: I worked at Skinner Macaroni during the day and at the shop at night. At Skinner's I was a maintenance man. I didn't know the difference between a screwdriver and a wrench. I'd go bang on the pipes a time or two and things would work.

Bruce: At the shop we specialized in Boutique Wines and made it the most Foo-Foo shop there was. It was a beautiful shop and we made it first class. We gift wrapped every bottle of wine at Christmas.

Don: Whether it was Chateau Le Fete or Strawberry Hill, it got the same wrap. I remember selling a \$1.29 bottle of Boone's Farm and using 60 cents worth of gold foil to wrap it.

Bruce: It was hard work. That's what small business owners need to remember. Small business isn't easy. You have to be ready to work hard and you won't get rich right away. Then the guy who delivered Budweiser to the shop invited us down to the Silver Tap to hear his wife perform. We came down and while we were sitting there, Don looked around and said, "We're going to own this someday." Next thing we knew, we heard it was for sale.

When we bought the bar and reopened it as the Hollywood, we had a big opening—bigger than we'd planned because all the television stations were there covering the opening of it

as an openly gay bar. It was a big place and we just wanted everyone to come and have a good time there.

The Hollywood was open for almost six years, from November 1978 until January 1984, when the city took the building over to put up a municipal parking garage.

Don: That was when we bought this place. It was a garage then with big double doors over there. The rest was just bare walls.

Sharon: Did you always intend to have such a classy place as this is?

Bruce: Yes, we did. We'd been to other bars and not felt comfortable. We went in to the old Cave and people called us "faggots". We won't be treated like that. We've never considered ourselves second class citizens and we won't be treated like it.

Sharon: What was your original investment?

Don: The building itself was \$185,000 and the remodeling was another \$200,000.

Sharon: Then how much did the new side cost?

Bruce: Before we got it all done we had \$462,000 invested in the new side, so our total investment is somewhere around one million dollars.

Sharon: How big is The Max?

Don: It's 100,000 square feet. There's 60,000 in the old part and another 40,000 in the new side. On a typical Saturday night we see about 700 people in here.

Sharon: I've heard The Max referred to as a "high energy" bar. Is that the image you want to portray?

Bruce: Actually, we've designed The Max to be several micro-environments. We have a

responsibility to lots of different people in the gay and lesbian community. They've supported us really well. With the new side we can offer several different micro-environments to meet the needs of the community. There's the video bar, the game room, and the piano bar besides the dance floor on this side. Before the new side opened lots of folks thought it was going to be strictly a women's bar but it's amazing how well the men and women mix here. You don't find that in a lot of the bars.

The Max is a first class establishment. It's second to none. You won't find a better bar even on the coasts. You know, there are lots of people in this community who have done well for themselves. Like us, they work hard for their money and they don't mind spending it if they get good service and a good environment.

The Max is really a regional bar. We see folks from all over the Midwest and the South, even from the coasts, who think it's a wonderful place. I like nothing better than for Don to

-> Success, page 8

AIDS

Counseling — Antibody Testing — Information
is available in Omaha by calling:

Douglas County Health Department

402/444-7214

8:30 am to 4:00 pm

For other testing sites call:

Grand Island — Hall County	308/381-5175
Lincoln — Lancaster County	402/471-8065
North Platte	308/534-6780 ext. 134
Scottsbluff	308/635-3866

Success (continued from page 7)

come home and tell me about somebody he met from Minneapolis or Dallas and how pleased they were to find a place like The Max.

Sharon: I know that Heidi and Tammy are having their Holy Union here. Is that something you only do for friends?

Don: Oh, no. The new side is available for private parties anytime it's not already scheduled. If anyone's interested, they should contact us.

Sharon: I'd like to talk a little bit about the benefits you do. I don't think people realize how much money you donate back to the community.

Bruce: Like I said, the community's been good to us and we want to return some part of that. Beside providing the place, we donate a part of the door--money that we've already paid taxes on. We average about two benefits a month so I'd say that we've put on over a hundred benefit shows since we opened. I have no idea what the dollar amount would be.

Sharon: What's your next plan? Is there anything new planned for The Max?

Don: We've got Gay Dart Leagues starting in January. Over 80 people have already signed up.

Bruce: We've got more remodeling to do. We're expanding the patio and adding a volleyball court.

Don: Well, maybe it'll be a volleyball court. I want a wading and sunning pool.

Bruce: It'll be a volleyball court--maybe built over the wading pool. We're also adding more activities for the women, including a Ms. Max contest this spring.

Sharon: What final comments do you have for our readers?

Don: We work very hard. The bar should look like it doesn't take any effort to run at all but you have to work hard to achieve that. People probably don't realize that we have a full staff here during the day, cleaning and getting things ready.

Bruce: We're two gay people who never

thought they were inferior to anybody. Not any better, but definitely not inferior. Gay people put too many limits on themselves by assuming they can't do things. Then they don't try. If you're going to succeed in business or in relationships or in anything, you have to feel good about yourself. When you feel good about yourself, then the other things fall into place.

Lonely?
Join the
PEOPLE
CONNECTION!

**ICE CHRYSTAL
DREAM'S
SNOWBALL
1990**

**SUNDAY JANUARY
9:30 21**

THE MAX
OMAHA

Community Calendar

1 Monday Happy New Year!!

2 Tuesday ANGLE (formerly BOO), Achieving New Gay/Lesbian Endeavors, W. Dale Clark Library, 15th and Douglas, Meeting Rooms 2 & 3, 7 pm.

3 Wednesday P-Flag AIDS Support Group, Lincoln, 7 pm. Call 435-4688 for location.

7 Sunday New Voice Steering Committee, MCC-Omaha, 420 S 24th, 4pm. All interested parties welcome.

6 Saturday Gay/Lesbian Jewish Group: Discussion session centering on issues of concern to gay and lesbian Jews, 1:30 pm. Phone 291-6781 for information.

8 Monday AIDS Interfaith Network, St. Cecelia's, 701 N. 40th, Prayer Service, 7 pm.

Imperial Court of Nebraska, Board of Governors Meeting, The Max, 1417 Jackson, 6 pm.

River City Mixed Chorus Auditions at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street, Omaha. Phone 341-0763 for information.

10 Wednesday Submission Deadline!! All articles, classifieds, art work, poetry, and letters must be received by this date for consideration for the February issue of The New Voice.

12 Friday Affirmation/Omaha, 7 pm. Call 556-7701 for location.

14 Sunday P FLAG/Omaha, First Methodist Church (northeast entrance), 69th & Cass, 3pm.

Dignity, St. John's, Lower Level, Creighton Campus, Mass, 7 pm.

Open House for Women of the Community by Women of River City Mixed Chorus, Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street, Omaha. Phone 341-2976 for information.

15 Monday River City Mixed Chorus Auditions at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street, Omaha. Phone 341-0763 for information.

16 Tuesday Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, Boardwalk, 20th & O, Lincoln, NE, 7 pm.

17 Wednesday Metropolitan Club, 6pm. Call 449-9377 for location.

P FLAG AIDS Support Group, Lincoln, 7 pm, Call 435-4688 for location.

21 Sunday Affirmation/Lincoln. Write for time and location, PO Box 80122, Lincoln, NE 68501.

23 Tuesday Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Lincoln, 7:30 pm. Call 435-4688 for location.

28 Sunday Dignity "Gathering" Call 895-2856 for information.

29 Monday Gay/Lesbian Student Organization, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Milo Bail Student Center, 3rd Floor, Board Room, 7 pm. All students welcome.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday

Metropolitan Community Church
420 South 24th, Omaha
Sunday School, 9 am
Worship Services, 10:20 am & 7 pm

The Max
1415 Jackson
Show at 9:30 pm

Monday

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

River City Mixed Chorus Rehearsals, 7 pm
Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church
1023 North 40th Street

Tuesday

Gay/Lesbian Support Group, 7:30 pm
MCC-Omaha, 420 South 24th

Thursday

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

UNL Gay/Lesbian Students Organization
8 pm
Room 342, Nebraska Union
University Nebraska/Lincoln

Nuts & Bolts & Brass Tacks, 7 pm
Pella Lutheran, 41st & Farnam
Call NAP 342-4233 or Steve 346-1556
Alcoholic Anonymous Group dealing with alcohol and AIDS issues

Friday

Adult Children of Alcoholics, 6:30 pm
MCC-Omaha, 420 South 24th
346-0561

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous, 8:15 pm
Pella Lutheran Church
303 South 41st Street, Omaha
345-9916

Women's Friday Afternoon Gathering
5 to 7 pm
(to foster networks and have fun)
The Club, 116 North 20th Street, Lincoln

1989: A



PHOTO REVIEW



Local Organizations

DUSTIN LOGAN NAMED GAY MAN OF THE YEAR FOR 1990

Dustin Logan, Great Plains Mr. Drummer and Mr. Gay Nebraska 1988, has been named as Gay Man of the Year 1990 by the National Leather Journal.

In an exclusive interview, Mr. Dave Rhodes, publisher of the National Leather Journal, stated that Dustin had been chosen as Gay Man of the Year because of his outstanding community service in organizing Fantasy '89. Mr. Rhodes stated that Dustin won out over nationally known figures such as Guy Baldwin, Chuck Higgins, and Michael Ferrari, because of the way in which he, while relatively unknown, was able to mobilize national support for his fund raising efforts.

Rhodes stated, "He came out of nowhere and pulled it off, getting people from around the country to turn out and work together as well as getting the Omaha community to work together. He certainly advanced the cause of the leather community in the midwest."

The award will be presented at a ceremony to be held in California in late January. Our congratulations to Dustin Logan and Bob Ewing for their success.



Dustin Logan and Bob Ewing

ASUN TAKES ACTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

Rodney A. Bell, II

After reconsidering an amendment forbidding discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, creed, handicap or place of residence for student organizations on November 29th, ASUN (UNL's Student Senate) passed legislation.

On December 6th, ASUN passed the amendment barring discrimination with a special provision. The bill includes a portion that allows student organizations until April 29, 1992 to comply. ASUN President Bryan Hill has taken the lead in fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation. He has been working with the UNL Affirmative Action Office on posters that explain the Regents' policy barring discrimination based on "individual characteristics".

A comprehensive AIDS policy at UNL has been another target of ASUN.

The non-discrimination legislation is significant because in April of 1985, past GLSA president Rodney Bell, II had made a smaller proposal. At that time, ASUN passed an amendment, but the President Gerard Keating vetoed the amendment.

In the following school years ASUN passed a non-discrimination amendment for its own organization, but failed to cover student organizations.

P.A.C.T.

P.A.C.T. (People of All Colors Together) will be planning its quarter activities for 1990. At the moment we are in the planning stage to hold our first money-raising project. It was

introduced that we hold a gay bingo with cash prizes. We believe it will be a success and that it will benefit us as well as the gay community.

Our New Year's outing was quite enjoyable. We met at L & N's Restaurant and celebrated the new year. Everyone was pleased.

One of the major events that some of us will be attending is the Midwest Heartland Regional. The regional will be held April 27-29, 1990 in Chicago, IL. We are excited and eager to participate in such an event.

P.A.C.T. wishes everyone a happy and safe new year and if you are interested in our organization, please call 341-4078 for more information.



dignity
Omaha
Lesbian and Gay
Roman Catholics
and Friends

Mass 7pm, 2nd Sunday, monthly
St John's Church — lower level
Creighton University Campus

341-1460
895-2856

P O Box 31312
Omaha 68131

UNO GLSO

The Gay and Lesbian Student Organization at UNO will be meeting again starting this month. For times and places please call Heidi at 391-0694. We have many things planned for the up-coming semester. Some of which include a Talents Show in February, a possible trip to Grinnell, IA for their pride week, participation in Celebrate UNO and other fun things. All college students are welcome from all colleges. We hope to see more people this new year!

SUBSCRIBE TO
THE NEW VOICE

Miss Max

Hi Gang. Glo here. It's time to let you know what's happening this month here at the Max. Well, well, well. First off, we have my stepping down show. It will be a blast of talent, creativity, and humor. I mean this is what it's all about, and what you deserve. On the 14th of January male strippers will be back, hot and beefy as ever. If they are half as big as the Chicago Meatpackers, I'll take two. Rumor has it that the Meatpackers will be here for Valentine's Day. Yager! Yager! Yager! There's a Yager party planned for the 25th. It's Mike and Wayne's first annual Yagermeister Party. You don't want to miss T-shirts! Hats! and Yager for a dollar a shot! Hot Damn you don't want to miss that. My! My! My! And there's still more girlfriend. The Miss Max Pageant is in full swing and coming up on the 28th. I must say I'm not giving up my crown, but I'm willing to share it with some lucky person. So this is my last time to talk to ya as Miss Max, cause honey after this I'll be a was Miss Max. So there you have it. Well kids, that's all folks and thanks for the mammeries (oops, memories). I hope you've had as much fun this year as I had. Luv ya gobs.

Royally yours,
Gloria Revelle
Miss Max V

UNL GALA MAKES PLANS

Rodney A. Bell, II

The UNL GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae Association) is making plans for the future. These plans include a reunion and continued support and proactive efforts for gay/lesbian people at UNL.

April is the target month for a reunion of UNL's gay/lesbian alumni, faculty, staff and students. Persons interested in volunteering to help may call (402)-464-0371.

UNL GALA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the social, political and educational needs of UNL alumni, faculty, staff and students. A quarterly newsletter, the GALA Nebraskan, is printed for information. Interested people should write: UNL GALA, PO Box 30681, Lincoln, NE 68503.

MCC HEADLINES

This holiday season brought a new look to MCC. The sanctuary has been lavishly adorned with poinsettias. A new cross marks the entryway, and new pariments garnish the altar. Combine all of that with the decorating done at the tree trimming and caroling

party, and it's easy to understand all those "Oooo's and Ah's" I've been hearing. Christmas is such a wonderful time.

About mid-month we sent several boxes of toiletries to the AIDS Interfaith Network for distribution to persons with AIDS.

Special music seemed to be the theme for the month. One group from the church carolled at the Golden Manor and for some PWA's. Besides opening and closing ICON's "Toys for Tots" show, the Choir provided special music for each of our morning services. Plus, they joined with several others in providing special music for the Christmas Eve Service. That was really nice.

Carla P.

Our soup supper was a big success. There was some yummy stuff there! Thanks to all of you who contributed and who came!

We started December with a trip to The Max for our monthly night at the bar. In January we'll be hitting The Run. Join us there at 10:00 the first Friday.

The Parish Families concluded their initial meetings this month and established their ongoing sessions. New groups will be forming soon.

In January we'll be celebrating the anniversary of our local church. Watch for details. The choir will begin work on special music for Easter. If you've been putting off joining us, now's a good time to start. Sometime this month there will be a special song service.

Until next month--see you in church! We'd love to have you join us.

WANT TO
MAKE NEW
FRIENDS?

TRY
THE
PEOPLE
CONNECTION

COMPLETELY
CONFIDENTIAL



METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF OMAHA

Pastor Matthew Howard
Sunday Worship
10:20am and 7:00pm

Gay / Lesbian Support Group
Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Service Address
420 South 24th Street

Mailing Address
P O Box 3173
Omaha, NE 68103
402/345-2563

COLAGE PRESENTS PROGRAMS

Rodney A. Bell, II

The semester has been a tremendous success for UNL COLAGE (Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events).

On October 11 and 12, Dr. Virginia Uribe, founder of Project 10, an outreach program for gay/lesbian high school students in Los Angeles, spoke on the UNL campus. She talked about Project 10, programs for gay/lesbian high school students, and coming out.

In a major speech to ASUN (UNL's Student Senate), Dick Wood, General Counsel for the University of Nebraska, told students senators that COLAGE could sue ASUN if it refuses to sponsor COLAGE speeches.

According to Mr. Wood, "ASUN could be sued because it acts on behalf of Nebraska and its decisions are subject to review under federal civil rights laws and the First Amendment guaranteeing rights of free speech." The University can choose not to fund COLAGE, but it must be done fairly."

Through co-sponsorship with Lincoln's PFLAG, COLAGE presented Brian McNaught's video, "On Being Gay" on November 30th.

COLAGE is a programming committee of the University Program Council and is eligible to receive student fees.

CHANUKAH PARTY A SUCCESS

Gary

Omaha's new organization for gay and lesbian Jews held its first Chanukah Party on December 21. Besides the members, several people from other area gay/lesbian religious groups attended. Traditional Jewish foods, music, and games were enjoyed at the party, hosted by one of the members and his Significant Other (who is Presbyterian!)

The Party represented the third meeting for the organization, which plans to schedule monthly meetings.

On Saturday afternoon, January 6, the group will conduct a discussion session based on articles entitled "Homosexuality and Halakha" by Mayer E. Rabinowitz and "Jewish Attitudes Towards Homosexuality: A Review of Contemporary Sources" by Ellen M. Umansky. Members of the group are also reading the book "Twice Blessed: On Being Lesbian, Gay, and Jewish", edited by Christie Balka and Andy Rose.

Members expect future meetings to include social activities, discussion groups, and spiritual pursuit.

For information about the organization, please phone 291-6781 in Omaha.

NEW SUPPORT GROUP AT UNL

Rodney A. Bell, II

A proposal by Rodney A. Bell, II was presented to the UNL Counseling Center on November 13th. The proposal was for a Gay Men's Support Group. The rationale involved two major assumptions: 1) UNL needs to symbolically recognize gay concerns, and 2) support for gay men is urgently needed.

The staff and Director Vernon Williams, have agreed to act on the proposal. The Gay Men's Support Group will begin in January. The group will address concerns related to coming out, health, relationships and other areas. The group is the first of its kind.

The Gay Men's Support Group is open to UNL students. This group will be confidential and be facilitated by two professional counselors. For information, contact Vernon Williams at (402)-472-3461.

A Lesbian Support Group is offered by the UNL Women's Resource Center and may be contacted at (402)-472-2597.

SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS

A VIEW FROM RINGSIDE

"Margot and Friends" at The Chesterfield.

Cast: Margot Monroe, Rita, Sybil, Erica DeVain, Chrystyne Sands, Diamelle Faraday, Samantha.

Little do these girls know...Heh! Heh! Thought to scratch a note to let y'all know what you missed here at The Chesterfield on December 10.

With Miss Stella Dallas cracking the whip on the "mic," we got the show off to a roaring start in typical drag-time fashion. Stell, girl, you got good lungs.

Margo began the line-up with "Control" by Janet Jackson--pop that gum girl, but next time lose the chest-hair. Next came Diamelle with "So Emotional"...Hmmm!?

Now, it was plenty cold 'n' snowy outside--but Miss Rita made damned sure it got hot and nasty inside. Girl is definitely a "Wild

Thing."

Erica DeVain proved two points with "I Feel the Earth Move"--big girls can dance too!--and nobody can throw a pig-fit on stage like the one and only Pig Woman!

Sybil, "Do You Love Me" provided the break we all need to catch our breath before, of all people, Empress V. Laura Leigh, took the stage and took our breath away again with her rendition of "If You Ask Me To." She is now the reigning Miss S W Nevada.

Next to the stage, Miss Liesa Durant "Workin' Overtime." In spite of Stella's cracks about her age (Ha! I'll never tell!) the Old Girl proved that she still has one of the best pairs of legs in Omaha and knows how to use them.

"Rip Her to Shreds" with Chrystyne Sands--in other words, "Drag Queen Gets

Butch...film at eleven."

Samantha, sorry you got the wrong song honey, but you did a good job faking it. Girl may be my granddaughter, but I could learn to hate skinny, pretty little girls like this.

Laura Leigh and Margot Monroe closed out the show. Laura, sweetie-puss, the dress had more sparkle. And Miss Monroe, if ever there was an argument in favor of having your tapes marked and cued, this girl is it.

The show was short and sweet, had its highs and lows--and lows. Due to unfortunate circumstances the 2nd half of the show was cancelled. Pity. Oh well--off to the Max to catch the rest of whatever.

My apologies to Sharon if I got you in any trouble, Girlfriend. But I only promised to be honest, not nice.

Forte De Sade

ACTIVISTS FORM IOWA GROUP
by Jennie McKnight

(reprinted from Gay Community News, Iowa City, Iowa, October 8, 1989)

Lesbian and gay political organizing in the heartland got a boost this summer when the Iowa Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus announced its formation. The new group, which has established a legislative agenda that includes lobbying for a passage of a gay civil rights bill and a bill aimed at anti-gay violence, "seeks to represent the political interests of some 300,000 lesbians and gay men in the State of Iowa," according to its literature.

Michael Current, co-chair of the new group, said of its constituency, "We are parents and children, factory workers and fellow churchgoers. We are part and parcel of every facet of life in this great state of Iowa."

So far the group has held meetings in Des Moines, Grinnell, and Iowa City, and there are plans for future gatherings in the Quad Cities and Webster City. To contact the Caucus, write to P.O. Box V, Des Moines, IA 50311.

CHORUS PRESENTS CONCERTS AND BEGINS REHEARSALS

The River City Mixed Chorus performed its sixth Holiday Concert on December 17 at UNO. The concert was one of the most creative the Chorus has ever presented, with everything from a Bach piece sung in German to chocolate being thrown into the audience. Now, that's variety! An enthusiastic audience in Strauss Performing Arts Center ate it up—literally! Now, it's on to the Spring Concerts, to be performed along with the Des Moines Men's Chorus. (Ask any Chorus member who was there last spring—singing with another chorus is twice the fun, for both the singers and the audience.)

If it seemed like December was a busy month for the Chorus, that wasn't anyone's imagination. In addition to the rehearsals and general preparation for the Concert, and the Concert itself, the Chorus sang at Christmas at Union Station, and spent a c-c-c-c-c-old Friday evening carolling at the Bars and in the Old Market. (The audiences and "gifts" from the bartenders helped warm things up!) The holiday season wound up with the annual Holiday Concert, "Ring Out Wild Bells", performed at UNO.

for the women of the community on Sunday, January 14, from 1 to 3:30 pm, at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street in Omaha. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss what women in the community would like from the Chorus and vice-versa, and to get community women more involved in our community's chorus. Refreshments will be served at the open house. For more information, call Tanith at 341-2976.

For both women and men, if you've ever considered joining the Chorus, but didn't know what to expect, why not stop by for a rehearsal? Join in the singing, or maybe just sit back and watch. The Chorus guarantees that no more than a couple dozen friendly people will say "hi", share refreshments during the rehearsal break, and twist your arm just a little to become a member. If you decide to join, your commitment is to forget your workday troubles once a week while joining other women and men who love to sing. Rehearsals for the next concert begin Monday, January 8, at 7:30 pm, at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church. Auditions will be Monday, January 8 and January 15, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. For further information about joining as a singing or non-singing member, call Stan at 341-0763.

The women of the Chorus will be having an open house

DORIAN MISS GAY NEBRASKA USA

The Miss Gay Nebraska USA pageant was held at the Max in November. The special guests of the evening were indeed living proof that Omaha, NE does have pretty performers and out of town guests. Among the performers were Muffy R., the reigning Miss Gay Nebraska USA. She had an outstanding year of flawless performance. We love you, Muffy. The other entertainers included Deitra Snow, Anne Marlowe, Natasha Edwards, and Dagnie who also gave an outstanding live performance. I would like to thank all the performers for a wonderful job well done. You were flawless, Darlings. I would also give my gratitude to our M.C., Miss Kim Alexis. The contestants were all very beautiful and very creative. The contestants were Dorian Drake, Sybil, Nicole Blake, Viktoria Towne, and Laura Grey.

I would like to wish Miss Dorian Drake the best of the new year as the 1990 Miss Gay Nebraska USA and congrats to all the contestants. You are all winners in my opinion and we hope to see you again soon. Miss Kim, you are always welcome in the BIG O, Omaha, Nebraska.

Yours truly,
T.S.
Terribly Sexy



The Antiquarium Galleries

PRESENT

DAVE A HUSTAK

photographer

Showing Jan 8-Feb 5th
and reception public invited Jan 14th 4-7

1215 Harney St, Omaha 402-341-8077

National Spotlight

COLUMBUS, OHIO GAY HARRASSMENT

What follows is the contents of a letter from the Stonewall Union (a gay rights organization). The letter is from a gay man, Brent Pettibone, who was involved in a harrasment incident this past summer in Columbus, Ohio.

Reprinted from CompuServe Information Service.

Dear Friend:

Like every gay person, I'm well aware of prejudice. We live with it every day—in our families, in school, and at work. But until recently, I'd managed to avoid the most criminal forms of anti-gay discrimination and violence. Like so many gay people, I've learned, perhaps too well, to "keep my head low" and I thought this strategy would keep me safe. It didn't.

Between April and August of this year, my lover Kevin and I were terrorized every day for four months by homophobic neighbors who

eventually drove us from our home in the Harrison West section of Columbus. It began with verbal harrasment and escalated to slashed tires, obscene mail, a smashed windshield, threats of assault, and death threats. Friends and family who visited us used our back door to avoid neighbors across the street who shouted obscenities and threw things. Some of our friends stopped visiting us altogether.

I contacted the police several times. Sometimes they wouldn't even come out. When they did it was only to tell me there was little they or I could do. When we began to fear for our lives, Kevin and I made up our minds to move. I called Stonewall Union. Stonewall organized 35 volunteers who helped us move out of our home safely and quickly. Stonewall also told me about a new law they'd worked for—the Ethnic Intimidation Ordinance—which stiffens penalties for crimes motivated by the victim's sexual orientation, race, religion, or ethnic origin. Stonewall briefed me

on the law and provided me with a copy of it. If they hadn't I wouldn't have known to bring the charge because the staff in the city prosecutor's office didn't tell me about it. On August 7, I filed a charge of Ethnic Intimidation against one of the neighbors, Frank Elias.

On the day of Frank Elias' arraignment, Stonewall organized a protest in front of the courthouse to bring attention to the apathy I saw among police and in the City Prosecutor's office. The following week, Stonewall president Chris Cozad and executive director Michael McFadden met with Columbus Chief of Police Dwight Joseph to discuss problems with the police response to bias crime. Stonewall Union is monitoring the case against Frank Elias as it develops. (EDITOR'S NOTE: The trial took place on December 11.)

Because of Stonewall, this case has received

-> Harrasment, page 17

THE DIAMOND BAR

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN
IN
OMAHA NEBRASKA
712 SOUTH 16TH STREET 342-9595

STILL THE FRIENDLIEST BAR IN TOWN
NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALSO SERVED



'Thank You'

EPISCOPAL CHURCH ELECTS GAY

The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester made history by electing the first openly gay deputy to the Episcopal Church's highest policy making body, the General Convention. Elected was Bruce Colburn, chair of the Diocesan Homophile Commission and immediate past Northeast Regional Vice President of Integrity, the national lesbian and gay ministry of the Episcopal Church.

In addition to having the only Homophile Commission in the Church (other dioceses have commissions to study human sexuality or homosexuality, but not to encourage acceptance and integration of lesbians and gays), Rochester has for fourteen years permitted the blessing of lesbian and gay relationships by the Church. Statistics of such unions indicate that their average longevity compares favorably with that of heterosexual marriages.

"I think my election represents the feeling of the Diocese of Rochester that all gay men and lesbians are indeed Children of God and have a place in our Church," said Colburn.

ACTIVISTS PLAN PROTEST

Lesbian and gay and AIDS activists from around the country will converge in Atlanta, GA on January 8 and 9, 1990, for two days of demonstrations demanding repeal of anti-sodomy laws and an expanded definition of AIDS.

Demonstrators will demand repeal of sodomy laws in 25 states. "Because these laws effectively define all lesbians and gay men as statutory felons, they promote violence against gay people and frighten everybody away from HIV testing, counseling, health care, and treatment," said Chip Rowan, action facilitator.

Georgia achieved international notoriety in 1986 when the U.S. Supreme Court announced its decision in *Hardwick v. Bowers* and upheld the state's power to regulate private, adult, consensual sexual behavior. The *Hardwick* case originated in Atlanta in 1982 with the arrest of Michael Hardwick who was having sex with a consenting adult male in the privacy of his bedroom. In Summer, 1989, a heterosexual man was released from a Georgia jail after serving 18 months of a sentence for having consensual oral sex with

NLA MAN & WOMAN OF 1989

Annually, the National Leather Association (NLA) has presented its Man and Woman of the Year awards during its Living in Leather Conference weekend. This year, the NLA presented its Man of the Year award in memorial to Dr. Geoff Mains. Geoff Mains was a noted author and activist. His book "Urban Aboriginals" was among the first intelligent books on and for the modern SM practitioner. His newest book, "Gentle Warriors", is a provocative and haunting presentation of the gay male SM community and its responses to the AIDS epidemic.

The Woman of the Year award was presented to Cynthia Slater of San Francisco. Cynthia was a pioneer in striving to smash down the walls separating the men's and the women's leather communities. Over 15 years ago, she was a founder of the Society of Janus in San Francisco.

We deeply regret that in the short time which has passed since the trophy presentations, Cynthia Slater has died of AIDS.



BLAZING SADDLE

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his wife. Though his conviction was overturned in September, Georgia's gay and lesbian community was outraged at the court ruling which said the sodomy laws would not be applied to heterosexual married persons.

Sodomy laws have also been used as justification to prevent AIDS educators from distributing safer sex information and condoms on the grounds that such material condones "illegal" behavior. "The laws condemn to ignorance people whose lives depend on this information, including teenagers, students, prisoners, and other residents of state or federal institutions," said Rowan.

Harrassment (continued from page 16)
fair coverage on television, radio, and in print. I believe that because of the attention this case has received, the city knows more about the problem of anti-gay/lesbian crime. I hope that, as a result, more victims will come forward.

Stonewall is now developing an anti-violence project to prevent what happened to me from happening to others. "Keeping our heads low" doesn't work.

Sincerely,
Brent Pettibone

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AIDS News

An Essay

Timmy was a young boy no older than six and a half. He was about four feet nine and a feisty little fellow. He had dirty blond hair in the form of a crew cut that shined when even the slightest ray of light hit him. He was always in Lee jeans, a white cotton T-shirt a couple of sizes too big for him, and black high tops with the shoe strings always untied. There was something else about him that would make you stare at him. His eyes. His eyes were so beautiful. They were a pale, crystal, cold, invisible blue that could barely be distinguished from the whites of his eyes. I know all this because I used to babysit for him. Whenever he was over, he used to play with all the other little children outside in the street.

One day he came over to visit me. I did not know why. I guessed he was just being friendly. He had a bitter look of starvation on his small, white face. So, I led him into the kitchen and let him sort out what he wanted. When he came out, that starving look had

changed to a look of stark terror, I knew then that something must really be bothering this poor child to give him such a look. I asked him to come sit on the couch with me and to tell me what was bothering him. He hesitated for a moment. Finally, he relented and sat down next to me. "We went to the doctor's today," he said slowly. "He took some tests today and wants to take some more." I wondered if things were as serious as Timmy thought they were. What could possibly be so frightening? Timmy was really scared.

"It was a test for AIDS." I was a little confused because I did not know at that time what AIDS was. I was speechless.

I tucked Timmy into the bed in our guest room. "Everything is going to be all right. No harm is going to come to you tonight." Timmy shut his eyes and began to smile. "Sweet dreams."

Morning came. I don't know what awakened Timmy. But it was the smell of pancakes cooking on the stove that awakened me. About an hour after we got up, Timmy left for his doctor's appointment. I assured him that everything was going to be just fine. As he walked out our door, I could think of nothing except a small child who might not even live to see his tenth

birthday. Reprinted from AIDS Aware

Later that day, I made an appointment to see my doctor to find out more about AIDS. I found out that AIDS is a serious disease. It keeps the body's immune system from doing its job of protecting the body from infection. I found out that the disease is spread mainly by having sex or sharing needles with an infected person. It is also possible to contract AIDS from a blood transfusion if the blood was taken from an infected person. After the doctor and I had talked for a while, I got up, thanked the doctor, and left for home.

I went over to Tim's house to see if everything was okay. I walked up the steps and rang the doorbell. Finally, someone answered. It was Timmy's mother. Something was wrong. Her eyes were filled with tears as she slowly told me the story. Her husband heard her sobbing. He came out and put his arms around her. She buried her face in the white shirt he wore.

"I'm so sorry," I said. "I never could have guessed."

"Don't worry. Neither could we," he said as he bent his head in sorrow.

"If you ever need anything, just call me or my mother, and we will be right over. Okay?"

After I left Timmy's house, all I could think about was a little boy who would sooner or later die. A little boy who would look the same on the outside, but who would slowly be eaten away by the disease known as AIDS. Slowly I walked away and put my hands in my pockets.

-> Timmy, page 5



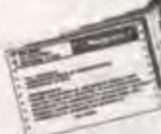
Dannemeyer's anti-gay amendments undercut effective response to the AIDS crisis. Will he win? Not if you fight back!

HELP DEFEAT HOMOPHOBIC AMENDMENTS!

CALL
1-800-257-4900

Send Congress a message. Ask for Operator 9184.
Choose a prepared mailgram. Only \$4.50 each, charged to your telephone.
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CALL NOW!



The Speed Out mailgram campaign is sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. For further info, contact the Field Division, HRCF, P.O. Box 1396, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 628-4160.

BARS CLUBS & LOUNGES

Omaha

The Chesterfield, 1951 St. Mary's Avenue
The Diamond, 712 South 16th Street 342-9595
The Max, 1417 Jackson 346-4110
The Run, 1715 Leavenworth 449-8703

Lincoln

The Boardwalk, 20th and O Streets 474-9741
The Club, 116 North 20th Street 474-5692
Panic, 200 South 18th Street 435-8764

Grand Island

Chains, 4th and Walnut 308/382-0236

WORLD AIDS DAY CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE IN FRONT OF WHITE HOUSE

Seventy-eight demonstrators, representing more than 50 AIDS service and advocacy organizations nationwide, were arrested in a civil disobedience in front of the White House on December 1, as part of an international recognition of World AIDS Day.

Demonstrators called for an effective presidential strategy on AIDS and demanded access to HIV treatments, funding for education and prevention programs, and the establishment of a national healthcare policy.

Less than one week after the demonstration, the congressionally mandated National AIDS Commission, in a report to Bush, said, "it is time to match rhetoric with action" and called the current health care system "singularly unresponsive" to fighting the epidemic.

Participants in the demonstration stopped traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue and gathered behind banners illustrating the drastic increase in AIDS cases nationwide. Service providers called for government help in meeting the needs of people living with AIDS while AIDS activists held a "die in" on the

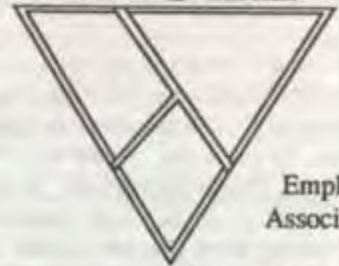
street.

Reggie Williams of Blank and White Men Together drew applause during the rally as he told the crowd, "Our government has perpetrated the cruelest hoax: tax dollars supporting AIDS research on drugs and treatments only the rich and privileged can afford."

Activists protested that research funding is not enough, social service needs are not being met, food and shelter are as essential as drug treatments for all people with HIV infection. In addition, the demonstration focused on the need for education and prevention programs targeted at communities of color and treatment programs designed for the public healthcare system and those it serves. Williams told the crowd we would no longer stand for a government policy that has, "calously calculated that some citizens are not worth a concerted and compassionate effort to defeat the HIV epidemic."

By World AIDS Day of 1990, AIDS cases across the country are expected to top 190,000, almost double 1989's total.

EAGLE



Employee Association for

Gays and Lesbians
a US West Resource Group

Sharon McCartney — 402/422-5131

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SUPPORT GROUPS

HIV TESTING

BUDDY SYSTEMS

AIDS HOTLINE

N A P

3624 Leavenworth
Omaha, NE 68105

AIDS Hotline

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

HIV Testing

7pm — 10pm Mondays and Thursdays

Classifieds

Wanting to meet country type, career established. I am very good looking, straight acting, 6'1", 170 lbs with dark hair and blues eyes, 38 years old. I also need a workout partner. Please no smokers, drug users, or feminists. Write with photos to Dan Wessling, RR 1 Box 34, Bayard, IA 50029.

P.A.C.T. Are you interested in meeting people from cultures other than yours? Do you enjoy learning ideas philosophies, and thoughts in an environment where you can feel at ease? P.A.C.T. (People of All Colors Together) is an informal gay group that meets twice a month to discuss issues, events and other topics concerning the welfare of people who come from various ethnic backgrounds. If you would like to join us, please do so. For more information, call 341-4078.

Reporters Needed--The New Voice is in need of reliable volunteer journalists to increase coverage of area events important to the Gay and Lesbian community. If you have basic journalistic skills and are available to cover one or two events a month, please contact Sharon Van Butsel, Editor, (556-9907) for an interview.

LOOKING AHEAD
 The New Voice is constantly Looking for new contributors. If you have something written on any topic, please submit it by the 10th of the month. We are especially looking for articles related to various feature topics in upcoming months:
 February - Worry's Issues
 March - Lesbian and Gay Youth
 April - Elections



Order your one year subscription today by mailing \$19.00 to:
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 P.O. Box 3512
 Omaha, Nebraska 68103

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The New Voice is mailed in a plain brown envelope.

THE PEOPLE CONNECTION

To answer an ad, put your reply in a stamped, blank envelope. Then place that envelope in a larger envelope and mail to:

New Voice People Connection
 Dept ____ (from specific ad)
 PO Box 3512
 Omaha, NE 68103

We will forward your letter on to the person who placed that ad. The rest is up to you.
 GWF looking for a friend in Lincoln. I'm a shy person so I don't get out much. Need a Buddy. Write to: People Connection, NVN Dept 1-A, PO BOX 3512, Omaha, NE 68103.

The New Voice of Nebraska is accepting applications for the vacant seat on our steering committee. If interested, contact any member of the steering committee or plan to attend the next meeting of the steering committee which is held at 4 pm the first Sunday of each month at MCC-Omaha, 420 South 24th. For more information call 556-9907.

GWM 27, 5'6", 140 lbs, brown, hazel, mustache. I am looking for friendship and maybe more. Write PO Box 5705, Lincoln, NE 68505.

Looking for that special someone? Want to make new friends? Place an ad in the New Voice People Connection. Completely confidential.

MONO TALKA LOTA

Well, they say this is the time to be with your family and friends during the holidays.

Well this is a very lonely holiday for a lot of us, including me this year. We have lost a lot of our friends, lovers, and family members. For me it has been a very dear and close friend. So I would like to share this with you:

Memories of A Friend

How did you know I needed so to talk to you, my friend?

How did you sense these awkward times I'm going through though I never said a single word to you?

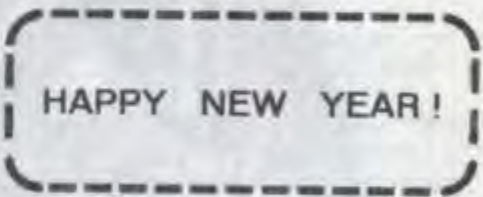
I shouldn't be surprised. Always you have been so in tune with me--seeing through transparent smiles to the tears inside.

I don't know exactly how you understand me quite so well, or even why I matter so to you.

I only know I'm grateful that I do.

So as I say goodbye to you today just remember we will always be eternity friends.

Happy Holidays
 Mona Talka Lota



THE NEW VOICE PEOPLE CONNECTION
 write your ad here: _____

Ad Cost & Frequency:
 Charge for 1 month \$8.00 _____
 Multiply by \$0.20 per word over 20 words _____
 Total for first month _____
 Multiply by number of months ad should run _____
 TOTAL price for Ad \$ _____

Please send check or money order, payable to The New Voice of Nebraska

Forwarding Info

NAME _____
 address _____
 city, state, zipcode _____
 phone _____

Signature (mandatory) _____

You must sign your ad request. Your signature attests that you are of legal age and that you are placing the ad yourself. It also attests that your request to meet others is at no expense to them.

Resource Directory

NEBRASKA STATEWIDE

Affirmation of Nebraska
 Box 80122, Lincoln, NE 68501
 402/556-7701 in Omaha
 United Methodists for Gay/Lesbian concerns. Meets monthly in Omaha and Lincoln

Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights
 Box 94882, Lincoln, NE 68509
 Advocacy/lobbies for Gay/Lesbian civil rights, educational presentations, newsletter, and cultural programs.

Imperial Court of Nebraska
 Box 3772, Omaha, NE 68102
 Social organization for advancement of gay society.

Presbyterians for Lesbian/Gay Concerns
 402/733-1360 Cleve

Midwest Transvestite-Transsexual Hotline
 206/329-TVTS (8887)

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

UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center
 UNL Campus, Lincoln, NE 68588 402/472-5644
 Nebraska Union, Rm 342 - Meetings (Mail Rm 222)
 Social activities, AIDS education, roommate referral, groups, library

Seventh Day Adventist Kinship, Inc.
 P O Box 31351, Omaha, NE 68131 402/558-1186
 Meetings, information, & support for Lesbians/Gays

Parents/Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
 Box 4374, Lincoln, NE 68504 402/435-4688
 meets 4th Tuesday
 Box 3173, Omaha, NE 68103
 402/331-5188 or 291-6781
 meets 2nd Tuesday

LINCOLN

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous
 call 402/466-5214 AA Central Office for location

The Wimmie's Show
 Noon-3pm every Sunday on KZUM radio at 89.3 FM stereo

UNL Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association
 mail: Room 222, Nebraska Union, UNL, 68588
 402/472-5644 Rodney Bell II

Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events (COLAGE)
 mail: c/o GLSA/GLRC, Rm 222, Nebraska Union, UNL,
 68588
 402/472-5644

Women's Assistance Emergency Fund
 Box 82852, Lincoln, NE 68501

Women's Journal-Advocate
 Box 82852, Lincoln, NE 68501

Lesbian Support Group
 Women's Res. Center, Rm 117, Nebraska Union
 University of Lincoln-Lincoln, Lincoln NE 68588
 402/472-2597
 Informal weekly discussion group for lesbians

Lincoln Legion of Lesbians
 Box 30317, Lincoln, NE 68503
 Lesbian-feminist collective, newsletter, support, confidential referral, cultural and social programs.

New Directions Center
 402/476-2802
 Short term counseling, support groups, classes, workshops dealing with coming out, parenting and relationships. Sliding scale fee.

Open Door Ministry
 402/474-3390
 Orthodox spiritual counseling to all in need.
 No charge.

OMAHA

DIGNITY / Omaha
 402/895-2856 or 402/341-1460
 Mass 7pm 2nd Sunday monthly; St John's (lower level) on Creighton University Campus
 Roman Catholic lesbians / gays & friends.

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous
 402/345-9913 Weekly meeting on Friday at 8:15pm
 Alcohol and AIDS issues group 7pm Thursdays, call Steve at 346-1556 or NAP 342-4233

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha (MCC)
 mailing address: P O Box 3173, Omaha, NE 68103
 service at 420 South 24th Street, Omaha, NE 68103
 Sunday worship at 10:20am and 7pm; 402/345-2563

Metropolitan Club
 Box 3124, Omaha, NE 68103 402/449-9377
 Networking organization of business / professionals

River City Bowling League
 402/345-5118 Scott OR 402/493-6118 Charlie

Two Wheelers of Omaha (TWO) Motorcycle Club
 PO Box 3216, Omaha, NE 68103

River City Mixed Chorus
 Box 315, Omaha, NE 68101 402/341-0763
 Volunteer chorus for Gay/Lesbian/sensitive people

UNO Student Group
 Box 134, UNO, Omaha, NE 68182-0320
 Heidi at 402/391-0694 / Wes or Rick at 402/558-1186
 Lesbian and Gay student social/support group

Spouses & Ex-Spouses of Lesbians & Gays (SOLAG)
 12111 Pacific Street, Omaha 330-1144 for info
 A support group that meets the first and third Tuesday

Gay/Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics
 402/346-0561
 Support group for adults raised in alcoholic or dysfunctional homes

FACT (People of All Colors Together)
 402/341-4078
 A social / support group

EAGLE - Omaha
 c/o Sharon McCartney, 1314 Douglas on the Mall, 8th Floor,
 Omaha, NE 68102

AIDS RESOURCES

Information and Referral
Nebraska AIDS Project
 3624 Leavenworth Street, Omaha, NE 68131
 402/342-4233 or 800/782-AIDS (2437) (statewide)
 AIDS Hotline, HIV Testing, Support Groups, Practical Support, AIDS Awareness programs and literature.

Veteran's Administration Medical Center
 42nd & Woolworth, Omaha, NE 68105
 402/546-8800 - Dean Pierce (ext 4119)

Viral Syndrome Clinic
 University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE
 402/559-6202 Dr. Jonathan Goldsmith

Lincoln Cancer Center
 64600 Valley Road, Lincoln, NE 68510
 402/483-1872 Barb Morton

American Red Cross
 1701 "E" Street, Lincoln, NE 68501
 402/471-7997
 3838 Dewey Avenue, Omaha, NE 68131
 402/341-2723 Confidential Testing

Confidential Testing
Nebraska Aids Project
 3624 Leavenworth Street, Omaha, NE 68131
 402/342-4233 or 800/782-AIDS (2437) (statewide)
 Alternate test site; anonymous testing Monday and Thursday 7pm to 10pm

Douglas County Health Department
 4th Floor Civic Center, Omaha, NE 68102
 402/444-7214

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department
 2200 St. Marys Avenue, Lincoln, NE
 402/471-8065
 Counseling and Support

Counseling and Support
Parents/Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Aids Support Group
 call 402/435-4688 for meeting locations in Lincoln
 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 7 pm

Brother William Woeger
 c/o Omaha Archdiocese
 100 North 62nd, Omaha, NE 68123

Open Door Ministry-Lincoln
 402/474-3390 Fr. David

AIDS Interfaith Network
 1104 North 36th, Omaha, NE 68131

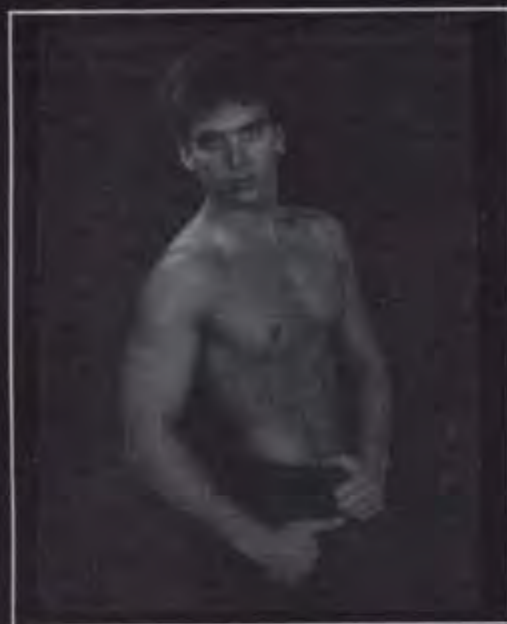
Legal
Nebraska Civil Liberties Union
 633 South 9th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
 402/476-8091 John Taylor
 402/346-5025 - Omaha

Mowbray, Chapin & Walke, P.C.
 201 North 8th Street, Suite 242, Lincoln, NE 68508
 402/476-3882 Jim

U.S. MALE

DENVER'S HOTTEST GAY MALE REVIEW

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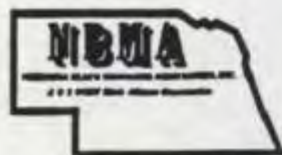


"We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promise of Democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all God's children."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Commemorating a man for all people
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
January 16, 1989

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