

April Fool!!!



V X S V R E N O

The New Voice

1991

April

IN: HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEE

by KJ

Just the other day, the Good Lord turned over another page in Lee's Book of Life. Little Lee... who'd a wren's starting another chapter... yet. Well till you get halfway through the book and start another section.

An impressive party was planned, to combine a post party and a birthday party, at Lee's. Lee is blessed with a swimming pool (outdoor, of course) in his apartment complex, much to the delight of many.

In, around 2:30, about a dozen guests showed up for a dip in the pool. Also at the pool site were a hot tub and sauna. Imagine, if you will, seven dudes in a hot tub having a gay old time. It was really a lot of fun. The poolside was quite active, as well as the pool itself. There was a lot of splashing, a lot of hollering, and the walls really rang with laughter.

Around 4, when it was getting cooling-down time for the pool, everyone moved to Lee's apartment, where, in the course of the evening, another dozen joined the party. Everyone brought something, and there was more than enough to eat, drink, and smoke on.

A video, My Beautiful Cassanova, was shown, a really good film. There a statue of British humor and satire was shown by Jon.

And what is a birthday without a birth-

day cake and ice cream for the "Birthday Boy"? There was plenty of good food. But we weren't able to light the candles. We were gently reminded that butch-fags weren't allowed in the complex. We were also gently reminded that if we did light them, the candles would probably set off every smoke detector in the building. So, we reluctantly passed on the candles.

It was a great evening shared by all. Everyone got along great. A pizza was shared along about midnight. The crowd thinned down a little, but not much.

Another video was shown. This time it was The Boys in the Band, a favorite among many. It was about 2:45 when this movie got over. And with its ending, so too did the party, with many leaving at this time.

I can assure you, Lee's Birthday party was nothing like the character Lee's was in Boys in the Band. Lee's was a good party, an excellent party, a very enjoyable party. Everyone had a gay old time, an evening among friends, since the majority of us were from MCC or from the Gay Men's Support Group. And I noticed, some things were straight. This didn't matter, and well it shouldn't. Everyone got along great.

In closing... let me leave you with this little sentiment, Lee. "To better to become the hill, than under the hill." May God bless you with many more years. And may your joys always outweigh your sorrows.

~*~



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NO MORE MR. NICE GUY

New York

Thanks for the article on Queen Nation. And what a thing to think being angry? They're made to sound like it's something far away in New York, for instance. But we're here. Queen Nation Networks has been a live since December.

We are not going to be silent. People in Networks are not silent. That's the president Dylak and he's that live in Networks need to stop worrying about image and "What are people going to think?" These people that you are worrying about are the ones who just give you your civil rights bill and the discrimination against you daily. So rise up with us, get angry, demand the system with us.

There are ways to change things and getting angry is a valid way. We also recognize the fact that people want to do other things, they can. And even though a lot of us are pissed off about a lot of things - and rightfully so - QNN isn't just an anger group. We're more concerned with breaking down repression and creating healthier responses to the system of human life. What that means is, we have fun, and we wish everyone else would too. Instead of writing the change to happen or we can live low for now, we're living the way we want NOW.

We haven't allowed us to be intimidated anybody - yet. Maybe some people get scared when they see us doing things openly that they can hardly let themselves do secretly. But they'll have to work that out for themselves. There are lots of nice support groups. And we at QNN wouldn't mind starting up a broader recovery group for folks who've finally realized that their lifestyle is taking them nowhere.

We oppose hierarchical oppressive systems, including our "democratic" governments, including most civil rights organizations. We want less law, not more. Less law means less rules of order. Less politics. Queens who move far from these structures power increasingly become oppressed themselves.

Actually scared is quiet, because we think, "If there's no government, who'd protect us from the lights and the heat?" Our answer is that it isn't. The same system we put so far protection in the system that gives power, that gives rights to lights and the heat, without their particular support systems, they're as weak and helpless as we are. More so.

Our advice is... Fight the Power. Fight Structures. Live power!

Queen Nation Networks Trustee/Editor/Designer
 Michael Dain
 Sheryl Smith
 Wade J. Bond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOOD BUSINESS

New Voice of Nebraska

I would like to take this time to say thank you to all the people who help support the *New Voice of Nebraska*. We are now in our 3rd year and going stronger.

For those of you who tried us in our early stage and were disappointed, I'm sorry and I hope you give us another try.

You and support the gay establishments whenever possible. If I need a product or advertising and I find it's gay-oriented, I'll use them before anyone else. I think most of the community does this and that's great.

So, again, this is just a note to say thank you for your support and support me you want.

Rob Martin
Development Chair

WAKE UP!

To the Gay & Lesbian Community of NE

Are we in the Gay 90's? Is this the "Year of the Queer" as Queer Nation calls it? No, I don't think so, Nebraska. Until networking, coordination and cooperative work between groups in Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, and Kearney, none of this is possible.

Is it like trying to attack HIV with a water pistol. Right?

So, what's going on? As I've covered the problems, I am expressing only my perspective. First of all, *The New Voice of Nebraska* does not represent all of Nebraska in the following ways:

1. not recruiting staff from outside of Omaha
2. not holding meetings in other cities
3. printing articles that make it appear that only Omaha's community needs a Nebraska endorsement

Secondly, the Imperial Court of Nebraska does not try to help outside of Omaha. Why not? Because it's the Imperial Court of Omaha. I requested assistance with a Nebraska Scholarship Fund for Gay and Lesbian students attending UNL, UNMC, and UNK, but was never responded to.

Third, Lincoln organizations are no better in cohesion with Omaha. For example, the UNL student gay/lesbian community has 8-12 organizations and this is coordinated and promotional club spin offs. The Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights does not properly represent the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Social Activities.

Finally, organizational representation generally in major groups in Nebraska, AIDS

public problematizes our lives, health and financial issues little to our success and to-
morrow's success are ignored.

What are some potential solutions?

1. better networking and a guide to all organizations in Nebraska

2. meetings of *The New Voice of Nebraska* in Lincoln and Grand Island

3. more involvement of the Imperial Court in other cities' needs

4. writing together of a "community" list of 50 little "Queer" cities publishing a linking letter-press book giving new ideas and

5. working on issues that affect all AIDS people: problems alcohol/drug use, coming out, and discriminating racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, and ableism in our own community.

All are exciting and possible to accomplish

in an ongoing movement, with a dedication to a supportive environment. Let's make 1991, the Year of the Queer and this decade the Gay 90's. If you wish to do it, someone else

will yield.

Robyn A. Bell, B

Coordinator - ACT-UP Nebraska

Chairwoman - Nebraska Scholarship Fund for Gay and Lesbian students

Acting Chairwoman - UNL GALA



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North Platte	308/334-4780 ext. 134
Scottsbluff	308/625-2842

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE?

Greetings,

I have not published my story for fear that some individuals would feel it undermined my life. Your recent letter by no means gives me the hope that the Midwest is becoming more open and accepting of gays.

I am a former attorney and C.P.A. who ran his practice, taxes, loans, and many other things in my former or current gay community. Simply put, I was emotionally scarred by attempting to make a commercial view of the Bible, with the high moral standards of an attorney, and being a gay sexual harasser being. My inability to reconcile my gay sexual orientation with my religious upbringing (Baptist and tradition of being an attorney, eventually led to me to make and a personal connection with an under aged boy.

Eventually, with the help from family, friends, and professional guidance, I am now a healthy, happy, homosexual. The aforementioned denied and denied occurred nearly four years ago at the age of 21.

To help assist in my past conduct, I am petitioning the Iowa District Court to recognize legally gay unions and relationships. Iowa has currently recognized common-law marriage between males and females. It's

called the Common Law Marriage Doctrine. I am petitioning the Court to recognize contracts between people of the same sex for marriage to be as to income equality between the law.

Hopefully, with the recognition of gay marital unions, like Denmark's gay marriage doctrine, people, like myself, will have an easier experience accepting and acting upon themselves upon their orientation.

Well, that is part of my story. Other than that, I am just a simple family who, believe, will return back to the family farm.

I would appreciate any correspondence which you could write. My thoughts are with you and the generation of gays who will follow.

With my highest and best regards,

Douglas E. Lindeman, BSEd
Highway 217 South
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

THANK YOU

Carla Freeman, New Voice of Nebraska

Carla,

Thanks for the kind words, breaks, and

views. Additionally, I have told my wife of your appreciation for the number of hours that go into making this project go well. When we receive thanks and support it confirms that we are on the right track. I will try to keep up on the news from here and keep things exciting.

May I push my luck??? We were excited to hear a report from The New Voice. With the rise of our group growing we could see more growth. I truly think that our group will be making a big growth in the next two months. We are hoping for a bigger meeting place and want to make a big push in being women to lead the group. Right now we could have a couple. We don't have much money coming in yet but if it would help, we could help deliver the cost of the postage for the magazines you send. Let me know.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Tom Grier, Energy Center Support Group

Editor's Note: We are very pleased to add you as a new supporter. It is wonderful to have the input from the Energy area. You're helping us truly be The New Voice of NEBRASKA!
Hanna

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Beer Busts

EAGLE-OMAHA TO HOST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Omaha chapter of the Employee Association for Gays and Lesbians (EAGLE), a U.S. WEST employee advocacy group, will be hosting the 8th annual regional EAGLE conference on May 17, 18, and 19, 1991 at the New Tower Inn at 26th and Dodge Streets.

This year's conference theme is "Gays & Lesbians Creating Positive Change, and is sure to be very informative and full of fun. Tentatively scheduled conference workshops topics include internalized oppression, Gays and Lesbians in History, and overcoming loneliness.

Other activities planned include a bonfire at the Max on Thursday evening, a showing of *Foguet United*, an auctioned event of Black gay 49 by Drury Award-winning director Marvin Elger, with the talents of East Hampton, Trueman United is owner of the Best Gay Documentary, Berlin International Film Festival 1989, and Joe Vales, New York Documentary Film Festival 1989. As featured by PBS series *The Advocate*, "Marvin Elger has created the award of 'Gold - a brilliant, intensely work of art that defines a landmark critical peak.") on Friday evening, and a banquet with a keynote address by author/poet/activist James Hirschbill.

The conference will be open to the public with a \$125 registration fee. The registration fee will include all workshops on Friday and Saturday, morning and afternoon meals on Friday and Saturday, banquet Saturday morning, and brunch on Sunday. For those who would like to see James Hirschbill and attend the banquet only, there will be a banquet ticket available for only \$25. For additional conference and banquet ticket information, please call Rick Worman at 622-1907.

We hope to see you all there and help welcome the outside conference to the local and let the rest of the 14-state U.S. WEST region see what real inclusiveness, Omaha hospitality is like.

IOWA SEEKS FOSTER PARENTS

The need for foster parents in Iowa is still surprising supply and the state is seeking help from the gay and lesbian community.

According to the Resource Center for part of Des Moines, Iowa care for two children no longer able to remain in their homes, usually because of neglect or abuse. The goal of course, is to provide a safe and growing environment until the child can be reunited with the natural family or legally adopted.

Prospective foster parents must go through a licensing process, training, and home study. For information, call Trust Day at (515) 261-9195.

Across Line

ACT-UP NEBRASKA MEETS

The first organizational meeting of AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power-Nebaska was held February 16. ACT-UP Nebraska is part of an international and nationwide network.

The group will be the state chapter grassroots, democratic, militant direct action organization, dedicated to halting the gross inadequacies of the governmental and private sector responses to AIDS, homophobia, and all forms of discrimination and promoting AIDS policies by non-violent public protest. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 20 at 1pm.

ACT-UP Nebraska has been drawn together as a group by our awareness that society and government have not perceived and responded to the epidemic of AIDS in an appropriate way. Manifestations, mismanagement, and misunderstanding already resulting in thousands of people affected by it.

We believe our society and government

has perceived AIDS to be an illness of gay men and have based their response on prevalent homophobic and discriminatory attitudes and therefore we will also take issue with homophobic and promote the civil rights of all people.

We will identify, define, and respond to issues that deny persons with AIDS, ARC, or HIV of their rights, including but not limited to: housing, employment, availability of treatment, and access to public areas and events.

We insist that each person has a right to determine their own path towards healing. We do not welcome any form of treatment or lifestyle. Our purpose is to respond to issues that are identified and defined by the group in a manner that is direct and visible.

We will maintain positions in a peaceful, non-violent manner, including non-violent civil disobedience if such an action is supported by members of the group. We believe all of us who live are equal, valuable members of our culture and membership is open to anyone who supports our cause.

ACT-UP Nebraska welcomes people of all sexual orientations, categories, and classes of differences, communities with support options. We expect to have chapters throughout the state of Nebraska including Omaha, UNO, UNL, and western Nebraska. We will work with existing groups such as the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights and Queer National-Nebaska when necessary.

Future activities of ACT-UP Nebraska may include, but are not limited to, beginning homophobic and AIDS-phobic campaigns and protests, challenging governmental, private religious, educational, commercial and social service agencies, letterhead games cards to fulfill our purposes, the dissemination of materials and educational materials on safer sex in public, private, organizations, and supporting other groups with causes within our purview.

Those who are interested in joining ACT-UP Nebraska may contact Rodney A. Bell, Jr. at (402) 444-0371 for meeting information and proposed actions.

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APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 15

The Imperial Court of Natchez (ICIN) is pleased to announce that applications are now available in all five bars for those persons interested in running for Emperor, Empress, or Alliance of the Emeralds King.

Qualifications for the positions and the rules for the campaign are attached to each application. Applications must be mailed to ICIN, P.O. Box 3772, Osceola MS321 and postmarked on or before April 15, 1991. No last-minute applications will be accepted.

If you are a resident of Natchez or a Council Bluffs area member of the Gay/Lesbian Community who is interested in joining the Imperial Inn C/L fundraising organization in the area, we encourage you to apply. Please contact us for further qualifications and details must send.

Committees of Imperiality elected Emperor, Empress, and Alliance will be Saturday, June 1 at the Airport Ramada Inn. Committee 7's promise to be an exciting effort. For more details regarding Committee organization, contact Gerald Brown or Dana DeVane or any member of the Board of Governors of ICIN.

ANGLE INFORMATION LINE GOES LIVE

Effective April 1, you can get information on organizations and activities in Natchez and Osceola now by calling 688-8881. A member of ANGLE will receive your call and provide information as it has been made available by the various organizations.

If your group, business, or organization has activities planned and would like the information made available to the community, contact a member of ANGLE at 688-8881 or write to ANGLE, Inc., P.O. Box 3137, Osceola, MS321-0237.

This service is made possible through a grant from the Imperial Court of Natchez.

HASTINGS COLLEGE TAKES A LOOK

The Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC) at Hastings College has been operating a series, Our Sexual Values, on their campus. The series covers a wide range of topics including HIV/AIDS, The STD's (Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Herpes), and Other Issues of Risk Control.

The use of special consent to visit "Janey" was the one omitted. The month of January is now understood as Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues. A panel of five people from the University will share their experiences with the students.

Bob and Denise of PFLAG along with Tom, the head facilitator for the Empty Closet, and two other E.C. support group members spent a couple of hours giving out information and breaking down the stereotypes of age of the lesbian and gay people.

There were about fifty students and teachers in attendance. Only about a dozen of those people had become the lecture for course requirements. All of the students were up with several coming up and thanking the group for coming to speak.

After the lecture, contact was made with a couple of supportive students that say they know of ten or twelve gay and lesbian students that could probably benefit from the E.C. support group.

There are a few other schools that would like to have gay speakers for workshops or lectures. If you would like to help write or call us.

Empty Closet Newsletter

KEARNEY NEWS

The Empty Closet Support Group is pleased to report. During February, we were able to get a line of placed on another cable channel here in Kearney. From that we received several calls for information.

The college newspaper, both also ran a

three page article concerning the support group and other lesbian/gay support groups and other lesbian/gay issues. More calls for information.

Next, the college radio station did three 15 minute talk shows with Tom, the head facilitator of the support group, which has brought in great radio calls for information.

Calls have ranged from completely asking for general information to the group's purpose to help calls from people struggling with someone in their life being a lesbian.

Or reverse, like my gay/lesbian prison service, you get the great calls. The worst was from one woman that said, "I'd like to be your daughter" and then being up there!

We got our first letter from someone with information in it about how it was our God's plan for us to be lesbians and gays. Now I know some men and women in our "family" that don't believe it's scriptural to get on that homosexual behavior and I can report that to the local news of these churches have now a clue about gay people. How do they try to do this? I agree that's get me started!

Starting on March 19th, the E.C. will sponsor a HIV/AIDS support group. There is another group meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 P.M. Our group will start at 7 P.M. and run until 9 P.M. This is a group that will be open to anyone dealing with someone in their life with HIV/AIDS. The location will be kept private and confidentiality will be stressed as all attending. To find out the location of either of the support groups, call us at (319) 234-6988.

One other goal that the E.C. hopes to accomplish in the future will be to get billboards in the tri-city area. We are working for Saturday/October we are coincide with Gay PRIDE Week and National Coming Out Day. The best person will show the fact that "You Are Not Alone." The estimated a couple hundred dollars each. WANT TO HELP??

The Empty Closet Newsletter

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LOCAL NEWS

■ UNL WORKSHOP HELPS G&L GROUPS BUILD

On February 17th, the G&L Gay & Lesbian Student Association sponsored a workshop on helping groups build membership, define the group's goals, communicate with other G&L groups, and more.

Yetta Yonker, the director of Diversity Works, a consulting firm based in Ashland, Massachusetts, and Jim Smith, assistant director of staff training development at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, conducted the workshop.

Around 20 group leaders from different G&L organizations took part at the three hour session. Many people shared the need to involve more people in their group's activities.

Future topics of the Emory Closet Support Group is that the same G&L organizations can have a meeting together. There is a need for networking with all the new groups in order to offer more support for most people.

■ NEW VOICE OBTAINS ORIGINAL ART WORK

During the Biennial Art Auction hosted by City of The Diamond, members of the award committee were excited to find that many of the works for sale were thoughtful art work for social and more commercial coverage.

The original portfolio mentioned young Matt Com, with two great pieces acquired, scoring a Santa Claus top, in titled NOEL. This portrait appeared on the December 30 cover of The New Voice and was the subject of extensive discussion in letters to the editor the following month.

The original art work by Sam Craven was purchased by members of the meeting mentioned. Mr. Craven was present at the auction and told the editor, Sharon Vanhook, that he was glad The New Voice saw beyond the picture. He stated he had never intended to offend anyone with his art. He had just finished college and was thrilled to be able to finally portray beauty as he really saw it.

■ COCAINE SPEEDS UP HIV

Researchers from the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis St. Paul have found that adding cocaine to HIV samples in test tubes causes the virus to grow three times faster than normal. The researchers speculate that cocaine use may accelerate progression of HIV disease in symptomatic people. It was also stated that there is little known about the effects of drug use on the development of AIDS.

TAP Update

■ QUEER NATIONALISM - IN NEBRASKA!!

Recently we read Jim Becker's commentary titled "Why Not Being Gay and Proud" quickly to the conclusion that an article discussing Queer Nationalism and the existing edge of activism without mentioning Queer Nation/Nebraska is, at the least incomplete.

Queer Nation/Nebraska (QNN) is a dynamic, culturally sensitive, grassroots activist organization fighting for gay/bisexual and lesbian visibility. Since its establishment in December of 1989, the group has been going strong, with weekly meetings of 20 to 40 persons.

Based on the model of Queer Nation groups nationwide, QNN's structure is non-hierarchical, with all members taking on all functions - publicity, fundraising, brainstorming. Each week general meetings are facilitated by a team and a meeting, and are followed by house group meetings.

Decisions are not made by consensus or unanimity; if you feel that a particular action is appropriate - for you - and Queer Nation as a group of individuals will support you on a variety of levels. This process has set precedents in dance, nightlife, or sponsoring QNN like a special kind of membership, funding, and a frequency of activity that other groups like the Queer Nation/ten Villages have expressed an envy for.

Active sponsorship by QNN and its house groups has included a successful piece of committee work. Clinton's homophobia baner during his performance at Lincoln's Last Casino - prominently covered by the Omaha Star, Lincoln Journal, the Daily Star-Phoenix, and Omaha M/L News, subsequent screening (during the New Spin, RUC) cassette performance, a lobbying drive to benefit economically disadvantaged people in the community, numerous and continuing press releases, fund-raising efforts, and numerous local, regional, Queer nights, and other visible steps throughout the city of Lincoln.

Two months of Queer Nationalism in Nebraska have equipped more visibility and dialogue than a decade of "quiet activism" - leaving those who take homophobic culture for granted, and those who would suffer for the "politically expedient" far behind in the dust.

Queer Nationalism is not about compromise. It is not about lobbying or promoting. It is not concerned with a "good" or "bad" message, when that message is defined in homophobic terms. Queer Nation is about the bottom line, and that bottom line is (QNN).

Add to that a carnival sense of fun and the mentioned biting wit of dykes, legs, and other queers who know nothing is too

future actions and activities currently being planned and sponsored by a team of the QNN/ten Villages team comprising the Queer Nation School in San Francisco, Lincoln's First Gay, Lesbian, Biexual, Foster March, networking with other Queer Nation groups in the Midwest, and a whole lot more that we'll report! QNN has also been actively coordinating the International Queer Week in the summer of '91 for Queer Nation nationwide over the globe and is currently producing the handbook for this project.

For more information, for the commercial commitment at Nebraska, Queer Nation/Nebraska is a great opportunity to recruit more Nebraska Queer/lesbian/bisexual folks to the Queer line at 1820 BR-325A (Lincoln) and form a strategy for information at meeting times and places.

1820 BR-325A (LINCOLN)
MONS LIFE
8205 MC DAMMIT
WE ROCK IT!!

Written collectively by FUG (Sharon de Ligny, Queens), a house group of Queer Nation/Nebraska.

■ COMING SOON

The Emory Closet Support Group is proud to announce that an organization will provide in Hastings, Great Plains, also known, there will give the social gathering on several occasions during the upcoming month. The purpose of the gathering is to give people a good occasion for making friends.

Each city will take a turn hosting people from the other two cities and elsewhere. They will furnish the food and the entertainment. Although the venue will be formal, there will not be heavy parties.

For the exact location of the events, you need to contact your local "social director" in Hastings, Cloud Island, or Kearney or call the Emory Closet at (308) 234-4100. If you can't make arrangements for your whereabouts and save friends, plan on attending one or more of the Saturday offerings.

Emory Closet Newsletter

■ SELLECK DENIES CHARGES HE IS HETEROSEXUAL!

In an interview with Entertainment, a recent issue to Tom Selleck states that the actor is "highly, intensely, color-charged" but is "sexually indifferent" with his young partner who accompanied him to the Academy Awards.

"We're only friends - there's nothing sexual in our relationship" - A part, Paul.

THE MAX IN APRIL

by Gloria Benedit

For everyone who enjoyed Ryan Mad in February, you'd better get ready for April. On Thursday, April 4, The Max will present gay adult videos legend, Steve Hammon. Steve will perform and sign autographs. Steve also has two new videos out and we will be showing several clips in our special fan shop in and near a park. Steve is looking forward to his first visit to the Midwest. I've assured him that the men in Omaha will welcome him with open... arms. Steve has promised me that he would autograph anything you'd like.



Sunday, April 7, The Omaha Mavericks will present their spring version of Thriller Fights. The Sioux City Mixed Chorus will give a benefit show on Sunday, April 14. This show will help support the Chorus's spring concert and their spring tour. If a Queen Ball giveaway again, April 22 is the date and The Max is the place. Applications are available at The Max.

Our magazine's variety of video tape options, the Max-On parties are always a favorite. What do you think for two planned now?

Wayne presents Halloween in April. I know it sounds crazy but, I also know that it is just what Omaha needs to pull up and get ready for summer. Wayne is planning one of his traditional Max-On parties, but, with a kick. There will be a costume contest, a wardrobe contest, lots of fun, and of course, lots of surprises.

We all know The Max is never still, but, looking April 28, you may see people walking around in a parade. No, it won't be from the rhythmic thumping of a disco beat. The parade is for Mike Loring. Mike is being honored by trade and an endorsement by promotion. He shows will appear to everyone. The Max will be the only Midwestern stop for this one of a kind show. Don't miss it.

Stripped scenes in April. Watch for information of The Max bring you excitement from those across the country. In our efforts at being quality entertainment to the Midwest, your input is always welcome. If a system has comments, minor shows or discussions of interest, groups or performers, please contact Wayne or myself. Your input counts.

Sex is hot so hot... What couple gets really heated at the Ryan Mad Show and crossed each other off being drunk, right before both passed out?... Who wore weather tight boots in Underwear Night 3 and showed every inch of what they had?... Who recently got the huge name of Teepee and how did they earn it?... Who got in with a Ryan Mad's helicopter?... I'll never tell!

NORTH IOWAN DOES IT BY HIMSELF

On February 5, the Adams City Guide gave us several feature articles under the banner of "AIDS Comes Home to North Iowa." The articles had had not only the first story that their north central Iowans heard about AIDS/HIV, but also gave the virus a name and a face, with photos.

While announcing that a support group

had formed for those HIV+ or with AIDS in the region, the articles featured an one man Randy Wilson video public as a gay man and a person carrying the virus in Mason City, a town of 25,000 near the Iowa-Minnesota border.

Wilson has become a two-time band playing a two-hour set do not want to leave. He returned to Mason City in September of 1986, after several years in Key West, Florida. He had dropped out of school at age 17, and went to Los Angeles before finding his way to the tropics.

Now, the 26-year-old has become a citizen. AIDS/HIV, joining the North Iowa AIDS Project. He works with the local Red Cross and Health Department to provide educational programs and is working with Hospital of North Iowa for a support group. He knows of those AIDS cases locally and another 20 infected people in the area.

Wilson has issued public service announcements in local media about the support group, using his personal home phone number, 253-42-2986. He hopes to form a non-profit organization and will be working towards it any anonymous AIDS testing site in Mason City. He'd like apply for funds in the Aid Line AIDS South.

Wilson and Red Cross AIDS education have presented programs at several north Iowa schools. He believes he was exposed in 1985 while on business in Los Angeles.

Without any gay and lesbians in the region for two weeks ago only, Wilson is especially speaking in Mason City and nearby communities. He told the Globe-Gazette, "I will personally advise who discusses my group or status and violence to my victims or my wife."

Operating his North Iowa AIDS Project out of his small apartment, Wilson has received several calls of support and offers of help. He has arranged a medical evaluation facility for regional people with AIDS/HIV, and where they can come, while the Project is currently meeting in the minds of others.

-Arvid Liben

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LOCAL NEWS

CHORUS REHEARSES AT FEVER PITCH

by Gary

The big project right around the corner for the River City Mixed Chorus is the April 11 presentation of *FEVER SALAD*. In the Mix last article in this issue. The show is progressing great, and will be history in just two weeks. Chorus members are working with ICON members to make this a fun evening.

The June 22 Pride Concert is the major Monday night rehearsal activity. Several of the Pride Concert songs will be performed at *FEVER SALAD*. This year's summer concert highlights musical works by great American composers Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, and George Gershwin.

Members are also gearing up for quite an unusual fund raising activity, which will be described in next month's New Voice. It's a special way the Chorus will say thank you to its audience and donors.

Asper of the fundraising website, RCNC Director Jonathan Gale is involved with two Community Playhouse shows. Entitled *Laffy* and *Yield Daily*.

For more information about RCNC, call 88 at 731-1703.

VALENTINE BENEFIT A BIG SUCCESS

by S.M.

On February 16, Gilligan Pub was the setting for a romantic evening for some 75 people who sat down to an enjoyable meal in a dinner of love and charity for people with AIDS. The evening was a benefit to raise money for People with AIDS. After the evening was done and enjoyed by all, the benefit raised \$600.

Although the benefit was a big success, it takes a lot of hard work and time from several people to make it a profitable and fun event for all involved. At this time many thanks go out to those people who made this evening so successful for all.

Many Thanks to:

1. Gary Wood for all his time and energy in lining up the benefit and coordinating all activities of the benefit. Also for his help in setting up and helping with the food preparation.

2. Tom Cook for all his dedication and hard work to make the event look so beautifully done and for his help the day of the benefit. "Your great help was greatly appreciated."

3. Vicki Frenco for your help in setting

up and with the preparation of food. "You were a big help."

4. Gary Christensen for his help in setting up.

5. To Alice, Colleen and Pat for their help with the food preparation. "Super job."

6. Tom Dale, and Mike for their help in serving the food and Simon for your help behind the bar. "Good job well done."

7. Don Flowers for M.C. of the benefit. Besides those people, a special thanks to those people who made special donations: Allison Flowers - the lovely flowers for the tables.

Dale - delicious cheese cakes.

Alice - scrumptious strawberry cakes.

Tom - table cloths.

Gary - gorgeous flower arrangements.

Hollan - decorations.

Dick Bittiguy and Brandis Frenco.

Also to Gilligan Pub for the use of their facility and their fine hospitality.

To conclude Thank you to all those who attended and to those who made additional money contributions. Without your this evening would never had been the success it was. We hope you all had an enjoyable time.

THANKS to all our contributors of Articles, Letters and Ideas to the New Voice Each Month!

AIDS nebraska project

N A P

3624 Leavenworth
Omaha, NE 68105

AIDS Hotline

9am-5pm & 6pm-11pm Monday-Friday; 6pm-11pm Weekends
Omaha 543-4233 Stateswide 800/782-AIDS (2427)

HIV Testing

7pm-10pm Mondays and Thursdays

SUPPORT GROUPS

HIV TESTING

BUDDY SYSTEMS

AIDS HOTLINE

MCC HEADLINES

by Carla F.

Easter Weekened 1991 - Word Wear a weekend! If you missed joining us in worship this Easter, we invite you to visit now in April. If you live north of Omaha, well, you can attend the new mission church in Sioux City. Under the leadership of our Student Chaplains, Sioux City MCC now has its first worship service Easter.

A month right is on the calendar for this month's social activity. We'll be meeting in two groups as they gather to one location and the women to another. Call the church office for details: 342-2563.

We are happy to be having Student Chaplains attend our region's first weekend of this month as well as the first weekend in May. They are here to attend an extension class offered by Southeastern College and taught by Reverend Howard.

Many in the congregation are making plans to attend the Regional Conference of MCC's in Wichita over Memorial Day weekend. Some took advantage of the great air show in February and made their reservations for attending the CIMCC General Conference to be held in Proctor in July.

During March members of the Building South Committee conducted a prayer vis-

ity of churches in the city as part of our campaign to find a new church home for our growing congregation. A couple buildings were viewed, and at the finish, the congregation seriously discussed some of the options appearing. The congregation discussed a lot at that meeting. Be watching! You'll want to swing out legs in T-shirts and banners. Be on the spot for a part of MCC-O and you can have your own T-shirt and banner.

Along with the discussions of the building, came some plans for sponsoring handouts. Check your local bar weekly for details! See you in church!

PLANS FOR PRIDE ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY

by Sharon VanBuren

Once again, June will be filled with activities throughout the Gay/Lesbian community. Beginning with this issue, the New Voice will include a separate list of June activities as we become aware of them. If your organization is planning an activity for the month of June, please drop us a note at P.O. Box 3912, Omaha, NE 68131, so we can include all the activities being celebrated.

A.N.G.L.E., Inc. (Achieving New Gay/

Lesbian Enrichment) will be focusing their efforts on a Community Recognition Luncheon to be held June 29, and the PRIDE Parade, Picnic, and Rally to be held June 30. Details on these events will be published as they become available.

We hear from a "Reliable Source" that there will be a major lesbian event held in Omaha the weekend of June 29 and 30. We're sure to hear more about these plans.

The Imperial Court of Nebraska will celebrate Committee X this weekend of June 28, 29, and 30, beginning with the Out of Town show on Friday Night, Election and Coronation of the new Misses to be later day, and the Victory Show on Sunday.

The Omaha Chapter of Friends and Friends of Lesbians and Gays have advised us that they will be helping celebrate Pride week.

Sioux City Mixed Chorus will lift their voices in song with their annual PRIDE concert on Saturday, June 22. Somewhere, we suspect that this concert will begin at 7:00pm.

The Two Wives of Omaha, M.C., will be celebrating their 10th Anniversary Bar the weekend of June 7, 8, and 9.

So what have I left out? Well, I'm sure you can include the rest in a letter to the editor. That way I'll be sure to include it next time and you'll get some free publicity.



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LOCAL NEWS

BUSH ATTENDS PRIDE PARADE; DANCES AT MAX

President Bush, in a surprise reversal of policy, attended the Gay Pride Parade sponsored by local activists.

Widening a white-hot campaign against the Midwest, Bush denounced the national letter headings by speaking out against homosexual rights. The surprised response was only a few minutes but he left the Republican Party smiling.

The president concluded his brief remarks with the slogan, "No more Mays," an apparent reference to the locally infamous gay den. The White House Press Secretary was overheard to say that the First Couple wanted "to turn an ankle at the police" if time allowed, April 2nd.

FRUIT SALAD TO BE A DELICIOUS MIX

By Gary
FRUIT SALAD is right around the corner Sunday, April 14, starting at 8 P.M. at The Max, 116 & Jackson, Omaha. Admission is only \$3.99 (additional donations will be appreciated, of course).

There isn't a better entertainment for the time in one place in Omaha for a long time.

YOUR MASTER OF CEREMONIES is the incomparable Mr. Vince Fero!

LIVE SITS'N' SONG FAVORITES include Mr. Sandman, Da Dee Dee Dee, Leader of the Pack, Led Zep, and the one, the only, (I Wanna Be Like) a Girl!

LOVE MUSIC FROM ALL-TIME FAVORITE SHOWS include *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, and the lady Caroleen from, *By Myself!*

SPECTACULAR SYNCHRONIZED Move will amaze you!

DEACONS include Mr. Gay Network U.S.A. 1981, Flower Tonic, Miss Mavis, Victoria Tonic, and Empress X, Erica Deacon!

SPECIAL GUESTS are Mr. Max, Michael, and NCMC's very talented director Jonathan Cole... you will be surprised!

ORIGINAL SELECTIONS from Omaha's River City Mixed Chorus will give you a total groove of our first 20 "Pride Concert" BUT THAT'S NOT ALL! The Chorus is performing for Bayberry Ballade with special prizes. Grand prize is a valuable Omaha Club Music. All tickets are available only at FRUIT SALAD.

You won't want to miss this show! It's FRUIT SALAD, one day only, at The Max, presented by the River City Mixed Chorus (and friends), and sponsored by the Hospital Court of Nebraska.

RIVER CITY BOWLING LEAGUE STANDINGS

By Thomas Van Rued
At the end of the 20th week of bowling the race for first place was again between Olligars #7 and Olligars #3. The winners' list continues with identical, but Olligars #2 took first place with a higher total pin count. Olligars #2 again took honors for the top scratch team game and scratch team score with a team game of 737 and a team score of 2863.

The women's high score game for the week was 277 bowled by Bush. The high scratch team's score was 884 bowled by Charley Wade. Dye-M continued his winning ways by taking the high scratch score for women with a 439 score. Marie K. had the high-women's game with a 168.

League standings at the end of the 20th week are:

1. Olligars #2	W-129	L-03
2. Olligars #3	W-129	L-03
3. Char-Don Enterprises	W-119	L-03
4. Maximum Balls	W-119	L-03
5. A & S Viste	W-109	L-24
6. Mama's Family	W-109	L-24
7. D's	W-109	L-24
8. DIRT	W-89	L-47
9. Holly Rollies	W-81	L-43
10. Star Nine Lights	W-81	L-43
11. Olligars #1-Die's Back	W-84	L-48
12. Char-Don Enterprises II	W-84	L-48
13. 3 + 2	W-83	L-49
14. The Max	W-84	L-52
15. Cruise's Crew	W-79	L-53
16. Super With An Attitude	W-72	L-53
17. You Can't Touch This	W-67	L-53
18. Marlboro's Bestest Kids	W-66	L-53
19. Head-On's	W-64	L-53
20. 4 Girls & 1 Girl	W-61	L-53

I LIVE

Do not stand by my grave and weep
For I am not there, I do not sleep
I'm in the thousand's who help you live
Lining with thousands of men
I live in gentle arms and rain.

As you walk with morning's light
I live with each sparkling ray
of quiet birds in morning flight.
Do not stand by my grave and cry
I am not there, I do not die.

I live in the eyes and hearts of those I
loved, my spouse, my children, my friends.
I live with them in memory and love.
Do not stand by my grave and cry
I live with you, I do not die.



EA, Col. Heaslermeyer (left) went to purchase lengths to save money on his auto insurance.

Looked out friend, most motorists realize the ALLIED Group discounts can add up. There are discounts for drivers over 50, students, multi-car families, and for combining your car and motorcycle insurance. And the longer you keep your auto policy with ALLIED Group, the more you'll save.

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◆ INSURANCE COMPANY ACCEPTS MALE COUPLE

by Mark M.

Being a tomcat in the finance and insurance industry, I took insurance coverage for granted.

No matter my partner and I jointly bought a house. We closed the deal, the insurance company issued coverage... and of course I've chosen the company with the best coverage for the best price.

No. Although my partner's name isn't really on the policy, it was mistaken as my wife's name. Later, the underwriter looked up his auto insurance and discovered my wife was dead.

Of course, we could have coverage, but at a much higher commercial rate. (The assumption is that two male jointly owning real estate are in a business partnership.) We were not too excited about the higher commercial rate.

Explained that we were a couple, purchasing a home for residential use only. I was asked if we were married (the underwriter thought she had read No, but we could get a "domestic partnership" certificate in Minnesota. They'd get back to me.

They thought about it. In a few days I

found back that they would accept it as a couple.

The company is Alliant Group. I asked if they would underwrite other gay couples' homes. (Since I'm the manager of our insurance agency, I wanted to make sure I wasn't getting special treatment just to keep our "book of business.")

The answer was yes. They listed the following criteria:

1. The two must have a stable financial background.
2. The two must have been together a considerable length of time (in our case, three years).
3. The property must be insurable.

◆ SURVEY SIGNALS SEXUAL SATISFACTION

Male couples may have more sex than lesbian couples, but lesbian couples appear to enjoy it more. These are among the results of a national survey of 1,266 gay and lesbian couples conducted by Posters' Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples.

Male couples had sex 12 times per month on average, while lesbians averaged seven times. Most active were couples together

one year or less, while half was about twice as often.

"A widespread myth of both men and women rated their sexual interaction good to excellent," said Dennis, Ed.D., who edits the bimonthly newsletter with his partner Lewis Bryant. "Lesbian couples were more sex enthusiasts, with the majority rating it excellent."

Les was rated most highly by couples who were more committed and those who rated overall relationship quality more highly. In common, stable relationships and those caring for children need sexual interaction less.

The lesbian couples had been together an average of 4.8 years, the male couples averaged 4.7 years together.

A free summary of results from the national survey may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to Posters, Box 9025, Seattle, WA 98108. A detailed analysis appears in the November's *Edgy* (free issue, which may be ordered for \$3.95). A year's subscription costs \$21. Telephone requests may be made to Service Bryant or Dennis at (206) 736-1770.

SMILE IF YOU'RE GAY

THE IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA (ICON)

PRESENTS

CLOSET BALL 1991

APRIL 21, 9:00 P.M. AT "THE MAX"

APPLICATIONS AND RULES CAN BE PICKED UP AT "THE MAX"
OR BY CONTACTING AN ICON BOARD MEMBER OR ROYAL FAMILY MEMBER



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

ECRN Board of Governors meeting, The Max, 1417 Jackson Street, 8:30pm.

Support Group for Starwalk, 7:30pm, Circlewood (opposite 940 N. 24th St., Lincoln).

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

ANGLE (Adopting New Gay/Lesbian Endowments), Typ. LIND Religious Center, 301 N. Happy Hollow, Omaha.

Gay/Lesbian Support Group, MCC-Omaha, 7:30. Speaker: Betty Nelson from Operation Bridge on Co-dependency & Alcoholism.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

Continue for GL Civil Rights in Sunday Even., 7-8pm, Memorial Health II, Seeking Self-Commitment, 640 N. 16th, Lincoln.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!

New Home Steering Committee, Omaha, Typ. Call 558-9907 for location.

GLSO/Gay/Lesbian Student Org., Call for location: 551-0694 or 558-8121, 8:30pm.

Missaukee Breadth Show Walks On Broadway, The Max, 1417 Jackson Street, Omaha, 5:30pm. Proceeds Nebraska AIDS Project PWA Emergency Fund.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

AIDS Interfaith Network service, St. Cecilia's, Typ. 450 & Webster, Omaha.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Flower-FLAG/Omaha, Typ. 1st Methodist Church, 7000 Cass St., 791-4741.

Omaha Men (OMENC) meeting, 1-30pm. Write: Box 7338, Omaha 68102.

Spagetti Dinner, Area Apes, All You Can Eat \$1.99/Gallop's, 1821 Lakeside with Proceeds MCC-O Existing Fund.

River City Mixed Chorus Benefit Show, 8:30pm, The Max, 1417 Jackson St., Omaha.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Gay/Lesbian Chorus, 7:30pm, St. Mark's, 138 & R., Lincoln.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

AIDS Chorus at United Power (ACT-UP) Lincoln, Typ. Details: 664-0371.

MCC Move Night, 7 locations. Call 945-2561 for details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Flower-FLAG, Kearney, Typ. St. John's, 2nd Ave. at 23rd St. Call for info: (308) 237-2870.

ELSO/Gay/Lesbian Student Org., Call for location: 791-0694 or 558-8121, 8:30pm.

Cover Ball sponsored by Imperial Court of Nebraska, The Max, 1417 Jackson St., Omaha.

MONDAY, APRIL 22

Local AIDS Interfaith Service, St. Mark's, UIC, 138 & R., Typ.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Flower-FLAG-Lincoln, Typ. United Methodist Church, 6300 A St. World Center/1st Floor of 7th and 14th Sts.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 28

National Lesbian Conference meets in Atlanta, Georgia. Write for details: NLC, P.O. Box 1999, Decatur, GA 30031.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Protestants For Lesbian/Gay Concerns, for information: 751-1360.

MCC Youth Sale, 4128 Chicago, Omaha, 9-4.

LINCOLN PRIDE WEEK

Call Gay/Continental Student Assoc. at 475-5648 for times, locations, & details.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Panel Discussions: 8:00 PM in Campus.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Accord to the 90's. Speakers from ACT-UP and Queer Nation.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Community Dance/Wizard of Oz.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

Minor Ethnic Fest, 7:30pm, speaking at Nebraska Union.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Lesbian Lawyer, Communications Student, Nebraska Union.

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 420 E. 24th St., 545-2563. Worship: 10:30am, Typ.

Omaha Preparatory/Walkers Running/Walking Club, 11am, various locations.

River City Bowling League, King Louis Rose Bowl, 49th, 1 1/2 MI Northwest 3rd Flwy.

The Max, 1417 Jackson Street, Omaha. Shows at 9:30pm.

MONDAY

Alzheimer Trust Lun., 7-11pm, NAP, 3024 Lucretia Street, Omaha.

River City Mixed Chorus rehearsal, Lower Ave., Presbyterian Church, 1023 N. 40th, 7:30pm.

TUESDAY

Gay/Lesbian Support Group, MCC-Omaha, 420 E. 24th Street, 945-2563.

WEDNESDAY

Omaha Preparatory/Walkers, Ford Basketball, 6:30pm, 32nd Ave. & Westview, Omaha.

PFLAG AIDS Support Group, Lincoln, Typ. Information Line: 475-2477.

MCC-Omaha Prayer Group, Typ. 420 South 24th Street, Omaha, 945-2563.

THURSDAY

Alzheimer Trust Lun., 7-11pm, NAP, 3024 Lucretia Street, Omaha.

UIC, Gay/Lesbian Student Organization, Nebraska Union, Lincoln, Typ.

Gay/Lesbian Support Group, Kearney, 3030 234-8248.

FRIDAY

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholism Anonymous, Peila Lutheran Church, 301 E. 41st St., Omaha, 545-9618, 8:15pm.

SATURDAY

Women's Support Group, 11am, MCC-Omaha, 420 E. 24th St., 945-2563.

◆ LEGALLY SPEAKING

by Roger McCallister

◆ My Lover Has Been Arrested and I Jailed—What Do I Do?

Other times lawyers will get a telephone call from clients calling in the middle of the night, saying that they or their loved ones have been arrested, requiring the lawyer to do something immediately. Most arrests, however, aren't emergency situations and charges and the release of the arrested person require only the posting of a bond. On a misdemeanor charge, the actual amount of bail required is generally preset according to established schedules.

When the law enforcement unit is hostile to the lawyer, the prospective client, or their loved ones, should be sure to have the following information ready to help the lawyer obtain the freedom of the arrested person. Because the first telephone communication with the lawyer is usually the one the arrested person will have prior to the bond hearing, it is essential to be able to give your lawyer crucial information.

* First, if you have been arrested and are sitting behind the police station or jail, don't begin to sell your lawyer your side of the story. The best of your good or "innocent" should be left for later, a time when you can talk privately with your lawyer. This is to prevent someone at the police station or jail from overhearing the information conversation and later twisting it to mean to the damaging detriment of the communication. The purpose of the bond telephone call is to arrange for your freedom and not to prove your guilt to someone.

* Put together relevant information regarding friends and family who will be able to post the required bond. Attorneys prohibited by law from accepting bail money, but they can call friends and family to help with the required amount.

* Tell your attorney the address of the police station or jail where you are being detained. Your lawyer will then be able to correct the data in the station and find out when and where you will be brought to appear for the initial bond hearing.

* Prior to the actual bond hearing you will be processed, which means fingerprinting, photographing, and the fingerprints run through a central computer to determine if you are wanted on other charges.

If you have a written illness requiring medication, be sure to tell your lawyer so he or she can request the watch commander at the police station to make special arrangements. The watch commander is also responsible to ensure the time the defendant must wait in the processing period, as well as to judge and file the relevant information to be heard.

* No one should post your lawyer information

about your background that will encourage a judge to set your bond at a maximum amount. The judge, in determining the amount of the bond, looks at three factors: the nature of the offense charged, the character of the defendant, and the defendant will appear for trial and, the likelihood that the defendant will refrain from other criminal activity while out on bond.

You will want to have your lawyer tell the judge that you are employed and have ties in the community in which you live. If facts are presented which show you to be a responsible citizen, it will persuade the judge to set the bond in an affordable range, allowing you your freedom pending the trial.

In California, there is a 15% bond system which means that if bail is set at \$1,000, the out-of-pocket cost to the defendant will be \$150. Once the bond hearing is out of the way, you and your lawyer can work together to prepare for your defense at trial.

If you have been arrested and do not have a lawyer, a friend or family can help you find one. They should ask for personal recommendations from friends, co-workers, and family members.

When your lawyer has two or three names of lawyers, call them. Most lawyers are willing to spend 10 minutes of their time on the telephone to determine if they can help a prospective client. This is not the time to discuss the amount of bail you or the lawyer can provide answers. You are looking for experience with the subject matter, a kind of personal support and an ability to assist during the bond hearing to ensure your freedom pending trial.

The time to set personal meetings with the lawyer is after you have been released from jail. These meetings should take anywhere from half an hour to an hour, and should provide you with information on four important points.

* **Competibility.** Ask yourself, do you identify persons with whom you should have absolute trust and confidence? Don't be in the "in" or you understand when he or she tells you about the law? Are you comfortable with asking questions?

* **Qualifications.** Ask your lawyer for his or her experience and qualifications for your particular problem. How many similar criminal cases have they handled? Were they jury or bench trials? Don't expect to be told that "you will win." No one can predict how a judge or jury will decide a case.

* **Sufficient time.** The most important thing to look for is adequate time to handle your legal work. When you call, ask your lawyer how long he or she will be in town. If you are held out just over an hour, be very leary! Are your calls returned within a couple of days? If the lawyer is in court, out of town, or ill, you should be told in the time you call, otherwise, your calls should be promptly returned.

* **Legal fees.** You never risk about the

legal fees with your prospective lawyer. This will provide a good idea of your comfort level with the attorney. If an attorney won't discuss openly the fees, talk to someone else. If you can't talk about fees with a lawyer, you can probably talk about anything else.

Hopefully, you'll be able to select a lawyer who can do the work you want competently, within a reasonable fee, and with whom you feel comfortable.

Mr. McCallister is a graduate of Marquette University School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association. He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this article.

◆ THE BOOK REPORT

◆ *Death of the Law*
1989 by Catherine Snow

This historical novel is set in 1862, in Civil War era. The action takes place mainly in Union-occupied Nashville, Memphis, and New Orleans. However, except for a few passages of Union soldiers on the march, with a couple of their serving as minor characters, I didn't get much of a sense that there was a war going on at all. This was disappointing, not as with all war novels, or epics, and some people engage the discussion of the military action. The book serves as a good reminder of that fact.

The manner in which the two major characters are brought together is quite plausible. They are both in the well-known Democratic system by marriage from opposite sides of the Mason-Dixon line. Neither seems to express his personal politics concerning which side is "right" in the war, a situation which could have been added to create a palpable tension for the reader. Surely there had opinions, and I think that could have been more effectively used to establish the setting of the time. War, whatever it comes, is always defined by everyone.

It is written in the first person voice, with faith, steadily persistent and honest at an a devastating time, as the nation. The book is also a coming-of-age story; she has much growing up to do as the Democrats and their two servants head south for New Orleans, a top which is far from comfortable. It is an action-packed story which keeps a good pace. It holds a reader to suspense wondering just how these women will survive some horrific predicaments. As with all good historical, everything works out in the end. Available from:

The Third Press, Inc.
P.O. Box 12421
Tulahoma, TN 38282
Amazonia

◆ FEATURES

◆ MY TOUCH

by Susan J.D. Williams

The long period of heat this summer had quenched the outdoors from almost everything. The level of the lake where we liked to go camping had even dropped by three feet, but the warm water was still a welcome relief. It was such a surprise when I stepped from the lake that afternoon, and felt my skin burn to gooseflesh from the cold hard wind that was beginning to blow.

For an instant I could not think when this cold wind was coming from, but when I cracked my head to the side I could see the misty black line peaking over the rim of the hill next to the lake. It had been such a long time, I thought I must see what is bringing this cold wind to me.

When I reached the top of the hill I was hit in the face by a blast of cold air, which took my breath away and made me gasp for air. I could hear the thunder booming in the distance, and see the lightning striking just a hill or two away. It was blowing very fast towards me and I knew I was going to have to make a mad dash for my tent, or stay and brave the cold wet rain.

The cold wind on my face and chest made me feel as though the tent's door were a hot trap splashing in my face for the

moment, and I could hear my own drops slipping around me, and I knew I should make my retreat to my tent.

When I reached the tent I could scarcely believe that I was in the land of protection from the rain, so I went inside and closed the flap on the windows and took off my new cold wet swim suit to help rid myself of that temporary skin disease.

I could hear, shivering cold and wet, watching you sleep. You looked so sweet and innocent. My mind wandered and I recalled the same chill from the past. The time Grandpa and I were caught in a cold rain on our last summer day. He tried to set up a blanket, and begged me to keep my warm.

A drop of rain from my hair fell in your face, and you smiled a smile from your sleep. You looked so sweet, your eyes closed content. The wind's whistle, the rain's persistent hammer. You wrapped a blanket around me and begged me to keep my warm.

◆ G/L UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FORMS

The new form is proved to minimize the complexity of a new Umbrella organization for all gay and lesbian organizations in the region. AG1482, G/Lby Queens, Minnesota.

Are Really Effortless" was formed to assist that each g/l organization will have at least one umbrella to protect those whose the road-keeping begins.

Certain organizations will have to be provided with basic key material (distribution included in response) in order to maintain their footing when the sky goes on deep.

For a few select organizations, trust and skill directors will be provided. These directors will assist an alarm at the first wild of need or risk, allowing ample time for last waters to be properly applied and control be raised for full protection.

Remember, the organization for you is SQUARE.

—April Paul

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◆ CATALOG LISTS GAY BOOKS

Pauls Unbroken, a gay-owned/gay operated mail order book service for literature concerning male homosexuality has released its 1991 catalog, listing hundreds of titles in an expanded subject classification that includes 83 different subject areas.

Pauls Unbroken specializes in hard to find, out of print, small press, and imported books. The first part of the catalog focuses on non-fiction in areas such as gay anthropology, gay humor, gay relationships, and gay lifestyles. The second part consists of recent acquisitions of fiction and erotic paperback originals published from the 1960s to the present. A special album is made to pioneer gay bookseller Ed Grutker who for almost 20 years operated Elysian Fields Bookstore until his recent death due to complications from AIDS.

The catalog, a 44-page bibliography, is available for \$3.95 from Pauls Unbroken, P.O. Box 459, Village Station, New York, NY 10014-0459.

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♦ A CLOSET CAT DYKE by Jean Murlan

"Honey, I want a baby."
My lover nibbled sleepily on my left breast. After all, I'd spent most of my life preclaiming that I didn't want to kids, especially if they were within five miles of me. So I explained, "A kitten, I mean."

Not that I needed another cat. I already had two. And I had to hand it to my lover, she did an awful job of adapting to them when we moved to England, to anyone who lives with cats will attest, you never own them, you own you. Whenever I'm in the bathroom, they always look at me as if to say, "You're doing WHAT in my drinking bowl?"

My lover made a great deal of comment in order for us to live together. For my part, I promised I would always be the one to scoop and change the litter box and clean up all the hairball hair. For her part, my lover allowed them to sleep on the bed and in her mother bed on the couch and in the refrigerator. . . . Within only a few months she had stopped complaining about my cat hair finding its way into my food.

So here I was asking her if she'd bring another kitten into our apartment, a Siamese and Siamese kitten, half of the devil as most Siamese are. I mean have been out of my mind.

In my defense I can try to reason that I committed the thought only to help out a friend. Her cat had recently given birth to seven kittens and she had to find homes for them. I made the mistake of going over to her house just to play with the little kits before they all got farmed out to where ever it was they would be going. Naturally I had to pick up every single one.

That's happened, the rest of the litter and I I handed.

That was when I went home and talked about having a baby. My other woman, Max and Fritz, were five and four and a half years old, respectively. They were given over to the next nearest and dignified behavior of adult cats. I wanted to be around a breeding female of substance for that would make itself busy taking in new cat.

After my lover put paid to the idea, she had I soon de-littered and girl had her way about her. Then we both went for our own job when the kitten reached six weeks of age and were that so here for their new

home. My job went flying for a while while the girl and the rest of the litter. He was all white and was a blackie when kittens have brown spots. She decided to be named her of Stuart Bennett of the Flying Bear TV show.

We were home every Sunday for that night. Then we started talking about the white one she hadn't found a home yet. The last was just, well, these homogenous cats. Before we knew it, we were discussing whether or not Max and Fritz would tolerate having a baby brother inside their spot.

Within a week, Stuart Bennett came for a trial visit. Just a few days, we told our friend, to see how Max and Fritz would take to him. There was some hissing and spraying, but I comforted the older two women to smack anogenitals as they were unsure what to think of the two-pawed walking air of fun. Fritz hid in the closet for two days. Despite that, the kitten stayed and became known as Fritz, for short.

Her name had been found, of course, Fritz is still in a bit of a rut because she has accommodated all the other cats. Max has had to give up the choice napping spot by the window. And we humans have had to get used to the idea that if we were snug enough against the kitchen table under a window, then naturally that had every night's space for it in the afternoon sun.

It seems to me you're either born a cat person or you're not. You can't really grow into liking cats; that tendency has to already be there in your psyche, even if it's latent. You're a "cat person" if you can walk into a friend's house for the first time ever and within minutes the resident feline will be draped up on your leg. A cat person is someone who is able to make friends with every animal neighborhood. Dog people can't do this. And people who don't grow up with cats are completely hateful.

If you're a kitten, chances are good that you are owned by a pet. Somewhat more prosaic that many kittens than being yours with a pet as a substitute for having a litter. That person was probably heterosexual. He/she probably thought over women felt the nurturing instinct and is driven to find an outlet for her caring eye. Although I only say this since and splash on a visit, I have never personally felt the nurturing instinct. My theory is that kittens just plain like

adults.

It seems to me that kittens are: The big person, or 2) a cat person, or 3) destined to live with one of those two types. I am a high care cat kitten; my lover was previously petless. Sometimes, we passed from merely admiring the fiery presence of "my boys" to morning enjoying their antics. I've even caught her actually playing with the kitten, swinging a cork on a string in front of him to the limit but at it. I think that they make that's a closet cat dyke.

♦ HOW TO KILL A GROUP

1. Don't come to meetings. But if you're invited, be late.
2. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of coming.
3. If you do attend, find fault with the work of the officers and other members.
4. Name groups as often; it's easier to criticize than to do things.
5. Nevertheless, get over if you aren't appointed to a committee. If you are, don't attend committee meetings.
6. If asked by the chairman to give your opinion regarding some important matter, tell him you have nothing to say. After the meeting, tell everyone how things should be done.
7. Do not seem that is absolutely necessary, but when other members call up their stories and willingly use their ability to help matters along, how is the organization is run by a clique.
8. Don't bother about getting new members.
9. When a dinner is given, tell everybody that money is being raised so tomorrow, which is completely wrong. When members are given, say the organization is dead and needs a new lead to it.
10. If asked to sit at the speaker's table, refuse. If you are not asked, quit.
11. At every opportunity, threaten to quit and then get your friends to quit.
12. When you attend a meeting, rant as to the meeting and then go home and do the opposite.
13. Agree with everything at the meeting and disagree with it outside.
14. Get all the organizations given, the one's give it everything to them.

—Miss Cooney Pinner

★ ARMY RECRUITING MEN

GEORGE by April F.
In an attempt to battle charges that they are discriminating against male recruits, the Army announces a \$2000 enrollment bonus for any man willing to enlist and successfully complete a 2 year enlistment.

Since the fighting superiority of women is clearly established, male recruits are assigned only to office jobs and support jobs away from actual combat zones, unless their presence as "personal aids" is requested by a woman on the fighting front.

★ GAY SHEEP LONG TO RAM IT

Eight percent of the male sheep at the United States Department of Agriculture's Sheep Department's National Dairies, Idaho, are gay, officials concluded in late November.

"These animals are homosexual. They are responding physically to how they are," explained Aron Perkins, a doctoral student at the station who is now plotting his dissertation on reproductive behavior in rams. Scientists interviewed at Perkins when asked for details on the matter.

"It's very interesting, and we can't even do a great deal about homosexuality here," Perkins said. "These sheep are just doing what their bodies are telling them to do."

Homosexuality among animals is "nothing out of the ordinary," according to Perkins, who said gay sex has been observed in 40 different mammalian species. "It's not considered aberrant in both animals at all," he said.

The gay sheep, however, are not, strictly and innocently, according to Perkins, although some activists argue simply by asking their yards around another male sheep's tail.

There is, however, a serious social problem in the gay sheep culture in that most gay sheep, Perkins said, only seem to love to top.

"The difficulty for homosexual sheep is that they attract to their opposite male who will stand off," Perkins explained. "It means a ram that is attracted to a ewe, but she won't stand him, but otherwise there are at least some that are attracted to a homosexual to express themselves."

Only two of the gay sheep at Perkins's study population don't seem to be in the process. "They tolerate it," she said.

Leading sheep, meanwhile, are apparently avoiding with a major "reproductive problem" in the gay sheep world, a difficulty that has plagued human lesbians too.

"It's very difficult to talk about the possibility of leading sheep," Perkins explained. "Because if you are a female sheep, when you do in which sex it should be. You don't know. So, it's very easy to see that a female sheep would

mean another female sheep."

Researchers don't have many theories yet about why some sheep are gay, but Perkins says the concern of that the animals are possibly homosexual.

"We're not embarrassed or ashamed of this," she added. "But we do hope it doesn't get mixed and discussed in a way that could be hurtful to the United States Department of Agriculture."

Perkins will receive her doctorate from the University of California at Davis later this year.

★ BISHOP SAYS PAUL WAS A HOMOSEXUAL

The Los Angeles Times

Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Tilton, in a book that is bound to spark controversy, speculated that the Apostle Paul was homosexual man plagued by an unusual weakness — was a secret homosexual.

"Nothing else could account for Paul's self-doubting, stammer, his negative feeling toward his own body, and his constant being intimidated by something he had no power to change," Tilton wrote.

Spring said in a telephone interview from his Newark, N.J., office that Paul's words

alone "he was going on about it like it is a dirty, dirty description of what I have come to understand as repressed gay men."

The previously liberal bishop served a five-year suspension through the denomination even then a year ago when he refused an openly gay man in the pulpit. "I'm not that resistant to his conversion by fellow bishops in a close, intimate manner."

The Right Reverend, Episcopal, in New York, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, said in an interview that he has not read Spring's book because the book from Episcopalianism still could not continue an occasion.

But Browning said that the book is a "revelation" of Paul's secret about Paul.

"For some people, that kind of courage often starts a high. Some... will find it offensive. For those opposed to homosexual behavior, it will be more bitter for their group."

One strong critic of Tilton's attack is the Episcopal Church's chief theologian, Robert Cushman Johnson, who recently stepped down as president of the Prayer Book Society.

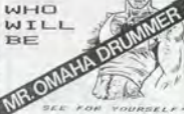
"As far as I know there is no scholarly opinion that Paul was a homosexual," said the Rev. James P. Johnson of Monterey, California, who recently stepped down as president of the Prayer Book Society.

Bernardine Brown, a liberal writer at Harvard Divinity School, said, "A lot of things in the New Testament we are never going to know. The personal life of Paul is really going to remain in the realm of speculation."

Paul continues to create some new relations in his writings, but mainstream New Testament scholars have varied opinions on what he specifically had in mind. His cultural assumptions and what his words mean for church teaching today.

Although Spring's theory about Paul may amuse some members in his book, the bishop's main theme is that the Bible is being neglected in mainstream Christianity because of the indifference of churches it poses for commit-

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★ LIVING IN LEATHER V

Underwear-balls-clubbed. The day of Portland, Oregon, hosted the annual Living In Leather conference this past October.

Hosted by the National Leather Association, the conference sported a festive atmosphere by offering a comedy and musical show, workshops, and other community-building events. The quality of the programs was very high, very similar to that of Omaha's annual convention, February '90 (the leather AIDS fundraising event held last July). It would seem that many participants and promoters have allowed their passion to transcend outside-the-box attitudes and this positive new mainstream acceptance effort to support and enhance themselves and their allies about SM and leather interests in particular and sexual options in general.

Most impressive was the vast knowledge and vulnerability that workshop promoters brought. The demonstration on whipping techniques was an example of a presentation geared towards safe and consensual adult sexual play.

Topics addressed world play, codes for beginners, and the sex industry to name a few. There was the required emphasis on leather as a fashion trend along with several lectures addressing your favorite leather items and rubber (as) items.

For the party guests, nightly parties followed the main program. The new ML and ML NLA were crowned before an enthusiastic audience.

Ahead from the excitement of being in a new place learning new and controversial things, there was a peaceful feeling of unity. Many gays who are emphatically derby kinkers and the result has been the gain of inclusion-bill by many in the sexually progressive fringe. Modeling this openness was high on many minds.

Political unity was called for equity to address the recognition of membership that has and continue to roll through the leather and gay community. Don't kid yourself if you think just the fringe issues - it's a lot closer to home than that.

The tone at the conference was that, indeed, support among us is important. To find sexual variety doesn't stop your fantasy, consider increasing and realizing about the gay community's sexual diversity. There

are plenty of sources.

The next LL gathering in Chicago will be in October, 1991. This would be an excellent opportunity to learn more. With enough commitment you may even open doors to friendships and pleasures (judicially of course) you once thought unimaginable.

★ LUTHERAN PASTOR TO HEAD P-FLAG

The International Federation of Pastors and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Inc. (P-FLAG) announced the election of Lutheran pastor Thomas H. Swanson as the Federation's first Executive Director.

Selected from a field of 45 candidates, Swanson previously served for two years as chief financial officer and assistant to the president of Lutheran Management Services, a Philadelphia organization which operates 26 housing projects for PWAs, children, and elderly, (i.e. disabled, or normally troubled persons). Between 1969 and 1988, he was Director of Education and Urban Strategy for the Lutheran Church in America, the denomination's national office.

"Thomas Pastors P-FLAG should become as well known as the Red Cross or the Girl Scouts," Swanson stated. "Impossible? Not by any way of thinking."

Swanson also told of his family's personal journey to understanding and accepting homosexuality and his sense of personal mission. "My wife and I have six kids, one of whom happens to be gay. My gay son's coming out really ripped our family apart, but in the long run, with P-FLAG's information and support, his homosexuality drew our family closer together. That is a goal for which I would strive for all families with lesbian and gay members."

In addition, "Pastors P-FLAG is unique as a self-governing organization working exclusively to end homophobia and to ensure the lesbian and gay persons have full human and civil rights. We play a special role in society. I want to be more fully involved in that mission."

Before assuming the national leadership post, Swanson - who holds a doctorate in education as well as master's degrees in counseling, education, and theology - served as P-FLAG's vice president and chair of its finance committee since 1985, and as

president of the Federation's Philadelphia chapter. He earned recognition for his role in developing that chapter into one of the largest and most effective in the country. Last spring, the Philadelphia group received citations from both the Trinity-United House of Representatives and the Philadelphia City Council for its humanitarian work.

Pastors P-FLAG is a non-profit organization founded in 1983 to help families and their lesbian and gay members learn to understand, accept, and love each other. P-FLAG also provides education and information to the public and to civic, religious, religious, media and other organizations, and administers special programs on issues of concern to gays and lesbians and their families. With over 200 chapters and contacts with legislators in the United States, Canada, and eight other countries, P-FLAG is a group of self-governing people working exclusively for the equal rights for lesbians and gays.

★ GOVERNOR CHOOSES GAY REPUBLICAN FOR KEY POST

BOSTON - Governor William Weld announced his intention to appoint Mike Duffy, an openly gay Republican, to become the new Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) which is responsible for hearing all complaints of discrimination in the state. "Mike will bring energy and common sense to this critical position," said Weld of the appointment.

Duffy, who is Norwether narrowly lost his bid for State Representative in Boston, was enthusiastic about being chosen for the post. "This is a real victory for the gay community. I intend to have the same dedication and passion for the position of Commissioner that I showed in my campaign for State Representative."

Rich Takeda, President of the Federation of Log Cabins (a national gay Republican organization) said, "In Massachusetts, and in many other states around the country, Republicans are leading the way in embracing a gay agenda." Most observers agree that Weld, a Republican who has been in power in this state - has a record, it is one of the best "pro-gay" records in Massachusetts history.

● KANSAS QUILT PLANS ANNOUNCED

The Positive Action Coalition of Kansas, Inc., has announced plans to erect a Kansas Quilt similar to the NAMES Project Quilt. Quilt panels should be made in a fabric five feet measuring 12" x 36" and there is a maximum depth of 2" to make bulk. Quilt items may not stay, as sewn or liquid applications are preferred.

A quiltblock with each panel is suggested to provide storage space and longevity. P.A.C. reserves the right to remove any panel that is inappropriate for public viewing.

For more information, contact Jack Markham, P.O. Box 214, Topeka, KS 66601, TAP Update.

● AIDS VACCINE SAFE; EFFECT UNCLEAR

PHILADELPHIA - The first AIDS vaccine to be tested on humans is safe, but its effectiveness is not proven, researchers report.

In 1986, the vaccine, VaxGen, was injected into 24 healthy adult volunteers at six hospitals as part of the federal AIDS Vaccine Clinical Trials Network. All 24 showed no immune response, according to the report in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, published by the American College of Physicians.

VaxGen, developed by MicroGenetics Inc., of West Haven, CT, was previously tested in animals, including mice and monkeys.

Twenty-five volunteers received four vaccinations and 13 received five. A group of 26 other volunteers received a hepatitis B vaccine as a placebo.

According to the study, side effects of VaxGen were few and slight, the researchers said. Eight volunteers experienced a slight fever after receiving the vaccine, four said they had headaches or sore throats, and two said they felt pain at the injection site.

The researchers said that the vaccine, surprisingly, prompted a double immune response in the volunteers. Not only did they develop antibodies to the AIDS virus, they also produced immune system "killers" called specific to the AIDS virus.

"This gives us some reason for cautious optimism," Dr. John Coombs, "throughout the course of a vaccine that will work." In a second round of testing, the vaccine is being given to 240 volunteers at six sites among six different responses to the vaccine product.

Because current tests for AIDS measure the presence of antibodies to the virus rather than the virus itself, the volunteers will be periodically re-tested. To prevent AIDS-related discrimination, each volunteer was

given a card verifying participation in the research study.

The study was conducted at the University of Rochester, Vanderbilt University, Baylor College of Medicine, University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins, and Marshall University.

Special Times

● SUPPORT GROUPS

by Gregg St.

"Support groups have been around longer than most of us have been. Probably the first literary and longest running is Alcoholics Anonymous. Since AA, many kinds of groups have formed for a wide variety of reasons. There are 400 groups in the past decade. AIDS or HIV groups have been a source of comfort to the sick and many, many others.

The kinds of people who attend are as varied as the reasons why they attend. We have mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, friends, lovers, grandmothers and those who are involved with the meetings. They come for advice, peer counseling, support, feedback, and unconditional love.

It is a place where we know we can rely on someone and we know we will be understood and heard. They come for advice, peer counseling, support, feedback, and unconditional love.

The AIDS support groups are in Lincoln and Omaha, but we do have groups in our state: Nebraska also. There are groups which meet weekly in Grand Island, North Platte, and Kearney. I have attended all three and each has its own personality and warmth. The Grand Island group is a fairly large group with an average attendance of 20 to 25 people. It is also the longest running group, having celebrated its second anniversary in January. The Kearney and North Platte groups are small, but enthusiastic. A year to talk, share, and be ourselves.

For more information on these support groups, please call me to call the following numbers and they will be happy to talk with you.

- Grand Island
Sat Tuesday of the month, 7pm
Call Vicki or Maxine (308) 561-6175
- North Platte
Sat Thursday of the month, 7pm
Call Hilary at (308) 472-6846
- Kearney
Tue Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm
Call Sherry at (308) 234-6700

● AIDS DEMENTIA CAUSE FOUND

WASHINGTON - Researchers have identified the protein released by some HIV-infected cells as the cause of dementia in

several previous cases in 70 homosexual people with AIDS.

A research paper on the discovery was published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, the journal of the American Association of the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Don Giedd, a researcher at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, says that one class of cells will release a toxin that can affect the nervous system when infected with AIDS. When the toxin was exposed to the neurons, it caused them to die or stop functioning. Giedd says the findings must be confirmed by further research.

The second class of cells in people with AIDS has produced scientific interest, but infected neurons system cells were found in the brain. The neurons cells were not cultured. The protein secreted by the infected cells could be the answer.

Triangle Journal News

● NON-PROFIT PROJECT PENTAMIDINE

Project Pentamidine is a non-profit service highly praised by doctors, patients, and parents, that exists in the legal jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. The most effective drug available for treating pneumococci caused by pneumococci in AIDS patients. It is a life-saving drug that is so costly that almost no one can afford it.

Jack Erdman, director of Project Pentamidine, explains the two-fold purpose of the project: First, and most important, is to bring public pressure to bear on those who keep the price of pentamidine so high that it often becomes an insurmountable burden on the individual AIDS patient. Second, he wants the drug available to all at an affordable price. The cost of pentamidine through the Project is \$10 per 500mg vial, substantially cheaper than the \$200 to \$225 charged by the U.S. manufacturer.

Low-cost pentamidine can be obtained with government subsidy directly. The complex legal due to the FDA Guidelines on the importation of "orphan" drugs for the treatment of serious and life-threatening conditions like AIDS. The simple requirements are:

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- (3) It must be for the individual patient.

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BOSTON, MA - TWT Press, Inc. announces the mailing of the first issue of **Couples: A Gay and Lesbian Newsletter** in Canada.

COUPLES (ISSN 1024-2590) is a topical periodical that provides gay and lesbian couples with critical information on domestic violence, custody of children's gay and lesbian relationships, **COUPLES** is a support organization, services and forum for couples to meet to participate with ideas, articles, and suggestions.

In brief, **COUPLES** will provide participants with the means to enjoy a mature relationship to its fullest while guarding against the pitfalls of a non-legalized relationship.

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