

The
New Voice



The BKG Lip Sync
Contest

Our Turn

Comments and Opinions from The New Voice staff

Even though the first lip-sync contest was canceled due to lack of contestants. The New Voice is going full steam ahead. The New Voice needs to raise money if we are going to continue serving the community. Give us your support by being a contestant or by attending one of the shows.
Cover- Designed by Lincoln artist Dave Michael. He contributed the artwork for the lip sync contest.

How to Hurt the Gay Community

I have a dream. A dream that involves the different factions of the gay/lesbian community working for common goals and all of us striving to build a better world. However, I see my dream being shattered and undermined by uncaring and insensitive people who are only looking for their own gains and could care less about others.

As The New Voice enters its third year next month our goals and purpose remain the same. As a voice of the community we respect all businesses, organizations, and individuals. However there is constant bickering and back-stabbing among the different factions. It is easy to be critical. It is more difficult to be actively involved and serve others in a positive manner.

- Lesson A- HOW TO DESTROY AND FRAGMENT THE GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY.
1. Create rumors about individuals, organizations, and businesses to make them look bad. Believing the rumors can be even worse. (The New Voice has been accused of being both pro-pornography and anti-pornography)
 2. Give little or no financial backing to organizations. Organizations are the life-blood of the community and their existence is based on our support.
 3. Businesses who use the gay community to make a profit. Recently a bar owner told me the only reason he schedules fund-raisers is to make a profit. He showed only a superficial interest in helping the community.
 4. Creating feuds and factions. I have seen two major events planned on the same evening. Some performers have told me that they are unable to entertain at certain clubs.
 5. Starting one new organization to hurt another organization.
 6. Trying to sabotage the efforts of a group or organization.

Lets improve our community through communication and striving to work together. You will find the results to be more fulfilling.

--Larry Wiseblood

Approaching Our Third Year

The New Voice has completed its 2nd year. As we begin our third year of operation I would like to thank all the volunteers, supporters, businesspeople, and others who have helped us grow and serve the needs of the gay/lesbian community. We have had our ups and downs but I would say overall we have done pretty good. I am pleased to announce that The New Voice has become stable once again financially and we should be able to continue our goal of producing a creative magazine for the state of Nebraska. Help us continue our winning ways by contributing articles, letters, attending our fund-raisers, advertising, and purchasing a subscription. Our survival is dependent on you.

Recently our staff has seen some new faces. This has given us new energy and new spirit. Gary Carey and myself are the only original members left on the staff. We have had more Omaha interest as well as increasingly more support from the lesbian community. In fact at the present time there are more lesbians on the steering committee than gay men. This is quite a change when you consider that Anita was the only lesbian on our staff in the early goings. It is nice to see men and women working together to produce a publication.

The New Voice does have some positions open on the staff that need to be filled. An Associate Editor is needed to run the Omaha operation. This is a very impor-

tant position and we need an individual who has time, energy, enthusiasm, and supervisory experience. The New Voice also needs people to help with distribution, advertising, photography, reporting events, lay-out & design, and writers.
--Larry Wiseblood

Another Burn-out

At the January meeting of the steering committee of The New Voice of Nebraska, I, Jerry Peck, tendered my resignation from the steering committee and from the position of Omaha salesperson. This means that I will no longer be attending the monthly meetings in Lincoln, nor will I be collecting ads from the Omaha businesses which advertise in the magazine.

I will continue to submit articles for editorial consideration (which anyone can do), solicit new advertisers, be a contact person via phone in Omaha, and receive the magazine's mail at the Omaha post office box.

Some people have asked why I have resigned. I wish it were for some noble reason--but basically, the reason is that I am selfish. Working a graveyard shift, with Wednesday and Thursday evenings off, I find that I have little "prime time" for my pursuit of happiness. Should my work situation change, I may

Continued on page 2...

FEBRUARY 1986

THE NEW VOICE STAFF

EDITOR--Larry Wiseblood

ASSOC. EDITORS--

Anita Freeman-Soltisik

Jerry Peck

Sandy

RECORDER--Heidi

COPY EDITOR--Gary Carey

PHOTOGRAPHERS--Sandy

Chamla Brown Schreiber

ART & DESIGN--Vic Jedlicka

The P.A.G.E.--Greg Bourne

OTHER STAFF-- Dan

Dave Michael.

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THE NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA

P.O. Box 80819 P.O. Box 3512
LINCOLN, NE OMAHA, NE
68501 68103

seek more involvement with the magazine again. I am still a strong supporter of The New Voice, and I have enjoyed my association with all of the people on the staff. I have learned much--even to like wimmin.

More than being a case of burn-out, however, it is more a matter of a change in my priorities. Because I am as I am, I have continued to experience frustration from the gay/lesbian community due to its lack of respect for deadlines, the tendency to procrastinate in planning activities, and the prevailing tendency to bicker over what I consider to be irrelevant issues and person-

ality conflicts. These frustrations have been mine whenever I have worked with "volunteer" workers. My greatest "burn-out" is due to my inability to fulfill my responsibilities to The New Voice, as I see them. Granted, often I would like to run off to a mountain retreat screaming, BURN-OUT, no one wants to run off with me, and my concern for the magazine and the gay community will not allow it--so you're stuck with me--just in a less "official" nature.

--Jerry Peck

EVENTS

Spirituality and Homosexual Persons --A Dialog Conference

A precedence-setting conference exploring being gay/lesbian and being Christian will be held in Lincoln, February 28-March 1 at the Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street. Keynote speaker is retired United Methodist Bishop Melvin Wheatley who sparked controversy in 1981 when he appointed an openly gay minister to a Denver church. Since that time, Bishop Wheatley has been a vocal supporter of gay and lesbian Christians. Other leadership includes three persons from National Affirmation: United Methodists for Gay and Lesbian Concerns.

The Conference is entitled "Spirituality and Homosexual Persons: A Dialog Conference." Six workshops are planned: Reconciling Congregations, Biblical/Theological Understandings, Counseling Issues, The Church and AIDS, Family Issues, and the Church and Homophobia.

The Conference is planned to help participants explore spiritual dimensions of homosexual experience. It is aimed at gay, lesbian, and bisexual Christians, other church members and leadership (clergy and lay) and other spiritual searchers and seekers. Cost is \$20.00 (\$10.00 for students).

The Conference has been planned cooperatively by a 3-denomination Joint Strategy and Action Team (JSAT) on Ministry with Homosexual Persons and Their Ministries or Neoraska. The three denominations are The United Methodist Church, The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska, and the United Church of Christ. Also part of the planning has been Community of Grace, an Interdenominational Worshipping Community of Lesbians, Gays, and Others Identified With Us.

Other Co-Sponsors include the Nebraska Conference Board of Church and Society, and the United Church of Christ Nebraska Conference Shalom on Earth Committee, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries of Omaha, Ministry in Human Sexuality, and Affirmation:

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*Kelly's
Fritz Capone
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For more information, write
or call Interchurch Ministries
of Nebraska (402-476-3391) or
The Rev. Ben Roe, a pastoral
counselor, educator, and
Executive Director of Ministry
in Human Sexuality (402-476-
9913).

The Big Lip Sync Contest is Underway

The Big Lip Sync Contest has a
great deal of planning and
publicity behind it. However
one important ingredient is
missing- contestants. The New
Voice has made some changes to
allow more people to participate.
Anyone over 21 years of age may
enter the contest. Cash prizes of
\$100, \$50, and \$25 will be awarded
to the first three finalists at the
last show held at The Max on March
23. Preliminaries will be held at
Stars Restaurant & Lounge on Sunday,
February 23, Cherchez la femme on
Sunday, March 2, and Kelly's on
Sunday, March 9. Deadline for ap-
plication is the Monday before each
show. The top five performers in
each of the preliminaries will
advance to the finals held at the
Max on March 23. All the shows
will begin at 9p.m.

Contestants can enter only one
competition either in Omaha or
Lincoln. Persons may enter as
an individual and may also enter
in a group category.

Each performance is limited to a
maximum of 5 minutes. Props may
be used but must be approved by
the Lip Sync Committee and the
bar/restaurant where the compe-
tition is held.

An entry fee of \$5.00 must accom-
pany each application. All appli-
cations must be sent to The New
Voice, P.O. Box 80819, Lincoln
68501. Applications must be
received no later than one
week before each show.

Previous title holders as well as
semi-professionals may enter the
contest. An application form is
located inside this issue of The
New Voice or forms can be picked
up Kelly's and Cherchez la femme
in Lincoln or Stars Restaurant
and The Max in Omaha. Questions
concerning the contest can be
directed to The New Voice staff.

Call 475-7740 in Lincoln or 345-
2181 in Omaha or write P.O. Box
80819, Lincoln 68501.

--Larry Wiseblood

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Chorus to Sponsor Quiche-Off

If you associate Valentine's Day with love and quiches, Omaha's River City Mixed Chorus has come up with an occasion not to be missed!

You've heard of Hershey's Quiches, French Quiches, and Deep (Dish) Quiches. This event is a Quiche-Off!

The quiche-making contest and dinner is Saturday, February 8, at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street, Omaha. Dinner will be served from 5 pm to 8 pm, with admission of \$4.00 in advance or \$5.00 at the door to enjoy

dinner of quiche, salads, and choice of beverage. At 5:30 pm, celebrity judges will select the best quiche of the entries, with a First Prize of \$25.

So come on by for quiches sweeter than wine.

It's all sealed with a quiche from the River City Mixed Chorus.

Lincoln Show Notes

One of Lincoln's show bars, "Kelly's," has been sizzling on Thursday nights, and if you've missed it, you've missed something special.

The first show of the new year, January 2nd, brought to town one

of the hottest female illusionists, Mr. Rusty Franklin. Rusty held the title of "Miss Gay Kansas" for two consecutive years and was once a runner-up to "Miss Gay America." Also included in the show were LaTasha DeVor, Dixie LaRue, Sheza Mann, and Omaha visitors Dorian Drake and Jessica Tyler, who emceed the evening. The crowd loved Rusty's mix from country to pop to ballads and look forward to his future return.

Hay bales, saddles, and pitch forks helped to change the atmosphere of "Kelly's" on January 9th for a great little "Hee Haw" country show. The star of the show, Sunni Rae, shared the stage with Marsha Blake, Dixie LaRue, and Sheza Mann. The bar became "Just a Little Piss-Ant Country Place" as Sunni opened the show and continued her wonderful impersonation of Dolly Parton.

The Star City Cabaret Review '86 is a delightful combination of old, new, and slightly used music, comedy, and seriousness, pretty and ugly, as well as a lot of fun. Sheza Mann has brought together LaTasha DeVor, Dixie LaRue, Sunni Lynn, and Sunni Rae for one of the best road shows to ever leave Lincoln. The magic that this show is made of was first seen at "Kelly's" on Jan. 15th and then hit the road for Wichita, where they performed on January 18th. The cast also looks forward to bookings in Kansas City, Omaha, and Topeka.

If you haven't taken in a show lately, maybe it's time. Things are changing, and you may have a surprise in store for you!!

--MKB

Winter Carnival Held at Stars

A "Winter Carnival" was held at The Stars Restaurant in Omaha on January 12 to help raise funds for the Imperial Court of Nebraska's Coronation-1986. There was an abundance of wonderful chili, cold cuts, and relish. Time was spent playing Blackjack, Scrabble, and gathering around the piano in the Gold Crown room.

A Queen of Comedy was crowned following a competition emceed by "Miss Love"/Empress III, Tody. Judging was done by Dee, Arthur, and Tom. Stella Dallas in scrub woman's attire hung out the laundry of royalty to "All the Time." Muffy donned her fluffy slippers, glasses, and robe, and used

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a box of tissues to sing "A Person can Develop a Cold." Miss Lanna in a pink nightgown and mustache bounced through "The House of the Rising Sun." Miss Victoria Towne performed (?) in a black Spanish gown with fan to a falling-down version of "The Lady from Seville." The crown-winning performance came from Vanessa as Phyllis in "I Enjoy Being a Girl."

The evening of fun was presented by Jessica Tyler, and those attending all had a laugh or two--or more.

--Jerry Peck

Master Harold and the Boys Presented at Circle Theater

On March 3rd, The Circle Theater, which has made a significant name for itself in Omaha with its "Diner Theater" at Joe and Judy's Cafe in Benson, will present **MASTER HAROLD AND THE BOYS** by Athol Fugard.

Basically, the play is biographical. The author reflects upon his youth in South Africa as a white boy and his friendship with a black boy in his house. It teaches him about a life which he could not see, and he, in turn, shares with his friend ideas that he would not be exposed to because of his race. Fugard broke the rules by befriending his black friend and was himself changed by being humane and separate from other groups.

Philosophically, the play will be presented by members of THE METROPOLITAN CLUB, who will be able to identify with the unique problems faced by these characters.

The cost of the performance will be \$7.00, payable with your reservation. Members of THE METROPOLITAN CLUB and their guests are eligible to attend.

The New Voice staff wishes Kelly Erisman a speedy recovery. Kelly was hurt in an automobile accident in Kansas City, Missouri. The New Voice also thanks Kelly and other members of her staff at Kelly's for helping with our Chili Feed fund-raiser.

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Gay Pride Week in Omaha

On Thursday, January 9, 1986, representatives from MCC Omaha, Dignity, The River City Chorus, The Page, The New Voice of Nebraska, The Emerald Court, The Stagedoor, The Diamond, The Run, and The Chesterfield bars gathered at The Chesterfield Bar for the monthly meeting of the Gay/Lesbian Organizations and Bars of Omaha.

Constructive criticism was offered in regard to The Page, and several upcoming events were listed for publication. We were reminded that at present, The Page is basically a one-man operation, and everyone present was encouraged to list activities when dates are set--rather than waiting for the deadline.

Discussion centered primarily around plans for Gay Pride Week 1986 and a Gay Pride Parade for Omaha. Those present were in agreement that

Omaha's celebration of Gay Pride Week should be the week of June 15th through 22nd.

Tentative plans include a Gay Arts Fair sponsored by the River City Chorus giving opportunity for members of the Gay/Lesbian community to offer their arts and crafts for sale or display, and a concert would be included by The River City Chorus, and a presentation of two one-act plays on the final weekend of the celebration.

On Sunday, June 29, the celebration will be climaxed by a Gay Pride Parade, which will lead to a candlelight worship service conducted by the religious leaders of our community. Other items being considered include a community-wide pot-luck picnic, a sports tournament, a recognition of an outstanding worker from within the gay/lesbian community of Omaha, a contest prior to celebration to find a logo for the celebration and selling of pins and T-shirts bearing that logo during the week-long celebration, as well as having special events as the various

bars in Omaha.

There is a lot of work to be done yet, and willing workers are indeed welcome to attend our meetings, which are held the first Thursday of each month at rotating locations throughout the city. A well-planned celebration will mean an enjoyable time for everyone from our community. If you have ideas, don't keep them secret until after the celebration and then ask why we didn't have this or that. Gay Unity goes hand-in-hand with Gay Pride.

--Jerry Peck

Love and Relationships

Feelings of Love and Devotion

After having marvelled at many spectacular sunsets, been awed by the majesty of the Rocky Mountains, seen the many blue-green hues of the Caribbean Sea; having been spellbound by the morning sun breaking through the fog in a Pacific Northwest pine forest, I am convinced that nothing would be more devastating than losing my sight and no longer having the ability to behold these wondrous sights again.

Doug and I have known each other for eighteen years, and have been lovers for the last seven. We have been to many places around the North American continent together, including a gay Windjammer cruise. We have seen the many breathtaking views that this glorious land has to offer.

Four years ago, Doug's eyesight began to annoy him. Looking at a ledger sheet, the printing would disappear, leaving a greyish, blank sheet of paper in front of him. After shaking his head, the writing would reappear. An appointment with an ophthalmologist showed that he had retinopathy, a condition caused by the hemorrhaging of the blood vessels in the retina, a condition that leads to blindness.

A procedure called laser surgery was begun to arrest the condition, but there were no guarantees that it would be successful. Over a period of a year, he had eleven such

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This is my commandment, that you love one another."

— John 15:12

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operations, but his eyesight was slowly diminishing, nevertheless.

Small tasks were becoming large problems. The use of a screwdriver was a chore; he couldn't see the slot in the screw without a magnifying glass. Eventually, Doug was forced to resign from work and go on disability. For a long time, he was very satisfied with his new status as a "retired" person.

After several months, Doug registered with a service for the blind, and although reluctant to join in their programs at first, he finally started. The training began at home, with a trainer coming to the house twice a week, and after two months, he was told that he should move to Lincoln to continue his training. This meant we would be separated for about nine months, except weekends, and the painful decision for him to go was weighed very carefully.

There were many doubts flowing through my mind. Most important, would I lose him if he went away for that long? (The male of our species tends to be terribly promiscuous at times.) How could I get accustomed to living alone for that long, and when he returned what changes would have to be made in our lifestyles? It was all so uncertain and frightening. Similar thoughts were running through Doug's mind also.

The decision was finally made, and preparations were at hand to get him situated in his new home in Lincoln. Emotions were extremely high, and both of us were tense. On moving day there was a lot of crying between us. The first week was the most difficult; I felt I should have taken off from work, but I numbly carried on instead.

Evenings were the loneliest, especially at bedtime. This was the period of our day which had always been the most fulfilling. The loving touches, along with our final thoughts of the day, always reminded us of our love and devotion to each other before drifting off into a peaceful sleep filled with content.

Several months have passed since, and instead of the dreaded anticipation of separation, our love has rejuvenated itself and has become stronger than ever before. In his absence, I realized that I needed him more than I previously thought. His strength and wisdom have kept my life on a steady course ever since we met. Before he came into my life, I was never ready to settle down to one job, one man, or one apartment for very long. Flitting off to another adventure somewhere in Never-Never Land seemed to be more exciting to me... The so-many-men-so-little-time syndrome that we all know about.

Maturing with another person through the good times and the bad really does have something to say for itself. I never knew two people could feel as one until I met Doug and experienced life with him through the peaks and the valleys. Yes, there were times that we nearly threw in the towel, but it was his actions that kept us together.

At the Center, Doug learned total self-confidence along with the ability to fend for himself in any situation. Because of his absence, we have learned to love each other in more different ways than we have known in the past. We "feel" our love radiating over the 63 miles that separate us.

When two men, both born of Fire Signs, join together it is a deep and emotional experience. Our love is constantly tested. This experience has been the strongest test of our love and devotion since our joining, and we have endured the tempest. Now that Doug is coming home for good, we can put our lives back together and enjoy each other as if we were new lovers, putting the inexperience of courtship behind us, picking up where we left off, and building an even stronger relationship than we had before.

---Garry

Lust and Cohabitation

An old son proclaims: "Love and Marriage . . . they go together like a horse and carriage. You can't have one without the other." An idealistic concept, isn't it?

Having been a pastor for several years in Ohio, I was licensed by that state to perform marriage ceremonies. The first wedding that I presided over was a beautiful, formal affair, and everything went smoothly. Ninety days later, their divorce was final.

It was at this point that I began requiring 8-10 hours of pre-marital counseling for all couples. One couple came to me wanting a "church" ceremony. The bride-to-be evidenced pre-marital sex. We talked until midnight on Friday night, had a very private candlelight service on Saturday night, and she bore a son on Sunday afternoon. Only once did I refuse to officiate

Continued on page 9...

Love



VJ



Where were you last night
 when I needed you more than any-
 one or anything?
 Where were you when I reached
 out --when I grabbed a pillow
 instead of you?
 Where were you when I had my
 doubts,
 and wanted to tell the only
 person I ever tell . . .
 You were "here and there"--doing
 "this and that"
 (which is just the way it ought
 to be)
 but
 did you need me last night . . .
 . . . need to tell me about
 doubts and dreams?
 Who did you talk to about some-
 thing which
 excited you at work or at lunch
 or . . .
 whom did you get to throw your
 arms around
 in a simple expression of
 "I love you"?
 Anyone? No one?
 Where were you last night, what
 were you thinking, and
 why aren't you here tonight?

--Dave



FOR CLAYTON

The theme of "What it takes"
 in this short scene
 from a light novel
 is intertwined with
 "who we are."
 The weight becomes heavier,
 Lighter, then heavier,
 then lighter again.
 These are your novels.
 "What it is" and
 "how it could be,"
 coupled with "who we are."
 Our lives? Not just a plot?
 What are the dreams, the
 freedoms,
 you hide behind each chapter,
 submerge in the dialogues,
 disguise in the characters?
 Perhaps only you
 can read them better than I.
 I want them.
 For you.
 For me.
 And for us.

--Ernest Glenn



when you were gone
 I wanted a shower,
 but the ancient tub
 only laughed at me
 refusing comforting spray.
 so I ate a piece
 of raisin toast
 and sat curled
 around my pillow
 with my dreams.

*lizzie



Visual images
 project throughout
 my mind
 Clinging hulks
 touch once
 and again
 Heated flesh
 joins lips
 to form one
 Radiant passion,
 surges in
 the burning flame
 Curvaceous hills
 rub into one
 another
 Poles of flesh
 make their entrance
 into darkness
 Images flash
 on and off
 in the paradox of my mind.

--Randall Barron



Labels

Labels...
 The path to boxes
 Used to put people in their
 place,
 To deny...
 The depth,
 The beauty,
 The uniqueness,
 That is a person.

In dealing with one aspect,
 So much is missed,
 Never seen,
 Or suspected,
 And we all suffer for it.

I refuse...
 I will not be labelled.
 I revel in all that is me
 So come,
 Experience the vast,
 Uncharted Territory,
 That can be...
 In a land without...

Labels.



NATURE

As a fond lover, when the day
 is o'er,
 Leads me by the hand to bed;
 Half willing and half reluctant
 to be led,
 We leave our clothes, scattering
 the floor.

Being wholly reassured and
 comforted,
 By promises and smooth state-
 ments;
 So Nature deals with us, and
 takes away,
 All of the reluctant feelings
 of before.

Then leads us to rest, so
 gently as we go,
 Scarcely wanting to sleep, but
 must;
 You're resting your head upon
 my chest,
 We fall asleep, so complete and
 naturally so!

--Butch Addleman

A Dedication (To Mark)

In your eyes
 I see
 An older America
 Peopled
 With bare breasted
 Young warriors
 Riding bare backed
 Stallions
 Across painted prairies and
 Through ancient forests
 Filled to overflowing with
 Trees and fresh streams.

In your eyes
 I see
 Young braves racing
 The wind,
 Thick black locks, a myriad
 Of motion, dancing in the wind.
 Young bodies, tendons rippling
 Man and beast
 Moving as one
 Across the plains
 Following the buffalo.

In my eyes
 Can you see
 Another great nation
 From across the oceans,
 A parallel civilization
 From whence I came?
 Can we come together, the sons
 Of two great empires
 Tho of the past
 Are not forgotten
 To share our dreams, and maybe
 Our love.

--Jody



I.D.I



A lot can happen in 8 months

Yesterday
I found the towel,
lying in a disheveled heap
in the corner of my room where
you
so carelessly tossed it.

Our relationship was good...
We could talk, laugh, or cry
together;
I shared things with
you
I could share with no other man.

What went wrong? Even the sex
was good...

I'll always remember
(with faded nostalgia)
those days and our times together.
you
saying "I'm drenched! Got a towel!"
and falling, falling in a moist
heap of laughter and love.

That part of me which is
Philosopher
realizes
the mind soaks up memories
like a towel water
--"You'll never be able to use
this towel again!"
you joked.

You were right.

D.

over the exchange of marital
vows. That was a case in which
the couple failed the sex
knowledge test.

Gays don't have legal marital
services--only an exchange of
vows, whether in a worship
service or in private. The

sense of seriousness seems to
be lacking as I am introduced
to new spouses after a couple
of nights of sexual bliss.
It seems that in the visible
gay community the song would
deal with "Lust and Cohabitat-
ion." Having common sexual
preference is not the sole
reason for going into a
relationship. Cultural back-
grounds, religious beliefs,
political views, social
concerns, and many other
issues need to be reviewed and
considered before becoming a
life-mate with another person.
Within the heterosexual world,
the divorce rate is alarming.
Within the visible gay
community, the "break-up"
rate is saddening.

Relationships may seem to be
made in heaven, but the develop-
ment and maintenance are earthly
duties. Most, if not all of
us, want a relationship, but
we must be willing to give
90% and expect 10% in return.
If both parties do this, we
might come up with a 50/50
relationship.

Keep loving and building a
firm relationship. It's
worth it.

--Jerry Peck

Relationships

Another year gone, and it's
Valentine's Day again. Since
last year at this time, I had
been married for a whole two
months! I thought I would share
with you what I've learned
about married life.

Being one who really didn't

believe in marriage, it sure
shocked me when I heard the
proposal pop out of my mouth.
Maybe I shouldn't say "popped
out," dropped out is more
like it. I did a lot of soul
searching for that moment. But
my baby said Yes, and here I
am writing about some trials
and tribulations that come with
a beautiful relationship. A
relationship takes a lot of
hard work. It's not like the
first three or four months
when you can't stop looking at
your wedding ring. It's finding
little secrets about your spouse
which she kept hidden during
the honeymoon stage, and the
little peculiarities that will
drive you up the wall if you let
them.

I guess that is what makes me
feel so special and good. I
didn't let the little things
get to me. I'm not perfect,
and I can't expect Heidi to be
either. It takes bunches of
love, respect, understanding,
and open communication to make
it work. And by the sheer
willpower of keeping your trap
shut when something nasty really
wants to come out. I think I
may be luckier than most women.

I happened to fall deeply in
love with a woman who has the
patience of a saint, a civil
tongue, and an even temper.
Impossible? Yes! But that's
what makes each relationship
unique and so worth going
through the bad times for.
It's the special warm glow you
get when you think of someone
you love, respect, and deeply
admire. (Yes, and even the
extra 20 pounds of happy fat
you gain is worth it.) So, if

Continued on page 10...

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you're alone, or wondering if things are going to turn okay, don't try so hard and relax. When it's right, you'll know it.

--Chamla

Gay Couples— Dealing with Conflict

"You did too do it!" "I did not, and I don't want to hear anymore about it!" "Remember the last time you told me that, and then it turned out that you did do it?" "No, but you are always saying things like that and I hate it!" "You hate it, do you? Well, so what? I think you are not very assertive and should loose some weight. You never carry through on any project!" "I'm leaving. This relationship is going nowhere!!" "You always leave instead of facing problems!!"

Conflict! How does it start and how does it end? No two people can live together for very long without some kind of conflict. Each of us has our own style of conflict. Some folks are very verbal and would rather sound like the couple above. Other couples are quiet and rather passive-aggressive with their anger. It doesn't really matter what your style is, as long as it is effective and the problem between you and your partner gets resolved.

We generally get into conflict because we don't like something that our partner is doing. He or she is bugging us. There are many things that we overlook in our relationships, but there are some things that we just can't overlook. When we talk about arguing, the issue does not really matter because we generally use the same style of conflict resolution whether we are talking about the garbage, or monogomy.

I would like to suggest four simple rules to follow to help in bringing a conflict to resolution:

(1) Before approaching your partner, think about why you are angry. Try to tell your partner as clearly and simply as possible what you are irritated about and let him or her know that you want to discuss it.

(2) Set a time limit to discuss the problem. A half hour to an hour is reasonable. Discussions that last more than an hour usually degenerate and end with

Continued on page 12...



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a blow-up. Name-calling can release anger, but is not very useful in solving problems. If you are not finished before the time limit, stop the discussion and decide if you want to continue for another fifteen or thirty minutes. I would recommend that you stop the discussion and come back to it at a different time, perhaps the next day.

(3) Once into the discussion, stay in the here-and-now and **DO NOT** bring up old garbage. (The time limit will help with this.) Once folks have been discussing for a half-hour or so they tend to get tired and forget the point of the discussion.

(4) If you are unable to resolve an issue even after several attempts, you may want to ask a third party to help you. A third party needs to be agreed upon by both partners, however.

There are some conflicts that are really unresolvable. Couples in this situation either decide to live with the situation by agreeing to disagree; or decide not to live together anymore.

I tried to keep the above rules as simple as possible. If you plan to use them to change your current style of conflict resolution, try writing them down and putting them in the place where you usually have your arguments. Changing old habits is difficult and will take some time. So, if you get discouraged, remember that this formula does work. I have used it successfully both with clients, and in my own life. Keep trying, and get some help if you need it. Remember, some issues are not resolvable.

Happy coupling until next time.

--Mike Fitzpatrick

Dealing with Stress in a Relationship

In last year's February issue, I wrote down a few ideas for adding a little romance to a relationship. This year I want to look at stress -- stress not directly related to a relationship but certainly affecting it.

We all have stress factors in our lives: financial, social, personal. We each deal with stress in our own way. But when you're in a relationship, you have to consider how your stress affects your companion and the relationship you share. Ways of dealing with stress when you are "single" may not be useful when you're in a relationship.

Here are some suggestions:

Be sure to communicate. Tell your companion what is causing stress for you. If there are problems at work, for example, share this and your feelings about it. Stress that is kept inside will come out in other ways and in the long-run may prove destructive to a relationship.

Don't be afraid to share. Remember, your companion loves you and cares about you... she/he also knows you and will probably sense when something is bothering you. Don't shut him/her out. Sharing feelings of stress won't destroy a relationship, but keeping them bottled-up can. Allowing your companion to be there for you can be a tremendous experience in love and trust for both of you.

Work together to cope. Usually a companion can lend gentle insight to a stressful situation, not to mention support and encouragement. Because stress affects both people in a relationship, your companion needs to cope with the situation also. Make her/him a part of the process if possible. However, if you need an objective approach as well...

Don't hesitate to get counseling. Sometimes a stressful situation can become more than a person can deal with on his/her own. You can probably tell if the situation merits professional help. Rather than try to handle it on your own, get counseling (even on a temporary basis). If you are comfortable with the idea, you might want your companion to join you. In high stress situations, counseling can make the difference between a momentary, manageable life crisis and tragedy.

In any case, don't let pride or fear keep you from dealing with stress effectively. Don't let it destroy your relationships-- life is too short and love too precious.

afs

Love / Hospitality

As a part of my Christian training includes a bent to hospitality, my home has often been the site of wandering strangers. It was not surprising then that when I received a call on Friday, the 3rd of January, seeking housing for a troupe of 5 "female impersonators" who were allegedly stranded in Omaha, that I said Yes. I was told that the local bar was supposed to have provided housing and didn't.

I live in a one-bedroom apartment with a couch and a single bed on the sun porch. Since I work nights, they wouldn't put me out, and they were to have housing provided by another bar in a couple of days.

It was learned later that no arrangements had been made with either bar for housing. The group split with many harsh words and some acts of vengeance. Three of the group moved out on Friday the 10th, and the other two left on Wednesday, the 15th.

Tripping over makeup kits, gowns, and shoes was not the worst part of this encounter. I had been lied to. While with me, no one asked, but helped themselves to what food was in my home, a can of shaving cream was used, a chenille bedspread was soaked and stashed on top of magazines to absorb the ink, and a wool comforter was folded wet to mould, and so far, over \$15 in long distance phone calls have been recorded.

Yes, I have been ripped off beyond the cigarettes which I willingly gave, and rides, etc. It is not the first time and will not be the last. Thank goodness, I have had many good experiences through hospitality. The people that "took advantage" of me did not do so because they were female impersonators, drag queens, or gay. These men have no respect for me or my property--or possibly for themselves.

Yes, I do love my neighbor, and some bad apples will not spoil my ability to love. Not all love is returned or even accepted graciously, but I must continue to love and be hospitable.

--Jerry Peck

ORGANIZATIONS

Lambda, Inc. Announces Formation of Community Center

Lambda, Inc., a for-profit real estate and leasing corporation, which was an outgrowth of the "third culture" announces the purchase of property which will be leased by the "third culture" as a resource center. For the first time, Lincoln will have a gay/lesbian organization-owned property that will be available for use by gays and lesbians.

Already seven nights a month have been scheduled for meetings, and plans are being made

Continued on page 13...

For an Open House to be held on Valentine's Day. The property is located at 2845 "R" St. For additional information about this new addition to the gay/lesbian community, call 474-1205.

P-Flag Nows has Omaha Chapter

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Cornhusker now has an Omaha chapter which meets on the first Tuesday of every month. Lincoln chapter members are committed to having at least two or three people in attendance every month in Omaha to give the fledgling group support in program and organization. Eventually the Omaha group will be independent.

For those who are not sure what PFLAG is all about, we are a support group for the parents and friends of gay and lesbian people, and for gay and lesbian people. Its membership is open to anyone who supports its purposes and pays nominal dues. We send out a monthly newsletter and own a small library of books which are available to be checked out at the meetings. We are non-profit and are not affiliated with any ethnic, religious, economic, or political group.

The goals of PFLAG Cornhusker are:

To form a support group for our friends, our children, and ourselves.

To provide an opportunity to talk openly about our feelings and experiences.

To share and learn what homosexuality is (and also what it is not).

To develop some ways to help our communities become aware of their homophobia and devise ways to overcome it.

Lincoln-Jan. 28

Omaha-Feb. 4 "The San Francisco Shanti Project and What it has to offer Us Here in Nebraska" A 20 minute loaner video from Shanti will be shown followed by discussion.

Lincoln-Feb 23

Omaha-March 4 "Parents Come Out," a video (27 min.) will be shown followed by discussion. Just as gay and lesbian people come out, their parents go through a similar process on their paths to acceptance.

We welcome you with or without your parents and hope you visit us, join us, and give us your interest and support!

For more information, contact: Jean at 435-4688 (Lincoln), Helen 466-1151 (Lincoln), or Jan 345-2563 (Omaha).

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Recommended Reading List

Coming Out to Your Parents: A Two-Way Survival Guide for Lesbians and Gay Men and Their Parents, by Mary Borhek, Pilgrim Press

My Son Eric by Mary Borhek, Pilgrim Press, Religious Theme

Now That You Know by Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward, Harcourt Books

Loving Someone Gay by Don Clark, New American Library

Positively Gay by B. Berson and E. Leighton, Celestial Arts

A Family Matter by Charles Silverstein, McGraw Hill

Is the Homosexual My Neighbor? by L. Scanzoni and V. Mollenkott, Harper & Row

The Mendola Report by Mary Mendola, Crown

Reflections of a Rock Lobster by Aaron Fricke, Alyson

Familiar Faces—Hidden Lives by H. Brown, Harcourt

Word is Out by Nancy & Casey Adair, New Glide Publications

Homosexualities by A. Bell and M. Weinberg, Simon & Schuster

GAY—What You Should Know About Homosexuality by Morton Hunt, Farrar-Strauss-Giroux

NEWS

Boardwalk Purchases Building

The Boardwalk owners, Phil Hogan and Michael Maguire wish to thank the gay community for their support in allowing the owners to purchase the building which houses The Club and The Boardwalk at 26th & O in Lincoln. The official ownership took place on January 23, 1986. Previously, Commonwealth held ownership of the property, and it was difficult to gain ownership due to the insolvency of Commonwealth. The building had been leased prior to this time. The change of ownership of the building allows for major construction of the Boardwalk which will take place this spring and summer.

Introducing the New Manager of The Stage Door

Introducing the new manager of The Stage Door lounge. His name is Tom Deckard (The New Voice finally has the spelling Fight in his name). Tom is the kind of person you would like to have as a next door neighbor. He is friendly, outgoing, and easy to get along with.

Mr. Deckard started as manager in the middle of November. He has 14 years experience in bar management and is highly qualified for the position. He was asked to take on the new position by the owner, Ron Bergeron who wanted to be more free to tend to other business properties. It was also felt that Tom could make customers feel more at ease as he is willing to listen to problems, suggestions, and ideas. Tom is eager to work with all of his patrons and is willing to support various groups. "My main concern is keeping one unified gay community working together," related Tom. He is also open to feedback concerning suggestions for improvement or change. Let Tom know if you have ideas for entertainment or would like certain music played by the DJ. Tom is easily accessible and is willing to talk to anyone.

Tom has lived in the Omaha area his entire life. He likes the area and feels the people are very friendly. He has made many long-term friends.

Tom would like to see The Stage Door increase in business. Tom relates that Mr. Bergeron has made constant improvements on the lounge and always looks for ways to modernize. The club features a Beer Garden which is open during the warmer weather. The Stage Door carries a wide variety of liquors and liquers. Tom reports that the drink prices are average for this area. The bartenders can make a wide selection of drinks, except for ice cream type drinks.

When I asked why one side of the bar had been changed to a straight go-go club, Tom related that the Red Room had been remodeled at great expense and had not been used as much as expected. "There is no reason for letting a nicely remodeled room sit empty when it could be generating a return that will benefit all of us," Tom explained.

There is also no validity to past rumors that The Stage Door was going to close down. The Stage Door is committed to serving the gay community in the future.

Come to The Stage Door and meet Tom Deckard. He's friendly and he wants to hear from you.

--Larry Wiseblood

Lambda, Inc., a Lincoln real estate purchase and leasing corporation, announces the acquisition of a property to be used as a gay/lesbian resource by the Lincoln community at 2648 R Street. This for-profit undertaking represents an important step for the investors whose money is being used to make the downpayment and underwrite the payments on the property.

Investment in Lambda, Inc. is an investment in the future. Preferred stock is \$80 a share, Common Stock is \$1.00. Common Stock shareholders have a voice in decisions made by Lambda, Inc.

Your investment in the Lincoln Gay/Lesbian Community is urged, and your involvement privately or openly is solicited. Call 474-1206 for information. See you at the Open House on Valentine's Day.



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Volleyball Team Wins Tournament

Omaha captured first place in the "A" Division of the Fall Classic Volleyball Tournament sponsored by the Metropolitan Sports Association of Chicago. The tournament was held the weekend of November 28th. The 16-team tournament included teams from throughout the Midwest including Chicago, Cincinnati, and St. Louis.

Each team had the chance to vote for all-stars & most valuable players. Omaha boasted two of the six all-stars in the "A" Division, Todd Bavers and Barry Jones.

FEATURES

Gail's Hit List

1. NO FRILLS LOVE
Jennifer Holiday
2. HOW WILL I KNOW?
Whitney Houston

- + 3. I TOUCH ROSES
Book of Love
4. A LOVE BIZARRE
Sheila E.
- + 5. SECRETS
Natalie Cole
- + 6. SAY I'M YOUR NUMBER ONE
Princess
- + 7. SLAVE TO THE RHYTHM
Grace Jones
8. STAND BACK
Stephanie Mills
- + 9. YOUR PERSONAL TOUCH
Evelyn Champagne King
- + 10. SKIPS A BEAT
Warp 9
11. TARIAN BOY
Baltimore
- + 12. LET ME BE THE ONE
Five Star
- + 13. FEEL THE SPIN
Debbie Harry
- + 14. SAY YOU LOVE ME
Lime

- + 15. SUB CULTURE (Culture
Vulture Mix)
New Order

Gail's Hit List is a monthly courtesy of the Board-Walk/The Club, Lincoln

Restaurant Review— Mr. Steak

Recently reading a rather good review in the Sunday Lincoln Journal and Star for Mr. Steak, Cham and I decided to give it a try.

Since it was a Friday night, we called ahead to see if there was a waiting line. The girl who answered said that the "lobby was empty." When we got there, three couples before us were waiting to be seated, and about four couples were paying their tabs and leaving. In the rush of things, Cham and I were forgotten, and it must have been five minutes before we saw the hostess again.

We were then led to a booth that was filthy, including the walls. Our waitress was an older lady and had the personality of a frog. She treated us like we were probably the 56th table she had served that day. After we ordered (we both decided on the petite filet, done medium), we attacked the salad (?) bar. I had a total of lettuce, onions, and croutons on my plate. There were about 4 different kinds of jello-type salads with fruit in them, and very little to choose from goodies to put on your lettuce. However, the salad dressings were good, and the loaf of bread and butter you get with your salad.

Cham and I both like our steak medium rare. However, when we go out to eat, we always order medium for fear the steak may try to gallop across the table. Well, it's a good thing we like our steak somewhat rare, because both of ours were RARE. Mine even moaned when I sunk my fork into it. All in all, it was not the pleasant experience I expected after reading the review in the newspaper. For the money we paid, we should have gone to The Steak House and had an excellent dinner as I have always had there.

On a scale of 1 (bad) to 10 (good), I give Mr. Steak a 3.

--Reidi

FACING FACTS

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A Place to go for Used Books

Do you like to spend a frosty winter evening curled up with a really juicy novel? Me, too-- but the average juicy novel averages \$3.95 to \$4.50 in paperback these days, and a reading habit can run into some serious bucks after a while. If you're a heavy reader (or even an occasional one), you might consider buying used paperbacks.

There are several used book stores in Lincoln; all of them offer paperbacks at a significant savings. The Paperback Exchange (4711 Huntington) has by far the best selection. Their paperbacks are sorted into categories and alphabetized by author. With 40-50,000 paperbacks in all, The Paperback Exchange offers a wide assortment of titles, including an excellent selection of science-fiction, mystery, and women's issues/sexuality titles.

The Paperback Exchange sells books for 1/2 of the original price. If you bring in your used paperbacks, you'll receive a certain amount of credit based on their original prices. With credit, you pay ONLY 1/5 of the original price of the paperback you're buying! They've also got brand new titles, best-sellers, at 20% off of the new price.

If you're a little squeamish about buying used books, don't be. Used books aren't like used cars. At The Paperback Exchange all of the books are in excellent condition. Check it out!

Toni

Here & There Across the Country

Kristy McNicol's girlfriend of three years has retained Marvin Mitchelson, attorney in several palimony cases to handle her suit against the actress. It was reported that McNicol recently ended the relationship while the women were vacationing in France. When McNicol's girlfriend returned home, she found all her belongings had been thrown into the driveway.

--THE WORKS, Indiana

Reuters news service reports that three male giraffes at Taipei Zoo in Taiwan "turned gay" after their female companion died. Chen Pao-Chun, the zookeeper, said the zoo was considering importing female giraffes from Africa because "we are running out of explanations for the children visiting the zoo."

--ADVOCATE, California

Continued on page 18...

• Mike Fitzpatrick MSW, ACSW •

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Valentine

Thomaston, ME- Visitation rights have been revoked for a gay man who kissed his lover while visiting him at Maine State Prison. Peter Baughman, 29, hugged prisoner Daniel Nulty, 27, and kissed him on the cheek.
 --GAY COMMUNITY NEWS, Massachusetts

A man diagnosed as suffering from AIDS allegedly spat on four police officers during a traffic arrest in Flint, Michigan and was charged with assault with intent to murder. John Richards of Davidson, Michigan, was charged with a felony warrant because "it appears the man knew he had AIDS and was trying to transmit it," said Assistant Genesee County Prosecutor John McGraw.
 --THE WORKS, Indiana

The Gay Veterans Association announced its plans to place an information brochure in two hundred military installations across the United States. This announcement comes after several meetings with the GVA and the Director of Legislation and Legal Policy for the Department of Defense, Colonel Thomas R. Cuthbert. The decision on the part of the Department of the Defense represents an important milestone for the Gay Vets in their quest for formal recognition by the armed services and veterans organizations.
 --GAY VETERANS ASSOCIATION, New York

An open lesbian who has served four years on the Labour Party

Council in Manchester, England, has been elected Lord Mayor of the city. Margaret Roff, the new mayor, is a gay rights activist.
 --THE WORKS, Indiana

Aunt Izzie



Introducing Aunt Izzie. Able to solve everybody's problems but my own. An investigator, matchmaker, and all around gossip willing to take on any challenge. I will look at the lighter side of Nebraska gay life as well as present answers to serious questions. Busy Izzie will also confront consumer complaints and will check on neighborhood concerns. So look for the lizard every month.

Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places

Aunt Izzie never had luck in relationships. Of course can you really find love in parks, bars, bookstores, truck stops, or bowling alleys. Last week out of desperation I went to the all night supermarket bumping into every gorgeous hunk around. However instead of finding the man of my dreams, I just gained a large food bill and probably gained 10 pounds. Oh well, there has got to be a better way.

All my friends seem to be having better luck. They tell me that they have to fall in love before Valentine's Day and they need enough time to plan their June weddings. I'm personally going to spend Valentine's Day with my cats Oscar, Willa, and Gertrude. They also love champagne and I can just talk to them for hours.

Exposes Grand Island

I visited the third city a few weeks ago and had a pleasant surprise. There are gays who live beyond Lincoln or Omaha. However gay life in Grand Island is far from utopia. There are no gay bars or organizations. Grand Island had a gay bar a few years ago called the Red Barron but in a city where all the gay men are either married or always going to the big cities, its no wonder a gay bar would have difficulty there. Anyway I had a great time. It was nice to be a new face for a change. At my age you need every advantage. Some of the hangouts in Grand Island include CJR Junction and the Holiday Inn. However the

Continued on page 19...

THE STAGE DOOR

Many Faces of Anne Marlow
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crowds are very mixed and women are also looking for men so you better get there early. The two cruising parks are Ashley Park and Pier Park at the North and South ends of the city. Pier Park was my favorite because of a duck pond located there. Ducks and men are my favorite animals, not necessarily in that order.

I found some of the men in Grand Island to be rather strange. Maybe it was just a language barrier but for the longest time I couldn't understand what a guy meant by the words honker and hooter. I later found out that the gentleman was describing male genitalia. I had a great time in Grand Island and may make another trip there someday.

* * * * *

Well Aunt Izzie wishes everybody alot of love. Don't miss next issue as I will tell you the secret of how I got my name. I will also tell you the amazing story of how the state capitol got built, who designed it, and why it has such a wonderful shape.

Health

Is Nonoxynol 9

Safe and Effective

Nonoxynol-9 is a mild soap used in spermicides and various other "feminine hygiene" products to prevent pregnancy and provide protection against sexually transmitted diseases (STD's). Nonoxynol-9 works by bursting the outer protein cap of sperm and various pathogens. In laboratory tests, it quickly and effectively kills herpes, gonorrhea, syphilis, CMV, yeast, trichomonas, and amoebas: most recently, there have been reports that under laboratory conditions, it also kills AIDS virus. This is promising news, however it is not known whether the agent prevents AIDS virus from being transmitted under sexual conditions or whether it is of any use for curing AIDS itself.

Generally speaking, nonoxynol-9 and related soaps are considerably more effective under laboratory conditions than they are in actual sexual use. The two main reasons given by researchers are:

(a) The inert ingredients in spermicides--the foams, gels and creams which distribute the soap--do not always spread evenly or form a suf-

ficient chemical barrier for nonoxynol-9 to kill the pathogens before they can reach uninfected tissue; more importantly,

(b) People often use spermicides incorrectly and only when they "think" a partner is infected.

When used consistently and correctly, spermicides are very efficient at preventing transmission of the common STD's and since they are approved for vaginal intercourse, are an important form of protection to incorporate into a safe sex lifestyle.

It is obviously tempting to use nonoxynol-9 as a layer of prevention against AIDS while engaging in oral sex and anal intercourse. But approach nonoxynol-9 with caution. A few researchers and physicians began to advocate this approach in 1981, but the idea is relatively new, and the research very incomplete. Make sure spermicides don't irritate your skin, your mouth, or your rectum. Consult with your doctor.

Some important points to consider when deciding whether to use nonoxynol-9 products are:

1. Studies show that spermicides used properly and every time a person has vaginal intercourse can provide as much as 94% protection against common STD transmission (remember, we do not know about AIDS). However, these statistics drop quickly to 70% or less effectiveness when not used exactly as instructed on the label.

2. The most effective way to use nonoxynol-9 by far is in conjunction with condoms and carefully following the directions for both. When spermicides are used with condoms, there is a synergistic effect that raises the user effectiveness of each as much as 30% in tests of STD and pregnancy prevention;

3. Nonoxynol-9 spermicides have had a very good safety record for over 30 years, but they have only been tested specifically for human use on skin such as the penis or in the vagina. The FDA upon re-approving these products in 1980 noted that spermicides are regularly swallowed during oral sex, and because of their extremely low toxicity in animal tests of oral consumption, the FDA provisionally concluded that the products are safe when eaten in small quantities by humans. Whether

such products are effective against oral transmission of STD's or AIDS is not presently known.

4. The same animal tests revealed that most nonoxynol-9 was excreted through the intestines and that no damage or abnormalities were observed upon autopsy of test animals. But at this point, not enough is known about the effect of nonoxynol-9 on human intestines (especially during sex) or about the AIDS virus to recommend spermicides without question.

5. Nonoxynol-9 foams are much more effective than gels or creams for vaginal intercourse because they create a more efficient chemical barrier; one which spreads and clings to the vaginal walls better. Again, research overwhelmingly recommends that spermicidal foams be used in conjunction with condoms. If a rubber breaks during ejaculation, immediately insert spermicidal foam in the vagina and leave it there for six hours.

--The above article was written by Clark Taylor, Ph.D., Ed.D., of the Institute for the advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco, California.

Tests show that using condoms during sex will stop the spread of the deadly AIDS virus, University of California researchers say. The findings mark the first time that condoms, which prevent pregnancy and the transmission of venereal disease have been shown to halt the spread of AIDS.

Letters

Letters to The New Voice are always welcome. Unsigned contributors are never published, but author's name may be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The New Voice. The New Voice reserves the right to condense letters if necessary.

A Response to Sexism vs. Manhood

Mr. Peck:

I think you have inadvertently diagnosed your own problem. In your editorial, "Sexism vs Gay Manhood," you admit that you do not understand why most women in our community insist on a distinction between "lesbian" and "gay." In your commentary, "Attitudes!" you admit that you really haven't experienced discrimination. That

Continued on page 20..

is because, simply enough, you are a white male in a patriarchal society. Keep in mind that you did nothing to merit that "honor" --it was dumb luck that your father's sperm contributed a Y chromosome. Neither is it anyone's "fault" to be born black, female, or homosexual. It is our fault if we remain intentionally blind to the social realities and suffering of other human beings.

If you had been born non-Caucasian or female in our society, dominated by the White Male Ethos, you would understand the difference between distinction and discrimination. You would know that we can recognize and respect our individuality without sacrificing what we have in common.

Being born white and male, however, is no excuse for ignorance. Communication and reciprocity bring enlightenment. We appreciate your honesty, Mr. Peck, and your willingness to listen. We hope you'll hear what we are saying.

Allie S.E., Founder
Lesbians United-Underground Dykes

Cameron Should Look at Heterosexual Behavior

Dear Editors:
I am getting tired of self-righteous "straights" like Cameron and Falwell passing judgement on the gay/lesbian community. They should open their eyes and take a good look at the non-gay community for a change.

Just the other day, I saw the film, "Perfect," the subject of which is heterosexual cruising in health clubs: "the singles bars of the 80's." As I watched the sweating, panting heterosexuals wiggling their genitals at each other, I wondered what the impact of this film might have been if the setting had been homosexually-oriented. I can just hear the homophobes ranting and raving about a shameless display of homosexual perversion and lust. But when we're talking about the same behavior among "straights," somehow that is less immoral and certainly more acceptable.

Think about two recent sex crimes here in Nebraska. A gang of boys orally sodomized a number of teenage girls and a man murdered a young woman so he could sexually abuse her dead body. Paul Cameron in his campaign to 'save America from perversion' has ignored these exemplary incidents. What if the victims had been young boys? No doubt, these cases would have been used as examples of homosexual deviancy, and there would have been tremendous public outcry against gays. When the rapist is male and the victim is (properly) female, many people think of the sex crime as at least "normal." Yet, when two people of

the same sex share a loving relationship, that is IMMORAL, PERVERTED...even DEMONIC.

I wish Cameron and his lot would look to their own kind for perverse behavior. God knows, there's plenty of it.

Angie Lewis
Lincoln

A Thank You

Dear Larry:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for, and applaud your accomplishment of The New Voice. It has enriched the gay/lesbian community immeasurably and I predict that it will continue to be a forum for issues and information that will hold us together in thoughts and hearts.

Your dedication and the efforts of your hard working staff are appreciated, even though your friends may not take the time to tell you personally. Your fair and conservative philosophy make the magazine credible and persuasive. Your strong sense of values have given the magazine an integrity that is greatly respected.

Keep up the good work--and have a happy new format.

--Pat Wall

Looking for a Job

Unless you are one of the many unemployed here in Lincoln, you probably don't know that Nebraska's unemployment rate is steadily going up. And if you're securely employed and can pay your bills, you might not remember the soul-wrenching humiliation and desperation of looking for a job.

I have to admit that I really haven't thought about the poor and the unemployed in this country--although I have never made more than the poverty-level myself. But after the Christmas holiday, I was cut to part-time hours. After having doors slammed in my face all day ("We have no openings, so we are not accepting applications..."), I found myself feeling very scared. My lover has been laid-off completely from her job, so we have nothing to our names but the bills. I have even toyed with the idea of prostituting myself (not that anyone would want my body). And then I thought about this whole experience, knowing--or hoping--that it won't last too long. After all, I am college-educated (maybe I should be praying...). I thought about the people in this country who live my "experience" their entire lives, earning less than the poverty-level, struggling to feed and clothe themselves; their

self-esteem gone and their dreams slowly dying.

I have decided that I am not going to forget these people after my crisis is over--if I ever have something of my own again, I'll share it... no matter how meager it is.

Anonymous

Sexism vs. Manhood--Response

After reading Jerry Peck's opinion (and everyone is entitled to an opinion), not only did we feel anger, we felt betrayed.

Jerry mentioned nothing in his opinion about the two times that The New Voice attempted to meet with the managers of Man's World to hear their reasoning behind why they would not compromise on the ad. We would also like to point out that Jerry did not mention that the "gay females" of the staff were referred to various names in a rather degrading way. It also came back to us that Man's World felt it did not need The New Voice because their ad was not effective in obtaining patrons. Being a professional woman myself, this sort of attitude is not acceptable in conducting business.

We realized that Man's World is the business name. Our objection was that the phrase connotes that the world is exclusively for men.

We believe Jerry is putting words into some women's mouths. Not all of us mind being called gay. Not all of us want a distinctive spelling of "women." The majority may be offended, however, and the "majority" is the operative word here.

When we made policies for advertising, we tried to keep the majority of gays (men and women) in mind. The word censorship is becoming old hat. Even the most disgusting material has some censorship, even if it comes under the heading of "editing."

We dedicate one month to women's issues out of respect for a valuable part of our community. Not all women are concerned where you can buy the best condom, or how many times it should be used. Granted that is important to a lot of people, it personally affects me because of my gay little brother. I am concerned about AIDS and safe sex. But not every woman wants to read about it every month. So for

Continued on page 21...

Gay/Lesbian Resource Directory— Nebraska



**MINISTRY
IN
HUMAN SEXUALITY, INC.**

J. Benjamin Roe, D. Min.

COUNSELING SUPPORT FOR
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COMING OUT
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MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS

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Lincoln, Nebraska 68501
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You!**

THE
Chesterfield

**MON-FRI 3 PM-1 AM
SAT-SUN NOON-1 AM
1951 ST. MARY'S
OMAHA**



The Women's Bar

Lincoln

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous. Groups meet weekly. Phone 466-5214.
American Foundation for the Fine Arts. A non-profit foundation committed to making positive contributions on the behalf of gays/lesbians to Lincoln's cultural life.

Community of Grace. Box 6881, Lincoln 68506. Interdenominational worshiping community of gay/lesbian, & those associated. Meets Sunday 7:00 pm.

Gay/Lesbian Awareness at Lincoln High School. Meets every other week. Phone Glis 475-4697.

Gay/Lesbian Information & Support Line. Meets third Wednesday of the month. Phone 475-4697.

Gay/Lesbian Student Group at Nebraska Wesleyan. Contact Dr. Mary Smith, NWU, 50th & St. Paul, Lincoln 68504. Phone 465-2351.

Kinship (Adventist support group). For information phone 464-0902.

Lesbian Support Group. Informal discussion group for lesbians, all women welcome. Meets weekly. Contact Women's Resource Center, Room 117, Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588. Phone 472-2597.

Lincoln Legion of Lesbians. Box 30137, Lincoln 68503. Lesbian-Feminist collective providing a newsletter, confidential referral, & support groups for lesbians. Sponsors cultural & social programs.

Ministry in Human Sexuality, Inc. Box 80122, Lincoln 68501. Non-profit agency providing counseling, education, & supportive action for those seeking growth & understanding in the areas of sexuality & relationships. J. Benjamin Roe, Executive Director. Phone 476-9913.

Open Door Ministry. To provide traditional orthodox spiritual counsel to all people in need at no charge. Phone 474-3390.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Box 4374, Lincoln 68501. Support group for parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. Meets fourth Tuesday of the month. Phone 466-1151.

Presbyterians for Gay/Lesbian Concerns. For information phone 464-5286.

Third Culture. Non-residential subculture dealing with issues such as coming out, social behavior, the gay lifestyle, suicide, & drug/alcohol abuse. Contact Pat at 474-1205.

UN-L Gay/Lesbian Association. Room 222, Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588. Political, social and educational organization for students & interested others, meets Thursdays, 8:00 pm. Phone 472-5644.

Omaha

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous. Groups Meet weekly. Phone 345-9916.

Dignity of Omaha. Providing common experience through Mass & meetings for gays and lesbians and their friends. Regular Mass second Sunday of the month, 7:00 pm. St. John's Lower Level. Phone 341-1460 or 345-9426.

Gay Parents Support Group. Support group for gay parents who have children. Phone 553-2308 for times and locations.

Lutherans Concerned of Omaha. Society of gay Christians and friends together to foster within a church climate of understanding, justice, & reconciliation among all women & men. Phone 592-1209.

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha. Sunday worship 10:30 am & 7:00 pm; Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7:30 pm; Wednesday Evening Praise/Prayer/Healing 7:30.

Metropolitan Club of Omaha. Professional business persons' organization. Meets third Wednesday of the month. Phone for information 391-6253.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG). Box 3173, Omaha 68103. Support group for the parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. Phone 345-2563.

River City Mixed Chorus. Box 315, Omaha 68101. Volunteer community chorus for gay/lesbian & gay/lesbian-sensitive men & women, with the goal of musical excellence in performance. Rehearsals Monday evenings. Phone 455-2334 or 345-5797.

Sexual Minorities in the Health Professions. Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Health Professionals or students in the Health Professions. Phone 345-5637.

T.W.O. Motorcycle Club. 712 South 16th St., Omaha 68102. Meets second Sunday of the month. Phone 342-9595.

Volleyball Team. 2599 Ellison Ave., Omaha 68111. Phone 451-6464.

The Page—The Publication of Gay Events in Omaha. A monthly calendar of events. To have events listed, please call 330-3690, after 6:00 pm evenings.

Nebraska Statewide

Affirmation of Nebraska. Box 80122, Lincoln 68501. United Methodists for Gay/Lesbian Concerns. Meets alternately in Omaha & Lincoln, second Friday of the month. Phone 476-9913 or 474-1205.

Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights. Box 94882, Lincoln 68509. Advocacy group which lobbies for lesbian/gay civil rights, provides educational presentations, publishes a newsletter & sponsors cultural & political programs.

Imperial Court of Nebraska. Social organization for the advancement of the gay society. Omaha meeting first Monday of every month, except holidays. Phone 342-5710.

Nebraska A.I.D.S. Project. Box 3512, Omaha 68103. Center for information, support, and coordination of A.I.D.S.-related community efforts. Phone Omaha 342-4233 or toll-free statewide 1-800-782-AIDS.

The New Voice of Nebraska. Box 80819, Lincoln 68501. Staff meets in Omaha & Lincoln. Phone for times & locations. Phone 475-7740 or 345-2181.

Viral Syndrome Clinic. Jerry Copeland, ASCW, 559-4420, Jan Hopp, RN, 559-7331, Dr. Jonathan Goldsmith, Physician.

Omaha Bars, Clubs, and Lounges

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|
| The Chesterfield | 1951 St. Mary's Ave. | 342-1244 |
| The Diamond | 712 South 16th St. | 342-9595 |
| The Max | 1417 Jackson | 346-4110 |
| The Run | 1715 Leavenworth | 449-8703 |
| The Stage Door | 1512 Howard St. | 342-8715 |
| Stars Restaurant | 1113 1/2 Howard St. | 346-6624 |

Lincoln Bars, Clubs, and Lounges

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| The Board-Walk | 20th & O | 474-9741 |
| Cherchez la femme | 200 So. 18th (lower level) | 474-9162 |
| The Club | 116 No. 20th St. | 474-5692 |
| Kelly's | 200 So. 18th St. | 474-9962 |

That's All Folks

I saw you last Friday

I thought you saw me too

Who was that you were with ?

He looked very familiar

Have you known him long ?

Then I saw you on Saturday

I know you saw me

I couldn't believe you were alone

What happened to what's-his-name ??

Or shouldn't I ask ?

On Sunday you called me

But I wasn't home

I was out late with a new friend

We didn't answer the phone

Sorry I missed your call

On my way home the other nite,

I saw you on the street

I waved

But I guess you didn't see me

Maybe next time

Last night I called you

You said you were busy

I said I'd call back

Then you said don't bother

So next time I won't

This morning the phone rang

I just let it ring

I knew it was you

So I figured ' why bother ?'

And I didn't

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE BOARDWALK

- Sun. Feb. 9- Liesa Durant presents "Eaten Alive". 8:30p.m. Also starring Miss Max 1986- Veronica O'Rourke, Miss Gay Capitol City- Lindsay Heart, Empress IV- Laura Lee and Jamie. Also other guest stars.
- Fri. Feb. 14- Valentine's Party Specials all night long.
- Sun. Feb. 23- Boardwalk proudly presents Miss Gay Capitol City, Miss City Sweetheart, Miss Max Extravaganza
- Sun. Mar. 9- Miss Stage Door- Ann Marlow

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CHERCHEZ LA FEMME

- Sat. Feb. 8- "Boat Races," 5p.m., More information at the bar.
- Thu. Feb. 13- The Newlywed Game, 8:30p.m. Sign-up at the bar.
- Fri. Feb. 14- Valentine's Day Party (Kissing Booth)
- Sun. Feb. 16- Spaghetti Food Benefit for Bridget and Friends, 5p.m., \$3.00 For all you can eat.
- Oldies but Goodies Show, 7p.m., Dress for the Occasion, 1st drink 1/2 price.

Sun. Mar. 2- Big Lip Sync Contest 9p.m.

Every Friday... FAC's are back

UPCOMING EVENTS AT KELLY'S

- Fri. Feb. 14- Valentine's Day Party.
- Thu. Nights- Show Nights. Special Attractions: Feb. 20- Fritz Capone- Miss Gay Rodeo 85-86 1st Runner-Up Miss Gay America 1984-85. Mar. 6- Sheza Mann Birthday Party with out-of-town guests.

Sun. Mar. 9- Big Lip Sync Contest 9p.m.

A couple of minutes ago

I thought of you

First I was angry

Then I was sad

Now I don't feel anything

-- Tim



FEBRUARY

Classifieds

Male roommate wanted (professional preferred): large house near downtown, \$200-\$225 a month, includes utilities, 477-1315 after 5:30p.m.

White Male 30
Would Like to have More Gay Friends. Exchange Whatever Pops Up. P.O. Box 31553, Omaha, NE, 68111



Ron,
Please believe me when I say I love you, I do. One year, now and a lifetime ahead.
Michael



MY NUMBER ONE CRUSH, MY ONLY CRUSH, FOR VALENTINES DAY, I GIVE YOU MY HEART! I'M YOURS, AND YOURS ALONE!



Ron,
After 8 years of Valentine's Days together, I find I love you more than ever before.
Love Dave



Rev. Kross,
God's Blessings Flow From You To Us & Back To You.

Love---
Your Family in Christ MCC-
Omaha



Anita,
Thank you for your patience and understanding. Let's make this the best Valentine's Day yet.

Love Always, Sandy



Heidi,
Let's just remember to talk. I love you today, yesterday, & tomorrow. Thanks for being my Valentine.

Cham



Michael-
Happy Valentines Day!
Happy 8th!!

I Love You
(You'll never know how much)
From the heart-
Randy XXOO



Little Bear,
I Thank God Every Day for Your Wonderful Love, and for Four Wonderful Years.
Happy Valentine's Day
Always, Your Squirrel



I Love You Eugene.
Gerry



Third Culture
I Love You.

Pat Wall



SWEET PEA,
YOU KNOW!

Stosh



Phil,
The last 4 years have been great.

Love You,
Mike



Reg,
You have been the best 7 years of my life.

Love, Ricky



To 434:
You drive me crazy!
Be my Valentine?

Teddy Bear



FOR ALL THE YEARS YOU'VE BEEN THERE AND ALL THE YEARS TO COME. I LOVE YOU!
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TONY!
FROM DALE



Hey Huggy Bunny,
G.I. is too far. Lets spend every breathing moment together.

Your Jewish Prince



Day Valentines Happy Randy,
Mike Love



Dave,
Thanks for 7 Wonderful Years!

Ron



Boog-a-Lou:
You still have it, Babe.
Guess who?



Jodi,
I Love You! If there's one fool for you then I am it.

Vic



Roses Are Red, Violets Are Blue.
Happy Valentines Day,
Little Chickens From Hawk One
And Two.



Peck,
Happy Valentine's Day from your buddies! Let's drink to it!

Cham and Heidi



Bucko: I'll never love another. You are too good to me. Thanks for your love. My love is yours.

Buddy



Ron,
I was fragile when you entered my life. I didn't know if I could love again. But your special gift of kindness made it possible once more.

Love Larry



The New Voice

Order your subscription today by filling out this form and mailing it to: New Voice of Nebraska/P.O. Box 80819/Lincoln, NE 68508.

Name _____ \$12.00 1 yr subscription
Address _____ \$ _____ legal defense fund
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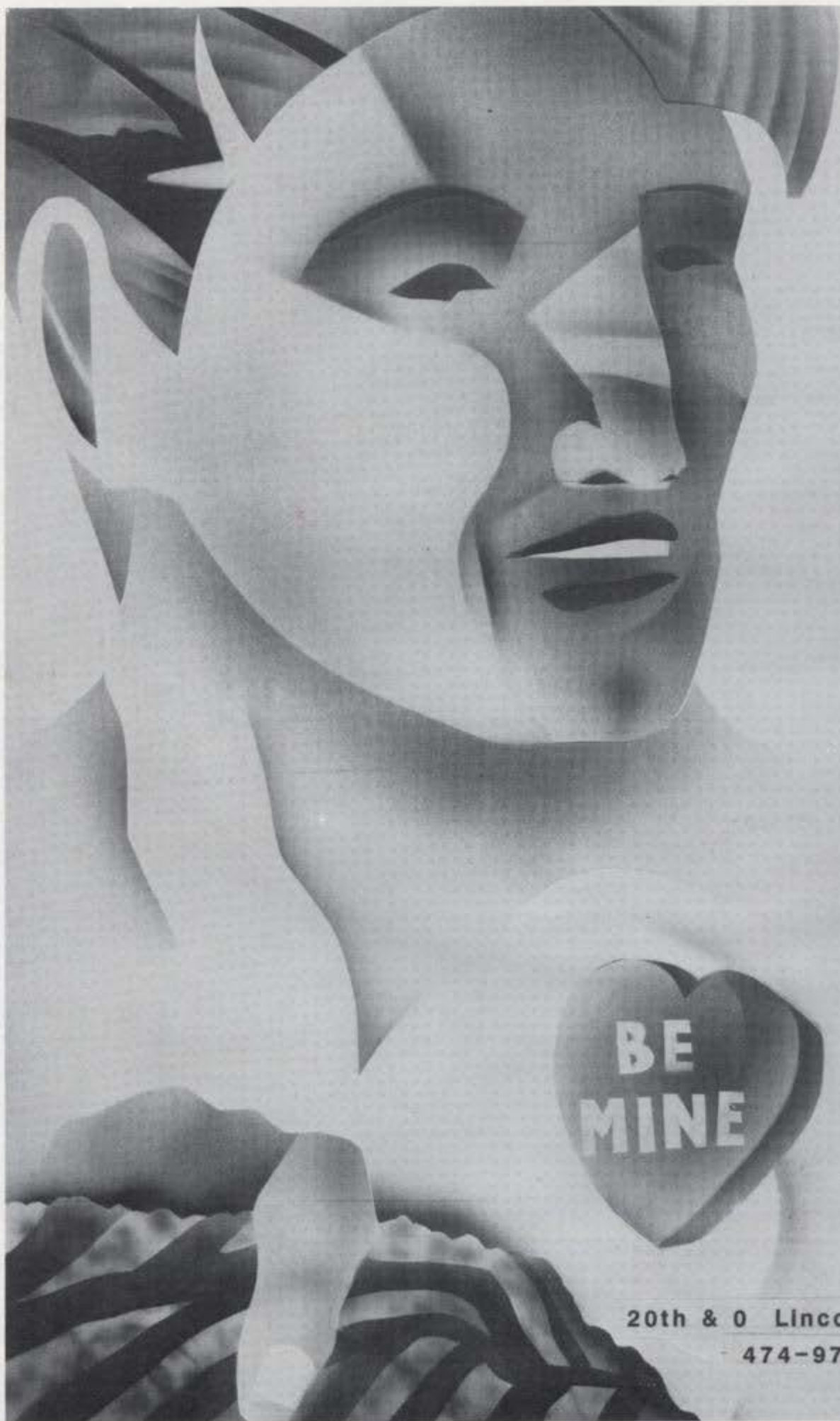
The New Voice

Mailed discreetly in a plain brown envelope.

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