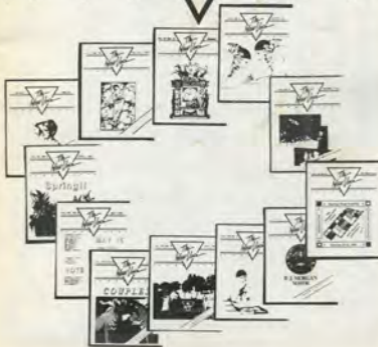


VOL. 10 NO. 10

JANUARY 1991

The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A CALL TO COUNSELORS AND PHYSICIANS OF NEBRASKA

To the readers of the New Voice of Nebraska:

On a regular basis gay men and lesbians call me and ask for referrals to gay and lesbian or to lesser-sensitive counselors and physicians including dentists. My return list is not long so I am putting together a confidential list that I can draw from.

This list will be held by myself alone and names given out to those who can identify themselves as our safety net.

If you are a counselor (therapist, physician, or dentist), live anywhere in Nebraska, welcome living or any counseling city, desire to serve the gay and lesbian community as part of your practice, believe that homosexuality is not the root of all problems, and would be willing to have your name and office phone number given to gay and lesbian individuals, couples, and/or families, please let me know ASAP. I have people who need you now.

I may be reached by calling (402) 596-6023 or (402) 431-7631, or you can send a note, business card, brochure, or description of your practice with name and phone number to Gay Contact, your confidential source.

Wes Perry, MSW
P.O. Box 31311
Omaha, NE 68131

I believe we can help those who need

your care to avoid some of the trial and error of looking for the cutting professional and finding the insensitive, homophobic that it will be often what we end up with.

Please, I am not asking you to come out for people you know about. If people are interested, they will contact me. Please encourage them to do so.

Wes Perry

BONJOUR!

Hello everybody!

I think my English is very poor, but I'm going to try to be as clear as possible with the words that I know.

I'm living in France but my boy friend is actually working in Nebraska, it would be very nice for me to know that he is going to read a few words coming from France in your Classified Ad.

I wish you a very good Christmas and a Happy New Year... In 1991, a very good year for the NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA.

Bye Bye Everybody!

Lots of Love from France...

BONNE ANNÉE A TOUS D'ACCUEIL
TOUS LES JOURS IL FAIT FROID EN
FRANCE SAUF TOUS LES DIMANCHES
A TOUS QUE J'AI ME TANT.

Laurent D.
Saler Avenue South, France

OOPS!

November 23, 1991

The New Voice:

I was pleased to read in the November issue, the coverage of the Nebraska AIDS conference held in Lincoln October 26 and 27th. It was important for people to see and read about the different kinds of services, news, and perspectives involved with people dealing and living with HIV virus, AIDS, and AIDs.

However I was not pleased with the questions related to my statements from the conference. I was quoted as saying, "So how could it happen to me?" [I'm pregnant] have never had the attitude that this disease picks out who you are, who you are, or how you have sex. My sexual practices matter more than, or less so, as to who I think. And I do not want the people in the community to believe I would do anything such as that.

The paragraph about myself on page 13 related to my feelings about the disease and other people's attitudes - that it won't happen to them because they are not gay.

Thank you for covering the conference and sharing the experiences of the people in the past. I would be grateful if you could be of confusion in interpreting my thoughts.

Sincerely,
Marta Halley

BLACK HILLS GROUP

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in our organization. This letter should explain what the group does and how you can become a part of it.

The central activities, suggested self-concept, and to promote positive social interaction in the greater Black Hills area, the Black Hills Care and Lifestyles Resource Center has formed. For almost a year, the organization has been meeting regularly at the Pine River Mental Health Center in Rapid City. We sponsor recreational activities such as Golf, Tennis, volleyball games, parties and viewing of major nature pictures with historical themes. We are planning community or self-concept with the goals of further building our community and finding solutions to such problems as relationships, identity aspects, and self-esteem.

We publish a newsletter and hope that you will find it valuable to subscribe to it. It is fairly easy to say that nearly all of us in the gay community have experienced and/or will experience the terrifying isolation and confusion of being a member of the invisible minority. The newsletter is an attempt to combat these feelings. And right now, Classified Ads are FREE!



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As of yet, we are unable to meet the minimum fee of charge, so we ask for a \$15.00 annual fee to receive the newsletter bimonthly. \$1.00 of this fee counts towards a voting membership. We hope you will recognize the value of our organization's efforts and subscribe today!

If we can be of any further help to you now or in the future, please do not hesitate to write or call us.

On behalf of the DREGLBC, I am respectfully yours,

Jon Kiglow, Editor
Black Hills Gay/Lesbian
Business Center
P.O. Box 2872
Rapid City, SD 57709
with 384-8087

THE KEARNEY GROUP

Dear Reader:

I would like to inform you that there is now a Gay and Lesbian Support Group meeting in Kearney. The following letter will describe our purpose in this endeavor. Our first meeting was December 6th, 1990 at

Rye. The following meetings will be every other Thursday. The location will not be published for the sake of anonymity and because the group may draw from one location to another. The current location can be obtained by phone (inserted) is going by calling one of the two numbers listed below.

We would appreciate your passing the information along to anyone that you feel might benefit from such a support group. Since not all Gay and Lesbian people feel comfortable in revealing themselves in a large group setting, we are also able to introduce them to others on an individual basis.

Through the support it is to be given in a social atmosphere, we are not willing to operate a dating service. People looking to meet others for the purpose of dating are requested to look elsewhere.

Any ideas, questions, or comments you have concerning our support group may be given to us by phone or by letter.

Thanks for your time!

Sincerely,

Tom Criss, Co-Head, Support Group

SUPPORT GROUP

This is a non-profit community support group founded primarily through private donations. The group is held by volunteers

who wish to improve the atmosphere for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual people who are discriminated and subjected to gay and lesbian issues. The lack to exist there in Kearney and the surrounding area.

We strive to:

- Primarily offer a support group meeting every two weeks that will cover an informative and entertaining topic shared in a comfortable open atmosphere.
- Offer peer counseling in person or over the phone.
- Offer professional referrals.
- Offer information concerning AIDS and other STDs.
- To network with other local, state, or national agencies and services.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

The purpose of the meetings are to allow people at different stages in the coming process to discuss their fears, joys, hardships, pressures, and illnesses and to be able to ask questions of others who have chosen gone through these situations.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Each person who attends our meetings has the right to expect the following protection and lack of responsibility of a meeting.



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402/444-6875

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For other testing sites call:

Grand Island — Hall County	308/381-5175
Lincoln — Lancaster County	402/471-8095
North Platte	308/734-4780 ext. 134
South Platte	308/635-1666

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

them to everyone else present!

- * What is said at our meetings as well as the identities of persons attending it is to be kept strictly confidential.
- * No taping, recording device, or guests are allowed without prior permission from a local facilitator.

MEMBER: many people criticize the group as great personal risk and depend on our adherence to these policies.

THE SUPPORT GROUP IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY ETHNIC, RACIAL, ECONOMIC, OR POLITICAL GROUP.

CONTACT NUMBERS FOR SUPPORT GROUP:
Counseling Center (800 234-8246) toll free
DOR 224-4405
ADDRESS:
Support Group
P.O. Box 2381
Kearney, NE 68840

KEEP IT CLEAN

Dear Editor:

In regards to your article on discrimination in the November issue, I feel that this was a very thoughtful article published. In the past I have let straight friends and my parents read *The New Voice*. I was proud to show them the articles and say, "see, we aren't so bad" and we have a publication to deal with the issues we face in our community." It has helped many to realize just what we go through.

This issue has been put far away from the eyes of people that I would like to reach. I felt *The New Voice* gave a positive image of our community, until this article. I have nothing against any racial slurs, tensions, or preferences among counseling clients, but, explicit display of this subject in the type of magazine is recalled here.

When a person talks about "pulling my pants down my legs," and so on, it is offensive to many people, straight and homosexual. How far is it going to go in future

issues? Or does anyone? I hope not! I do not consider public nudity obscene, perverted, and shameful means? That's just what we need. Will it be visible and article like this to wonder Governor Or would I give it a publication, for gay public work. If it would get hold of this article I feel we'd really have problems? Why is it that most explanation of sexual acts is such a big deal? What about the morally important issues such as love, caring, and commitment? This article makes us look like nymphomaniacs.

I feel *The New Voice* is a positive influence on the issues and problems that we face throughout our lives. Articles like this should be in porn magazines, not in a quality publication that portrays our plight for acceptance in this world of people that don't understand that MOST OF US are just as "normal" as they are. Just because we are in love with someone of the same sex, doesn't make us perverts.

Sincerely,
Tony Black

KEEP IT COMING

The New Voice of Nebraska,
Dear Friends,

I continued and thank you warmly for your item on masturbation in November. I grew up under a great burden of guilt over this issue, and have found in discussing others a confusion of guilt, embarrassment, and loss, born of misunderstanding. But for most of us, this was our first sexual experience. For many also, it continues to be a source of self-loathing for sexual release. Because it is so very personal, embarrassment can be misinterpreted as shame. This would not be so.

True, at least two religious readers did as you. But this is not according to Biblical Christianity. The Holy Bible makes no reference to self-excitation, going all the way out for it, it obviously takes it for granted that boys and men it won't try to speak all

around until they're willing. This would resolve.

Hopely, others will write around with you on this. For you, plan to offer an article soon for your publication. Please try to continue in counseling with help of love.

Best wishes for the new year.
Bobby Bender



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LOCAL NEWS

OPEN LETTER FROM A.N.G.L.E.

An open letter to all gay and lesbian and gay and lesbian sensitive individuals of the Midwest region.

A.N.G.L.E. An acronym for New Gay & Lesbian Enhancement, is a non-profit, grass roots organization which provides opportunities for gay/lesbian and gay/lesbian sensitive business organizations and individuals to network, take part in cross-community raising activities, and to develop greater unity and pride within the community.

Most of A.N.G.L.E.'s financial help is obtained through fundations and donations. During 1988 and 1989 A.N.G.L.E. set itself up as a not-for-profit organization for legal and community. Community activities include fund-raised ads for National Coming Out Day in the World Herald, a letter writing campaign supporting the Pass Outside Bill, various guest lectures at the theatre, in addition World Herald articles about our gay/lesbian lifestyle.

1989-1990 was also a year in which A.N.G.L.E. established a logo for greater unity and community recognition. We were happy to sponsor a meeting with our city's mayor and to work toward the International Citizens For Equal Protection For Gays and Lesbians.

There was also, of course, Public Week. This year's Public Week saw an successful series of Gay and Lesbian Parade with record attendance, a strong rally parade, and a parade campaign raising \$100,000 for NGLF and Future Pride activities.

A.N.G.L.E. is looking forward to celebrating National Coming Out Day each October 1 and Gay/Lesbian Pride Week in June.

This upcoming year A.N.G.L.E. is also planning continued community raising activities including a community recognition dinner with a guest keynote speaker and NGLF.

A.N.G.L.E. continues to receive its dependant upon you...the individual members of our community. For 1990 year support, A.N.G.L.E.

shares with the Tuesday of the month as Typist at the UNO Religious Center at 18277 Highway 4, Chicago. Our meetings are open and welcoming to everyone, your attendance and input. Help us to improve you, the gay and lesbian community of the Midwest.

MISHPACHAT CHAVERIM PLANS 1991

By Gary

A gala Chanukah party closed out the year's activities for Mishpachot Chaverim (A Family of Friends, Omaha's gay/lesbian Jewish organization). A number of representatives from other gay/lesbian religious organizations attended a religious service followed by a Chanukah party, wine, refreshments, songs, and the story of Chanukah were enjoyed.

Letter in December one of Mishpachot Chaverim's members attended a service in Minneapolis sponsored by B'nai B'rith, the gay/lesbian Jewish group there. In addition, there was a brunch with guest speaker Andy Ross, co-editor of *Teluk Herald*, *The Living Line*, *Gay and Jewish*. A Bricha Chanukah followed the talk. Mishpachot Chaverim purchased a copy of the book to present to the library in Omaha's Jewish Community Center, with author Ross accompanying, a special inscription for the CCC.

The first 1991 meeting of the organization will be held the afternoon of Saturday, January 12. Other upcoming events include plans for a Public Costume Party. M.C.'s have been contacted regarding Mishpachot Chaverim helping with a Passover Seder at the church.

Members are also looking into attending the International Conference of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations, to be held in May, 1991, in San Francisco.

For more information about Mishpachot Chaverim, contact Gary at 331-0510.

PFLAG ORGANIZES IN IOWA

Two chapters of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays have formed to extend love. This is a support group for parents, other family members, and supportive friends of gay men and lesbians.

The Allen chapter meets on the first Monday of each month at 5:00pm. Call Gary at (319) 252-2612 for meeting locations.

The Des Moines group meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm. Call Gary at (319) 286-2075 for further information.

CHORUS NOTES FROM THE RCMC

By Gary

You Didn't Miss the Holiday Concert? Omaha's River City Mixed Chorus sang a grand finale this year's Winter Concert on February 13, 1991, because of Omaha's Jonathan Cole's very unfortunate and to accommodate a change in our leader's availability.

Everyone looking for a Holiday Concert, you didn't miss it...or you didn't come. But you might have caught a number of interesting announcements, including Coming to the Stars, Days for Girls in the Mix, and a concert at Upper Merion Performing Arts Center. Chorus members continued to have Christmas songs for the special occasion, and now it's on to the next concert.

The show, *Simple Gifts* in Sweden, February 3, at 10:00 in Lincoln Performing Arts Center at UNO. Tickets are now available from any Chorus member or by calling Bill at 735-0300. Contact with a call 800-368-1869 or by John Coward and Sumner Hoffman. Show, *Blue Sky* in Silverdale 13th Ave Friday, 10:00pm, Bradley and Jerry on 735-4849 Night.

RCMC appreciates its friends who gave us the most beautiful celebration. They'll be well noted, and the Chorus is planning a special thank you party in everyone's honor soon. Thank!

Our Summer Concert will be just around the corner with Our Men Mixed Chorus from Minneapolis. They'll join us in Omaha, and will meet on the Twin Cities. Both RCMC and the other are members of GMLA Chorus, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Chorus, representing throughout America and their choruses world-wide.

Additional new singing activities will be held in February. The Chorus always has more singing members and staff. All you need is a love for music and willingness to work. For more information about joining, call Bill at 735-0300.

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LOCAL NEWS

PLGC GATHERS

by RJ

On Saturday afternoon, December 8, at 5:00 P.M. PLGC gathered together at the home of Vic. There were four of us at the meeting. PLGC sure could use some more warm bodies. Even holocaust ones would be fine. C/L Protestants, where are you?

We had a good time of sharing how life has been treating us, both for the good and for the bad. Dignity was brought up and how it is so missed. It's like a member of your family had been taken away.

Vic had a very good spread of snacks from the land of his forefathers. Hot apple cider and pop rounded out the snacks.

In January the meeting will be held on the 19th, a week earlier than usual. Chris, the coordinator of PLGC, will be in California the following weekend for a PLGC convention. So, those interested in the January PLGC (Protestants for Lesbian and Gay Concerns) gathering, please save the different meeting time. Hopefully we'll see some new faces.

As usual, PLGC went out to dinner on supper to an country folk. This time we went to the Steeler and pipped out on their excellent salad bar, a great meal unto itself.

Hoping to see you all at the January gathering. Remember, PLGC welcomes you with open arms. Only through you can PLGC keep going. PLGC keeps L/G rights open and highly visible in the Protestant Church. There are your rights, L/G Protestants. Stand up for them and help keep PLGC going with the presence of your input at their meeting. PLGC of Omaha is lucky to have someone as dedicated as Chris to lead. Let's all give him our support and attend those PLGC meetings as often as we can.

RIVER CITY BOWLING

During the bowling on December 2, Tony C. led his team, A&E Vikes, to victory as he took Mike's high scratch game and series and A&E Vikes took the men's high scratch game and series. Team high bowling game was taken by 3 + 2 (who happens to be ranked 19th out of 20 teams) as one of their members, Jo D, took Women's high scratch game and series.

The team standings as of week #10 were:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------|
| 1. A&E Vikes | W-16 L-30 |
| 2. Maximum Balls | W-16 L-31 |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 3. Gilligan's #2 | W-40 L-30 |
| 4. DJ's | W-39 L-37 |
| 5. CharDan Enterprise | W-46 L-31 |
| 6. Gilligan's #1 | W-27 L-31 |
| 7. Main's Family | W-30 L-36 |
| 8. The Max | W-43 L-41 |
| 9. Cryder's Crew | W-44 L-42 |
| 10. CharDan Enterprise #2 | W-41 L-37 |
| 11. Holly Bakers | W-41 L-47 |
| 12. Gilligan's #1 - Steve's Back | W-43 L-41 |
| 13. DIDDY | W-43 L-48 |
| 14. Bides with us & drinks | W-43 L-48 |
| 15. Run Slow Lighty | W-40 L-51 |
| 16. HeadChuck's | W-47 L-54 |
| 17. You Can't Drink This | W-31 L-52 |
| 18. 7 + 2 | W-35 L-58 |
| 19. Maximum's Bonus Kids | W-52 L-56 |
| 20. 4 Guys & 1 Girl | W-51 L-57 |

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LOCAL NEWS

MCC HEADLINES

by Carla F.

Celebrating the birth of Christ involved MCC's in a variety of activities during December. Some took at the church each Friday evening before Christmas for a time of sharing at the Advent Gatherings, some took even busier after in preparation for the Christmas Caravan. On the following morning gathered to go caroling at Golden Manor, between the MCCO time, follow-ups, and enjoy Christmas goodies. Members of the Lesbian/Gay Support Group congregated on the eighth night for a Christmas Social. Then there was the Christmas Caravan on the twenty-third, and on Christmas Eve, a special worship service brought us all together again. Christmas Day we gathered at Vigil's for a Peacock Christmas dinner. What a month of celebration!

On January twelfth there will be a showing of the movie *We Need To Appear: The Ballad of Remond Jay Christy*. This movie is the story of a lesbian musician welcomed in the Church of Christ. Call the church office at 343-2367 for details.

We invite you to join us Sunday for either or both of our Worship Services (10:00am or 7pm). Come Celebrate Lenten/Christ with us.

New Years Resolutions

Suggested Resolution #1

I will take one coming out step this year.

Suggested Resolution #2

I will always be safe, sane, and sober.

Suggested Resolution #3

I will make more time to give of myself to the community.

Suggested Resolution #4

I will subscribe to *The First Year*.

Suggested Resolution #5

I will read at least one book by a gay or lesbian author or with a gay/lesbian-related theme.

Suggested Resolution #6

I will contact at least one elected official regarding the Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Amendment Bill.

Suggested Resolution #7

I will patronize a gay/lesbian owned/operated business.

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GILLIGAN'S PUB

◆ GAY & LESBIAN "DIVORCE"

The November/December issue of *Love Reader* includes a short article on gay and lesbian couples in its special section on divorce. The editorial magazine's opinion articles from "the best of the alternative press."

Written by Steve Bryant and Dennis, co-editors of *Partners' Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples*, the article examines that same newspaper's coverage of homosexuality and that legalizing gay marriage would make break-ups less likely.

"It is notable for the *Reader's* editors to acknowledge a complication of fact within the context of marriage dissolution," said Bryant.

"It's difficult talking about 'divorce' for lesbians and gay men when so little is generally known about our 'marriages,'" added Dennis. "We are unprepared how many same-sex couples are committed for life—in spirit but not in law—because of the lack of national support."

The article appears on page 77 of the *Reader's* year-end issue, available for \$6, at newsstands at Love *Reader*, Box 1074, Marion, OH 43031. Subscriptions to *Partners' Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples*, are \$12/yr from *Partners*, Box 9485, Seattle, WA 98108.

Editor's note: The original article includes Part 1 appears this month. Part 2 will appear in February.

ARE YOU TWO STILL TOGETHER?

Divorce lesbians/gay style
Part 1

BY BY Steve Bryant and Dennis, Ed.D.

When Denmark legalized marriage for lesbian and gay couples last year, it also revised its laws on divorce. It's too early to judge the substance of Danish couples, and so we keep divorce, or breaking relations for good, as couples in America. But with or without the legal structure of marriage and divorce, gay and lesbian couples manage to make and break no less significant relationships.

Surveys typically find about half of all gay and lesbian adults in relationships. Of those, some of the singles are newly out of the closet from last, and many of the coupled partners are making a second or third go at marital bliss. Not unlike their heterosexual counterparts.

It is difficult to get a clear picture of lesbian relationships in the gay community because there has never been a clear understanding of the millions of committed, working relationships. Even within the lesbian and gay community, same-sex couples have remained largely invisible. For many couples, it's a faculty response to the very real threat of violence of her jobs. Until recently, gay couples have responded to your father's family lives. Not change in all the

sorts.

The 1990 Census included an "unmarried partners" category—designed to study homosexual couples.—that inadvertently left alone the first official count and analysis of same-sex couples. Not all couples will feel safe enough to respond to the government, but many will.

For now, the largest body of data on gay and lesbian couples is from a national survey undertaken in 1988 by our publication, *Partners' Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples*. We collected 1,749 responses from American lesbians and gay men, representing 1,384 couples.

There were many, no-divorced, couples. However, we learned about their former relationships, as well as factors associated with commitment, longevity and satisfaction, and, conversely, dissolution.

Because we got in the business of supporting these couples, we were more interested in their reasons that their failure. And we found that to be long alone. While the survey respondents averaged only 31 years old, the female couples averaged five years together, while the men had lasted seven years on average.

More than 100 couples had passed their 10th anniversary. One lesbian couple had spanned 43 years, and three male couples had lasted more than 40 years.

While women had chosen relationships, both male and female respondents had spent 31 total years in current and former relationships. The average partner had experienced slightly more than one "previous major gay/lesbian relationship," and therefore a divorce or split.

But are these relationships any less dissolution ready comparable to legal marriage and divorce? Our survey suggests how closely gay couples compare with married heterosexual couples, and where they differ.

First, same-sex couples are not bound by the rules and traditions that define so many aspects of a married couple's life. For instance, marriage has a distinct legal beginning and end.

Gay couples lack such clear signposts. Instead, they mark anniversaries variously according to their first meeting, the day they first shared sex, or when they set up a joint household.

More recently, some same-sex couples have adapted the classic wedding ceremony to serve as a more distinct and public acknowledgment of commitment. In our survey, 18 percent of the women and 21 percent of the men had held a ceremony.

Now at issue is how to get beyond symbolism to legal recognition. There's nothing legal about help across some of the protections that are automatic with marriage. With divorce courts. Phrases of attorney usage the right courts on behalf of an in-

jured partner. Partnership and being together agreements almost write off the relationship, including how it will be ended, if necessary.

Gay discrimination amounts to denying, or withholding, these documents. Of course, these legal agreements only so far. Even such as social security, child custody, and taxation are beyond their purview.

The absence of a formal legal structure has not kept gay relationships out of court. At least a handful of cases have been filed by former partners over matters of property division, custody, and tortious damages similar to those arising from legal divorce. Marriage law would seem to apply in these cases, but judges must first establish a legal bond.

Another point of comparison between marriage and a same-sex relationship is the level of commitment required to succeed. Most people know by heart the classic promise, "I do, with you and with all that pertains." But what promises are gay men and lesbians making?

In our survey, 75 percent of the men and 62 percent of the women described their relationship as long-term, and 29 percent of the men and 30 percent of the women described their relationship as "a long-term."

Couples and events aren't the only ones to have grappled with definitions. More than a dozen case-law strategies "domestic partnerships" of city workers—essentially gay or lesbian heterosexual relationships verified by affidavit. These strategies in domestic partners some or all of the benefits granted to spouses of legally married partners, including medical insurance. A growing number of businesses offer similar plans.

Some plans set a higher standard for domestic partners than for legally married workers. They take "domestic partnership" by imposing a waiting period between one domestic partnership and another. It's not marriage, but for a small number of workers, these plans offer a degree of domestic security.

But all the paperwork in the world can't make relationships last and thrive. In the final analysis, gay and lesbian couples live all of the challenges of straight couples: inadequate communication, broken agreements, sense of abusive childhood. Any couple, gay or straight, will all you live great, meaningful relationships involve hard work.

For the work hard to reach America for gay men and lesbians. The other day your relationship with personal problem-solving from a well-documented experience of oppression. Substance abuse, for example, is widespread in the gay and lesbian community. Lesbian and gay youth driving such low self-esteem that they are themselves more likely to attempt suicide than straight peers. With the kind of frustrating circumstances that do not exist only.

Continued next month

◆ FEATURES

◆ LABELING HOMOSEXUALS

Devoted Free Press columnist JIM STEZGERALD, whose column was featured in *PFLAG/Denver's* newsletter wrote the following column in July. We include this in the kind of sensitive reporting we need. If you agree deep into a line C/O the Free Press and express your thanks. Remember to always have mail and we need to offer his support.

PFLAG/Denver

Devoted Free Press

Wednesday, July 11, 1990

Jim

Pragmatist

Labeling homosexuality a vice isn't America's virtue.

Both times, when I read the outrageous comment, my first thought was, "Good Lord, how can an otherwise intelligent, well-educated person be writing head-on, non-apologetic homophobic trash?"

My second thought was, "I hope Richard didn't read this crap." I'm not assuming Richard's full name because I don't want to get his job. He's gay.

A few weeks ago, in an anti-gay-bashing column, I quoted from a typical homophobic piece by a Dallas Episcopalian priest, Eric Brown. "You don't label as evil what one has no choice over. You wouldn't say it's sinful to drink because of black skin or epilepsy or sexually aberrant. . . . Thus you choose to be a homosexual because you've committed a crime of choice." Mr. . . . What you are isn't sinful.

A brilliant homophobia expert:

Richard went into a state of appreciation. "I wish everyone were as willing to accept our diversity. The studies I have to make up for work for some fancy date. That will always be the case. I'm sure things will get better. I would if I could but this is not. So finally you're allowing me a few moments of pride and dignity as I sit reading my Sunday paper. People that are involved in this lifestyle don't get the opportunity to have that feeling very often.

Richard surely didn't get that appreciative feeling if he read a newspaper quote from someone like the *Buddha* novelist, Tom Clancy (*The Bear for Bad Order*). In a Pennsylvania speech, Clancy said thoughtfully with commiseration was that it gave government too much control over the citizens - a situation he blamed to restrictions on public smoking.

"What are you say about a country that tolerates homosexuals but not smoking? I never gave anyone AIDS."

Palmer? What does Clancy want to do? Homosexuals, huh? No?

If Clancy's bigotry isn't enough to ruin Richard's day, Tom allows the second comment that finally pushed my comings-

victim? Last week, in my favorite newspaper, syndicated conservative columnist Laphroaig, whose indignantly explained why he is always nice to a homosexual, he often bumps into socially. It's because the gay man is brilliant and kind, tolerant, warm, and also:

" . . . because decency prohibits rubbing a man's nose in his weakness, whatever they may be. You don't take another drink around a friend who has a problem with alcohol. The distinction between virtue and vice is all important. But it's not virtuous to continually torment people for their sins."

What do you say to other wise intelligent people who label homosexuality a vice, similar to smoking and drinking? What do you say to a gay person, like Richard, who must regularly deal with such insulting discrimination? Like what Robert Bennett said:

Bennett is a lawyer in the U.S. Justice Department's Tax Division and Vice President of PFLAG, an acronym for the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, in a column for the New York Times headlined "My Daughter Is a Lesbian." Bennett explained why parents shouldn't encourage it: P-F-L-A-G.

Ignorance leads homophobia

"Among other things, we hear that we did not 'come,' and our children did not 'leave,' they homophobically - the crucial distinction, like wars or parties, that is a matter of biological reality. We also learn that the marginal lifestyle of the average gay person is alive as long as our own, entered on such meaningful matters as jobs, friends, families, and church. The gay community, in essence, contains about the same proportions of assets to exclude as any other."

Bennett also writes: "For the moment, we welcome a young David to a community with a homophobic Godhead. Millions of Americans live in daily terror lest discrimination of their sexual orientation deprive them of jobs, protection, housing and a variety of social and political advantages."

The appalling ignorance of such high-visibility writers as Tom Clancy and Joseph Bower help create that crutch-called Godhead. They outrage me, which is nothing compared to what they do to Richard.

◆ NEWS FROM THE MAX

by Cheryl Bennett

Well it's a new year and that means another year of fun and excitement at The Max. Miss Max, Victoria Turner, will say goodbye on Sunday, January 13. Victoria's stepping down shows will be one less show of the new year. Victoria's guests will include Miss Max's, Gloria Bennett, Miss Gay Omaha 1990, Jennifer Jett, Miss Gay Nebraska 1988, 1991, Phyllis Tice, and Victoria's special guests, Robin Rogers and Jillian Barrett.

1991, Phyllis Tice, and Victoria's special guests, Robin Rogers and Jillian Barrett.

Those heeled, beehive and beautiful ladies of the Wild West will return to The Max on Sunday, January 13. You won't want to miss the finest display of Nebraska Red seen on the Sun Side. Thursday, January 17, Union Wayne and Andy Miles return to the Max party and underwear night show too. Ladies know all the details yet, but these three are also combining their ideas. I'm sure it will be another that will guarantee Max Live. Watch the lobby for more details and information.

Sunday, January 21, brings one of the most exciting weeks The Max has all year. It's Miss Max Week. January 21 brings Miss Max News. After the Miss Max's will be news for this show. Each will be giving you their best, newsgirl. The title of Miss Max has stood as a symbol of quality in the Midwest for many years. The former Miss Max's have shown style and personality all their own and they reflect the unique and individual style of The Max. January 27 - it'll be the night that many want for all year long. It's The 10th Annual Miss Max Pageant. Some of the finest performers in the Midwest will compete for the title of Miss Max. All of the former Miss Max's will be in attendance this year. Missy Venturini, Steve, Farina, Gloria and Victoria. Come see whose name will be added to the list.

ICOM will be having another show on Wednesday, January 24. Just what it is, I'll say, as I hope it will be equally show. It's just what you need to brighten those winter days.

Congratulations to the new Miss Gay Nebraska 1991, Phyllis Tice. I'm sure Phyllis will carry on the tradition of excellence that preceded her. The former Miss Gay Nebraska USA, cannot also market one of the best times that June. Mattie will be performing for us. Anne is making some changes in her life. I would like to meet, on behalf of the entire Max staff, both thank you for her time. Personally I'd like to thank Anne for all her help and encouragement in the past and to let her know I love to see her at a performance and as a person. Good Luck Anne!

Wayne's Holiday Max Club was quite a success and a great way to enjoy the holiday season. If you missed it, don't worry. Wayne promises that another Max Club is in the planning stages as I write.

So it isn't so bad. . . . What will your's dinner table bring? Bring new children to maybe get a real young Barbie with original. . . . Will Victoria fight there the young ladies struggle? . . . Who will win? . . . Will Kimberly stand the G. Tripp's and his father will be with you at the Max? . . . Did Ann Marie really put Johnny Angel on top of his Christmas tree? . . . It's more Victoria's where did he stick them? . . . It's never so! Happy New Year!

◆ CELEBRITY CORNER

by Hollywood Jen

No 1980 and everyone's getting older. No surprise there, right? This month we salute four celebrities for every day of the month, so let's get going!

Marion Coggart was born on New Year's Day in 1940. Diana Anderson will be 81, Roger Miller will be 55 on the 26th. On January 3, Walter Bergs will be 82, Massimo Ambrosini (The Ambrosini Sisters) will be 73, Delaney Calverton (The original Mrs. Ronald Reagan) 77, Sammi Becket (Chick of Hound) 41, and Dyan Cannon will be 54. Robert Duvall turns 65 on the 16th and Diane Keaton will be 45.

Lucinda Young was born on the 6th in 1935. Danny Thomas (Danny Jordan) is 74, Vic Tayback turns 62, and Bernie Franklin will be 47. Beverly Sills (How to Succeed in the Film Biz) was born on the 7th in 1911. Kerry Livgren turns 45 on the 8th, and on the same day Joan Baez and Tompall Stryker will be 50, Crystal Gayle turns 48. Ray Bolger (Honey of 1931) was born on the 10th in 1904. Clavin McCool turns 44, Bud Stewart 81, and Pat Benatar (Patricia Annandrea) 38, all on the 15th.

Red Taylor will be 82 and Betty Goldstein 76 on the 18th. On the 19th Roy Price turns 63 while Glenn Yarbrough celebrates another 61. On the 13th Robert Stack will be 72 and Charles Nelson Reilly 60. The 19th Jack Jones is 53 and Tony Danza turns 50. Lloyd Bridges will be 78 on the 19th; the same day Chuck Berry is 45 and Scott Cooley is 44.

Bonnie McKaye turns 48 on the 16th along with John Casper who will be 43. On the 17th Betty White is 47, James Earl Jones 61, Sherry North 56, and Shorty Lewis (Lambert) 57. Cary Grant was born on the 18th in 1904. Danny Kaye turns 79 that day. On the 19th we have Joan Sappines 48, Phil Everly 53, Dolly Parton 41, and Neil Armstrong 58. George Burns (Nathan Birnbaum) turns 89 on the 26th along with Debralee Kaye 71, Patricia Neal 60, Lin Johnston 62, and Laurence Lewis 53.

On the 23rd we have Tony Sinatra 47, Benny Hill 64, Phyllis Diller 90, Mae Davis 86, and Bobby Benson (Bobby Knight) 81. Sam Neilson (who has been 82 on the 23rd, Lucy Papp will be 58, D'Wayne Brown 57, and Linda Blair 32. Blanchette will turn 69. Myra Samuels (The original Ed Gein) turns 69 on the 24th. Ernest Borgnine turns 74 on the 24th and David Thompson (Rocky Hunter) 50. Drew Barrymore will turn 40 on the 28th.

For the 28th we have Anne Jeffreys 68, Paul Newman 68, Eartha Kitt 63, and Bill Under 56. Black Sabbath will be 73 on the 27th along with Tony Danza who turns 53. Alan Alda (Alvy Singer) 57 (who was born on the 28th in 1936) and Michael Biehn (who was born on that day in 1956, Larry in 1948, Victor Mature was born on the 28th in 1914, John Cassavetes (Candy) will be 73, Katherine Ross 65, Tom Selleck 61, Ann Jillian 61, and Judy Nelson Taylor (The Hours) 55. On the 29th John Ireland turns 77, Rick Martin 48, Dorothy Malone, Gene Hackman, 41, Tatum O'Neal 53, Suzanne Rodgers 54, and Victoria Principal (Dallas) 41.

Finishing out the month on the 31st is Cary Muscunich 74, Carol Channing 61, James Franciscus 57, and Suzanne Pleshette 54.

Next month, one more celebration and a vintage review. Again, Cheers, Walter Palko, and Leonard Rosenberg. Thank you, know who they are? It's all you in February.

◆ NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

by Joan Maramba

Eighteen years ago, I made a New Year's resolution. I was not, no way, no how, ever to be a pill-popper, going to the doctor more often than I could get away with when I grew up. I would rather have been found to want Laverne's thick cream than when that is not possible for me to end up sounding my number.

I suppose now young girls have made that announcement at some point to their best friends and boy/girl. It's not that we don't love our meds. Most of us really do, and we wouldn't trade them for the world. But there are other things in life, like those amazing babies, those phrases that come out of grandma's or grandpa's mouths as they tell their story. It's like fingers in a chalkboard.

My mom and I used to secretly make jokes about Mom's habits. We laughed at

her predictably. We complained that they were old-fashioned things, making me like children (which, of course, was what we were, but that was beside the point).

No, I protestant, I will never say anything Mom says when I grow up. I will certainly not tell anybody how she makes me. I even remember the same words she said.

Then I grew up. Something triggered a reaction, and suddenly I caught myself thinking that just old-timey words were it and that's all. It was a weird realization, and I discovered right then not to let the moment catch up to my feelings.

Then I got involved in another relationship. Suddenly I caught myself saying things like, "Thank you, that's what I need to know about with these kids, you're the best!" and "Don't you think we should go home now?" I found I still would always protest her suggestions as a question, meaning I'd better do as she suggested or she'd be justified with her enthusiasm and I'd lose my 70 privileges. But then I realized doing exactly the same thing.

Dear Momma, maybe my best friend, I've turned into my mother after all!

Do you suppose it could be a genetic thing? Maybe when you reach a certain age, a hormonal kink in us and there's something you can do but guess your mother's brain. No, it's more likely environmental. Not kidding.

Well, it's not like on those radio shows that say, maybe she won't be as bad as I thought she was while I was growing up. I've found that your parents get meaner as you get older. Or maybe it's just that all the things they said and did make more sense as you mature. I've also heard that if you're to pick up the habits of someone, you've seen it a positive light.

Whatever it is, this year I'm hoping you to be an agent whose coming into me doesn't feel a pretty good, to me, go.



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◆ FEATURES

◆ THE WORD IS: LESBIAN

by Lee Dierkswater

What better way to start a new year than with a new column in *The New Voice*? Ever heard of Word Builder? It's a game that originated with your third grade teacher who was trying to make it fun for you to learn how to spell. She'd put a word - usually a holiday - on the blackboard like "Thanksgiving" or "Thanksgiving" and tell you you had thirty minutes to write down as many words as you could think of using the letters in the word like these.

In this column we're going to do a variation on that theme. Here are the rules:

First of all, you've got until the end of issue of *The New Voice* come out to get your list done. Second, I'm going to tell you at the very beginning how many words can be made from the new word, even going so far as to tell you the total number of words without number of letters.

Yes, plural count as a separate word. No, proper nouns don't count (one can be made from "lesbian," but you can't use it). If the same letter appears twice in a word, you can't count it twice (the same can occur a second time - triple - cannot be used twice as a word formed from "guitar" even though there are two "y"s and only one is used in the word each time).

Now you may want to argue with me on the validity of some of the words I list. I use Webster's New Unabridged Dictionary as my source and I'd be happy to provide you with the definition of any word you may question.

Sound like a pretty tough job? This month's word is lesbian and if you're very good, 75 words of three letters or more can be made from it. Specifically, there are 7 six letter words, 26 five letter words, 31 four letter words, and 17 three letter words.

Good luck! This column list will appear in next month's issue of *The New Voice*.

By the way, your suggestions for next word can be e-mailed to lee@newvoice.com.

◆ CHURCH HOPPIN'

How do I know I love it? Now or never than the old one, huh?

"It's how you look!" says J. "Not looking for another church!"

JJ just looks at me and quietly says, "I've never been looking. I have a home church, thank you, and it does well by me."

"But you've always out looking," says J.

"Not looking," says JJ. "I'm still. It of a difference," says JJ. "I believe we should

get our land more ground. Not have 2000 members, get a chance to see how they see the world. We are a progressive church and we are. Rev. K. invited me over. Got a chance to see how they see the congregation. I've always felt welcome and we love them. They know I found MCC and it doesn't matter to them. It's been a good educational thing. This month's congregation is from a small town, a very old group. How is when we would want to start if we want to get more equipped with habitats. More Christians should be open-minded and see for themselves how their Christian heritage got started. They'd see many similarities in worship and rights over into their own churches."

"Thank you was down to KC last week, and, JJ," says J.

"Yes, sure was," says JJ. "Went down Sunday afternoon to see the Quill boys in KC, MO, at the Exhibition Hall. Got down there at 4:30, had plenty of time to see the Quill show in Hall was open till 11:00. They did have a nice display. This is the first time I see it," says JJ. "It never fails to have an impact on me. Such an epitome of love and commitment for those stuck down in the name of their love."

"Was that all you want to see?"

"Yes," says JJ. "I did make a weekend of it."

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I added into consideration my age. "You all have to move," says RL, with a twinkle in his eye. "It is to remember the good times, and there were some real good times down in KC."

"Well as," prompted JF
 "I'm not your father business," says RL. "But," says RL, "I did try to take in the Plaza. At Christmas time they really light it up, and it's really a sight to see. But due to the massive traffic, cars down there could only look from a distance. Hit the Cabaret. Used to be down town by the Y, somewhat on the Midland. Used to be wild downtown. Burlesque, kind of wild. The Double Mile had more action going, what with live music. Glad to see them going again. But didn't stay out too late. Denny might as well Arthur don't like it all. So hit the park. Then he wanted to take in MCC in the evening."

"So how was MCC in KC, MO?" says JF
 "Pretty doggone good," says RL. "They've got their larger church now, and Father John Barbone, now Reverend John Barbone, recently took them in. The church is the former Hyde Park Christian Church. Will seat 300 in the main sanctuary, and it was about 1/3 full that Sunday noon. The chapel will seat 60, and the parking lot will handle 70 cars, if everyone parks down

Five big auditoriums with seats, which are broken down into smaller halls if need be with curtains. Plenty of meeting rooms. Real nice place."

Says RL, "Reverend Barbone is really quite a person. Reverend Barbone took and founded old Roman Catholic, modern Roman Catholic, traditional Protestant worship, and brought all everything quite well. They have real nice services. After services, they go to fellowship for just a little while, as weather permits some happy."

"So," says RL, "one thing about and headed back to Omaha, trying not to run into anything too bad. Not as young as I used to be," says RL. "As it was, got in Midwest City and it rained much. So we started getting bad. Then had had made back to Omaha, but," says RL, "made pretty good time considering."

"So, RL," says J, "make it back to Omaha for evening services?"

"Sure did," says RL. "And it'll be good to be home. It may be just a little more from church," says RL. "It may have been a laundry, it may even have been a bar but as an MCC Church, it may have served the G/L community well over the years. It's given a lot of people a place of refuge over the years. To be with their God and just to themselves,

with no promises, no decisions, no talking into them, they are God's G/L Children, who have every right to God's Kingdom in Heaven, the same as their straight brothers and sisters. Yes, it'll be good to be back," says RL.

"Evening services are usually short on people," says RL, "and especially tonight. It looked like it would just be the Reverend Craig and me, but," says RL, "I'd brought the elements, and made it a communion. Many people showed up evening services," said RL. "It's a quarter time of worship, was formal. At times Reverend Howard improvises and does quite well. It doesn't do this with a large gathering, or with formal evening services for some and allowing out to some good services. Just give evening services a try sometime," said RL. "You'll love them."

"Well, try to," says RL, "but have a heap of fun!"

"Well, try to," says RL, "but have a heap of fun!"

So I had dinner at RL, things to remember again and hear how things are going. Sounds like a good idea to get out and see how the world is doing, what the world is doing. It seems it can only strengthen our own faith, and give me a deeper understanding

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◆ FEATURES

◆ GAYBRIEFS

COMMENTARY
by Jim Rueter

The topic most frequently discussed at New York's Queer Action meetings isn't homophobia, gay and lesbian visibility, or anti-gay and lesbian violence. Instead a common subtextual, tacit, allusion, euphem, or even a veiled innuendo you probably haven't even thought of. As one member said to me, "The risk of this shit, I come here to talk about gay and lesbian visibility, to talk about being attacked on the streets by hat-wearing bigots, about being harassed by the police. I should have to listen to how I'm a racist, sexist pig. It's all bullshit."

Then it seems that people attending gay and lesbian events are just listening for speakers to make a political mistake in what they say. I first heard this complaint after a march against hate in Brooklyn. During the march the crowd of over 100 was verbally assaulted four times. First by two young men: "Fucking legs," they yelled, and sped off. Then a man made remarks about the marchers: "Auntie, fuckin' queer." Finally he gave the crowd the finger, grabbed his crotch and made obscene comments. Outside a sports-themed employee came out

and pretended to cheer the marchers, making the sound of machine guns, calling the marchers "leggs" and yelling, "Fuckin' the legs!"

I asked why the local press had ignored these incidents. Instead, the Village Voice and New York's lesbian and gay news magazine, OUTWEEK, featured the story of a lesbian distributed during the march depicting the "lack of inclusion" of people of color in the planning of the action. Dear and dear again I read about how some community members refused to participate in the anti-violence march unless their names or other issues were given a full hearing. OUTWEEK devoted six paragraphs of its article about the march to the charges of "white exclusivity" of the organizers. Four paragraphs were devoted to the march itself. The group of anti-gayest protesters, who wouldn't find the time to participate in the action against anti-lesbian violence because they felt a club's concern itself with racial issues, were able to find the time and resources to produce a leaflet, pass packet, and then attend the march as anti-marchers to distribute their leaflet.

Again and again I asked people, "But what about the harassment and angry verbal assaults during the march?"

"There seems to be a taboo about men-

tioning anything people of color do," one protest leader answered. Several others were upset with divisions raised by a small minority who wouldn't participate unless without receiving no share profits and world agendas."

"I can't understand why we ignore and belittle can't simply march to say NO to violent physical attacks on lesbians! The women who wouldn't join the group wouldn't take part unless we reached a shared analysis of social change. We'll never reach that," one organizer said.

"And why are we being harassed anyway? While they're beating us in the streets these people want us to talk about fucking global sociopolitical strategy."

Why isn't a march of 600 people demanding an end to gay and lesbian beatings worthy of a news report? Why, when the media does cover us, do they emphasize incidents with our group, which negatively sums up us as a publicist? And why do we get less this?

Sadly, similar divisions and attitudes within the gay and lesbian community are spreading up all across the country. One example is the split of San Francisco's ACT UP into two groups because of disagreements on focus and on the ever increasing hostility between men and women and white and

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people of color. Many in San Francisco felt it was time to stop arguing about the group's culture and vision, stop doing what some called "leaderless movement group work and stability training," and get back to their main issue: fighting AIDS. Other issues were seriously draining the group's energy, and trying to pacify them. The divisions and tensions became so bad that it led to a total split of the two factions.

The divisions within New York's Queer Nation haven't improved with time either. After a Village Voice photo of a group representing Queer Nation appeared with a majority of gay white males, some members of the group were also political commentators. "We're tired of all these white boys," one activist said. "Where are the women and people of color?" Others angrily retorted, "We're wrong with being a gay white boy, huh?"

When the mayor's liaison to the gay and lesbian community, Marjorie Hill spoke at a Queer Nation meeting the next day, she brought the larger crowd of members of color the group had never had. They claimed they were there to protect her from "hate."

Marjorie Hill's clear words to the gathered gay and lesbian members of Queer Nation were so blunt that the group's divisiveness led her being attacked for not having arranged for an American

Sign Language translator. Appearings here and elsewhere rose from her "protection." Soon she was leading the group with others.

"You're excited because your mother and her mother were racist," one member of color told members of Queer Nation. Anne, disappointed Queer said, "It's clear that gay white men can't protect against Patsy Tu's Mayor Dinkins, his homophobic Health Commissioner, or Marjorie Hill (all three of whom happen to be Black) without being called a racist. Did you hear her answer to the questions about her priorities? She said she's an African American first. Then a lesbian! And to question having someone like that as our representative is racist!"

The Age of racism isn't the only call that draws out community of it's energy. And New York and San Francisco aren't the only places it's happening. In Memphis last month, members of the board of the Memphis Gay Coalition resigned amid charges of mismanagement. The co-founders of GAZE, the city's gay and lesbian paper, are gone. They said they were tired of "the packing trip." One said simply, "I have more productive things to do with my time."

What were they and of? Current charges that they were promoting "blacks and women first being treated" in the coalition. Some members of the community

were upset because the board failed to vote to charges of racism that were limited to a local campaign. The result is that the paper community involvement and other gay activities all seem to a temporary halt.

Divisions across the country threaten AIDS groups already being divided by people demanding a piece of the action. In Los Angeles, "What's the Point?" is just one question about L.A.'s Jackson Square says with surprise, "many gay men working actively for improved health care for PWAs have been women's health issues such as breast cancer, infant agenda." She continues, "Many white gay men with AIDS have committed themselves to support government programs imposed by a system that does discriminate. Until the disease forces them to examine these issues, many of them were committed to benefit from their citizens' privilege to do, and white, middle-class males." Many prominent members, however.

There are many more community coalitions. AIDS itself is also concerned because they lack a good communication. AIDS service groups identified with homophobic messages started to demand minority participation and the support of local groups with a potential to be easily by force the appropriate need of gay men with AIDS. (There are

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agencies and social service programs and special outreach projects for every possible community with AIDS in New York except gay men?

What does it all mean? Yes, the gay and lesbian community has its share of factors, its share of racism. Its share of classism and ableism and sexism and every other sin you can think of. But the problem that's killing and tearing apart the fabric of our community isn't one of these. The problem that's unleashing killing on us is homophobia.

What's homophobia? Homophobia is being unable to have an organization that deals exclusively with the special social needs of only gay men with AIDS. Period. Homophobia is not being able to have an anti-discrimination march without addressing other bias and social ills in order to make the one against us fully legit. Homophobia is not being able to have a conference on AIDS without mentioning breast cancer. Homophobia is not being able to speak up against bigoted government officials who are totally unresponsive to the unprecedented increase in violence against our community without being called racist. Homophobia is allowing this to happen to us, letting people put us on the bottom rung of the ladder of oppression. Homophobia is not having enough pride to say enough of

this stuff. Homophobia is being afraid to say, "Yes, but honey this time you have to walk. I'm busy with something important like I'm fighting for my life."

◆ THE BOOK REPORT

*Adrienne Farkler
©1991 by Penny Hayes*

Amateur health, you'll enjoy this book. It was the late 1980's and Elizabeth Reynolds, married in a well-to-do New York family, had just turned 23 years old. She was engaged to Jonathan T. Stanton, who came from a proper family and had the right friends. As her future, she couldn't ever have it worse her pretty little head about anything. And that's what bugged her.

The feared that after marriage, her life would become insupportably dull. Killed only with the daily social people with the other halves of the tennis club. So, after re-reading some of her Aunt Polly's letters describing her life in the Missouri Territory, Elizabeth decided to visit her aunt and uncle for a year so that she could have a memory of doing and being something other than a daughter or a wife.

Maria's proved to be a bit more wild than the pampered East Coast noble had

anticipated. Especially when she met Victor Buda, a widow who ran a clothing store.

Ms. Hayes does a beautiful job of describing the physical setting, including the lay of the land, building a well known living in a town where there were no phones and your nearest neighbor was a day's ride away. Her descriptions are filled with vivid imagery to her vision of pioneering life. A knowledge of the post-war weather's sudden change brings realism to the winter blizzards and the summer heat. This book may well read some of Willa Cather's depictions of frontier life.

The pair of the former hold steady, easily keeping one another. However, she never implied that this was the first lesbian relationship in either of the two women, yet we never gained much insight as to their thoughts concerning their emerging feelings for each other. Given the fact of society's constant heterosexual indoctrination, I wonder what neither through it could that they should want each other physically.

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AIDS project

nebraska

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-11pm Mondays and Thursdays

SUPPORT GROUPS

HIV TESTING

BUDDY SYSTEMS

AIDS HOTLINE

★ AT&T: THE WRONG CHOICE

Sandra Ferrin, the surviving Indian partner of a dissolved AT&T employee, is charging the company with discrimination for making its partnership with her spouse (which is mainly given to surviving family members).

Ferrin, who is represented by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, argues that AT&T's refusal to take federal law which requires an employer to leave the position it takes regarding benefits. AT&T's stance contradicts its own company employment policy which includes provisions against sexual orientation and marital status discrimination.

Ferrin had been in a committed relationship for 12 years with Margate Ferrin, who was an AT&T Sales and Marketing Manager from 1986 until her death from cancer in 1988. The two women shared a home and had formalized their relationship with a ceremony of commitment. For the last 12 years, they raised Ferrin's two children from a former marriage.

Earlier this year AT&T joined in a court suit brought by Women's Quest which attempted to overturn San Francisco's gay rights statute (the effort was thrown out of court).

"It's time to tell AT&T it's not enough to have a corporate anti-discrimination policy that it doesn't enforce, while it works against gay and lesbian rights in the courts and elsewhere. AT&T should be leading the way in extending benefits to lesbian and gay partners."

Tell AT&T unless it changes its policy of discrimination against gay and lesbian survivors, you'll exercise your right to choose a competing long-distance service. Write: Susan E. Allen, Chairman and CEO, AT&T, 400 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022, or call (212) 695-1000.

★ FROM RUSSIA, WITH LOVE

A Soviet law that protects consenting homosexuals up to five years in prison will be retained in the new edition of the Soviet Criminal Code, according to Soviet reports.

Members of the Moscow Union of Lawyers and Homosexuals have expressed in the world to protest this violation of fundamental human rights and have urged that letters be sent to Soviet President Gorbachev. Writers' Union on human rights (they post reports on the Soviet Union). Those President Mikhail Gorbachev and demand abolition of Article 121.1. Filial address: simply Moscow, USSR.

★ GAY FLAG OVER CALIFORNIA CAPITOL

SACRAMENTO - The familiar gay rainbow flag flapped in the breeze atop the California state capitol building in recognition of National Coming Out Day.

The display of the flag was approved at the last minute on October 18 by the Joint Rules Committee of the California legislature in a speedy continuation of a measure made on October 1.

After the display, the flag was scheduled to fly next to the Santa Fe, New Mexico, headquarters of National Coming Out Day, along with a resolution stating that this was the first occasion flag to fly over a state capitol.

Kim Toppin, an aide to Senate president Rep. Don Robinson, told the Bay Area Post that the event was significant because, "It sends a message to all constituencies that write us that a part of this society are gay or lesbian or without group."

★ DISCRIMINATION BY THE FBI

Frank Butts worked as a Special Agent for the FBI for over 20 years, receiving numerous commendations and awards for outstanding work. During that period he earned a Top Secret security clearance and had an unblemished record of supplying counterintelligence information and substantial assistance of security.

In response to an anonymous tip, the FBI questioned Butts about his homosexuality, which he freely admitted in December 1988. Thereafter, his supervisor in San Diego continued to assign him no sensitive work, but his superior in Washington suspended his security clearance in September 1989 and revoked it in May 1990. Butts was fired on June 20, 1990, allegedly for lack of a security clearance, but actually just because he is Gay.

In June 1990, Butts filed a lawsuit against the FBI. Butts is attempting to challenge the FBI's homophobic policy excluding gays and lesbians from working for the FBI, by attempting to amend the case to a class action suit. To accomplish this goal, Butts is seeking to locate any former FBI employees, current employees or applicants to the FBI who have been victims of this discriminatory policy and have their own file in the suit. Butts's attorney, Richard Gerner, telephone number (310) 951-0204, should be contacted by those individuals. Their names and work will be kept confidential, if desired.

★ COMPETITION ANNOUNCED FOR MUSIC FESTIVAL

The GALA Chorus (Gay and Lesbian Association of Chorus Performers) Committee announced GALA's 1991 Competition. In preparation for GALA's following the 1990 World Festival (W), it is hoped that this competition will be much more than a music which will be held selected for the 1992 Denver Festival IV writing and also will be performed by individual choruses.

In addition to their works being performed at the Festival, the composers of 10 works will receive a \$1,000 prize, a \$100 allowance for travel to the Festival, and \$100 per day for hotel and expenses during the Festival. All selected works will be professionally copied. To provide a balance to the needs of the musical choruses performing the works during the Festival, composers to be selected include 3 TBBB works, 2 SATB works, and 1 SSAA work. The SSAA composer will be awarded to a woman composer.

Guidelines for submissions include:

- All works must be submitted and approved by Festival Artists' Director of approval only.
 - Each work must be able to be performed by choruses of at least 20. Range is equal that of the Festival, groups of 30 or more will perform. Thankless winners is on the smaller theater.
 - While work requires instruments, a piano reduction is preferred. Instruments are not required.
 - Treat a - 32 notes.
 - All compositions must be complete. Lyrics, title, and submitted with a postmark no later than August 31, 1991.
 - An all-day songwriter may accompany the composer, regardless of "homosexual done before" in being used. Chorus does submitted must have been previously performed. However, the name must not be mentioned in poster before the process of being published.
 - Notification of composer winners will be posted no later than October 15, 1991.
 - Competition poster will be designed by festival authors.
 - All works submitted for Competition which are not accepted for the Festival can be made available to the GALA membership at the composer's request.
- To submit a work for consideration, or for more information about the Competition, contact Jeffrey Blum, Artistic Director, GALA Chorus Festival IV, P.O. Box 1987, Denver, CO 80202. Phone: (303) 461-3707.

★ NATIONAL NEWS

★ SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS RIGHTS OF GAY SOLDIER

On November 3 the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal brought by the Department of Defense which would have kept Sgt. Augustus Perry Watkins from enlisting, thereby upholding a decision made one year ago by the appellate court at San Francisco. The lower court had ruled that the 15-year-old soldier could not be dismissed solely for being gay and, further, that the Army had to tolerate Watkins and allow him to serve until he was eligible for retirement.

Watkins stated that this decision came as a surprise to him. "Considering how conservative this court is — and being black and gay and fighting the government — I had these other options too. But it shows how far all have the government is with their arguments."

Watkins entered the Army in 1967 when he was 15 years old. He served with an infantry regiment until 1968. While he was first drafted during the Vietnam War, and with every announcement after that, Watkins openly acknowledged his homosexuality.

He stated that when he saw the opinion on the Army application about being gay, he thought about his mother. "She was very strict about being. I thought that if I let her get involved, my mother will kill me. She wouldn't mind at all that I'm gay, but she would absolutely die if I had to get in the army and then get dismissed."

Watkins, who was dismissed military drug abuse who received honors for assistance in the struggle throughout Europe and Asia and was written up in front-page papers, served without incident until 1968. Then, in 1968, the Army began to crack down on private businesses and by charging the regulations to include anyone who was gay, not just employees of the business itself. Watkins was discharged just as he was about to enter his final enlistment before retirement. The 15 Supreme Court ruling re-establishes Watkins' eligibility for his 15 year period.

The ruling by the Supreme Court stated that "Sgt. Watkins has clearly benefited the Army, and therefore the country, by his military service. In addition, Watkins' homosexuality clearly has not hurt the Army in any way... Equity requires us and demands that the Army be prohibited from terminating sensitive Watkins on the basis of his homosexuality."

★ BAND WON'T BE ON NBC

Why would NBC pay a reported \$250,000 for the rights to a property and then drop it from their development schedule?

Could it be the new movie "Beauty and the Beast" by Paramount? And The Band Played On, in its government and would therefore scare off all important stockholders? Some media analysts think so. It is the book by MEYER and would have ratings for the same reason? Both aspects to.

And The Band Played On is a scathing attack on the government's slow response to the AIDS crisis as well as the movie maker's past coverage of it. Would the other aspects be more real? Both are TV controversies. They book makes very strong political statement, it would everybody nervous?

A spokesman for the network says that the decision to drop was not so much in controversial nature, but that the complexity of the project "wasn't meeting enough substantially for us to do a success." Also, some 70% of projects in development are never made.

The good news is that Home Box Office has picked up the option on the book and plans to deal fairly with the author-Burger studio. An HBO spokesman said they view the project as an All-Time President's film of the AIDS epidemic. So all ideas have been mentioned, however.

★ OUT AT OHIO STATE

The Office of Student Life has created a new voluntary service for the campus community population. The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Student Services Office, similar in function to Student Life's offices for African American, Hispanic, Asian American and women students, is scheduled to open officially this summer. "This State is committed to recognizing and valuing diversity among people," said Richard Hollingsworth, dean of students. "Establishing this office will help fulfill our goal of creating this supportive educational environment for all students."

Philip Martin, interim director, said that in addition to demonstrating Ohio State's oppositional diversity, the new office will provide help and referrals, coordinate programming and provide a list of resources.

This Week's Action Magazine, June 1980

★ FUNDAMENTALISTS TARGET WALDENBOOKS

The fundamentalist American Family Association (AFA) is finally getting the law they want down in the Waldenbooks chain store in all books about lesbians and gays. The all-approved Christian book-

store sold all such books as "Gay Pornography." Their attack is especially disturbing since for twenty years we have been selling them such as Waldenbooks to carry more gay and lesbian fiction and nonfiction titles. It's sad that we consider the AFA's selling standard as A-M-A-T, without Waldenbooks and letters along that more governmental books and magazines be closed. Write: Joseph Amadio, Chairman, E-Start Corp., 1300 West Big Beaver Road, York, PA 17404, or call 1-800-435-4276.

★ BIGOTS HIT BURGERS

The fundamentalist are also pursuing their anti-gay burger king, among other sites, advertising on TV shows that depict "family and traditional values" which stress they include gay characters. These anti-gay sentiments are particularly angry about Burger King's ads on the television movie "Life On Mars" based on Thornton Towner's bestselling novel. The AFA's Executive Committee the NBC sitcom because it "developed the homosexual relationship between Hubert and Laurie, portraying the homosexual love as caring, sensitive, and equal men while Hubert's anti-homosexual nature is cold, uncaring, and vindictive." A major part of the plot included a female car accident in which death by AIDS is shown.

That's CORRECT! GAY'S Advertising about the AFA found themselves on the way. The Movie Queen was a Disney for her role as the homophobic mother!

The AFA has been successful past week at Burger King. Now it's your turn. Write: Joe A. Martin, Chairman, Crystal Mountain, Inc. (Burger King), 337 Fingers Drive, Monroeville, NJ 07040 and support Burger King's continued advertising on programs that negatively portray gays and lesbians. Tell us how much you love that burger, mate.

DARLINS

SINGLE women become great job 2 care society

CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

Coalition for G/L Civil Sta
1st Saturday Event, 7-10pm
Corvairstone-640 N. 16-Lincoln

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

New Voice Steering Committee
MCC-Omaha, 420 S. 24, 1 pm

GLSD Gay/Lesbian Student Org
Call For Location 291-0634
or 556-8121, Mtg at 6:30pm

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

ITSN Board of Governors Mtg
The Max-1417 Jackson-6:30pm

Support Group for Bisexuals
Open to all Sexes, 7:30pm
Cornerstone (Upstairs),
640 N. 16 St., Lincoln

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

A.S.G.L.E. (Achieving New
Gay/Lesbian Endeavors) 7pm
UMC Religious Center
101 N Saggy Mallow, Omaha

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

Affirmation/Omaha, 7 pm
Call 336-7701 for info

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Film "No Need to Suggest: The
Balled of Rev Jan Greisinger"
MCC-Omaha, 420 S 24, 345-2543
Special Showing for Women 2pm
Public Showing, 7:30pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

Parents-FLAG/Omaha, 3 pm
1st Meth 7020 Cass, 291-6781

Omaha Men (OMES) Mtg, 1:30pm
Write: Box 3766, Omaha 68103

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

AIDS Interfaith Network
Service, St Cecilia, 7 pm
40th & Webster, Omaha

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

WATSON LUTHER KING DAY

Gay/Lesbian Coalition, 7:30pm
St Marks, 13 & S, Lincoln

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

Parents-FLAG, Kearney, 3pm
St Johns, 2nd Ave at 23rd St
Call for info: (208) 237-3870

GLSD Gay/Lesbian Student Org
All Students Welcome! 6:30pm
Location: 556-8121, 291-0634

Affirmation/Lincoln, for info
Write Box 80122, Lincoln 68501

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

Parents/FLAG-Lincoln, 7 pm
Unitarian Church, 6306 "A"
Support Group followed by
Video "Parents Come Out"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

P-FLAG AIDS Support Group
Lincoln, 475-2437, 7 pm

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

Lincoln AIDS Interfaith Service
St Marks, UML, 13 & S, 7pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

Winter Concert, 7:00pm
River City Mixed Chorus
Strings Performing Arts Choir
UMC Caspary, 66th & Dodge

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday

Metropolitan Community Church
of Omaha, 420 S 24, 345-2543
Worship: 10:20am, 7pm

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

River City Bowling League
King Louis Boon Bowl, 4 pm
1190 Northwest Radial Hwy

The Max, 1417 Jackson, Omaha
Shows at 9:30

Monday

Alternate Test Site, 7-10 pm
SAP, 3624 Leavenworth, Omaha

River City Mix Chorus Rehearsal
Low Ave Fresh, 1023 N 40, 7pm

Tuesday

Gay/Lesbian Support Group
MCC-Omaha 420 S 24, 345-2543

Wednesday

Omaha Frontrunner/Walkers
Fund Birthsite, 6:30 pm
22nd St & Woolworth, Omaha

MCC-Omaha Prayer Group, 7pm
420 S 24, 345-2543 for requests

Thursday

Alternate Test Site, 7-10 pm
SAP, 3624 Leavenworth, Omaha

UMC Gay/Lesbian Student Org
Sobraska Union, Lincoln, 8pm

Friday

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous
Fella Lutheran, 203 S 41, Omaha
345-9916, 8:15 pm

Saturday

Women's Support Group, 11 am
MCC-Omaha, 420 S 24, 345-2543

● CONSTITUENCY GROUP TO TAKE ACTIVE ROLE IN ACTG

The AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), a network of medical centers established to evaluate promising therapies against the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and its complications, now includes individuals and community organizations as full members of ACTG committees. The ACTG is supported by the National Institutes of Health and the National Center for AIDS and is composed of 47 participating AIDS Clinical Trials Units nationwide.

"People living with HIV and their advocates have already made important contributions to the AIDS Clinical Trials program," said Anthony S. Fauci, MD, NEAID director. "I am confident that the inclusion of patient and community representatives as full members of the ACTG will further advance our scientific mission - the understanding and conquest of this terrible disease."

In recent months, members of the ACTG Executive Committee and the Treatment Research Program at NEAID's Division of AIDS worked in cooperation with community members representing a variety of different ethnicities in developing a formula to give HIV-infected persons a voice within ACTG. A plan was developed for broad-based representation of patient advocates and HIV-infected persons from a broad spectrum of the affected communities.

"The goals of the ACTG and the patient community are identical: to develop and deliver therapies for all aspects of HIV infection as quickly as possible. By joining the medical community with the community at large, the ACTG can be better able to develop new protocols, broaden recruitment for clinical trials, and conduct research that meets the clinical needs of AIDS," said David F. Hank, MD, director of NEAID's Division of AIDS.

The impetus of the new plan is the establishment of a Community Constituency Group. An original working group of 12 increased its membership by inviting additional representatives of various community organizations to join them, and they went on to form the new committee. Members of this committee have been appointed as every ACTG committee and working group and will assume the same rights and responsibilities as other ACTG members.

"As outlined in the Community Constituency Group document that links below, we are anxious to get started and are optimistic that our participation in the work of the ACTG will improve our effectiveness," said group member Barbara L. Collins, research director of the Massachusetts AIDS Center in Boston, MA.

● MARINES'S AWARD IN AIDS DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT

By William Matthews

Represented by the New York

WASHINGTON: A federal judge in Boston has limited the amount of money Marine Corps Chief Master Sergeant Martin Gaffney can collect in his suit against the government for an AIDS infection that has killed his wife and a son and may kill him.

Gaffney's wife, Marudis, was infected with the AIDS virus when she received a blood transfusion at a Navy hospital in 1981. She needed the transfusion after Navy doctors misdiagnosed her pregnancy (losing her first son, Martin, in the second birth).

Although the virus spread to Gaffney, his remains healthy. He received one, false, test of AIDS in 1984 when he was near. His 7-year-old daughter Marianne is not infected. Gaffney sued the federal government for \$10 million and won the first half of his suit in April when Federal District Court Judge Eva Zubed found the Navy guilty of medical malpractice.

But Zubed ruled Oct. 26 that a California law limits "non-economic damages" to \$250,000 on each of those claims. The cap applies to all of the other claims in Gaffney's suit.

Justice Department lawyers argued that the California cap applies to Gaffney's case because the Navy's medical malpractice occurred in that state. Gaffney argued that Massachusetts law should apply because the only his legal residence when the malpractice occurred. Massachusetts law does not limit non-economic damages.

Gaffney said the ruling applies to both his non-economic damages to \$750,000. The money would be for expenses for his wife's medical care in prison, including her own care, and their quality of life.

However, Gaffney's lawyers, James McKinnon and James Swinger, said they do not think the cap will severely limit the amount Gaffney can claim in his suit. There are a number of categories of damages possible for non-economic damages that his wife in the Gaffney case, they said.

Documented in Gaffney's suit, for instance, was Gaffney's "experienced a decrease in companionship" as a result of his wife's AIDS infection. That claim would fall under the "loss of consortium" cap. In addition, he "suffered financial economic" as a result of his wife's illness could have a dollar value assigned to it and would not fall under the cap, they explained.

The decision may or may not be a partial victory for Gaffney because the government wanted a \$250,000 cap applied to all non-economic damages in the case and the judge agreed

the cap to apply unless a value that could total the plaintiff's suit.

But Gaffney called the ruling "a bitter disappointment." It could "leave a big dilemma in what my daughter ends up with. And I'm not sure yet," Gaffney said. He hopes to have an appeal and payment from the government while he is still healthy.

"If Gaffney, the amount the government is forced to pay 'includes a difference in how much the government admits responsibility' for the death of his wife and two sons. Limiting the government's liability for non-economic damages, Gaffney would be leaving Navy men 'out away with trouble'."

Gaffney said delays have occurred throughout the case, which began with his and his wife filed a lawsuit in state court against the government in May 1987. Many of the delays have been the result of stalling tactics by the Navy and the Justice Department, Gaffney said.

"There is a real sensitivity to the fact that I'm walking around with a terminal illness," he said.

U.S. Attorney Mary Elizabeth Carnahan, who is defending the government in the Gaffney case, said there has been no intentional stalling. "Courts sometimes lag a little. This case has moved faster than most," she said.

Carnahan said that although her job also defend the government, she also has a responsibility "to see that justice is done." She said she is "working a just adjudication" and expects "a fair resolution" in the Gaffney case. "We would not describe the way an insurance adjuster does."

There is a 104 jury trial scheduled to begin July 26th. How much the government must pay Gaffney and his daughter. The trial is expected to be held in the next several months. In January 1991 Gaffney said.

Carnahan said the jury trial may be unnecessary, but decided to set a \$250,000 government payment as a trial settlement goal.

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