

Vol. VIII No. 6

August 1990

The
New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A



THE GAY GAMES '90

by Carla Peterson

For a few of us, The Gay Games "W" bring both voices of sweet-sour and muscular bodies piled one-on-one in the atmosphere of competition and roaring crowds bonded together by their love of sport. For others, The Gay Games '90 were those joyful festivities of the ICON Memorial Day Picnic. You remember—the Drag Race—the Three-Legged Race and of course, the Tag-of-War.

However, for most of us, The Gay Games '90 are those games we play every day, every month, every year. You know them. We all know them. We play all these by different names, but we've all played them. Let me show you what I mean.

HIDE AND SEEK is one of the most common. Remember how it goes, with just a few moments notice you hide all those books, magazines, toys and art work when your family comes to visit, and then for weeks you seek those hidden treasures.

There's also **BAIT AND SWITCH**. This game is most frequently played by those who have partners. It is inevitable. Just as your spouse's family is crashing into the living room (you are standing there looking a sight of relief because in only 30 minutes, you have hidden every suggestive item in the house), you open your mouth to greet

them just in time to open a double peeking out from behind a curtain. You point innocently out the window to the ball (usually an exotic beauty or some such obscure creature) and cry out "Oh my gawd!" Everyone stands silently out the window as you horizontally track down, grab the balls and run for the garage (to get the beauty set of course). This allows your spouse to shake his head and snicker to everyone. "He is a strange one." Everyone smiles, and the game ends as you return the room.

Shane and I are currently involved in learning a new game. For a lack of something better let's call it **FIND AN AGENT**. Do not confuse this with **DOUBLE AGENT**—you know—that game we play with our co-workers.

FIND AN AGENT goes like this. First you take two name-out people. Get them involved in a committed relationship. Try off the keys to their cars, and put both their names on the policy. Now the object of the game is to find an insurance company that will insure both vehicles and allow for the second-vehicle discount. Sounds funny, right? Wrong! This game has some time limits. First, you must submit your new title to your original insurance company within 30 days, so they can officially verify you that they don't insure cars with two names of unrelated people on them. Now they all you you must find an agent within 30 days.

For those of you who want a special challenge, try playing **DOUBLE AGENT** while playing **FIND AN AGENT**. Some of our most competent players even add waltz from their family as the cover time. So they may be involved in **HIDE AND SEEK** just as the phone rings with a call for you to **DOUBLE AGENT**, with a clue for **FIND AN AGENT**. And all those "mad" athletes think a *Searcher* is challenging.

So, how do you use **FIND AN AGENT**? Good question. Ask at next month, not 30 days will be up. The message, if you don't see the little white Suzuki flyer on the streets of Omaha, don't ask. It'll be grounded due to a lack of insurance. The Bureau will be doing double time looking to flesh with every step. Now we're talking **RESEARCH**—and we all know that's a totally different game.



Tell 'em
you read about it in
the New Voice!

LOOKING AHEAD

We are especially interested in articles, artwork, poems, cartoon and opinion pieces related to the following feature topics:

- September AIDS/Health Issues
- October National Coming Out Day
Names Project Quilt
- November Gays and Lesbians
in the Military
- December So, How Are
We Doing?
(End of the year evaluation)

ABOUT THE COVER

The pencil drawing on this month's cover is the work of Todd Jones, a local artist who will be showing his work at an art show at Gilgior's during August. Contact Gilgior's for more information.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR:

While taking my five-finger walk (a) into meditation, I had open thoughts that I'd like to share with others who may be feeling what may seem to be unbearable at times due to their illness, the attitude and prejudice of others or their faith.

It was desperately windy that afternoon, with a crisp comfortable chill in the air. The sky was clouded with violent streaks

of blue, purple, and black clouds, made from heavy ominous due to their heavy, overpowering size. Their pace was swift, not allowing others to their path as hinder or false ahead or behind. These dark chaotic swirling or moving were swiftly engulfed by others who were far faster, more aggressive and having a clear destination to reach—a goal ahead.

As I began my third pace, I quickly was overwhelmed with the feeling my legs suddenly turning aggressive and determined. The strong wind and dark chilling air that I found myself surrounded by brought to my awareness the struggle I was having with myself. I was struggling with the negative feelings, beliefs, and attitudes of others towards me, a person with AIDS.

As I plodded along, my steps became more uncertain and uncertain to the common, sudden—without warning—bursts of chilling wind. I chose to breathe slow and quieten my feelings and fear that I had discovered with.

After a time, moving through several lengths of meditation, my determination dawned on me. I would not only gain a steady pace but my power got stronger and more sure.

As I continued on, there could be no unusual sun-drenched openings within the dark clouds releasing wind, hot brilliant, slices of warm light, and the brightness of the stars harsh words began to calm.

As I reached the end of my journey, I did so with strength, hope and a belief in myself and the path that lay ahead—but to be unquenched. UNCERTAINTIES WERE GIVEN US IN ORDER TO CHANCE AND GAIN. NEGATIVES WERE MADE TO BE EQUALLED AND TURNED POSITIVE. FEARS WERE MADE TO BE FACED AND OVERCOME. BATTLES WERE MEANT TO BE FOUGHT. WHETHER VICTORIOUS, EQUALLED, OR DEFEATED.

In the end, the strength which is reached will be awarded with memory, his presence and comforting, perfect as the bright light that excites us—continually awaiting discovery.

Believe's constant, spiritual, challenge, gain, and love and gain more. We overcome the dark, approaching clouds that have or be removed through it order to reach the light that awaits us.

David G. Trimminger



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The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor and in Feature Articles are strictly those of the author. They do not reflect opinions of The New Voice or The New Voice Staff.

All letters to the Editor must be signed but we will withhold your name if you so state. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length and content.

Tired of the same old stories? Got an idea you'd like to see in print? Put it in writing and send it to the New Voice by the 10th of the month!



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GOOD ENDS, MEAN MEANS

by Jean Morosini

When do the ends no longer justify the means? That's a tricky definition, one that changes from case to case. But there are some means that can unapologetically do a bit of harm in order to achieve their ends. I'm talking about something called "outing."

Outing happens when a gay or lesbian person's sexuality is publicly exposed by someone else, usually without prior knowledge or consent, for the good of the community at large. The story behind naming is that if all the gays and lesbians in the world would suddenly come out to me, then the rest of society would see how many of us there are and that some very important people are homosexual. This, almost magically, would change their attitudes about gays in general and we'd all end up living in harmony.

I agree with the theory. I agree the end result is good. But I can't agree with the means.

An episode of the TV series *L.A. Law* covered a case of outing. For anyone who didn't guess it, here's the recap: A Gay Los Angeles police officer, who had discovered someone holding hostages, had become something of a hero. A publisher of a gay newspaper knew of the officer's homosexuality and decided to "out" him for the good of the community. He reasoned that the younger guys would have an honest role model, straight would see that gay people can be heroes. The publisher passed on his paper that the cop was gay. Eventually word spread. The cop's partner of three years asked for management. Fellow officers taunted him with name-calling and threatened him anytime as a reliable back-up in life-threatening situations. Unable to work with his peers, the gay officer had to resign. He took the publisher to court for compensation. During the trial it was revealed that the man's family had tried to accept the new knowledge about him, but they could not, and the family became estranged.

For several years now I've been advocating coming out to members. I believe in the theory that the more straight people see prime examples of "good and decent" gay people, the more quickly we will cease to be second-class citizens, and the women, we'll see as just as bad as their crime and other forms of discrimination.

Outing up a hero who happens to be gay would indeed do our community wonders. A role model to younger gays would help

fully be a hero to the gay and lesbian community. That's important in a culture which has historically had to search hard for its heroes. And if we could promote more gay teachers and lesbian teachers (education), politicians, civic and church leaders) to proudly show themselves for who and what they are, the world could no longer deny that is an uncynical, logical image of us as it always was.

But there's my point. I said, "to show themselves," meaning of their own volition, not for someone else to point them out.

I believe in every individual's right to self-determination, to choose when the time is right to come out, when they feel emotionally ready to handle the changes coming out inevitably makes on their lives. In the TV show, the police officer lost his job, his friends on the force, and his family because he was unapologetically and perhaps foolishly ready to meet these changes. Someone else decided for him when he should come out and how far and why, and he lost his almost everything that was important to him.

Every rights activist would say that we all must sacrifice a little to gain our rights as gays and lesbians. Activists would say that if you only "work behind the scenes and never show your face," then you're only doing a half-hearted job of coming out to us. Activists would say that we do not usually lose the love of the closest friends we'll give the rights we want, and if we want them badly enough, then we should be willing to do what is necessary.

But it is necessary for us to take away the individual's rights of privacy and self-determination, for someone to decide without consent what neither person "should" do? It is nobody's right?

The present "outlet" public figures inquiry becomes the right break. Anything that does to our sex may be prohibited, verbally or written.

about someone who has opened himself up to the public eye. But human dignity, I think, will fight to be into the situation otherwise.

Of the activists, I would like to ask this: Isn't a better to work behind the scenes than not to work at all? If a woman is so fearful of losing her father's love that they are paralyzed about making their sexuality statement known, they might not do anything that would draw attention to themselves. But maybe, if they could act anonymously, they would be willing to take responsibility for elected officials who are "friendly" on gay and lesbian issues, beyond products in the community newspaper, *Amos* or the *Ford* for Human Rights of other groups. Let's face it, those that people do that much rather than nothing at all? And who should determine how much each person should do?

Oprah Winfrey, I think, once suggested that if all the gays and lesbians would suddenly say that, a lot of people would be surprised. There are times when I wouldn't mind if everyone in the world saw me out there, after all, most of my family and friends know anyway. But I'm glad this device isn't automatically made for me. As my job I'm not officially on temporary status, and I am afraid that if the upper management people knew of my sexuality, I won't be offered a permanent position when I get my notice. That's what would pay my rent? Would the "outlet" cover my bills when I job hunt?

Personally, I agree with the ends of outing. But I think the means are just plain mean as far as the individual is concerned.

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LOCAL NEWS

GAY GAMES II

By Sharon Vail Buxell

For the third time, thousands of gay and lesbian athletes will gather to celebrate the "Gay Games." Held this August 4 - 11 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

The Gay Games were the brainchild of Dr. Tom Waddell, founder of the San Francisco Arts and Athletics, and himself an Olympic athlete. Waddell was a member of the United States' Decathlete Team of 1968 and competed in the Mexico City Olympics of 1968, finishing 16th among 611 contestants.

1,300 athletes took part in the first "Gay Olympic Games" held in San Francisco in 1982, hosted U.S. Olympic Committee and the Games represent the organization from using the word "Olympic" in their promotion or title of the Games. On October 20, 1986, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the lower court decision forbidding the Games from using the word "Olympic."

The second Gay Games included athletes from all over the world, as 3,500 men and women took part in the Games. Dr. Waddell proclaimed that these Games were "an about AIDS. They are about health. The Gay Games are the antithesis of the AIDS crisis."

Dr. Waddell died of AIDS after Gay Games II. One highlight of Gay Games II will be the presentation of the First Tom Waddell Memorial Cup to an outstanding Gay Games individual, whether athlete, volunteer, or cultural participant. Co-chair of the Federation Awards Committee, Steve Nicholson Park, says "Doing one's personal best, whether as an athlete, cultural performer, or volunteer is what the Gay Games are about."

Over 8,000 people are expected to take part in Gay Games III. Thousands more are

expected to be spectators and take part in the hundreds of cultural events taking place around the Gay Games this August. Among them will be New Voice Symphony, Terry Snowbery. Look for his report on the activities of Gay Games III in upcoming issues.

LESBIANS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

By Heidi Isaacs-Hess

Historically, lesbians in the gay community have been prominent in the progress of the gay movement. Today, the support from the lesbian community seems to be dwindling. Why?

In 1969 at the Stonewall riots, lesbians were shown fighting right along side the gay men, all for the same thing—GAY RIGHTS. Now many lesbians say that the gay rights movement overlooks women's issues, and women's advocacy differs from rights from gay rights. AIDS has taken a toll on the entire community affecting hundreds and thousands of people or fight for the rights of PWA's. Fund raising and finding a cure. But AIDS has a total effect on the lesbian community, and many lesbians feel that other issues are being ignored by the way side in the total war of AIDS.

I have heard many excuses and reasons for the lack of involvement in the gay community from the lesbians, but I have seen little desire to improve or correct the situations which cause the lesbian community to seem to be the underground world or which is busy of their own.

How many times have you said to yourself that there is nothing to do in Ontario? How many times have you asked for something to do since of the bars, and just sat

there in fear? How many times have you wished that there was a group in Ontario that was just for lesbians, that was geared toward and organized by lesbians? If you are like many of the lesbians in Ontario, you have wondered this many times.

What is the solution? The lesbian community in this city has got to stand up and built for a future, stop waiting for things to happen around them. Personal, work related events happen for you.

There are many lesbians in this community that have much to offer, skills that could be used to create a pleasure group where G.L.L. lesbians will be welcomed. We should all stop making excuses for sitting and waiting for something to come knock us over the head before we take some action.

It is impossible to sit and be part of Ontario's gay and lesbian community, that everyone become involved to fight for the rights and privileges that we all deserve as human beings. Spending precious time and energy discussing the politics of spelling a word, women, woman, or woman? Or who got the better deal, and who got the short end of the stick or who got the lesbian community or the organizing part that it is to do.

Think carefully about what you as a lesbian, can do for yourself and for the community. Is a sexual support, just letting pass-out flyers? Is it organizing a new lesbian support group? Or could you offer you help or an existing organization with your writing skills, art or just plain suggestions?

The point that should be taken to heart here is that involvement within the community has to come from the community; it can't just happen, there has to be people who are willing to take the time to make it happen.

Is this possible?

LEATHER CONTESTS SCHEDULED

Ms. Leather Nebraska and Ms. Leather Nebraska contests will be hosted by the Two-Wheelers of Ontario, MC, on Sunday, September 2, 1989. The contests and show will be held at the Pavilion, 700 South 18th Street in Lincoln, beginning at 9 p.m.

The contests are open to ANY leather men and women in Nebraska.

Applications are available at the Diamond Bar in Omaha and the Pavic in Lincoln or write the Two-Wheelers of Omaha, MC, at P.O. Box 5216, Omaha, NE 68105.



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KEEP THE LOVE ALIVE! NAMES PROJECT QUILT COMES TO LINCOLN OCTOBER 20 - 21

The NAMES Project, most familiarly known as the AIDS Quilt, is coming to Lincoln, Nebraska, October 20-21.

The NAMES Project helps positive individuals and governments with the urgency and necessity of the AIDS pandemic and the need for an immediate and compassionate response. By revealing the names and the lives behind the global statistics, and encouraging donations in every community where the Quilt is displayed.

Many who come to the Quilt are not emotionally prepared for what they experience. Others don't far to spend time with a loved one's panel. Still others are simply curious.

All proceeds from the October 20-21 showing of the Quilt will benefit the Nebraska AIDS Project. However, the massive cost of bringing the Quilt to Nebraska runs into the thousands of dollars, supported mostly by donations and volunteer services.

Here are three things to help:

(1) GET INVOLVED — Volunteer NOW for a NAMES Project committee, by calling (402) 391-6781 in Omaha, (402) 476-3713 in Lincoln, or NAP at (402) 342-4273.

(2) MAKE A DONATION — Give a direct donation towards the Nebraska showing of the Quilt, or, better yet, attend the fund-raising events coming up.

(3) PLAN TO VISIT THE QUILT YOURSELF

The Quilt... see it and understand, October 20-21 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"LONGTIME COMPANION" BENEFIT SET FOR AUGUST 30

A benefit performance of the hit movie "Longtime Companion" for the Nebraska display of the NAMES Project Quilt is set for Thursday, August 30, at 7 p.m., at the Dundee Theatre in Omaha.

According to Quilt committee members, all seats will be \$25 each, with funds going to the Nebraska AIDS Project. The movie's story of AIDS has been brought out in the evening.

"Longtime Companion" is an uplifting tale of love against personal barriers, a help-

ful of people who face an unknown and frightening opponent with love, hope, and friendship.

The film is a fictional story of a great circle of friends and the changes in their world beginning from the fatal day in 1981 when the first New York Times article noted the outbreak of a "new cancer" in the gay community.

This movie is a big step forward in the depiction of gays on screen. It has been called "The most American movie this year" and "A beautifully written and directed film permanently loved by a gay man only."

In addition to "Longtime Companion", the Quilt Committee plans to show a portion of the acclaimed HBO special, "Compassion Through", a documentary exploring the personal lives of individuals with AIDS epidemic.

Tickets for the August 30 benefit are available from the Nebraska AIDS Project, 3024 Leavenworth, Omaha, three members of the Quilt Committee, or by calling TTX at (402) 342-7077.

The regular showings of "Longtime Companion" begin September 4 at the Dundee, and will include lobby educational displays explaining the Quilt. The Quilt... see it and understand.

EVENTS SCHEDULED TO RAISE FUNDS FOR QUILT

The Nebraska AIDS Project and AIDS Memorial Quilt Display Committee have announced a number of fund-raising events to raise money towards the NAMES Project Quilt display in Lincoln, Nebraska, October 20-21.

AUGUST 18: SHOW! Volleyball Tournament, Noon to 4 p.m.

AUGUST 24: Day and Evening Art Show, The Max

AUGUST 30: Benefit performance of "Longtime Companion", Dundee Theatre

SEPTEMBER 5: ECHO Picnic

SEPTEMBER 6 through 7: Informational and educational talks at "Longtime Companion", Dundee Theatre

SEPTEMBER 23: Benefit Show, The Max

SEPTEMBER 24: Display, Last Cross

OCTOBER 12: Benefit Gallery Opening, 9 to 11 p.m.

OCTOBER 20-21: The Quilt, Lincoln

For more information, phone (402) 291-6781 in Omaha, (402) 476-3713 in Lincoln, or NAP at (402) 342-4273.

The Quilt... see it and understand, October 20-21 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Quilt... see it and understand. October 20-21 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

CALENDAR ITEMS FOR AUGUST, 1990

Saturday, August 11: RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS George Sola, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 1315 South 22 Street, Omaha

Monday, August 13: RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS Auditions, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Lowry Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street, Omaha

Monday, August 20: RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS Auditions, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Lowry Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street, Omaha

Saturday, August 18: SHOW! Volleyball Tournament, Noon to 4 p.m.

Sunday, August 26: Day and Evening Art Show, The Max

Thursday, August 30: Benefit performance of "Longtime Companion", 7 p.m., Dundee Theatre

Monday, September 3: ECHO Picnic

LOCAL NEWS

THOUGHTS ON PRIDE WEEK 1990

by Sharon Washburn

Some Pride Events happened so late in the month of June, we weren't able to get any articles in last July's magazine to include two pages of photos in the July issue (thanks to Our-House Photo and the fact that Printing Plus is no great to work with). However, I will still get out of obligated to report on events associated with Pride Week so you could get an idea of the things that went on. So here it is, our work after the events, and I'm commemorating the many events of the Pride Celebrations. Here to admit, I think it's one of the most taxing articles I have written, so I'd like to see a couple of paragraphs and let me share with you some of my observations from Pride 1990.

My favorite moment was actually early in June during ICOP's coronation. That very special lady was Miss Carla Proctor, Adorned in being her former number and she chose to do "What Remains My Wings" and dedicated it to me. We cried and hugged in front of all those people at coronation. I've never been more proud or more blessed by my life. Thanks, honey!

Another favorite moment was at the River City Mixed Chorus Concert when they presented their piece for the Pioneer Pioneer Club. The piece was beautiful and it was very touching. I knew every person who had appeared on the stage program and each of them had touched my life in a very special way during my living and years. Tears rolled down my face and gratitude filled my heart that I had had the chance to know each of them.

One of the most special moments associated with Pride Week was when my daughter and two granddaughters stepped off the curb and walked with me for the last half of the Parade. It's such a blessing to have such special people in my life. My granddaughter was responsible for most of the best moments of the whole weekend. I didn't know we'd just heard about it later. At the picnic, she went to get cans of pop for Carla and me and myself. She asked what for three cans of diet Coke and when Marshall asked her about getting so much diet Coke, she replied, "These aren't for me. They're for my Grandmothers." That moment warmed my heart because once more she had led the world that she accepts cars and diet as her two Grandmothers. That's a very special kind of love from a very special young lady. Thanks Kater. Walk to church for my remaining. Back to Sacred (and slightly full) reporting.

REVEREND HOWARD ADDRESSES PFLAG GATHERING

by K.J.

Rev. Matthew Howard, Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha was guest speaker at the July PFLAG gathering. The subject was "Homosexuality and the Bible". The informal meeting was held on the main level of the church, under a spreading, very shady oak tree.

Scriptures discussed were Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:18-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:8-11. Rev. Howard made references to the Bible, Deuteronomy and Genesis, especially by Rubin Longo (11-month from Walter Burke) for only \$8.00, and a book by Rev. Bob Durr, on the Bible and homosexuality. Rev. Durr is a past member of MCC Omaha.

Much of what the Bible says is taken out of context in passages for the point the person is trying to make.

Rev. Howard pointed out that there are 3 ways to study the Bible to get the true meaning from it. First is "context of scripture." Second is "context of culture" and third is "context of interpretation." Much of what the Bible says is taken out of context in passages with the point the person is trying to make.

I felt that being "contextual" interpretations have perverted the bible that become actually in wrong. This has caused much damage to many people, and has led to feelings of guilt and "gay-baiting." Some denominations themselves do view a liberty when one is in a position of authority. One of their most serious, but it does seem and assigned to second class citizenship if that. To many gays and lesbians, one of the most important is as treated as a person being left handed. And it isn't because being gay, they were ridiculed, and made to use their right hand, compared to the damage a left handed. To high level, the ministerial denomination would like to know that lesbians and gay people are people like and not "children of God" so that they are. That we can laugh, love, cry, need, hurt and can be joyful. We love the flowers of spring, the seasons in summer, the quiet, foggy fall days and the joys of a bright, cold, snowy winter day. And we're different from heterosexuals. And so individualization. I leave this

message... Social Issues 4:1-12.

Therapy, "Homosexuality and the Bible" will be carried over on the next PFLAG meeting in August. Another member will be selected to speak and deliver his denomination's viewpoint. To mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Support PFLAG, as it supports you.

MCC HEADLINES

by Chris F.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, August 22. From 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., Rev. Howard will spend an evening in the Madison-Minnesota teaching and answering questions about Homosexuality and the Scriptures. This event is open to all men and women in the community. There is no charge for the meeting. Come and bring a friend. Please notify the Church Office if you plan to attend. For more details see me or if in this magazine or call the church office at 545-2563.

The Building Search Committee continues to look for a new church suitable for a congregation of 125 to 150. If you know of such a church, please contact me at 530-1807.

July was such a busy month. In addition to the usual weekly services and activities, a Women's Support Group began meeting at the church on Sunday mornings at 11:00. The group is open to all women in the community. Of course, the Tuesday night Support Group continues to meet weekly at 7:30 and it is open to men and women.

Thanks to all of you who supported our fund-raising efforts this month. The final lunch at the ICOP Picnic, the coffee at the Picnic, and our yard sale. We are working for further details regarding the fund-raising efforts for Building Fund, a "Special Rally," a show at The Max, etc.

If you have never requested a Prayer Group to meeting each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. in the church. This are welcome to join us, or you may call at your prayer request at 545-2563.

July also saw as busy with a health at Picnic and another Women's Social. This, of course, there was my favorite of all—the annual swimming party and picnic. Never as it be said that MCC can't make waves. We were quite the splash in Council Bluffs.

We hope you will join us this Sunday for worship. Morning services begin at 10:00 and evening services are at 7 p.m. Remember, God loves you, and so do we!

COALITION NEWS

by John Taylor, Chair

Where? The Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights' fund-raiser on June 28 at Neapolis Country Club in Lincoln pulled a whopping \$1,136.90 for the Nebraska AIDS Project - NAME'S QUILT, \$100 of the proceeds were donated. Gracely by Noodles. The winners of those in attendance for the two grandly played JIB at the dinner/Tire show. BY at the second show. The Coalition is pleased to have been able to contribute to such a worthwhile cause.

The Coalition has committed an additional \$200 to support the Quilt in memory of Errol Brudhagen. Errol was the PFLAG representative to the Coalition Steering Committee. He always had a kind word and optimistic outlook and his contributions to the Steering Committee will be sorely missed.

Errol and his son Martin were featured in the AIDS education display at Memorial Hall on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus sponsored by the UNL Health Center. This display is available as a "teaching device" to other towns. Martin died of HIV infection about a year ago. Errol, his family and friends graciously quilted a block in Martin's memory for the NAME'S Project. Errol was actively awaiting the arrival of the Quilt in Lincoln December 20-21.

Don't forget the August 1 FIRST SATURDAY event. Local cosponsors Bill Michael and Judith Gibson will focus on national health issues for gays and lesbians. November, 7 - 10 p.m. at Cornerstone, 540 North 16th, Lincoln.

The September 1 FIRST SATURDAY event will be an evening with LNC, English Professor Semmelweis Classically Prof. Stealy will be talking about hairy tales, dreams, and their explanations.

Interested in more information about the Coalition or wanting to get on the mailing list? Write: Coalition, P.O. Box 54882, Lincoln, NE 68558.

OMEN

Sunday, July 5th was the monthly business meeting of Omaha Men, OMEN. Over again we were excited to welcome new members to the meeting. It's great to bring you shared Mark, Neil and this:

Big on our agenda this month was our upcoming trip to Fremont Lakes. Planning for a celebration at the Fantasy Wigwag was also completed. Remember, Fantasy '89 benefited the Vasa System Clinic. We hope you all enjoyed this event as we did.

OWOMEN

Omaha Women, OWOMEN, the sister organization to Omaha Men, OMEN, is currently looking for interested women to join in the planning and executing of the format of the group. If you have leadership qualities, experience with organizing, or your past life old ideas, please consider joining us to strengthen this group.

Help make OWOMEN everything to the lesbians and bisexual women of this community.

Interested women, please contact Linda Hunt at 791-9094, leave a message on the machine.

PRIDE CELEBRATION '90

The 1990 GreatLakes Pride Celebration held in Omaha allowed the spirit and strength of the Gay and Lesbian community. The two week long celebration began on 10.

"Open The Door To The Gay Neewies" and included the following events:

"Pink, Pinkway and Prudence, The Keys to the Palace" was the theme of the inaugural windpipe of the first Family, Suite 17 at Lark 4 Avenue Presbyterian Church. Over 50 persons attended for event which was sponsored by Alliance, Dignity, Multiplexion Churches, Minneapolis

Community Church of Omaha, Friends and Friends of Lesbian and Gays, Presbyterian for Lesbian/Gay Commission, SSA Knapp. The service featured several speakers addressing the sense of loss, fellowship and brotherhood, as well as music by Dignity, Multiplexion Churches, River City Mind/Chorus and music by Jerry K. on the pipe organ.

The River City Mind/Chorus held an open rehearsal on Monday evening June 11. A dozen quilters learned block Quilt and sewing. Thanks to it as on this rehearsal. The Chorus closed the Pride Week Celebration with their "King Of The Pinks" concert on June 15. Their performance showed great guitar scope and range that the past and featured songs from "Nirvana" to "Big Legged Woman" to "So So Summer Shave" to original compositions by John Cox. The Chorus also awarded their contribution to the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt members who have died of AIDS plus a NAMES panel signed by parents and family members.

Thursday evening brought 25 persons gathered for an open PFLAG meeting at First United Methodist. Many presentations and discussions of personal coming out experiences. Kathy and Dave England were presented with a \$100 donation and a plaque recognizing their contributions by Celia Przewitz, representing the Members of the state high to the Imperial Court of Nebraska.

On Wednesday night, June 28, over a dozen organizations gathered at the War-Peace for an evening hosted sponsored by Alliance Club and the LPRO Gay/Lesbian Student Organization. While many of the well-attended groups were present, there was also several newer groups including Multiplexion Churches, Friends of the Frontiers, Omaha Men and Omaha Women, along

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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◆ FEATURES

◆ CHORUS CLOSES SIXTH SEASON WITH PRIDE CONCERT

by Gay

It was an evening of strong emotions for performers and audience alike, when the River City Mixed Chorus finished its sixth concert season, Saturday, June 30 at Terrace Performing Arts Center.

The concert was by far the most "gay friendly" in the history of the group. Opening the concert was one of the so-called "gay anthems," "Over the Rainbow." The women of the Chorus brought down the house later when they proclaimed their pride at being "Big Legged Women." The men asked the audience to remember "The One Who Ate My Heart." Props and a "lady queen" brought smiles and applause during "These Are Flowers at the Bottom of Our Garden." And the women sang "No More" to acts of aggression against women and girls.

But by far the largest standing of the concert was the performance of "Pleasure." This song, borrowed from another chorus at the national GALA Chorus network, included lyrics written specifically to remember the names of right NCNC members who

have died. The song itself was powerful (with some Chorus members feeling a difficult to hold back the tears) but the impact was increased by the display of a quilt made by Chorus members. The quilt—scheduled to be added to the NAMES Project Quilt coming to Lincoln October 20-21—is included as part for each of the eight departed members. When unveiled, the Quilt brought a heart-felt round of applause from the audience. And when the song was completed, the audience first joined out in heart with a standing ovation, then came forward to examine the quilt close-up.

The evening marked another emotional episode, as Director John Kelly, who had announced from Dan Mullins by the previous year, conducted his last concert with NCNC. The audience joined Chorus members in sending John an be accepting gifts and hugs. The River City Mixed Chorus now meets

one Friday 87, with two more concerts scheduled for 1993-94. Auditions are August 13 and 20. For more information, call 556-8352.

Auditions for singing members of the River City Mixed Chorus will be held Monday, August 13 and 20, from 8:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street in Omaha.

The NCNC is open to gay men and lesbians, and gay-sensitive men and women. Founded in 1984, the purpose of the Chorus is musical excellence in performance. This is the sixteenth season for the Chorus, with best major concerts and several other performances planned.

The Chorus encourages women and men to audition. Rehearsals will be held Mondays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the church. For more information, contact Sue Brown at 556-8352.

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■ PRIDE CELEBRATION '90 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

with a display of Gay and Lesbian literature available at Walker Street in Park Park.

Metropolitan Community Church initiated a special outreach to the women of the community with a women's social ("Women's Wellness Seminar") on Thursday evening. This event proved to be so popular that women's social will be regular part of MCC's social calendar.

Sunday afternoon featured a benefit auction for the New Year held by Alma and the Friends of the Chamberlaine. The proceeds total for the New Year. Thanks Alma and Chorus.

Saturday, June 30, featured the sixth Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade in downtown Omaha. About 125 people took part in the 30 minute hot march from 26th and Fairmount to Turner Park. There were hundreds of signs and banners, as well as three prize winning floats. First prize went to the Employee Action Union for Gay and Lesbians of U.S. WEST for their display of "Opening Doors To Corporate America" which featured a U.S. WEST truck and three banners. Second place went to the Diamond Bar for their decorated vehicle and their decorated parade who presented no conditions to spectators. Third prize went to the Imperial Court of Nebraska for their presentation of large decorated masks symbolizing the events we are faced as women.

A rally followed the Pride Parade and featured remarks from Pat Packer, Herb Hove, Marshall Bushman Jr. and Wes Perry, as well as a representative of the Mayor's office with the proclamation "Understanding Our Differences: Respect All People Work".

Saturday's final event was a community picnic at Turner Park. Over 100 persons joined in this event. A few of those attending took the opportunity to talk with some local businessmen who came by to sell on the corners of our ways. From what I overheard, I think both sides were away finding they had come out ahead in this exchange.

A report of income and expenses associated with the parade and related presentations will appear in the September issue of the River Voice.

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◆ COUPLES REPORT
DISCRIMINATION

by Dennis

In a national survey, a whopping 71 percent of 1,200 lesbian and gay couples said they had experienced at least one type of discrimination AS A COUPLE, and 39 percent had experienced three or more types.

The statistics were released in the May/June issue of PARTNERS NEWSLETTER FOR GAY & LESBIAN COUPLES.

"Gay couples who have sought legal treatment for their relationship unfortunately will not find these statistics surprising," said Savie Bryant, who edits and publishes the bi-monthly newsletter with his 13-year partner Dennis. "But we hope that the information will impress upon elected officials and other policy makers the severity of the problem."

Discrimination was most frequently reported in connection with employment benefits. However, the problem was not universal. Eighty percent of the respondents said their employers provided parity with or superior benefits of some kind. Five percent said their employer provide health insurance for their partners.

Talking from the results, some-gay

couples face likely discrimination whenever they seek equal treatment. For example, almost half of those couples who had arranged to parent children through adoption or foster parenting programs said they faced discrimination in the process.

Women reported significantly more discrimination than men. Fully 73 percent of women reported relationship discrimination of some type, as compared to 63 percent of men. This may be partly attributable to the additional discrimination lesbians experience as women.

Reports of discrimination also were significantly higher among couples who were more open about their relationship, more strongly committed, more publicly tolerant and together more visible in society. These couples presumably are more inclined to have asked for or expected equal treatment.

A free summary of results from the national survey may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped, business-sized envelope to PARTNERS, Box 985, Seattle, WA 98108. A detailed analysis appears in that newsletter's May/June issue, which may be ordered for \$3.95. A year's subscription costs \$21. Telephone inquiries may be made to Savie Bryant or Dennis at (206) 784-1175.

◆ DEAR JACK AND JILL

Dear Jack & Jill,

I have a reborn-again Christian at work who thinks I need another mother. How do I tell to mind her own business?

Chrys Sonds

Dear Chrys,

Be polite, considerate of your allies and state that YOUR natural mother sees to it that you are well cared for!

Jack

Also ask if she would like to meet YOUR mother!

Jill

Jack and Jill are professionals who will answer your questions relating to relationships, coming out, dealing with friends, meeting people or any other matter that is on your mind. Address questions to Jack & Jill, c/o NewVoice, Box 3512, Omaha NE 68103.



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◆ FEATURES

◆ GAYBRIEFS

by Jim Roche

When my brother and sister-in-law decided to move to the town I lived in, I became apparent they needed to be told about, well, my sexuality as a gay person. I had previously discussed this with my brother. Usually I'd spend about an hour with him per year for the past decade or so, so it never seemed like a necessity. But I had discovered that this announcement was best made at my discretion. The year before, when my church friend said that their "family man" minister was gay, all hell had broken loose. I was the subject of articles in the local paper, my congregants were to discuss my gayness, there was even death against my life. Although I have since left the church, members still harass me by calling employees to make sure they know I've gay (I've lost several positions after phone calls to these people) and sending mail-order surprises. Some people can really hate.

When my brother and his wife arrived, we went out for dinner. Before we even began, he said, "I've already come to know you. What I've missed, people say. Why do I know that man?" I blurted the news. "About my minister David. . . I guess you told me you share more than the rest."

"Oh."

Then the questions, my voice so low that I don't understand. Why do you have to tell everybody? She gave every child in the book, suggesting that I was harassed because I was "harming it." The conversation moved to end in a supportive gesture (they paid for dinner, which was very important to me as I wasn't too sure about my employability) Her final suggestion: "Miss back to NY, it's they only place you're fit happy. . . and, well, keep it quiet." Transition. Don't flame it. Why risk your career over something as trivial? During this conversation I found out that neither my brother nor his wife got to work and tell people they're homosexual (I looked at the wedding ring on her finger and wondered. . .) There's nothing wrong with being gay. . . but by letting people know you're just asking for it. . . I'm sure you've heard this before.

Late I went home and picked up a copy of a gay paper and read the news from Naples, Florida. Because the country don't has a policy there, in the state, designed to "protect" homosexuals. It's already been created. Homosexuals were mixed up with the general gay population: "all hell would break loose." They, know that these experiments. So, being as enlightened as most

will have, he advised the probability having all the gay and lesbian printers wear pink wrist bands. Yes, that's right, if you're gay or lesbian you are made to wear a pink wrist band so that you can be easily identified. So you don't get mixed up!

When the ACLU asked about this, the Sheriff's spokesperson said there was "only special reasons for picking out pink. Other people have to wear other colors, like prisoners who are except their (you can be a prisoner and not be?). Is it any more pink about, it's "off red," adding "this is just the color that was available." Later his job had written to the ACLU in confusion that after they were "pink tagged" they had privileges and were treated equally by corrections officers. The Sheriff denies all of this, except for the tags. He thinks that's a great idea still. He should talk to my minister-in-law and the two of them should fight all this out.

I'm confused, if we wear tags to keep us separate, aren't we flaming it? But the Sheriff says you have to flame it to keep from getting burned. That's an anachronism theory you know, ask Wm. F. Buckley Jr. He thinks we should all be well marked. But. . . you see, we don't get burned by flaming it, or our car jobs for being open. We get burned and lose our jobs because we are who we are, and one way or another they want to know. Because. . . well, I guess they have to know. I'm sure people find the problem in www.gay.com/white/youth.html, right? I suppose that's why my brother and sister-in-law were both wearing wedding rings, so I would know. Are everybody else would know. It seems people have to figure themselves out as they can because if somebody is mixed up, or confused, I suppose to some extent we could be one of them and one of us too. Depending on who they are. Or we are.

Tags help, they make it easy. It's not the Sheriff's fault there are all these things mixed, right? And, well, so far so know. They all have to know, because if they don't, well then. . . I guess all hell would break loose. What'd you ever try to do about being out? Should be fit everybody know? I've been working at it for a while and still I can tell you it's not most people seem to want to know and some people don't want to know. My suggestion is that people who want to know wear yellow tags, and those who don't want to know wear, well, what color is best? That way I'll know who I should tell and what I shouldn't tell, and we'll all be happy, right? Call that sheriff, he knows all about this thing thing.

◆ HOW LONG, BABY... HOW LONG?

by Nancy Lyle Duffin

HOW LONG can we survive in a world where unions considered against us because we exist are considered by the state and regulated by the Church?

How Long will we tolerate laws that make merely being alive in the same way as our lower INRAGAIL to have an amount in 24 hours?

How Long can we tolerate think who are the most evil of our going out for a few drinks with our friends and would cause for harassment, abuse and in some cases, death?

How Long can we live with the knowledge that someone who lives with us all day from our get up a position to have an abortion from a teaching position because their is something "unpleasant" about our being unemployed?

How long can we allow our country's twelve year old son to call us filthy dirty and have our names recently say "you know how kill us?"

How long will we sit back and watch a vice systematically attacking our friends, our lives, ourselves, and have other persons calling the killer "One" a punishment on us? for being different than they are?

How long can we live with these conditions already over ONE HUNDRED thousand dead. . . and still no public outcry or demand for the government to make the decision if it's worth the opportunity to make progress in the country?

How long can we live with the fact that a spot on our back may very well mean that we won't see our next birthday, and live with the knowledge that the general population was more willing to pay millions of dollars to see our fighter spot money one month than they would offer up their lives to see our very help to live the odds and live?

How long can we watch supposedly intelligent medical professionals refuse to bring their own lives and their loved ones' lives?

How long can we tolerate employment where any one of us can suddenly find ourselves fired from our job of twenty years because we are considered "it had quit"?

How long can we sit back and hear words, describing our life, and finally are with subtle approval, by every attempt, in every breath, towards anyone to whom they want to be the most despised?

How long will we meekly accept the idea that we may be judged by welcomed in our own state's home because "you know how

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It is with kids and Harry wories so much about their IDENTIFIERS?

How long can we allow our OWN families and our existence, or our own partners at a different table during weddings, or do we know that we're only welcome in their lives if we keep our mouths shut about our lives, our loves... the very core of our being?

How long can we live with the knowledge that regardless of who we are, regardless of what we have accomplished, regardless of every single other facet of our personality, we can be summed up by one word?

How long can we stand the knowledge that this one word can also be used as the most disgusting, humiliating, "put-down" most people can conceive of?

How long can we stand weekly by and NOT react to the fact that among our own kind, there are those who hate us for our lying about ourselves, not weekly accepting the pronouncements of fanatics, mystics and bigots?

How long can we stand by and listen to those born again "fanatics" who claim they would rather see their children DEAD than what we are?

How long can we hear people say that murdering is in doing the world a favor; that anyone who beats us, stalks us or runs over us with a car should be given a medal?

How long before we remember that the

first "open prison" of our own creation attached to public office was committed daily thereafter; and his murderer CHIEFED by a number of police officers just whose custody he was charged?

How long can we listen while we live and publicly defamed, excused and condoned by persons who know absolutely nothing about us?

How long can we financially support a religion which has contributed to the drug and lysine and vicious narcotics abuse?

How long can we continue to elect public officials who have their campaigns on home phone... or conveniently FORGET campaign promises made long before they were elected?

How long should we allow our personal lives to be the topic of numerous repetitive discussions; how long will we allow strangers the right to ask us the most intimate, personal questions because they find "our kind" interesting?

How many thousands will have to be born we wake up and realize that the dreams we have for a happy, productive life are unaccomplished, legislated against, even used as a justifiable motive to MURDER us; and then routinely remember that an extraordinarily high number of people AGREE that MURDERING is simply because we join in called "gay panic defense" and con-

sidered justifiable?

How long would you allow the gay community to give you "fucks" about "acting up" if it was YOUR domestic partner who desperately needed life giving drugs that you could no longer afford?

How long would you allow DARED to proudly assert her lesbianism?

HOW LONG would you say is LONG ENOUGH to ask publicly for basic human HONESTY?

How long, Baby... HOW LONG?



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★ CONSERVATIVE GAY?

Marvin Liebman, a founder of the modern conservative movement, revealed his homosexuality last month in the pages of William F. Buckley's *Conservative National Review* and *The Advocate*.

Liebman said the *National Review* was a logical place because its readers are the people he most wanted to reach.

"The primary impact I wanted to have in this whole coming out was on the conservative community, just to sort of alert them to the dangers of heterophobia and all that comes with it," he said.

Liebman divulges an interview to *The Advocate*, which he said he had never before met, in the hope that he could set an example for other people who are living secret gay lives.

"The main thing I want to do within the gay community is to help people come out, no matter how old I did for 60 years," he said. "And I just want to let them know it's not that bad. It's good. It makes such a load off you, you just feel fully relaxed."

Liebman first made his revelation in a letter to Buckley, whom he describes as his best friend.

"Why have I chosen this moment to give you with the past of my life that had been so private for all these years?" he wrote in the July 9 issue of the *National Review*. "Because I feel that one issue might sink back into the sea in which so much of a crowd (see *National Review* days) in that dark age the American Right was heavily, perhaps dominantly, made up of Negroes."

At 15 Liebman had joined the Young Conservatives League and for years was active in other conservative frat groups. He served two years in the Army Air Corps but was discharged in 1944 for being homosexual, a fact he had kept secret.

His political lean shifted, and he teamed with Buckley and other to pioneer the modern conservative movement. He founded the Young American Fund Foundation and was active in the Conservative Party of New York and the presidential campaign of Barry Goldwater and Richard Nixon.

Liebman moved to Washington, DC at the Reagan's was elected president in 1980, working first as a consultant to the federal government. From 1982 to 1987, he was director of public affairs and special projects at the National Endowment for the Arts. He is now director of special projects at the Federal Trade Commission.

"And all my career, things could have

very well been based on my homosexuality. Maybe because I was hiding things, I was trying to suppress it now, just to ease I'll be damned."

★ WOMEN IN PARADISE

The Key West Business Guild announces "Women in Paradise," a week of events for women to be held September 10 through the 16. During the entire week, there will be sailing, boating, snorkeling, water, windsurfing, basketball, music, dances and other activities primarily designed for women participants.

Highlights of the week are a "Welcome to Key West Party," the Florida premiere of the play "The Wall of Emotions" by Holly Hughes, a post and cocktail party, a champagne sunset sail aboard a Tall Ship Schooner, a snorkeling and scuba aboard a racing catamaran, Marga Gomez-San Francisco's Outstanding Female Comedy Solo and 1988 San Francisco Performer of the Year will appear, the crowning of Mr. Gay Key West in a special pageant, a block party and street fair, art and craft exhibits,

food and drink in the street, and on Sunday, September 16, the week's events will conclude with a picnic at Pam Zachary Taylor State Park.

Anyone desiring registration information or having questions regarding participation in the event (air and/or program) should write the following address: Women in Paradise c/o The Key West Business Guild, P.O. Box 1208, Key West, Florida 33001 or call (305) 294-4801.

★ LESBIAN CONNECTION OFFICE FIRE

A lesbian connection office was damaged in a fire caused by a youth indiscreetly setting off fireworks. The initial estimate of damage to 28 June 78 Fire was in excess of \$17,000. Despite the fire damage, all 13,000 copies of the July/August issue of *Lesbian Connection* (L.C.) were available scheduled. L.C. is a free nationwide newsletter for lesbians, published by the Authoritative Association of True Loving, Michigan. (L.C.)

★ WOMEN'S MUSICAL CRUISE

In February Olivia Records launched the first successful women's musical cruise in history. Both sail on 4-night cruises, which included stops in Key West, Nassau, and a day on a private island, Blue Lagoon. 1200 women from across the country were treated to a holiday vacation never before available.

"This was not just a cruise. It was an incredible experience," said Judy Dipovic, President of Olivia Records. "We wanted for passengers to have the best of their lives and I think we succeeded beyond our wildest expectations."

Music and entertainment were major attractions. A one hundred hour of music included崔 Williamson, Thomas Tull, Shirley McCall, Tina Turner, Tammy Wynette Carter and comedienne Marga Gomez. "We plan to bring our passengers the best in women performers every time we sail. We have some wonderful surprises planned for our October sailing," promised Judy.

A highlight of the cruise was the trip to a private island where the women spent the day relaxing, swimming, snorkeling, sunbathing and exploring. "It was a holiday vacation for the entire day," said Dipovic. "There's nothing but our company with being on our own island paradise."

Olivia has two upcoming cruises for 1990-1991. "No one had ever produced a successful women's cruise before," said Becky Kent, cruise director for Olivia. "Gay men have had wonderful cruise opportunities for years. We just figured it was time for lesbians to have cruise vacations designed especially for them."

Olivia's next cruise is a 7-night Bahamas Cruise (October 28-November 4, 1990) Caribbean cruise to San Juan, St. Thomas, St. John, Nassau/Blue Lagoon aboard the S.S. Sablemoon. A 4-night Valentine's cruise (February 11-15, 1991) has just recently been added to Olivia's schedule. "We'll keep adding new cruise options as long as women want them," promised Judy. "There's simply nothing more like this!"

For entry information about Olivia cruises call 800-625-6277 or 415-625-6204 in CA or write Olivia Records, 4422 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608.

★ NATIONAL NEWS

★ GAY BAR IS BOMBED

Explosion at a New York gay bar injured one patron and two patrons. Police seem to feel it was an incident involving a disgruntled customer. However, New York Mayor David Dinkins cited the bombing of Uncle Chaslin's Diner as one of the "20th best incidents against gay people this year. I am disturbed by the rising frequency of these attacks on members of the gay community." (Windy City Times)

★ PHIL DONAHUE WINS AWARD FOR GL SUPPORT

Phil Donahue named as second Mostle person of the year by the City and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (CLAAD) because of his "continued excellence in courage and support of gay and lesbian concerns." Donahue received the Distinguished Person Award for his special edition of the "21st Century Family" which included gays and lesbians as parents. This magazine was cited for the Most Improved National Reporting on Gay and Lesbian Issues. (Windy City Times)

★ LESBIAN/GAY VISAMASTERCARD

A Gay/Lesbian VISA/Mastercard is available through The Youth Foundation, a community-based foundation based in Seattle with the mission to serve gay men, lesbians, and their friends. The foundation anticipates generating a revenue of \$150,000 annually from the program. For more information on the "Charge with Pride" program, contact the Public Relations Office at (206) 325-1118. (Equal Times)

★ ...BUT THEY DON'T TAKE THE DISCOVER CARD

Discover Card recently mailed their mailing list to the state's state site "treble" and "unacceptable practice." Backlash from Discover was notified that Discover would no longer accept charge from this site until Discover became fully state fully owned and operated, ending further growth potential to the gay community. Backlash from Discover recognizes previous of the discriminatory action by boycotting Discover and other drivers of the South Financial Network. For more information, contact Backlash Campaign, 734 North Goodland St., Rochester, NY 14607. Telephone (716) 842-2223. (NGL)

★ SENATOR IS OUTED

A particularly homophobic federal hearing occurred in Portland, Oregon, on April 21, when the local chapter of ACT-UP staged a campaign billboard for Oregon's senior senator, Mark Hatfield. The billboard, which originally said "Mark Hatfield, Preserving Social Security," was changed to say, "Mark Hatfield: Closed Gay. Living a Lie — Voting as Oppress." The billboard was seen by morning commuters and viewers of the evening news on KATU-TV. ACT-UP justified its action by pointing out that Hatfield used to prohibit use of Federal funds for gay-positive AIDS education. While ACT-UP says that Hatfield is "wfully known to be gay," they also acknowledge that no one has come forward with first-hand knowledge of any gay sexual involvement on Hatfield's part. Hatfield has said that the charge is "false rumors or innuendoes." (Windy City Times)

★ EX-JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES TO HOLD CONFERENCES.

Reach Out of Portland, Oregon, will host a one-day conference in Portland on Sunday, August 21. The Pittsburgh-based group, "A Common Bond," will meet in Houston, Texas, on Saturday, September 15. Jehovah's Witnesses "disturbances" all those who are gay and lesbian and require all church members to show them, even if the same-breaking family size. The Seattle-based group, "Witnesses have been helped and supported through the group. For more information on its continuing program, contact other group's website, contact: Reach Out, P.O. Box 1171, Clackamas, Oregon 97015, or "A Common Bond," P.O. Box 475, Elwood City, Pennsylvania 15117.

★ MARLBORO CIGARETTES BOYCOTT

Boycott Marlboro cigarettes is the priority among several gay rights groups after Philip Morris makes Marlboro recently announced \$200,000 to help build a \$1 million monument, the New Haven Connecticut Center, in honor of the North Carolina Senator, Phil M. Morris is honoring a deal, who supports in the rights of lesbians and gay men," said Jeff Swanson, Executive Director of the Michigan Organization for Human Rights. (Lackland Commission)

★ PRESIDENT BUSH DECLINES INVITATION

President Bush declined an invitation to speak at International AIDS conference. Instead, he accepted a fund-raising event for Susan's Star Home. Clinton is running his re-election against a Black Democratic opponent, Barry Clinton. A recent poll shows Clinton is leading by 4 percentage points. Clinton is attempting to rally support for his campaign by appealing to supporters to contribute more money to help his fight Clinton, who is "backed by the powerful international political lobby." (Arlow News)

★ "CREATING CHANGE" CONFERENCE

Lesbian and gay activists from around the nation will meet in Minneapolis, MN, on November 9-12, for the third annual Creating Change conference, the most significant political gathering of gay people in the country.

The conference is sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and will be held at the Holiday Inn Minneapolis in downtown Minneapolis. Creating Change '93 will feature leading activists from the national and grassroots gay and lesbian communities and prominent speakers, 40 skills-building workshops, social events, organizing sessions and more.

Workshop issues will include: military gay support, non-violent protesting, lobbying, media activism, "outing," Internationally and gay politics, lesbianism and direct action tactics, domestic partnership, civil rights, psychiatric and behavioral health, fighting traditional values, conditions, and many more.

Registration is \$20 by September 14, \$150 after. For registration forms and more information, contact NGLTF at (202) 638-7676, Washington, D.C., Address: Creating Change, 9141 (202) 332-8423.

★ MADONNA DONATES PROCEEDS

Madonna donated the proceeds from her last United States show to the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR). She made the donation in memory of gay actor Tom Harty, who died of AIDS in February. (Arlow News)

★ NATIONAL NEWS

★ "PRACTICAL JOKE" SUSPENDS NURSE

A Toledo, Illinois, nurse, Carolyn Jo Newlin, had her nurse's license suspended for six months by the Illinois Health Department after she played a joke on her patients by telling them they were infected with the AIDS virus. (Abernath News)

★ UNSAFE SEX "TURN-ON"

Among the results of new surveys released recently were the findings that some gay men have returned to unsafe sex practices, finding the risks an added "turn-on." In another study, it was shown that smokers who are HIV+ develop AIDS faster than non-smokers. A third study revealed that prejudice about AIDS is as widespread as fully one-third of those who experience AIDS-related discrimination do not even have the disease. (Abernath News)

★ RESOURCES FOR GAY COUPLES

Gay and lesbian couples looking for legal information, a couples support group, or a way to win domestic partnership benefits might start with a free list of resources available from PARTNERS: The Newsletter For Gay and Lesbian Couples.

The annotated directory, "Resources for Gay and Lesbian Couples," lists two dozen social, political, and support groups, and more than 40 books, videotapes, and films.

To receive a copy, send a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to: PARTNERS Resource List, Box 9875, Seattle, WA 98108.

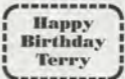
★ GAY AND LESBIAN OSTOMATES

The Gay and Lesbian Concerns Committee of the United Ostomy Association will convene in Las Vegas at the Association's annual convention, August 22 through 25,

1990.

Concerns are persons who have had surgery resulting in a colostomy, an ileostomy, or a urostomy. The purpose of this gathering is to bring together gay and lesbian ostomates to socialize, to network, to share experiences, and to support and be supported.

For more information contact: GLCC, United Ostomy Association, 36 Executive Park, Suite 125, Irvine, CA 92714, or call (714) 660-6324.



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HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE SCRIPTURES

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● AIDS NEWS

● HIV TESTING

"When I first tested for the AIDS virus [in 1987 in Texas] there was a mandatory release of information and talk of quarantine," Charles Robinson said. Charles Robinson is the name he chose to obtain test results, a fictitious name to conceal his identity. Charles Robinson is the name used now to protect the real person's identity.

Robinson, 29, is from Omaha and graduated high school in 1979. He moved to Texas in 1981 and was tested for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which attacks exposure to the AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) virus. He said, "I knew I'd been exposed. I was up on things associated with AIDS. I knew something was wrong."

His weakened immune system resulted in a case of shingles. A viral attack on his nervous system caused a severe rash. "The first time I was tested, my T cell count was 89," Robinson said. "Normal count is 600 to 1,200. T cells, called 'helper T cells' or technically T4 cells, are the immune system's way to 'identify an invader and authorize an attack on it,' according to an article in

the July 25, 1990 Newweek.

Robinson and his former lover took the HIV test. Robinson didn't react when he received the positive results. "Inside I already knew. My lover, who tested negative, was more surprised at my lack of response. I was more concerned about his test results," Robinson said.

The concern that Robinson would expose his lover to AIDS eventually destroyed their relationship. "We had other problems, too," he said, "but I was afraid I might infect him and I didn't know if I could take that." Robinson would like to seem someone else "who is in the same boat," he said because "I haven't wanted to tell many other people that I have tested positive. The easier way out is just not to do it."

"Share my suspicion," Robinson would like who may have exposed him to AIDS, "but trying to figure it out doesn't matter because I'm responsible for my own actions. I know people who blame God or the person who exposed them. You don't take responsibility for your actions and consequences when you feel that way."

Robinson attended a support group for

several months for those with AIDS and HIV concerns. "It's a peace knowing (about the HIV test) and feel for the time being I don't need any support group. I'm more worried about my friends and parents if I get sick—that they will have to look after me," he said.

"I don't want others to treat me differently. I don't want them to be nice to me because I may die tomorrow. Of course, that may change if I get sick," Robinson said.

His mother has accepted his gay lifestyle and has always included his former lover in family get-togethers. When Robinson and his lover broke off their relationship last year, his mother warned her son to "be careful." He understood what she meant and said "how ironic because I was the one who had already been exposed to the AIDS virus."

Robinson told his mother about his HIV test results one evening this summer. "My mother and I have always been close. I wanted to tell her once I was gay. When I told her, she didn't react. I didn't know if it was an act or a show. I anticipated her being upset. She just said, 'We are here if you need

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HIV Testing

7pm—10pm Mondays and Thursdays

as," I told her I had known since 1987. I said I was afraid if I told her sooner she would have just worried for nothing. She agreed," he said.

One of the main reasons Robinson doesn't seek any preventative treatment is because he doesn't want to let his employer or those he works with know that he has tested HIV positive. He works for an insurance company and knows those infected with HIV can't purchase private health insurance. "I've been paying my own medical bills out of my own pocket so they won't find out. I know there is a time when I may get on AZT but not now," he said.

Robinson is aware of the risk involved with Zidovudine (AZT). AZT was first approved by the Food and Drug Administration in March 1987 for treatment of patients with AIDS symptoms and T cell counts under 200. The drug was found effective and federal guidelines now approve use before individuals are sick or their T cell count is below 500.

The side effects of AZT range from "headaches, vomiting and diarrhea to bone-marrow depression and anemia," says an

article in the June 25 *Newsweek*. The drug may prove toxic or the body may build up an immunity. As long as he's well, Robinson has decided against AZT. "The last time it [T cell count] was just under 200," he said. That more than doubles the first count but it still fell under the 400 to 1,200 normal range.

Robinson has tried to get back into an exercise routine, he hikes, swims, and walks. His eating habits are better but he confesses he can't do without junk food. He has never pictured himself getting older, especially after a psychic experience in Texas. "We were talking about how things were meant to be," Robinson said. "This guy got upset that someone in the room was going to die in eight or twelve years. I felt he was talking about me. This was before I found out about the HIV test. My former lover felt he was talking about me, too."

"I see glasses half full rather than half-empty. The Lord's going to take me when it's my turn. When my number is up, my sister gets punched so mean what happens. Having eight or twelve years to live sounds great," Robinson said.

Robinson recalled a family who tried to cope with the death of their son as an AIDS/HIV support group meeting. The family spoke of how their son had died before they arrived in town. The family didn't know their son was ill with AIDS nor did they know he was a homosexual. Robinson said the parents asked, "Why couldn't my son meet us with this? What did we do to make our son feel he could not confide in us?" Robinson admitted the experience influenced his decision to tell his mother. "It's easier for me to handle now because my mother knows. She will have had time to prepare if I do get sick," he said.

Robinson said of his death, "I don't want friends to be sad about me being gone. I want them to remember how much fun we had. I don't want them to feel sorry or have any suffering. The less there is the better. I want them to remember me as a happy person, not as someone who was open or worried or who was troubled about anything, including AIDS."

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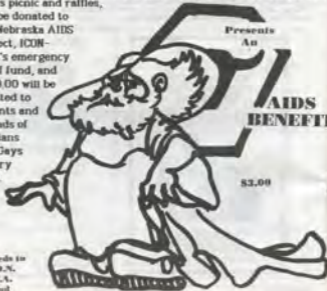
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→ LOOKING FOR A GREAT GAY GETAWAY?

by Bill

Where can you go to getaway? Nowhere is a plain, Sauspeck, Michigan (on Michigan's South Western Coast). Sauspeck just got rechristened the Midwest Gay Beach this April. Shortly on the way to a wedding in Michigan I pulled out the book of "Top Destinations Guide to see what types of places I could possibly find to experience on my trip. I have always been lenient as to what a gay resort would be like. I was afraid it would be a sleazy hole-in-the-wall, but that was not the case at all.

Sauspeck is located on a peninsula, right on the coast of Lake Michigan and just a little out of the way. A small town of only about 1,500 permanent residents, Sauspeck attracts travelers throughout the year from Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis and many other midwestern cities. With Sauspeck about 7 hours away from Omaha and about 2 hours from the outskirts of Chicago, it's kind of makes a long weekend but a short day weekend too (no kidding).

What to expect...well on a nice weekend you will find hundreds of people flocking to the sandy shores and beaches of Lake Michigan. Great beach is open to the public but swimming is restricted starting at the North edge of the parking lot containing "North is always anticlockwise" sign.

After a morning and mid-afternoon at the beach it is no time to experience Sauspeck's first band. The downtown area is surrounded by water with numerous bars, pubs and great food being the draw here come out to the shore. Small towns across with a laid back atmosphere give way to exciting things with every evening activities. Although the music played it has been able to maintain charm rather than becoming just another tourist trap. The city has been a haven for artists for many years cultivating of new unique cultural flavor.

Where to stay...

Casapopos, motels, lodges, and guest houses are all available in the gay vicinity. I was able to experience the Douglas Beach Hotel. First impressions aside, the Douglas Beach turned out to be a surprising low cost in this small midwestern gay resort. You can expect to pay about \$150 for the week-

end, with two people (a lot of 22 hotel rooms). They also have 23 guest rooms that share a community bathroom as well as a lounge.

The exterior of the hotel is deceiving as to the amenities that await inside. (Not similar to those who named The Blue Inn in Omaha.) Close to 30's style highway motifs, the interior gives way to a tastefully up-to-date modern complete with nicely finished rooms (the bathrooms could be updated but we had by day means convenience bar and dining, nicely deck, and lower level Cabana bar with entertainment every weekend. (Watching bartenders like bill, dick, bill and hardware Jim was entertaining though, but the weekend I was there on midweek/weekend play/informational turned to a very crowded event.)

On Saturday and Sunday afternoon it is not to the great area complete with pool bar to enjoy the weekend but leaves from late afternoon to early evening. After the possible activities, to see the road rooms to get cleaned up and read up the times at Club So Douglas. Wonderful waters (like Joe) complement the restaurant contemporary 80's setting with a complete menu featuring wonderful delicacies (seafood, chicken, pizza and salads) that are pleasing to the palate. Expect to pay about \$20 per person for dinner including a cocktail, main course, (the Sauspeck Newsletter is excellent) and one of their dessert specialties. The beach bar, deck, and shore bar are going around 11:00pm and may open at 2:00am.

If you want to find out more, Call or write Douglas Beach and ask for a full color brochure. This place would be fun for Men or Women, couples or singles, ages from 21 to 75. The majority tend to be Men. Overall on a scale of 1-10 I give the entire experience a solid 8. A special thanks to the staff and people at Douglas Beach: Jim, Joe, Bob, Kirby, Miss Christie, and Linda (the manager) are just some of the people that make managers feel part of the action.



Tell 'em
you read about it in
the New Voice!

→ TRAVEL TIPS

Gay women and men are frequent travelers, yet it's tough to handle pre-trip planning while holding down a job. Where does one go to find the books, travel gadgets, and supplies needed for that vacation or business trip?

Before You Go (BYG) Travel Essentials has a catalog of over 450 items needed by travelers. In addition to the more popular items such as passport holders, money belts, voltage converters, and Tyrol's Guides... travelers find items that they would not think about until they needed them. There are also water purifiers, folding hairdryers, dual voltage irons, very handy kits, and even computer language translators.

Before You Go's catalog is free for the asking. Included in the catalog are over 30 travel tips, a complete explanation of international electricity, and a free suggested parking list.

For your free copy of the catalog, call Before You Go (BYG) at (714) 824-1196, 9-5 Pacific Time or write: Before You Go (BYG), P.O. Box 921796, Dept. G, Hollywood, CA 90005-1796.

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Dave G. Thanks for bringing me out. It was wonderful! Sexy things didn't work out. Maybe in the future. Love Forever, Dave, 704E PM.

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Resident Men's Social Support Group forming in Lincoln, NE. Interested men should contact BMSG, P.O. Box 80913, Lincoln, NE, 68531.

Typist needed! If you have access to a computer (preferably a Macintosh) and/or a modem, the New Voice needs you! A few hours each month are all that is required. For more information, contact Sharon Van Buren (536-9907) or Pat Phelan (455-3701).

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS GARAGE SALE

August 11, 1990. From 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, 1215 South 52nd Street. Call 536-8352 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to help make the New Voice of Nebraska the best Gay/Lesbian Magazine in the Midwest, then we'd like to talk to you. We need help with the production of the magazine as well as reporting, writing, and art work. We also have two vacancies on the Steering Committee for those who like to work on policy formation. For more information, contact any member of the Steering Committee or attend our regular meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 420 S. 24.

Artist! Tired of the Same Old Art Work on the cover of the New Voice? Want to see something besides printed words in the magazine? Like to draw cartoons? If you would like to contribute art work for the magazine, contact Sharon Van Buren, 536-9907, or any member of the Steering Committee. Any art work submitted remains your property for purposes other than publication in the New Voice.

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By coming to LONGTIME COMPANION on August 30, you'll be helping to bring the Names Project Quilt to the Omaha/Lincoln area in

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So come see LONGTIME COMPANION, August 30, at the Dundee so that you and others can see the Quilt. And understand.

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