

FEBRUARY

1996

The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A



THAT'S ONE DOG
THAT WON'T BITE
THE HAND THAT
FEEDS IT!



The New Voice

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NEBRASKA PRISONER SEEKS PEN PALS

Dear Editor,

I am a GBM that is incarcerated here in Nebraska who by accident ran across a back issue of *The New Voice*. Actually I was impressed to find your Prisoner Project which I would like to say thank you for since those of us that are incarcerated are seldom if at all thought of.

If possible I would appreciate being put on your mailing list for a prisoner subscription as well as being interested in hearing from anyone in the gay community who may be interested in writing a mature GBM for friendship and not financial support.

Sincerely,
Edward W. Love #39369
P O Box 22800
Lincoln, NE 68542

LETTER POLICY

The New Voice will publish only those letters to the editor which include full name and either address or phone number so we can verify authenticity. You can request that your name not be published but we must be able to contact you for verification.

EARTHLINGS

by Carol Bennett

Celebrities Go Vegetarian

"Nothing will benefit human health and increase the chances for survival of life on Earth as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet." - Albert Einstein

Dear Carol,

What celebrities love animals so much they won't eat them? - Lynn L., Tampa

Dear Lynn,

Candice Bergen says she stopped eating animals so she could "look them in the eye." Paul and Linda McCartney lost their taste for meat while watching the lambs frolic on their country estate. Today Paul insists that vegetarian snacks be sold at all his concerts, and Linda's launched a vegetarian frozen food line.

K.D. Lang was a vegetarian for years before creating an uproar in the meat industry by doing that infamous "meat stinks" commercial for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. K.D. also favors non-leather footwear - of her black rubber steel-toed boots she says, "Best boots I ever had. Got 'em for \$25 at Payless."

Sara Gilbert flaunts her vegetarianism as Durlene on the Roseanne show and also joined a real-life protest demonstration outside the home of here near-neighbor and meat industry spokesperson Cybil Shepherd.

Pretenders' lead singer Chrissie Hynde made her no-meat point by flying to Amsterdam to be on hand to thank the McDonald's there when it launched a vegetarian burger.

Other animal loving veg-celebs include Kim Basinger, Alec Baldwin, Sabrina LeBeauf, Sting, LaToya Jackson, Kevin Nealon, Rob Schneider,

Cassandra "Elvira" Peterson, Dick Gregory, Bob Barker, Doris Day and Tony LaRussa.

Cat + Balcony = Danger: Joe Barnes shares his Washington, D.C., apartment with two cats, Tiffany, a gray Persian, and Slade, a striped shorthair. Last month Slade fell from their third floor balcony into a courtyard below and broke both rear ankles. He hadn't even been balancing precariously on a railing; he'd been sunning on a wide ledge that surrounds the balcony.

Now Slade's sporting two casts, duly autographed. He manages to hobble back and forth to the litter box, but it's not easy. But he'll be OK. Meanwhile, Joe's been taking some good-natured flack from friends for spending \$1050 on Slade and is looking into spending more to fall-proof his balcony.

"I love him," says Joe. "He's my buddy."

Driftin' and Dreamin', the sooty tern sleeps on high altitude air currents. For three or four years after leaving his nest area, a young tern stays airborne, setting foot on neither land or sea. For these years he feeds, drinks, bathes and sleeps on the wing, before returning to the breeding grounds. Another such skyling is the common swift, who stays aloft two or three years and has very weak, tiny feet.

Dear Carol,

God gave us dominion over animals. This means He put them here for us to use as we please. Understand? - Trapper Ed, Missoula, MT.

Dear Ed,

Look at dominion this way. If God has dominion over us humans, would you rather have Him or Her loving and helping us or trapping and stomping us to death for our skins?

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POETRY: Edited by Brian E. Bengtson

"A LETTER TO NEIL"

By Brian E. Bengtson

Dear Mr. Gaiman: Thank you for your gift of the Sandman. Your stories have changed me; now I see us all as anthologies, collections of tales threaded together. I am sure I have my own wing in the Dream Lord's library, the resting place of all fables, even the ones that live and die in one short daydream. I have my own collection of trinkets, mementos, and souvenirs. Sometimes I tell my mysteries like Cain, spearing them down as a warning to the captured listener; sometimes I share my secrets like Abel, breathing them out to scatter and grow in the reader's fields.

I am a shopping mall poet looking to make my own boutique in the world. I have a teacher who tells me of other woodcutters (because that's all poetry is, the filing off of prose until only the poem remains. I will admit that some cut too deeply while others just knock on the wood.) and the tales of the few words they left behind. I want to thank you for your image of Death, a beautiful elfin-girl who gives you a nudge in the end and says, "excuse me, but you need to go over here now. By the way, how has your trip been?"

I remember the first day I saw her on your pages when she met her dream king brother at a fountain. I remember the walk they took as she went on her rounds, and the old song Morpheus thought of as she moved through the day: "... death is before me today, like water to quench a thirst...." or something like that. I remember her warming smile. It was one of the things I thought about three years ago when the AIDS volunteer gave me a positive reading. It still is something that comes to mind in the mornings as I count my pills.

I share your stories with my friends, some have bodies and fluids that betray them bit by bit because they are swimming in this plague too. They learned about the day Morningstar gave up Hell, locked all the doors and shushed sinners and demons away. He registered his complaint of still paying for his fall three billion years ago, and gave the keys to Dream. We laugh at the little ironies as we take study drugs (there's enough of it right here on earth, thank you very much.)

Your stories open deep wounds, bring new faces into the light, and poke fun when we get too serious. No wonder you have such wonderful artists to draw these tales. I never knew my childhood love affair of comic books and muscle-clad heroes with flowing capes and far-fetched powers would bring me to your corner of the medium. You have given me faith in my own tale; I can appreciate each chapter that made me what I am. Thank you again, Brian.

"A FACE ONLY A GURU COULD LOVE"

- 1.) Send typed poems of thirty lines or less.
- 2.) Send a SASE if you want 'em back, or want a comment/critique.
- 3.) Will try to respond within a reasonable amount of time.
- 4.) Buy my book already!!!!
- 5.) If your mother saw you doing that, she'd be very disappointed right now.....

"THE THREE FACES OF GURU....."

This month (and faithful readers of this page know that I write this on the tenth of the previous month) has been really busy for me with all the changes that a new year brings; so I must apologize for just showing some of my stuff (but no one has sent me anything so "nyahh-nyahh-nyahh-Nyahh-nyahh" to all you naysayers!)

I want to thank everyone who showed up at the poetry reading at the Diner Theatre last month, and a special thank you to all those who bought copies of my book!! (What, you still haven't bought one yet? What are you waiting for? An engraved invitation?)

Next month, I will be showing another style of poetry that you can all try in the privacy of your own home. So until then, don't hold your breath, and take care of each other.

Brian

"USED TO THIS"

By Brian E. Bengtson

My lover tells me,
"you should be used to this,"
when we compare morning
aches and pains.

Maybe he is right.
I should be comfortable
with the decay racing
through my veins.

I should greet
the fifteen pills I take
like an old friend
stopping in to visit.

I am sorry.
I have met those
who "are used to this."
I have touched their panels

as they are added
to the quilt each year.
I have seen the tears
shed with their stories.

"You should be used to this."
It echoes back in my head
as I pour a glass of water
and swallow my first pill.

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FEATURES

RUN TO THE BORDERS

By Diane L. Moore

What a GREAT BEGINNING to 1996! I trust you all had as much fun welcoming in the New Year as I. Nineteen Ninety-Six is going to be a banner year for all of us! A big Thank You to many members of the metropolitan Gay/Lesbian community for showing up and OUT, at Borders. Here at Borders, we value all of you. Because of your patronage, we will be able to continue growing our selection of Gay/Lesbian/Bi Literature and Music. We look forward to spending time working with you all throughout 1996.

Borders is welcoming in 1996 with a visit from the talented national touring artist, Kate Campbell. Kate will perform here at Borders (132nd & Maple) on Monday, January 29 at 7:30 p.m. As always, there is no charge to hang out and enjoy, so here's your chance to check out and meet this up-and-coming folk/pop artist. If you are reading this after the first of the month, please stop in, or call 493-9994, and sign up for our mailing list. There will be many more opportunities for you to check out national touring as well as local artists, in our smoke-free, discrimination-free, not to mention free-of-charge Borders Community Center.

As usual the following reviewed product will be featured on sale at Borders for the month of February. Due to a severe time crunch, the Kate Campbell review has been pilfered from the Music Review Quarterly. The Jonatha Brooke review was written by my musical partner-in-crime, Heyward (yeah, one word — like Madonna, Seal, Sting).

Kate Campbell — *Songs From the Levee*

A poor analogy is about to follow, but it's appropriate, so bear with it for a moment. Most music is like a flavored soft drink, and how much you enjoy it depends on your liking for that particular flavor. Rarely does a recording come along that is so crystal clear and "unflavored" that you forget at some point that it's even possible to have something so clean and clear.

Songs From the Levee is that reminder that music can be pure and simple. It is a tribute to all the innate grace music has when it's presented without flourish or fanfare. Kate Campbell has a beautiful voice that simply rings true without pretense or adornment. She writes songs with simple melodic beauty and tells stories with simple truths at their core. Behind her, expert musicians like Dan Dugmore and Al Perkins perform perhaps the best work of their careers, laying down wonderfully effective but tastefully restrained pieces that amplify the beauty of the songs rather than the prowess of the instrumental work itself.

The songs themselves are wonderful. Simple folk songs that walk the edge of country (and vice versa), they roll easily from delicate melodies to catchy, unique choruses, speaking of people and emotions in concise pictures that convey their images precisely and unsentimentally. Campbell is an expert wordsmith who uses restraint and economy to create a fluid grace, much like her musicians restrain their instruments to

emphasize substance over adornment. Balancing on that narrow line between unwarranted optimism and unwanted pessimism and between professional polish and roots rawness, Campbell has achieved near perfection in both her songs and the way in which they are presented. Her voice is perfect. All pieces combine make *Song From the Levee* an incredible work that rivals or exceeds the best work of artists like Iris Dement, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Nanci Griffith, and Emmy Lou Harris. An educated guess is that each of these performers has her own copy of *Songs From the Levee* and envies Kate Campbell's obvious talents.

Jonatha Brooke & The Story / Plumb

by J. Heyward

Jonatha Brooke's new release *Plumb* came as quite a surprise to me. Anxiously awaiting some new material from The Story, since wearing out their two previous gems (*Grace in Gravity*, released 1991 and *Angel In The House*, released 1993), I learned, regrettably, that co-lead vocalist Jennifer Kimball would not be along for the ride. So with a trace of doubt, fearing music had probably lost one of its finest harmonies, I bought the CD and began to listen with my usual, critical intent. And I listened, listened some more, still listening...

It is seldom that I have been personally touched by the talent of such a complete musician. Jonatha Brooke is, by all standards, a poet. Blending acoustic guitar with swift and distinct jazz undertones, echoing sweetly the promise of unbridled human expression, she has simply set her soulful prose to music: "So when you sleep do not dream / The dreams they weigh you down when you carry them along with you / They will wrack your lovely body / Report back to your soul / As we lose the last of innocence like some romantic notion / Buried in the fashion of disdain."

Anyone familiar with The Story is well aware of Jonatha's versatility as both a guitarist and emotionally ironic (even at times comical) melodist. Her approach is sincere and well-arranged. I am continually amazed by her creativity and equally impressed by the increasing momentum and strength of each new endeavor. It will be interesting to see how she will pull it off live without the harmonic alter-ego she had in Jennifer Kimball. However, for the time being, my hunger for quality music is satisfied and I am completely sold.

In the upcoming months, watch for reviews of the newest releases by Ubika Hill, Betty, the Flirtations, Margie Adam, Laura Love, Tori Amos, Jesus Christ Superstar (featuring Amy Ray as Jesus and Emily Saliers as Mary), Romanovsky & Phillips, and Casselberry-Dupree.

With a little bit of assistance from our Higher Power of choice, we will also have interviews with Sonia of Disappear Fear (new C.D. in 1996) and Melissa Etheridge who will be touring all through the new year.

FIRST GAY/LESBIAN MEDICAL JOURNAL TO BE LAUNCHED

The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, the bi-national gay and lesbian health advocacy group, has announced that it will launch the *Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association*. The publication — the world's first peer-reviewed, multi-disciplinary, scholarly journal dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered health — will begin publishing in early 1997.

GLMA has announced that \$50,000 has been raised towards the \$200,000 goal to support the journal, described by GLMA President Val Ulstad, MD, as "one of the most important projects ever undertaken for lesbian and gay health."

Benjamin Schatz, JD, Executive Director of GLMA said, "We believe this journal will make a major contribution to the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in the United States, Canada, and beyond. Despite the serious health problems confronting our communities, very little scholarship has been dedicated to our health needs. By providing a reliable forum to publish such work, the *Journal* will encourage more researchers to engage in it."

The *Journal*, to be published by Plenum Publishing Corp. of New York, will specialize in original clinical research, and will also publish review articles, brief reports, topical essays and news in the field of lesbian and gay health. Topics to be addressed include HIV, gynecology, mental illness, sexually-transmitted diseases, oncology and a broad range of other issues covering the spectrum of medical and allied health specialties. The publication has assembled an impressive 28-person editorial board with an additional four statistical reviewers; one year's issues will total approximately 250 pages.

GLMA is actively seeking manuscripts for publication starting in early 1997. Priority will be given to manuscripts reporting hypothesis-driven research performed according to the principles of scientific method. For more information about submission, please contact Jocelyn White, MD, at Dept. of Medicine, Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital, 1015 NW 22nd Ave., Portland, OR 97210. E-mail: whitejo@ohsu.edu.

The *Journal* will be distributed quarterly to GLMA members and to others interested in subscribing.

Individuals, corporations and foundations who want to subscribe or assist GLMA access funds for this valuable new project can contact Susan Stone, Development Director at GLMA, 211 Church St., Suite C, San Francisco, CA 94114; telephone: 415-255-1547, fax: 415-255-4784.

GLMA, founded in 1981 as the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, is the American and Canadian organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered physicians, medical students, and their supporters.

It works to maximize the quality of health services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people, to promote full civil rights, and to foster a professional climate in which its members can achieve their full potential.

SQUEAKS FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

"B-r-r-r! It's cold tonight, Grandaddy!" exclaimed little Mandy as she slipped into the sitting room. I was dressed in a nice warm sleeper (feet included), reading a good book in front of the hot air duct.

"Gee," I thought, "I'm so glad my church folks decided they needed to keep the building warmer this winter. It really is a lot better than in previous years when they turned the heat off when they left at the end of the day."

So here I sat, snuggled down warmly. Little Mandy dragged her tiny blanket across the room as she came to me. "Hold me, Grandaddy," she said. Of course I picked her up right away — I love to hold the little ones while they snuggle down for the night.

"Tell me a story, Grandaddy," she said as she snuggled against me. Her eyes were already drooping, so I knew it would need to be a short story on this wintry night. "What kind of story would you like?"

"Oh, tell me one about the animals. They are so wonderful," she implored.

I thought for a moment, then began to tell her one of my favorites.

"Well, let me think. Oh, I remember a story great-grandpa used to tell when I was just a little tiny mouse. He said he heard it from his great grandfather who heard it from his great grandfather, who was there on the special night that is now called Christmas."

"Oh," wailed Mandy, "I've heard enough about Christmas already. Can't you think of something else to tell me about?"

"But this isn't just about Christmas, Mandy, but about something that happened a long time ago when Christmas first came along and even later on."

"Okay, but if it gets boring, I'll tell you."

A long time ago, there was a little brown donkey. No one remembers his name, but his story is important because he had several great tasks to accomplish. First of all, a man named Joseph, who was the village carpenter, came to the stable to get a horse. But so many people had come to the stable in the last few days and taken all of the horses and the bigger donkeys that none was left except for this little donkey. Joseph looked him over carefully, then realizing there was no other animal available, he put a riding blanket on the little donkey's back and led him out.

Just down the street lived a young woman who was obviously going to have a baby in the near future. Joseph brought her out and helped her sit on the donkey, which was so small her feet nearly dragged the ground.

The little donkey stood as still as ever he could, and Joseph began waling them along the road toward Bethlehem.

The very night they arrived, the young woman had a bitty baby boy - right there in the manger! The city was so crowded they could not find any other place for her to stay.

And later on, shepherds came with their sheep; in a few days, three very great and wise kings came bringing gifts. It was all so strange, but the young man and woman didn't seem upset at all.

Just a few days later, Joseph did seem upset. He took the riding blanket and put it on the little donkey once again, but instead of going back to the way they had come, they went the other direction, into a country called Egypt. It was a long and arduous journey carrying both the lady and the baby.

The little donkey placed his feet as carefully as he possibly could so as not to make the little baby boy cry. It took days for them to get there, but Joseph seemed in such a hurry! At long last, they arrived and the little donkey went into the new stable.

They lived in this new town for several years, and the little donkey grew into a strong, dependable friend of the man and woman and the little boy. He could pull the plow through the soil, walk in circles to make the water pump out of the well, and he even had a new yoke that Joseph carved from the trunk of a big tree. With his friend, they would pull as hard as they could to do whatever was expected of them.

One day, Joseph came into the stable and got out the riding blanket. It had been some while since they had come, and the blanket was dusty and smelled like mildew. Joseph shook it out, saying 'It will just have to do. We need to get on the road today.'

And so they did. Back past Bethlehem and on to Nazareth they went. But now the little boy was big enough to play and run along side the donkey, who was no longer little, but full grown. They had become friends a long time ago, and the donkey thought it wonderful that the little boy had grown so strong, just as the little donkey had grown into a full grown donkey now.

And that's the story of how a little donkey helped save the little boy from the terrible things that happened back in Judea when King Herod had ordered all the little boys in the land killed because he was afraid one of them would grow up

and take his place as king. And the little donkey, now grown, realized how important he had been, for if he had not done his task well, Joseph might not have been able to take the pretty lady and the little boy to safety.

And as he thought these thoughts, the donkey realized that God can use any of us if we are willing to do our very best."

Mandy sighed in Grandaddy's arms. "Oh, that was a good story," she said. "I'm glad to know even somebody as small as me — just little bitty squeaky mouse — has a purpose in God's plan. It makes me feel really good. Will you tuck me in, Grandaddy? I'm all sleepy now," she sighed as her eyelids closed, perhaps to dream of a little donkey — or a little mouse — being one of God's special creatures.

Roquefort

Take Note of These Dates!

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ON THE **LEGAL FRONTLINE**

by Thomas M. Petersen, J.D.

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TO THE CURB

With the holidays over, there seems to be an increase in the number of divorces and breakups. I often get calls from people with many different backgrounds regarding what to do when a roommate, spouse, lover, or neighbor has become harassing, threatening, or violent. If they have tried to work out the problem on their own and the person just keeps bothering them, there are a couple of different legal devices that are designed to protect people.

1. Protection Order: The first device in a very powerful tool called a Protection Order designed to protect people from a harassing or violent individual. A Protection Order tells one individual that they cannot contact another individual in person, by phone, or by mail.

A Protection Order can apply to someone who is living with you or has lived with you. If that person has threatened, assaulted, or made you feel that you may be assaulted, you can attempt to obtain the safety afforded by this device. It also may be imposed on someone who has maliciously harassed a person and intend to threaten, intimidate or terrify the victim. As you can see, the law provides a very broad range of actions that can justify getting this order, but they all revolve around someone who has lived with you. A word of caution: the Courts are very overloaded with applications for Protection Orders and are granting less of them. Some judges will

grant an order only in cases of a husband and wife conflict, and will not extend the protection to a gay or lesbian relationship that has the same problem. Some, however, are very sympathetic and will routinely grant an order in that situation. The best case for getting this order is where the individual has actually assaulted the victim and was charged with a crime from that incident.

The penalties for violating a Protection Order are stiff. The Order authorizes a police officer to arrest the individual without a warrant anytime he or she is found harassing, threatening, or intimidating the person who obtained the Order. Each time that person is arrested, he or she is charged with a Class II Misdemeanor which carries a maximum penalty of six months in prison and a \$1,000 fine. This is, perhaps, the reason that some judges are hesitant to issue such an order.

If a person thinks that he/she needs to have a person kept away, they must go to the courthouse in the county where they live and fill out an application. They must specifically list things the person did to harass, intimidate, or threaten and present these to a Judge. The Judge decides whether an Order should be issued. If he decides that it should, it is automatically in effect from that day unless the other person contests it. The sheriff will give a copy of the order to the person it is against and he/she will have an opportunity to

come to court on a date specified by the Judge to say why the order should not remain in effect. Notice that the order is issued if a person shows good reasons and questions are asked later.

2. Restraining Order. The second way to get someone to stop harassing you is by getting a Restraining Order. This is where a judge issues an order telling someone to stop doing whatever a person is complaining about, but only if the Judge thinks he/she should stop. The requirements for this order are very loose, therefore, if a Judge will not grant a Protection Order, some safety may still be gained if the facts convince a judge that a Restraining Order should be issued.

However, the penalties are also less for this type of order. There are no automatic criminal penalties and both parties must come back to Court to address any violations. In other words, if the holder of a Restraining Order complained to the police about a violation, the police would contact an attorney and schedule a court date. When the parties appear in Court, it is still possible that the Judge would hold the violator in contempt of a court order for which he or she could go to jail.

In the long run, it is best to try to work these things out between each other, but if all else fails, these are two routes that may offer some relief.

A word of caution. This column is for information purposes only, and is not for the replacement of your attorney. Each case has different facts which can produce different results, so please consult your attorney for advice relevant to your needs. Tom Petersen is an Omaha attorney, in private practice. If you have specific legal questions you would like answered, please mail them to:

Petersen Law Offices
Legal Column
2712 South 87th Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68124

BONSAI AT BIG CHICK'S

by Joseph Schuman

My house plants used to push me around. "Transplant me!" they'd whine. "Water me! Feed me!"

I was grateful when my pal Wayne agreed to take care of them while I was away — But I was even more grateful when I got back and they were all *dead*.

Last December, when my sister Sarah from the suburbs sent me a dwarf juniper Bonsai for my birthday, I thought at first it would be another pain in the neck. I got over that fast. What a great gift!

The Bonsai wasn't a big sprawling Coleus or window-filling ivy. Bonsai wouldn't grow bigger, it would grow deeper and richer - more complex, more subtle, more perfect. Instead of the frazzled housewife, I pictured myself as the patient, wise Mr. Miyagi from *Karate Kid*. My new plant had obviously had a hard time in the mail, but that only made me feel protective. Zen master meets Jewish mother.

I'd been working long hours and not allowing myself much company. By the time I was sure I could manage to get out for a while on New Year's Eve, all my friends were busy. I decided to walk down the block to Big Chick's to connect with my sister and brother homos and soak up some of that gay bar energy.

I always pick up the queer papers at Big

Chick's, so I figure I ought to go there when I'm actually going to spend some money. Besides, I didn't want to go far in the snow.

Soon after I'd planned my outing, I was talking on the phone with my pals Scott and Dan in Pennsylvania. I was trying to tell them how I felt about going to the bar by myself. "I'll be like my Bonsai," I explained. "I'll be a moment of quiet deep stillness in the middle of the noise and excitement."

"I'll be like my plant other ways too," I added, noticing my reflection in the window. "Potbound, not very pretty, and brown around the edges!"

It was early when I checked my stocking hat and my bulky winter coat at the bar, but the place was packed soon enough. *Ghost* was on the video screen.

I took in the bar: flashing lights and bright clothes; cigarette smoke and perfume; music and shouted conversation; dance beat in the walls, in the floor, in my head, in my chest. I nodded to a few casual acquaintances and said "Hi" to a few closer ones.

Groups chattered and laughed; couples - some friends, some lovers - talked and danced; singles like me drank and stood and watched. Noise surrounded me. I was quiet.

It wasn't the crashing crude chaos that

threatened my serenity.

It was a subtler challenge, a challenge of tiny things, some as quiet as I: the warm profile of the man next to me, drinking his beer from a longneck bottle; the sweaty crush of the passing crowd; the wet kisses of a new couple. Patrick Swayze's movie romance. Loneliness undermined my calm. I needed to be held.

Outside, the snow had stopped. The new year had come with stillness and cold. Din gave way to silence. Bar stench gave way to crisp icy snow-scent.

Fresh dry snow-powder rested gently on each branch, each twig; painfully delicate, poised to tumble at the first stirring of air, perfect in the moment's peace.

No bare trees here, but lacy wonders sparkling in the streetlight; an extravagant spun canopy of diamond dust above, a cold downy blanket of diamond dust at my feet.

I still needed to be held. But a block away, there waited a warm bed, a night's sleep, and a hot breakfast ... a new morning in a new year.

I walked homeward in peace and contentment. In 1996, may you do the same.

Joseph Schuman is a Chicago attorney. Copyright 1996, Joseph Schuman.

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ROBERTS' RULES: No Middle Ground

by Shelly Roberts

"Well," Kathleen responded, "I'm definitely in the middle. Yep. Middle. Oh, well, I do have a couple of butch tendencies. You know, little ones. I once had to pull the engine on my 4X4, and I *do* enjoy weights. Um, a couple of my girlfriends, well, you know, were kind of into makeup. But, no, on a one to ten scale, I would say that I belong in the middle. I *bake*."

The question was: Are you butch, femme, or in the middle?

It was a simple question, and I had been asking nearly any lesbian who would stand still, the same thing, (and you knew how hard it is to get a lesbian to stand still for anything!) In order to get some ideas of what the butch/femme thing means these days.

Now, I admit that most of the lesbians I hang out with can tell you where they were when Kennedy was shot, even if it was "in daycare." So that would mean that they had some association with the *National Organization for (Not Lesbian) Women*, which, at that time, was afraid that its butch contingent would screw things up (a technical term). And mandated flannel shirts, chinos and birkenstocks for everyone, so nobody could tell the lesbians from the lesbians. (Who was kidding whom in those days?)

Butch/femme was declared an "anathema to progressive behavior, and a mock reflection of the male/female paradigm" (translation: Us imitating them. Again.) And was deemed UNACCEPTABLE!!!! (Emphasis theirs.) Thereby disallowing even the merest possibility that butch/femme might have something that was uniquely lesbian in search of real definition, and not one that had to have a big, strong male in any part of the comparison. That it might be butch/femme, and not homme (man)/femme, for a reason.

As a result, we have an entire generation, and a bi-i-i-i-g generation it is, which has knee jerked the concept of butch/femme off the playing field. For example on the other hand, Dianne:

"Uh-huh, me? Middle. No question. Definitely. In the Middle!" Her voice has a lilting giggle to it. She has been spotted on occasion in heels and nail polish. She isn't afraid to ask for help changing a tire, then fully direct the process. And she claims the middle. "Well, okay, I probably do have a tiny touch of femme. Nothing contagious, you understand. But I do like the feel of silk against my skin. And I like skirts. IS THAT A CRIME? But I can stop the toilet from running. So I would say... put me in the middle."

The thing is, if you lined nearly all the lesbians I'd ever met, possibly with the exception of

Leslie Feinberg and Joanne Loulan (No, they are not a couple. Now don't start that!) up against the wall, they would each claim to be a five. Ask nearly any other lesbian to assign a 1-10 number to each member in the entire array, and no one would have the slightest difficulty figuring out who is a 4 butch and who is a 3 femme. We know it. Instinctively. About other people. (And darn few would end up with a 5.5 which is the *real* middle on a one-to-ten scale.)

So what is it about denial we find so attractive? What keeps us from looking ourselves squarely in the mirror. (Give or take a hot fudge sundae or two) and recognizing that there is yin-yang of human behavior that we all qualify for?

Admit it, you know a butch/femme couple. Okay, that's a good start. Now in this couple, one seems more...what? In charge? That would be the femme, right? Wrong? How can you tell? The one with the long hair could also be the one with 800 math scores. I met her in Chicago. Her frilly-souled partner masquerades as a sports jock type.

Seems we've struggled with the definition forever. And butch/femme has nothing to do with what we wear. A femme in a tuxedo is still a femme in a tuxedo. And a butch in a tuxedo may look that way till her butch-in-a-tuxedo partner comes along, then you really know which is which.

Now look at all the couples you know. (This is a game. There will be prizes and a bonus round at the end.) Which one is butch? Which femme? What about butch-to-butch couples? Does one femme (can femme be a verb?) by default? And femme 2 femme? (besides being a lesbian Village People) Who fixes the ceiling fan? And how long have they been together, not counting tomorrow?

Of course it's confusing. The minute we stopped borrowing our definitions from other people, we discovered we have none of our own. So, obviously we need to reevaluate the entire premise, starting with you.

Wanna know where you stand on the 1 to 10 butch/femme scale? Easy. Go find an honest lesbian you aren't married to. And then ask her.

Chances are, without even knowing you, she'll pick any number, but five.

©1995 Shelly Roberts. All Rights Reserved. May be reprinted only in its entirety with written permission. Shelly Roberts is a nationally syndicated columnist and author of *The Dyke Detector*, and *Hey, Mom, Guess What!*, and *The Butch/Femme Scale*. (Paradigm Publishing, San Diego, CA)

SMOKIN' HOT

REVIEWS:

Rock Against AIDS

By Al S.

Omaha's first Rock Against AIDS was a big success. About 200 people attended the Sunday night (January 7) event at the Ranch Bowl, bringing in a total of nearly \$1300. The money will be divided between Kelly Skomal, a person with AIDS, and the Nebraska AIDS Project.

Kelly, who was the drummer for local bands Nasty Knasta and St. Michaels, was present for the first half of the show. This made for a humbling and poignant time for me and quite a few others in the audience. This is the first time many of these people have been confronted face-to-face by the AIDS epidemic.

One guy named Troy, who is also a local musician, said, "I didn't know what to do - this was the first time I've known someone with AIDS." So I said, "Are you having a good time?" and I hugged him." I assured Troy that he did the right thing.

Phantom Productions put together a first class show. Ryan O'Conner filmed the entire show for his "Trout Tunes" program on Cox Cable. Buddy Gonzalez of Phantom said, "I personally want to thank each and every sponsor and helper who made this evening a success."

Four of Omaha's best bands gave of themselves to entertain: Zwarte, JRZ System, Ivory Star, and Pool Boy Rob. Theresa Valyer of NAP gave a moving and informative speech to the surprisingly accepting crowd.

Local Budweiser distributor, Lawless, D'Rocks, Applebees, and others provided lots of door prizes, plus a raffle was held for a trip for two to Las Vegas provided by Faraway Travel and WOW radio.

Gonzalez added, "I'm glad I was part of Rock Against AIDS and I am very proud of our local musicians and friends for coming out and helping the cause."

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ASSIGNMENT: WRITE YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY

by Benjamin Rogner, Ph.D.

Scene 1: A big city cocktail party. You've just told an elderly man you met at the punch bowl that you work in publishing. He replies, "I know I never made it in the big time, but I should write a book. I've had psychic experiences, sung with Lawrence Welk, did USO shows with the original Mr. Animation, and met Dale Evans."

By now, your eyes resemble glazed doughnut holes, so the man approaches a known writer and says he has "a perfect subject for your next biography: moi!" The writer bolts for the nearest door, then bolts it from the other side.

Scene 2: The world's dominant cultures have, for most of history, oh, we'll put it mildly, refused to accept the validity of minority sexual cultures. Hence, almost no traditional records of any such sub-societies and their people's lives exist. Just as significant progress is made in those areas, a plague targets many involved.

I run those two "films" to explain why I'm recommending Ace Lundon's unusual book *The Closets Are Empty...The Dining Room's Full* (Ponderosa Publishing House, P.O. Box 3097, Reno, Nevada 89505, hardcover, \$24.95).

I apologize in advance for what may seem like a condescending review, but if readers don't keep that second scenario in mind, the details of the first (the imaginary character's "experiences" are some of Mr. Lundon's), I could see this book being considered the literary version of a Florence Foster Jenkins recital.

Let me get the "bad news" out of the way first: This book is below mainstream publishing standards in every respect — the prose is trite; the

poetry, greeting card quality; the philosophy, sophomoric; and the editing, nonexistent.

"Aside from that, Mrs. Lincoln, how did you like the play?"

Let me finish. *The Closet...* reads like a long, rambling letter home to some young relatives from a quirky, loving, "Uncle Mame." Even the book's title is reminiscent of a famous Patrick Dennis line. You know the one in the original, Mame talks about sonsabitches, but in the movie they become suckers.

"And you're recommending this book?" Yes. Fortunately, that's precisely what *The Closets...* was intended to be. Lundon wrote the material in an attempt, a few years ago at age 50, to explain to some young relations who he is, has been, and why. Later, he promised a dying friend he'd publish the writings and has done so.

Tiny Ponderosa Publishing, through whatever arrangement (I believe this is the firm's first and only book) helped him produce it and attempt distribution. During my reading, I finally got all my mental cattiness out of the way. It took awhile, since this dining room is littered with dropped juicy morsels. This is partially because of the author's penchant for dropping obscure names as though they belonged to megastars. Sure, a bad review would have been easy and had a veneer of camp wit, but had no meaningful purpose.

Soon, however, I was able to switch into another mode and thereby experience the essential goodness and worthiness of the writer and the work by in the manner of viewing some primitive art, focusing on large themes and emotions rather

than specific techniques and details. Try your own method of getting to a productive frame of mind. One I'd suggest is reading the book while playing music that was popular when you first became sexually aware. You remember innocence, impulsiveness, naivete, excitement?

"I think so. And I can learn something about myself by reading about somebody else?"

I hope so.

I'm glad I read this book, and I hope it gets respectable support and distribution. I also hope more gays and lesbians will contribute, in some manner, their own stories to our "future history."

Gay oral history projects are great. Unfortunately, there are only a few small such operations in the world. You could make a dent in that challenge by preserving at least your own life's events and feelings. When you're done with that, maybe you'll help a fascinating acquaintance do the same.

Lundon's book wouldn't be a bad tool to refer to in undertaking such a project. For the sake of any eventual readers of your work, add to your reference shelf Strunk and White's 85-page *The Elements of Style* (Macmillan Publishing Company, New York). Then just do it.

But do it for love, as Ace Lundon did. Don't expect, like the imaginary character in Scene 1, any writer, publisher, or general reader to be enamored with your unusual life, unless your name is a household word. Sorry, that's life. But not your life. That's for you to write.

Benjamin Rogner, Ph.D., is a Chicago-based writer.



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THESE ARE THEIR LIVES

by Benjamin Rogner, Ph.D.

It's perhaps a truism that gays are "good at" the arts. So, in recognition thereof, here's a column about books chronicling the lives of two gay artists: a poet and a painter.

City Poet: The Life and Times of Frank O'Hara, by Brad Gooch; Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher, New York, 1993, 532 pages, hardcover, \$30.

In July of 1962, I spent two weeks at an Army Reserve summer camp in the New York metropolitan area, sorting mail at a post office near Manhattan. It was a terrific getaway, considering the budget of a car rental clerk. Many evenings I'd go down to the USO near Times Square and wait for the complimentary tickets to movies and shows to be delivered just before 8 p.m. On the one Sunday I was in town and available, I saw a matinee on Broadway, then took the Long Island Railroad and a ferry for a pilgrimage to the most famous American gay mecca of the time, Fire Island.

The problem was, from its reputation via comments on the *Tonight Show* and the like, I believed the whole island was gay, and I'd gotten off at the wrong pier. I spent my precious few hours walking through various communities, too embarrassed to ask where the gay people hung out. Finally I phoned for a beach taxi to catch the last ferry of the night back to the mainland, and as the Jeep sped past Cherry Grove, some colorful Japanese lanterns and shrieks of male laughter tipped me off: There, but for poor planning, was I!

Though I've never been back to Fire Island,

I was to have that thought again. Gay people were still very much "outlaws," and we took solace in the fact that some of our number were very talented, well-known artists. One in those years was the fascinating New York poet Frank O'Hara.

On July 26, 1966, I heard on the radio that O'Hara had died the night before. He'd been struck and killed by another Jeep on that identical stretch of Fire Island beach almost exactly four years after my visit. He had just turned 40 and was the "toast of the town." Maybe, I mused, he'd been present at that party under the lanterns. After all, his friend and fellow poet, Kenneth Koch, said, "His presence and poetry made things go on around him," and Allen Ginsberg mused, "He taught me to really see New York for the first time. It was like having Catullus change your view of the Forum in Rome."

I thought back and sincerely appreciated my little trip to Fire Island that Sunday after the matinee, at which I'd seen Zero Mostel in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

More coincidences: Gooch's book is the only existing biography of O'Hara, and it may remain so for a long time. I'd hate to try to follow this "act."

The Gilded Gutter Life of Francis Bacon, by Daniel Farson; Pantheon Books, New York, 1994, 294 pages, hardcover, \$25.

If, like me, you enjoy reading more than one book at a time, this biography would be an excellent companion piece for Gooch's. Put one down occasionally and read for a while about how incredibly different two gay artists from

roughly the same era lived and ended.

I say "roughly." Actually, the approximately 15-year difference in their births involved a great deal of change in terms of both the arts and homosexuality, which may have accounted for some of the differences in their personalities and lives.

Speaking of "roughly," members of the "rough trade" were lifetime favorites of Bacon's, and the book's author, a companion of the artist's for 40 years, suggests this was partly a result of Bacon's being initiated into matters sexual at a young age by his father's stable boys.

Francis Bacon lived a wild, artistically productive and praised, sometimes self-loathing, always chaotic, life, but lived to the age of 82, dying in 1992.

There were notable ways in which O'Hara's and Bacon's lives were similar. For example, they hung around with some of the same people (William S. Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, Jackson Pollock, et al.) and both loved the tavern life.

I'll leave you to make other fun discoveries and comparisons for yourself.

Unlike Gooch's work, Farson's insider gossip can be greatly supplemented by more formal and detached biographers; but it's a fascinating "storybook" and a great start at preserving a larger-than-life life.

Benjamin Rogner, Ph.D., is a Chicago-based writer.

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HOMOSEXUAL SEX OR DRUGS?

by Fred A. Cline, Jr., San Francisco

A friend recently sent me the following article: Dector, Midge, "Dying of the Light." NATIONAL REVIEW, November 27, 1995, p. 36-37, 40. The subtitle summarizes the article: "Presumably aware of the dangers they court, homosexuals continue to contract AIDS at an astonishing rate. The 'support' they receive for doing so is unconscionable."

Since this is a magazine devoted to the political right, one would expect to have an article slamming homosexuals. In this case, however, I am somewhat in agreement with the author in her contention that the homosexual political agenda has become completely morally bankrupt, but for totally different reasons.

In assessing the situation, she assumes two things: 1-That AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease, and 2- that homosexuals (I assume she is addressing male homosexuals here) are highly promiscuous bunch of people engaging in unsafe sex and are therefore perpetuating the "epidemic" in their own community by their promiscuity.

All thoughtful gay men should immediately understand the fallacy of these assumptions. Studies have shown that the syndrome in the gay male community is caused about 95% by drugs. The assumption that a highly infectious venereal agent would be contained within a group not physically separated from the dominant social group is also epidemiological nonsense. Her arguments therefore fall apart.

But let us look at the problem it poses for gay leaders. They have built their political agenda around a lie, i.e. that "AIDS" is not peculiar to the

homosexual community and that eventually it will spread into the straight population. After 15 years, we are still the largest group being affected by far (the figures differ here, but I think it is safe to say about 80%). It should be dawning not only on right wing spokespersons, but also on the leaders of the gay community that this lie cannot be perpetuated forever. Sooner or later, gay men are going to have to face the undeniable fact that it is something in our lifestyle (and this includes our psychological makeup as well as our drug habits) that is driving us to the grave. A life built on lies is not a life worth living.

It must be pointed out that those well-meaning friends of the gay community who raise funds for AIDS charities are part of the problem and I cannot help but wonder just how much of their action is generated by a suppressed desire to see gay men put away permanently. I, for one, have doubted their motives from the very beginning.

The stereotype that this author does not fling at us, but which exists widely in the AIDS dissident camp, nevertheless, is that drugs and sex are inextricably bound up with one another. This, again, is only partially true. Although the nitrites have been the most popular sexual drug, the dominant drug on the scene in fast lane gay society in LA, San Francisco, San Diego, Seattle and Miami Beach is now crystal meth, replacing ecstasy.

People who are strung out on drugs or alcohol usually are not much good at sex, and many of those who are getting ill are the ones who are overusing drugs. Crystal meth does not always

act as an aphrodisiac: "We've read articles about guys on it who masturbated for 30 hours without coming..." ("Crystal meth's dangerous dance," by Scott Baldinger. OUT Magazine Dec/Jan 1996). Just what the connection between drugs and sex is will continue to be a murky picture, but the one inescapable fact is that the drugs continue to take their toll, and the gay politicos are going to have to face up to this fact. To continue to perpetuate the lie that AIDS is a problem of all of society will lead to our community being charged with sexual promiscuity and a possible reinstatement of the laws banning homosexuality.

I have said it over and over again; it is axiomatic in holistic medicine that you treat the patient and not the disease. The patient must take responsibility upon her/himself to assist the practitioner to get to the bottom of the problem, which in almost every case is also to a large extent psychological (some practitioners say that 50% of every disease is psychological). There can be no doubt that gay men carry a heavy negative psychological overlay.

Well-meaning friends of the gay community who are now assisting us to die through AIDS charities should take it upon themselves to help heal the psychological wounds, i.e. acting as our practitioners and true friends. Gay and straight need one another in a profound way, and I would hope that the encounter between us in various forms can make this a reality. In the end, it is always love that heals, and, lest we become sexually puritanical, remember that the spiritual side of life grows out of sexual fulfillment.

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FROM THE POOP SHEET

by Ace Lundon, Nationally Syndicated Columnist

However! Peace and freedom for the inhabitants of whatever country is worth fighting and dying for. If that is what people are doing, it is a worthy effort. Should we (i.e. our country's military) partake in an effort whose end result would be the acquisition of peace and freedom for our brother and sister humans, we will have been walking on the road of higher ground.

Let's face it: the truth is that folks are dying for a lot of things which have no relation to peace or freedom; yet we don't hear peep from our politicians/lawmakers worrying about these folks dying. Of course they aren't fighting and dying for peace or freedom so naturally politicos would have no concern about any of OUR citizens trying to put an end to that mayhem!

You know, maybe our military would be more dedicated to helping brothers and sisters around the world in the struggle for peace and freedom IF it were composed of hundreds of thousands of gays and lesbians! If anyone should know the precious nature of that lofty goal it should be those of us who have been seeking it for centuries. Even today, there are many gays and lesbians who are putting themselves in front lines of combat... and, there are those who give their lives. As long as we fight to bring about freedom and equality for all mankind, we are on the higher road. If we are fighting for a country's political group, an organization, a theology or -ism, a physical acquisition, etc., we are digging the hole for our own grave.

We need to give our military our support and let them know they need not be ashamed, afraid or intimidated as they take a stand to let peace have a chance. If there are those who pay with their life, may our voice be heard in mourning these lives.

Above all: may the Bosnians, Serbs and Croats learn to recognize the fiendish nature of believing that one's ethnicity is better than another's. May we all learn that ALL humans on this Planet are related genetically to one another, scientifically, we are all cousins, albeit 55th cousins, no matter what color our skin, what gender or sexual orientation, whatever language we speak, or which country we live in... we are genetically related to one another and family members should NOT be fighting one another or trying to rid one segment of the family from the rest. God help us all! We must never forget also the hundreds of thousands of homosexuals who were eliminated because of ONE man's insanity; eliminated simply because they were who they were.

Is Bosnia worth dying for? Of course not. Peace and freedom are, however! As a homosexual and a member of the Republican Party, I am proud of the fact that our first Republican President was willing to fight for freedom and who, I'm convinced, was a closeted homosexual -- which was probably why he knew how precious freedom and inner and outer peace were; even worth dying for by the bullet of an insane extremist. Not much different from the radical right or left extremists we have running around our planet today.

Oh! In case you don't believe Lincoln was a closet case, I urge you to do as I did and search for the truth. What exists in straight and gay archives may surprise you as much as it did me. And that's the straight poop from the Poop Sheet!

Mr. Lundon is former Mg. Editor of Zipper Magazine and The Coast to Coast Times. His autobiographical legacy: The Closets Are Empty... The Dining Room's Full is in hardcover by Ponderosa Publishing House. Visa/MC orders: 800-356-9315.

Well kiss ma' grits and butter ma' buns! God is a female! Have you been one of those folks who may have thought God was female? I know there are a number who do. What has piqued my curiosity however is the plaguing through that if this were true, I have a difficult time believing a Female God would have put the pains and miseries of menstrual cycles plus childbirth on Her own gender! Kind of sadistic I'd say. But, if true that man was created in the image of God (i.e.: masculine), having watched man's inhumanity to women over the past six decades now, I can easily imagine a male God passing on these "blessings" to the females of His species-creation. Maybe this was simply a Christmas gift! Ho! Ho! Ho!

TO BE OR NOT TO BE... this is still THE question. Now I have seen ridiculous headlines in my years, BUT, did you see the November 11, 1995 TIME cover headlines? This takes the cake: "Is Bosnia Worth Dying For?" What a ludicrous question! There's only ONE answer to it! I thought questions were supposed to pose potential intellectual stimuli, aren't they?

The only answer to TIME's question can be "OF COURSE NOT". No country is worth dying for. Bosnia, America, Russia, South Africa, Mexico, Canada, ad infinitum — NO country is worth dying for.

AIDS, ACUPUNCTURE, AND CHINESE MEDICINE: Part I

Thomas M. Sinclair, M.S., L.Ac., Diplomate, National Board of Acupuncture Orthopedics, has treated people with HIV for eight years. He is executive director of the Immune Enhancement Project in San Francisco.

AIDS Treatment News interviewed him at the IEP office in San Francisco's Castro district. The following is some of the conversation:

ATN: Where do you have most success with traditional Chinese medicine, and where does it not work as well?

Sinclair: Traditional Chinese medicine has been particularly successful in treating peripheral neuropathy, sinusitis, pain-related problems, night sweats, insomnia, dry skin, headache, low energy, and fatigue.

With digestive problems, we do not always get a person functioning back at a normal level. But often acupuncture, together with diet changes or medication, can help to return the digestion to a more normal state.

What has not worked well? The first condition that comes to mind has been Kaposi's sarcoma (KS).

We have not had good success in that area. And sometimes in late-stage AIDS it is difficult to make dramatic changes, as the body's energy is so depleted.

FINDING A PRACTITIONER

ATN: How can somebody go about finding a Chinese medicine practitioner, not just in San

Francisco, but across the U.S. How do regulations differ in different states?

Sinclair: Currently in the U.S. there are 27 states where acupuncture is licensed and regulated. It goes all the way from California, where we function as primary care physicians, to some states, even including Illinois, where acupuncture is illegal at this point.

You need to check with the local licensing bodies.

Most importantly, you want to go to somebody who is licensed, if licensing exists within your state; that is your assurance that you will get at least a minimal level of competency. In most states, there is a tendency to regulate only acupuncture, as opposed to herbal medicine. In California, our license covers both herbs and acupuncture.

There are a number of ways to choose a practitioner:

* Referral through friends, people who have seen a practitioner, is often the best way. You get the most personal insight about the practitioner.

* Check with your physician. We have been developing a much better rapport with physicians than in the past. Often physicians will have practitioners they send people to.

* Check with local HIV agencies. Often they have listings of practitioners.

* Contact programs like the Quan Yin Healing Arts Center in San Francisco, which offers an HIV certification: they have a list of practitioners

across the country who have taken their HIV training.

It's quite a good program — and an assurance of a standard.

* Call the state licensing agency and ask them to send you a list of practitioners.

* Also, there is a National Commission for the Certification of Acupuncturists, NOCA. They have been accepted as the standard in a number of states that do not have their own state licensing exam. You can find out if someone has a national board certification in acupuncture, and also in herbs.

For an individual state listing, send \$3 to: NCCA, PO Box 97075, Washington, DC 20090-7075; or you can order the complete directory for the whole U.S. for \$22 (which includes postage). You can also order by phone, 202-232-1404, 8 AM-4 PM CST Monday through Friday.

Probably the most important question I would ask, if I were going to choose an acupuncturist, is how much experience they have treating HIV. Choose a practitioner who has as many years as possible.

HIV is a very complex disease; the same underlying problems can look quite different in different people. (*To be continued next month*)

This article was reprinted with permission from AIDS TREATMENT NEWS, PO Box 411256, San Francisco, CA 94141.

MISS ICE BOWL "96"

2nd Annual Pageant

**February 11, 1996 at 8:30 PM
Evening Gown & Talent Only**



Winner!

\$500.00 Fur with
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\$500.00 Gown By
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One number and dinner
February 19, 1996, at
Red Lion main
ballroom includes
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cash.

Applications must be in
by 11:59 PM on
February 9, 1996, to
Phoenix or left at
Gilligans Pub.

Rehearsals at 12:30 PM
on February 11, 1996,
at the MAX.

"OUT IN THE STARS" Astrological Forecast for February 1996

by C. Lichtenstein

February gets off to a roaring start with the Sun in humanitarian Aquarius. We forge ahead in our various areas of need seeking truth and justice and maybe a nice warm handshake. Don't worry about Valentine's Day though, dear friends. Wait until the Sun enters sensitive, romantic Pisces. Justice be damned! Love conquers all!

ARIES (March 21 - April 20) Outer directed Rams get the jump on other signs this month by concentrating more on friendships and self-improvement through the warm comfort and support of the group effort. Can you possibly improve on perfection? Of course! Welcome all views, no matter how wildly divergent and (pretend to) listen to all sides. You'll be hailed as the great gay conciliator.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 20) Career inroads are possible. Keep a keen eye out for political opportunity. Demand what is rightfully yours. On the other hand, keep friends at arm's length or you'll fall under the yoke of the old adage, "A friend in need is a pest." Proud Bulls should use this month to examine inner needs and motivations. How can you best get along with others without draining yourself?

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Career progress may hit a snag or you may be told that you need more training before you can advance. That's ok, listen to the advice of bosses, compromise and do what you must to succeed. Relationships however are in for a major overhaul or transformation. You will reap what you have sown with partners. I hope you like what's sprouting.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Feisty gay Crabs feel their oats this valentines month when sexual energy is high. Enjoy the heat and try to channel this impressive energy into more areas of your life, such as work and travel. Your job may change tremendously but this is good as long as you keep your eyes open and your outlook flexible.

You'll successfully overcome any psychological barriers.

LEO (July 24 - August 23) Partnerships take on an added importance this month as the planets heighten any one-to-one relationship. Proud Lions thrive with a significant other and are in a position to make others very happy and fulfilled. Return to creative pursuits now and expand your artistic horizons. Immense opportunity will serendipitously channel through these efforts.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) Work may be much busier than usual but you won't mind; the planets give you ample energy to get the job done efficiently and easily. Focus more of your attention to relationships. Try to untangle any problems there, especially those that have to do with family mandates and restrictions. A new broom will sweep the closet clean and you will feel refreshed and affirmed!

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) Words take on an entirely new hue so think before you speak or take the heat. No matter what you say, fun is mandatory so visit Party, USA and send us a postcard. All play and no work makes pink Libra a bad child so be sure to take care of stuff on the job as well as maintain diet and exercise regimens. Sassy Scales have their work cut out for them this valentines month.

SCORPIO (October 22 - November 21) Closeted Scorpions are in for a change of perspective. Family schlock hits the fan this month, but you are well prepared to do what needs to be done to inspire, convince, and reunite. Once the dust has settled, you will be able to truly enjoy yourself and apply your talents to something artistic and creative. Inspired Scorp, Try writing that great American gay novel.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 21) Queer Sags are never shy about asking for what they want. Now you may even get what you

ask for. (May I suggest that you ask for the perfect valentine!) Home related problems bubble to the surface but if you can restrain your temper and frustration, you'll make necessary beneficial changes. Money matters take on a decidedly lucky turn. Don't spend it all in one place!

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) Even demure Caps command center stage this month with grace and aplomb. Your part is meant to be played for an Oscar. Get ready for your close-up! Bank on your considerable charisma to meet the right people at the right time to make the right first impression. Intuitive ideas can be karmically transforming. Try volunteering for one of our charities. You won't regret it.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) Friendships can transform the working patterns of your life and help you energize any social scene you launch into right now. Watch out for gusty winds by zipping the lip; off the cuff remarks have a way of scuttling the ship. You can make already iffy situations things worse by speaking out. Let pals do the work for you. Just keep quiet, relax and enjoy!

PISCES (February 20 - March 20) Pink Fish continue to suffer from an unfounded lack of confidence, but don't sell yourself short! You have plenty of spunk and wherewithal to make people sit up and take notice of your many accomplishments. Career opportunities open up; take advantage of the sage advice of superiors, the kindness of strangers and the lucky advice of friends. Grab your success!

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GUILT BY LACK OF ASSOCIATION

by Benjamin Rogner, Ph.D.

Groups like NRA & AMA are meaningful to most people — especially to politicians. There are many cases in which formal associations have been largely responsible for turning industries into professions. These organizations provide methods for not only socialization among a field's practitioners, but also certification, continuing education, self-regulation, and many other benefits. They are generally also the mechanisms used in this country to attempt to influence legislation: the infamous "special interest groups."

I found eye-opening information about where such power rests in the May 1994 *Association Management* magazine. This is the magazine of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), the association world's own association (and doesn't that sound like sort of an existential concept). The magazine has coverage entitled "ASAE's Top 100," its version of "Fortune 100."

The two largest U.S. associations, in terms of individual membership, are the American Automobile Association and the American Association of Retired Persons. These groups have astronomical membership figures (30 million plus each), because of their token dues payments (\$5 a year for AARP). They actually make their money from items like insurance royalties.

Right behind these exceptions, however, is the National Right to Life Committee, with a

membership of 7,500,000 and substantial dues that account for a yearly budget somewhere between 10 and 50 million dollars. Pro-choice groups are nowhere on the list.

Number 6 is the Boy Scouts of America. In fact, groups with homophobic policies pop up all over these tabulations. However, groups that support our causes are conspicuous among those huge organizations mainly by their absence.

How important are associations in getting legislation passed, defeated, or (one of the most common and effective goals) sidetracked? For the most readable "tutorial" I've seen on the subject, get Osha Gray Davidson's book, *Under Fire: The NRA and The Battle for Gun Control* (Henry Holt, 1993; Owl Paperbacks, 1994).

Davidson writes, "There is one important difference between the NRA and most other lobbies, and that has to do with the cause the NRA defends: the cause of guns. Stripped of all hyperbole on both sides, the essential facts about guns in America today are these: There are a lot of them out there, and great harm is done by or with them... When lobbyists for most other groups get their way with Congress, the result is usually that consumers pay a few pennies more - or even a few dollars more - than they should for a product. But when the gun lobby's leaders prevent consideration of even the mildest gun-control

measures, the results are often very tragic: Large numbers of people are shot, maimed, and killed."

That statement needs only slight modification to apply to the American Medical Association, another mega association, which at last count employed 1,132 people. When the AMA prevails in Congress (as it has for decades), people's lives are also at stake. For that reason, the organization must expect to be scrutinized, as it is in another highly recommended book, *The Serpent of the Staff: The Unhealthy Politics of the American Medical Association*, by Howard Wolinsky and Tom Brune (G. Putnam's Sons, 1994).

Gay Chicago Magazine gave Wolinsky and Brune its "Friends of the Community" award in 1987, and it is clear from this superbly documented work that the duo have been hard at work since, doing the important work of examining the AMA's response to the AIDS crisis. As you may surmise, the authors found many aspects that concern them, and that warrant our serious attention.

For a command of vital facets behind two current headline-grabbing issues, gun control and health reform, you can't make a better investment than these two books — unless it's to join and become actively involved in, associations that represent your "special interest" in such areas.

Benjamin Rogner, Ph.D., is a Chicago-based writer & editor of a national association magazine.

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Every Friday and Saturday,
Join us for After Hours
from 1:00 - 4:00 am

\$3.00 Admission
Complimentary Munchies
50¢ soda and coffee.

DC's would like to say welcome to all Ice Bowl participants and wish them good luck! Be sure to stop down and use your drink tickets during the Ice Bowl tournament weekend February 16th - 18th.

Friday, March 1st WINTER ROUND-UP II

No Cover! Country Hoedown Fun!!

Entertainers include:
Miss HGRA '94-95' - Autumn Weather,
Miss HGRA '95-96' - Dana Dahl
Ms HGRA '95 - 96' - Char
Mr HGRA '95 - 96' - Gregg
and many more.

Our DJ, Shelley, will be spinning records
every Thursday, Friday & Saturday starting at 9:00 pm!!!
Country Dance Lessons with Duane on Tuesday Nights at 7:30-8:30 pm!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Eye Openers	Kessler	Malibu Rum	Baren Jager	Cutty Sark	Cowboy Cocksuckers	Beef eater
\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50

Dan, Charley, David, Ashley and the rest of DC's Staff
would like to thank you for making DC's
one of the hottest country dance bars in the midwest!

NATIONAL NEWS

BEN WRIGHT DISMISSED FROM CBS

Ben Wright has been dropped from CBS's golf coverage due to the controversy surrounding his "alleged" comments about lesbians and women. Among other things, he said women's chests get in the way of their golf swings. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation said the decision was a welcome blow against prejudice and bigotry.

"His comments, as well as his beliefs, were inappropriate and CBS did the right thing by letting him go," said Tamra King, GLAAD's Media Director. GLAAD continued to publicly advocate Wright's dismissal and call attention to the controversy after an article in the December 4 Sports Illustrated rekindled debate over comments he made last May.

The more recent article made public additional facts which demonstrated that Wright had, in fact, made the statements in question.

The point here is that Wright clearly has a problem with women in general and lesbians in particular, and as such he is not an appropriate commentator on women's professional golf, nor any other media activity," King said.

CBS said in a statement that Wright had apologized for the remarks he denied earlier, including and "most importantly, I extend to Ms Valerie Helmbreck (the writer who broke the story) my sincere regret for any hurt she may have experienced."

GLAAD continued to press for clarification with CBS, and received a statement that said Wright's comments were inconsistent with the network's beliefs and practices, and that Wright had been advised that any comments contrary to the network's policy would not be tolerated.

LESBIAN MAGAZINE FORCED TO CHANGE NAME

DENEUVE MAGAZINE has become CURVE MAGAZINE after being sued by Actress Catherine Deneuve.

Why the change? Frances Stevens and Katie Sanborn Brown of CURVE MAGAZINE said, "The world is a cold, cruel place. You've got to have that 'je ne sais quoi' to make it to the top — just ask Catherine Deneuve."

The actress's complaint cited a registered trademark for "Catherine Deneuve" for various bath and cosmetic products. It alleged that Ms. Deneuve has built a reputation on and has benefited commercially from the distinctiveness of her last name. And it alleged that Outspoken Enterprises was using the name Deneuve for its magazine and mail order business without her permission.

Outspoken Enterprises maintained that the name DENEUVE MAGAZINE was derived from the last name of the publisher's first love.

The magazine's staff wanted to set the record straight, so to speak. DENEUVE MAGAZINE has been in publication for five years and is said to be the country's foremost lesbian magazine.

Although DENEUVE MAGAZINE has never claimed or in any way suggested a connection to the French actress, Ms. Deneuve sued to stop the magazine from using the word DENEUVE in its name. The magazine's staff thought this was curious since Ms. Deneuve has made her fortune from the patronage of lesbian and gay fans by portraying bisexual and lesbian characters in five of her major films.

Rather than slide down the slippery slope, the staff of DENEUVE MAGAZINE chose to embrace the CURVE. A CURVE is a swerve — it's exciting. CURVE has verve — it's savvy. Most of all, CURVE suggests diversity — a departure from sameness. And CURVE is a celebration of feminine sensuality and strength.

SALUTE TO NBC PROGRAMS

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation would like to commend "ER" and "Mad About You" for the revelation of two recurring characters' sexual orientation. In the January 4 episode of "ER", entitled "Dead of Winter", Raoul (Carlos Gomez), one of the paramedics who is frequently seen on the show, is revealed to be gay in a conversation among hospital workers. His "outing" was treated as a matter of fact and not made into an issue or joke.

The January 7 episode of "Mad About You", entitled "Our Fifteen Minutes", features the coming out of Paul Buchman's (Paul Reiser) sister, Debbie, played by Robin Bartlett.

"In what has been a phenomenal season for the gay and lesbian community on television, we are now seeing established recurring characters come out and become part of the shows' fabric," said Tamra King, GLAAD's Entertainment Media Director. "GLAAD is quite pleased to see the inclusivity of gay and lesbian characters that television has come to offer."

GLAAD is a national organization that promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation of individuals and events in the media as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Write and thank NBC and the producers of "ER" and "Mad About You" at:

Michael Crichton, Executive Producer & Creator; John Wells, Executive Producer, "ER" Warner Brothers Television, 4000 Warner Boulevard, Burbank, CA 91522.

Danny Jacobson, Executive Producer, Paul Reiser, Executive Producer, TriStar Television, 9336 West Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232.

Warren Littlefield, President NBC, 3000 West Alameda Ave., Burbank, CA 91523.

JAMIE ANDERSON: never assume

Tsunami Records proudly announces the release of *Never Assume* by lesbian singer-songwriter Jamie Anderson. Produced by Lisa Koch (Dos Fallopia, Venus Envy), this recording contains eleven exciting original tunes, from the upbeat title cut (with full acoustic band) to the beautiful simplicity of the love song "Home is Where the Dark Is" (with vocal, guitar and soprano sax). Other songs include the poignant ballad "One Out of Three", a true story about breast cancer, and "When Cats Take Over the World", a song Jamie says she co-wrote with her cat. *Never Assume* is Jamie's fourth recording.

Dirty Linen says, "Jamie sings funny and touching songs about the life and romances of an average goddess babe lesbian." She's toured nationally since 1987. In 1993, Jamie played for a million people at the National March on Washington. Her performance was featured on CNN; she's figured she's out to everyone now.

Never Assume is available wherever women's music and queer music is sold, from Ladyslipper (1-800-634-6044) and directly from Tsunami Records, PO Box 42282, Tucson, AZ 85733-2282, e-mail: tsunamimusic@aol.com — Ask for a free catalog.

Gay ... Some Assembly Required poems by: Brian E. Bengtson



"...a poet of the disenfranchised, speaking for...those whom many in America would like to silence ...

— Steven Blaski

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LOCAL NEWS

COMEDIANS COMING HOME

T. Marni Vos and Juli Burney To Appear in Lincoln

When a person thinks of stand-up comedy, they think of TV programs, cable specials, and national comedy club chains. When a person thinks of locations for these performances to be videotaped, they think of Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and so on.

Those thoughts are about to change. Local comedians T. Marni Vos and Juli Burney are proud to claim Lincoln, Nebraska as their home. And now they are returning home to produce a unique video.

T. Marni Vos is Lincoln's "Woman Artist of the Year". She has opened for Jay Leno at the "Comedy and Magic Club" in Hermosa Beach, California. Ms. Vos is one of only six women in 20 years to be a finalist in the prestigious International Comedy Competition and has performed on Lifetime's "Girl's Night Out".

Juli Burney has opened for Paula Poundstone and is Doane College Lincoln's '94-'95 "Teacher of the Year". Last year, Burney was the top finalist out of 60 national comedians to showcase for Judy Carter's Comedy Retreat. Ms. Burney was commissioned to write and perform in a humorous training video for the National Endowment for the Arts, which was sent to all 50 states and six countries.

Now Vos and Burney are combining their talents to produce a national video here in Lincoln. The venue for this special performance will be our "pride of the prairie", the Lied Center for Performing Arts. The date is Saturday, February 10. This unique event will bring thousands of Midwesterners together to celebrate laughter and life in HUMOR from the HEARTLAND.

Both Vos and Burney talk about "real-life" situations, sharing their insight and humor with a unique creativity that is their individual trademark. It is unusual to be able to see two such unique comedy performances on the same stage. Please join them to celebrate the humor that they have found right here in the Heartland.

Tickets are on sale at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts, 472-4747. The show will begin at 8PM. Ticket prices are \$10 in advance.

CORRECTION

We apologize that in the January *New Voice of Nebraska* we incorrectly listed one of the new officials of the Heartland Gay Rodeo Association. Mr. Charley Wade is the IGRA Trustee. Our apologies, Charley.

BABE'S STREET OPENS IN OMAHA

Ruth Goff, an Omaha business woman, has opened a new bar. Babe's Street, located at 19th and St. Mary's, opened February 1st. "We are really excited about the new bar," Goff said. Her new bar is twice the size of her former bar, The Infield. Goff has made several improvements to the building, which at one time was the Chesterfield, and expects people will like the improvements. "I never had enough room at the old bar, and by having pool tables, we can serve our clients better," said Goff. Babe's Street has drink specials and happenings all week long. Babe's will still have Karaoke each Thursday night. Goff stated about the opening, "I can't wait for everyone to see the new place."

LUTHERANS CONCERNED

Lutherans Concerned will hold four gatherings during 1996. The group will meet at First Lutheran Church on the following dates: March 3, June 2, October 6, and December 1. For more information, call 453-7137.

Sunday, February 18, 1996

8:30 p.m.

I.C.O.N.

presents

Heart Throbs
and the
Broken-Hearted

STARRING

Annie Welty (Emperor XV)
Dietra Snow
Roxy (Miss Gay Omaha VII)
Phoenix Fallentino (Empress XII)
Jennifer Jett
Buffy Buffet
Monica West (Miss Max XI)
Miranda Sakowitz

Lili Whyte (Iowa's Empress II)
Hellina Sakowitz
Laura Gray (Miss Great Plains Entertainer)
Tim Pedersen (Mr. Gay Iowa)
Aramis (Miss D.C.'s)
Red Essence (Czarina XV)
Troy Haas (aka Dexter)
Ashley Dubois

At The Max

\$3⁰⁰ Cover

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DEPRESSED?
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FEBRUARY AT THE MAX



Miss Dietra Snow and Miss Laura Gray

THE MAX hosted some of our best shows ever this past holiday season. January saw the final performance of Miss MAX 11 Monica West as well as the crowning of the new Queen of the Midwest, Miss MAX 12. The most talented and beautiful performers in the country are right here in Omaha and they call THE MAX their home. You're able to enjoy them almost every Sunday night.

New for 1996 will be our new show times. All our Sunday Drag Shows will begin at 8:30. This way you can still be at THE MAX for great entertainment, stay around and party or get home early for work on Monday morning.

Our Male Strip Shows will start at a later time. Most of our dance groups travel from other cities and we want them well rested so that they perform like hot boys should. Now that our big Miss MAX weekend is over, THE MAX is looking for a new Mr. MAX. Details should be available soon. We're looking for a few good men and one great guy to reign as our resident stud. Start pumping up guys!

What a great way to start the new year off! A HOT MUSCLED BODY dancing for only your pleasure. His only purpose is to please you! Sound like something you want? THE MAX has it! Sunday, February 4, THE MAX is pleased to give you Mr. Scott Randsome. This big hunk of man is the hottest new star in the world of Gay Adult Films. Scott has heard how great the men of Omaha can be. I know you won't want to disappoint him. Join all of your friends at THE MAX for Scott Randsome on Sunday, February 4.

The spectacular ICE BOWL Tournament returns to Omaha this month. THE MAX will be hosting a special ICE BOWL Revue on Sunday, February 11. I know that all of Omaha is hoping to see the Babes Behind Bars reunite. The thought of those girls out there, giving it their all, makes me weep. But so does seeing Ruby in just her panty hose. Celebrate with the winners, THE MAX, and all the participants.

If Valentines Day leaves you a little lonely, don't fret dear -- I.C.O.N. is here to help. "Heartthrobs and The Broken Hearted" will be a night designed to forget your troubles. The Imperial Court of Nebraska has put together a great variety of talent. Comedy, Live Performers and Male and Female impersonators will put a spark in your week!

THE MAX is pleased to welcome our February Superstar, Laura Gray, for the second show in our monthly superstar series. Laura, Miss Great Plains Entertainer of the Year, is always a hit in the Midwest. The queen of costumes will be bringing in special guests for your entertainment pleasure.

Remember for the best dancing, the best music and light show and the place where the hottest men and women come to party, WE'RE THE ONE, THE ORIGINAL, THE MAX!

A "HEARTY" BRUNCH

The Omaha chapter of PFLAG has reserved the MAX on Sunday morning, February 11th to serve a brunch just for you. You may even want to bring that special sweetheart with you to get a heartstart on celebrating Valentine's Day. From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. we will be serving an egg casserole, special heartcakes with syrup, fruit (in season) and coffee and juice. All this, plus our heartfelt thanks, for a suggested \$5 donation at the door. In addition, we will have some of our literature available, as well as copies of *Uncommon Heroes*. Money raised from this event will help with our operating expenses for this year. From the bottom our heart to yours, thank you for your past support. We could not do what we do without you. Can we save a place for you on Sunday, February 11th? We look forward to seeing you at The MAX.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Now is your opportunity to give back to your community. The Franciscan Motherhouse has sustained damage because of a fire and we need your help. Yes, you! An account has been established at FirsTier Bank where deposits can be made. Please contact Darrell B. Watson at FirsTier at 348-6906 for more information, or take your checks or goods to the Franciscan Motherhouse at 1052 Park Ave., Omaha 68105, telephone 344-4557. All check donations are tax deductible. Thank you in advance. May God's peace rest in you.



The Elegance of the MAX: Jennifer, Muffy, & Dorian

GRAND OPENING

All Month At...

*Pool Tournament
7pm Mondays and
Wednesdays \$3
entry fee... Winner
takes the Pot!!!

Tuesdays come
for \$3 Drafts
with 50 cent
refills 'til 8pm!*

Open Every Day At 3:30 pm !!!

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Pull Tab Happy Hour M-F From 4 to 8 pm!!!

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Come See RUTH, LAURA and ALL the Girls at... BABE'S!

*Sundays from
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Pitchers for
Just \$3.00!*



**The Community's Newest
Bar. You asked for it...
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For More Information Call... 344-2310

19th and St. Mary's

SNOWBABES ON PARADE AND A FEW DIRTY OLD MEN



Steve Koeller Recreates his Winter Warlock Role

The weather was cold and the crowd was small, but several "Snowbabes" and a few "Dirty Old Men" came together to present a delightful show at the New Run Bar. Sharon Van Butsel, secretary of the Imperial Court of Nebraska, called some of Omaha's favorite performers and some newcomers to perform within a wintertime set of snowflakes and icicles. The show featured performances by emcees Empress XII Phoenix Fallentino and Empress XIII Roxy, by 1st Runner Up in Closet Ball '95 Ashley Simone, newcomer Danielle Storm, Miss River City Sammi Bennett, Emperor X and XI Gerald Brown, Emperor XII Steve Koeller, and co-Emperor IX Carla Petersen.

Special thanks go to owner Terry Tippett for his personal donation of \$100 in addition to donating the door receipts, and to show director Steve Koeller and all the staff of the New Run Bar for their help and hard work.

FAMILYNESS SERIES INCLUDES PFLAG

During February, Omaha Public Schools will hold the twelfth annual Familyness Series - Building Better Families. A Family Fair will be held in conjunction with the first Tuesday night program. The Family Fair, at Burke High School, 12200 Burke Blvd., will bring together agencies and resources in order that families might become aware of what is available to assist them. The keynote speaker's address is from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Fair follows from 8 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. PFLAG has been invited to participate in the Fair. We look forward to another opportunity to reach out to a very important segment of the community — parents with school age children.

RIVER CITY MIXED BOWLING LEAGUE

After week #18 of bowling, the River City Mixed Bowling League has seen some changes in standings and in the high scores.

Bob Andresen has taken the high men's scratch game with a blistering 290 game, moving Dwight Wages into second high game with a 269, followed by Mike Wierzbicki with a 245. Bob also took over high scratch series with a 742, followed by Dwight Wages with a 665 and Jim Vagirt with a 633. Bob Andresen has the high league average with a 202.2, followed by Jim Vagirt with a 184.3 and Joe Bloemer with a 183.

The high women's series is still held by Cherie Iniguez, but she has increased her score to a 257, followed by Gail Raddatz with a 233 and Trish Findley with a 224. Gail Raddatz has taken over the high women's series with a 606, moving Cherie Iniguez into second place with a 565 and Kathy Barnes into third place with a 559. High women's average is held by Gail Raddatz with a 169, followed by Kathy Barnes with a 161 and Cherie Iniguez with a 160.

Outstanding individual performances during week #18 included Bob Andresen with a 246, Dwight Wages with a 228, Russ Witcofski, Ron Brewer, and Walter Wyldes with 212's, Dan White with a 211, and Joe Bloemer with a 202. Rosie Wills and Chriss Ross both turned in 175 games while Lynn Bailey and Kathy Barnes turned in nice series of 478 and 477. Marty Robinson was bowled a 407 series which was 134 pins over his average while Scott White was 91 pins over, Chris Ross 64 pins over, and Bonnie Wredt was 56 pins over average.

The team standings are still very close with no more than two games difference between any two positions. Choke Artists in 1st place, followed by Night Riders and Dry 'till Strike The Chesterfield, in first after 10 weeks of bowling, has dropped to 6th place.

High team game (handicap) is held by DC's Misfits with an 805, followed by Damn Shame with a 796 and DC's Golden Girls with a 786. Tie Us Down and Run holds the High Team Series (Handicap) with a 2258, followed by Delivery Boys with a 2205 and Chesterfield with a 2189.

Complete team standings follow:

	Won	Lost
1. Choke Artists	49	19
2. Night Riders	47	21
3. Dry 'Till Strike	44.5	23.5
4. Stosh's Saloon	43.5	24.5
5. Devlivery Boys	42	26
6. Chesterfield	41	27
7. The MAX	40.5	27.5
8. Kumquarts	40	28
9. Tie Us Down & Run	39.5	28.5
10. Wurgler Photo	38.5	29.5
11. Damn Shame	38	30
12. Kings & Queens	37.5	30.5
13. DC's Misfits	37	31
14. DC's Golden Girls	35	33
15. Bend Me/Fill Me	35	33
16. 3 Non-Blondes + 1	35	33
17. Been There Done It	34.5	33.5
18. Gilligans #2 Sc&Sn	34	34
19. Garbos	31.5	36.5
20. DC's EZ Pick-Ups	31	37
21. Big O Ho's	30	38
22. 1-900-STUD	30	38
23. Spare Us	29	39
24. Gilligan's #1	29	39
25. Out of Sync	28.5	39.5
26. DC Dudes	27.5	40.5
27. Roz's Rollers	23	45
28. TM #29	23	45

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS NEWS

The River City Mixed Chorus extends a heartfelt thank-you to all who attended the 1996 Winter Concert. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Without the ongoing patronage of the Omaha community, the Chorus would not be able to continue their efforts.

For those who have never heard the Chorus, or missed the Winter Concert you still have another chance this year. The annual Spring Concert is scheduled for Saturday June 8 and Sunday June 9. Please mark your calendar and be watching for upcoming information regarding ticket sales for this event.

Excitement is growing among Chorus members as they prepare for the GALA Choruses Festival V which is being held in Tampa, Florida July 6-14. More than 4,500 performing delegates representing more than 100 choruses are expected to attend Festival V. The mission statement developed by the Festival Organizing Committee during their first planning session is an inspiring insight into the purpose of Festival V. "GALA Festival V celebrates an international community of Lesbian and Gay Choruses who come together to foster pride and power through artistic excellence, in which diversity is both encouraged and embraced." The Chorus looks forward to representing our community in Tampa this summer. In order to insure that all Chorus members have an opportunity to participate in GALA Festival V numerous fundraising events are being held in the coming months.

On Wednesday February 21 at 7pm, RCMC will hold a Tampa Tupperware Party in the back room of Gilligan's Pub, 1823 Leavenworth. Come on out and let's see what imaginative uses you may have for Tupperware!

The Fifth Voice of River City Mixed Chorus will sponsor an all you can eat Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday February 24 at Unity Church of Omaha, 9301 West Dodge Road from 4 to 8 p.m. Adults eat for \$7 and children 12 and under for only \$3. How much spaghetti do you think you can put away?

On Tuesday March 5 or Tuesday March 12 come to the Cabaret at the Dundee Dinner Theater. Reserve your tickets now for a delightful evening of entertainment provided by local performers. Cocktails and dessert begin at 6:30, show at 8:00. Tickets are \$20 and the show and dessert are included. There will be a cash bar for cocktails. All proceeds from these fundraising events will go to help RCMC represent Nebraska at the GALA Festival V.

Auditions for new Chorus members are taking place now. Anyone interested in becoming a singing member of RCMC can call 341-SING and leave a message. A member of the Chorus will contact you and arrange a date and time for your audition.

Also, The Fifth Voice, RCMC's volunteer "booster club", is seeking new members who would like to help with the behind the scenes activities which make our performances possible. You can find out more information about The Fifth Voice by calling 341-SING.

If you would like to help the River City Mixed Chorus but just can't find the time, please consider making a cash contribution. Donations can be made to the River City Mixed Chorus at P.O. Box 3267, Omaha, NE 68103, or you can contact a Chorus Board Member at 341-SING. Donations to RCMC are tax deductible and help us to continue to represent Omaha's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Allied Community with pride and artistic excellence.

GILLIGAN'S PUB

WELCOME ICE BOWL '96

**Invitational Tournament
Bowlers and Spectators**

**AFTER HOURS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT
SERVING FOOD UNTIL 4:00 A.M.
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NEW HOURS

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4:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
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2:00 P.M. - 4:00 A.M.
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**PRIVATE PARTIES
AVAILABLE IN
BACK BAR**

PHOENIX FALLENTINO AND ROXY HEADLINE GLAGN's 4th ANNUAL DRAG SHOW & DANCE



On February 24, Miss Gay Omaha 1995 Phoenix Fallentino, Miss Gay Omaha 1996 Roxy along, Mr. Gay Iowa U.S.A. Tim Pedersen and other performers will travel to Hastings, Nebraska for the 4th Annual Hearts of Fire Drag Show and Dance sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Association of Greater Nebraska. This year's event is a benefit for the Nebraska AIDS Project.

Hearts of Fire Drag Show and Dance will take place at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Hastings. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with the show starting at 9:00. Admission is \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members. A cash bar will be available.



COME PLAY GAMES WITH US!!

On February 17, the Fellowship Committee of Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha will be hosting a game night in the newly renovated church Social Hall at 819 S. 22 Street. Since the Valentine spirit lingers on even after Valentines Day is over, you'll find plenty of hearts are just yours for the taking at this event. So, bring your sweetie or come alone and find a sweetie as you choose which of several board games or card games you prefer. The competition in these games will definitely take second place to the fun! Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

4TH ANNUAL HEARTS OF FIRE DRAG SHOW AND DANCE

STARRING

MISS GAY OMAHA 1995, PHOENIX FALLENTINO

GUEST STARRING

MISS GAY OMAHA, ROXY

MR. GAY IOWA U.S.A., TIM PEDERSEN

PLUS: SURPRISE GUEST STARS FROM THE OMAHA SCENE...

BENEFITTING THE NEBRASKA AIDS
PROJECT

WILL BE HELD ON
FEBRUARY 24, 1996
DOORS OPEN AT 7:00
DRAG TIME WILL BE AT 9:00

AT THE ADAMS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
IN HASTINGS

ADMISSION: MEMBERS \$5.00

NON-MEMBERS \$7.00

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

SPONSORED BY GLAGN





ANDREA, SHEZA MANN, AND TONY (AKA RED ESSENCE) IN ICON'S TOYZ 4 TOTZ AT THE Q

mardi gras

*Join us for the biggest party this side of New Orleans as **Q** presents Mardi Gras '96 Tuesday, February 27th.*

Traditional Mardi Gras decorations, lavish costumes and New Orleans' hospitality will make for an unforgettable time!

Costume contest at 11 pm with cash prizes.

Q 226 South 9th. Lincoln. 475-2269

"SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT"

River City Mixed Chorus Celebrates 11th Season

It was once again 7:05 p.m. at the Strauss Performing Arts Center on the UNO Campus. The lights dimmed, the side doors on the stage opened, and the procession of tuxedo clad singers began.

This ritual is familiar to aficionados of the River City Mixed Chorus, for this is the way that Chorus concerts have begun for at least the last 7 years.

This year's winter concert demonstrated the growth of the chorus, the increasing depth and scope of their talent, and the maturity which has been more and more apparent in recent years. Indeed, the River City Mixed Chorus does really have "Something to Sing About."

Under the able direction of John Bennett, who is both talented and charismatic, the Chorus presented a program of delightful songs ranging from American spirituals to selections from a wedding cantata to familiar tunes from the 1930's era to a selection from the Flirtations.

Of special interest was the familiar hymn, Amazing Grace, set to new music written by Omaha composer and member of the River City Mixed Chorus, David Rose.

Accompanied by Ron Guthrie on piano and for some selections, by Anita Clark Jaynes on the Harp, the River City Mixed Chorus provided two evenings of delightful entertainment.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION BENEFITS MOTHERHOUSE

The Holiday Benefit for the Franciscan Motherhouse was an incredible success. The Benefit was sponsored by Ms. Janet Oenbring of Lincoln, Mr. Tim Sebade and Mr. Darrell Watson of Omaha.

The spirit of gift giving and goodwill warmed our hearts on that cold December evening.

Our friends gathered from Lincoln, Omaha, and Council Bluffs to offer the gift of love to people they have met before.

They gave crockpots, coffeemakers, blenders, dinner plates, drinking glasses, and personal gift baskets to each guest of the Motherhouse.

We thank Brother Andrew, Brother Tom, and the Rev. Dr. C. Earle Lewis for their spiritual guidance. We thank our 45 friends who gave of themselves so generously.

Thank you and may God Bless You!

Darrell Watson
Tim Sebade

IT'S CHILLY OUTSIDE BUT THERE'S HOT CHILI AT THE CHESTERFIELD

February can be the coldest month of the year but when there's snow on the ground and icicles hanging from the rooftops, you can have a very sensual experience by wrapping your hands around a steaming hot bowl of chili, seasoned hot, medium, or bland — just as you like it. And the Imperial Court of Nebraska wants to help you have this very sensual experience, so they're hosting an old fashioned Chili Feed at the Chesterfield on February 11. The soup will be ready to serve at 5:00 p.m. and we'll close down the kitchen at 7:30 p.m. For 2 and a half hours, you can feel yourself getting hotter and steamier with every bite! Seriously, on Sunday February 11, come down to the Chesterfield and join the members of the Imperial Court for a steaming hot bowl of chili, plenty of crackers, and a dash of cheese and onions for garnish. Then, after you're all warmed up, stay and dance or enjoy the BIG screen TV or just visit with your friends. It will be a bright spot on your February calendar.

ICON ANNOUNCES \$1000 GRANT TO RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

The Imperial Court of Nebraska is pleased to announce that the River City Mixed Chorus will be the recipient of a \$1000 grant to help defray the cost of the Chorus attending the GALA Festival in Tampa, Florida this summer. Presentations of the first two installments of the grant were made at the Chorus' Winter Concert, January 13 and 14. The balance of the grant will be awarded following ICON's Memorial Day Picnic. ICON Officials state that the grant was made in recognition of the Chorus' 11 years of service to Nebraska and their commitment to artistic excellence.

YOU ARE INVITED

RCMC

Tampa
Tupperware
Party

Wednesday
February 21, 1996
7:00 pm

In The Backroom at
Gilligan's Pub

Join in the fun and frivolity.

Buy Your Kitchen Supplies.

All while YOU Help get the Chorus to
Tampa for GALA Festival V.

TUPPERWARE DEMONSTRATIONS

Spaghetti Dinner

Sponsored by
Fifth Voice of River City Mixed Chorus

When: February 24, 1996
Time: 4 to 8 P. M.
Where: Unity Church of Omaha
9301 West Dodge Road

All you can eat! Adults \$7.00
Children 12 & under \$3.00

For Additional Information - Call 341-SING

Proceeds to help Fund
River City Mixed Chorus in
Representing Nebraska at the
GALA International Music Festival
in Tampa, FL

CLOSET BALL '96

The Imperial Court of Nebraska is proud to announce that Closet Ball '96 will be held at The MAX on April 21. This popular event offers talented individuals an opportunity to make their stage debut as a female or male impersonator. Individuals who have never before performed on stage as an impersonator are encouraged to consider this competition.

Contestants will first appear on stage in their own gender, male or female. They will then have one hour to complete a makeover into the opposite gender and return to the stage to compete and show off their talents. Contestants normally are sponsored by an experienced performer who may assist with the makeover, but contestants have also sponsored themselves and done their own makeovers in the past.

Two of the contestants in Closet Ball '95 have become favorites on stage. The reigning Mr. Closet Ball, Rusty Shields aka Miss Cindy Bookout, walked away with the title after transforming from a trim professional woman in a conservative suit and heels into a strong, dominant leather man.

Rusty Shields has had a busy year in both personnas, appearing in many shows in the area and in regional leather events.

First alternate to Closet Ball '95, Ashley Simone aka Micheal, has become an area regular thanks to her high energy dancing and petite frame.

Application forms for Closet Ball '96 will be in area bars by the middle of this month. Consider giving it a try — YOU could become a star.



MISS ASHLEY SIMONE
PERFORMED AT ICON'S TOYZ 4
TOTZ IN LINCOLN

RESOURCE CENTER

The GLBT Community Resource Center is making great progress. Involvement is on the increase. The dream is becoming a reality thanks to dedicated participation and sacrifice of many.

There are several updates we would like to share. Nominations for the Executive Committee were held at the January 21st meeting. Election will be held at the February 18th meeting.

Additional members have been added to the Steering Committee. At the December meeting the Steering Committee voted Micheal Greene, Jim Morford, and Carla Petersen to the committee. Michael Greene will be serving as Chairperson of the Public Relations. These three members will bring some valuable resources to the development of the Community Resource Center.

Congratulations to the newly elected members of the Steering Committee. We are confident that their skills will enhance the forward momentum of the Community Resource Center. As we move from dream to reality, we encourage each of you to take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to share your gifts. We need your skills, talents, and financial contributions. Your time or gifts are deeply appreciated.

Our next monthly meeting will be Sunday February 18 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church. Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in obtaining more information about the Community Resource Center, please call ANGLE's Information and Referral Line number (402) 558-5303 and leave a message for Becky. You may also contact the GLBT Community Resource Center by mail P.O. box 8343, Omaha, NE 68108.



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MCC-OMAHA CELEBRATES 22 ANNIVERSARY

The final weekend of January was the 22nd anniversary of the chartering of Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha.

The Fellowship committee recognized the event with a Saturday night dance, while the Board of Directors hosted a "Celebration of Who We Are Becoming!" between the two Sunday morning services.

The celebration featured a display showing some of the major events during the church's history with special emphasis on the many accomplishments during the last year.

During the last year, MCC-Omaha has added greeters to welcome those attending the Sunday morning services.

Regular attendees will find pre-printed name tags ready for them.

This year's financial campaign was a great success. Members have pledged donations of more than \$6500 per month for 1996.

The '95 Conference Fund, which had been in the red, now shows a positive balance thanks to many fundraisers.

The sanctuary now has all matching chairs.

A baby grand piano was purchased and paid for by donations.

Fifty new hymnals were purchased.

Renovations to the Social Hall and to the Stained Glass Windows are both underway.

Six sets of lovely new paraments are either completed or in process for the sanctuary.

Thanksgiving dinner was prepared and served to congregation members and PWA's.

The Food Pantry has been filled to overflowing and has served 276 people during the last year.

Our Christmas Project with St. Martin de Porres Center provided more than 150 presents for 15 children and eight mothers.

Audio tapes are made of each Sunday morning service and are delivered to the homebound, the hospitalized, and the imprisoned.

And, of course, during 1995 we called our new pastor, the Rev. Dr. C. Earle Lewis.

It has truly been a year of blessing and of joy for the congregation of Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha.

Who knows what blessings await us during the coming year?



Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha

819 South 22nd Street
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SOCIAL HALL RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY AT MCC-OMAHA

Throughout the month of January, members and friends of Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha were hard at work renovating the Social Hall located in the lower level of the building at 819 S. 22. The renovations were approved after a part of the old ceiling collapsed. The ancient plaster and lath ceiling was replaced with a new suspended ceiling. New light fixtures were installed. The old "garage door" was removed and the opening walled in. The old windows are being replaced and sealed. The brick walls are being insulated and covered with dry wall. The last part of the landing was removed and a new ramp is being installed to allow wheelchair access into the Social Hall. And then the whole thing will be cleaned, painted, polished, and made ready for use.

Crews of 12 - 20 gathered on each of three "work days" scheduled at the church and numerous other volunteers came in to work afternoons or evenings as their schedules allowed. Under the direction of MCC Board member Tom Bertino, the renovation is proceeding quickly and smoothly and the tired workers will soon be able to step back and admire the results of their labors. A salute to all those who are helping on this project. If YOU would like to take part, contact the Church office at 345-2563.

 Achieving New Gay/Lesbian Endeavors
P.O. BOX 8343
OMAHA, NE 68108-0343
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender
Information & Referral Line

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GAY RIGHTS ARE HOT TOPIC IN SOUTH DAKOTA

"An attack on human rights by a few South Dakota legislators does not speak for the majority of South Dakotans who recognize every adult citizen's right to work and earn a living, freedom to love and live a peaceful life with their adult partner, and to be free of discrimination, harassment, and violence," said Barry Wick, Executive Director of Free Americans Creating Equal Status of South Dakota, Inc. of Rapid City.

Two articles appearing on different sides of the issue tell the story of a state where homophobia is rampant. An article in the Sioux Falls Argus Leader is titled "Legislator to Reintroduce Bill Banning Gay Marriage." Gays and lesbians across the state had expected Rep. Roger Hunt, R-Brandon, to reintroduce the bill that was defeated by one vote in the senate last month.

A second article entitled "Amendment Would Ban Affirmative Action" appeared in the Rapid City Journal also on January 5. In that article, which contains anti-gay overtones, three legislators - Sen. Alan Aker, R-Rapid City, Rep. Helena Hassard, R-Hot Springs, and Rep. Harvey Krautschun, R-Sturgis - support an amendment to the state constitution banning affirmative action.

"Four South Dakota legislators are attempting to pass laws with statements that encourage discrimination or worse against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered persons. According to the article in the January 5 Argus Leader, Rep. Roger Hunt, R-Brandon, wants the state legislature to spend more time and money again on banning marriage for adult gays and lesbians already disallowed by law.

"The legislators attempting to ban affirmative action seek to force companies to stop hiring the best qualified persons even if those persons might be gay or lesbian. This isn't encouraging businesses to come and invest in South Dakota. This tells national and international businesses that their recruiting practices and their offers of benefits are wrong. This discourages business from coming to South Dakota," said Wick.

The Rapid City Journal article went on: "Hassard said the proposed amendment does not prohibit discrimination or preferential hiring for sexual preference. Language to that effect was removed from the bill this week," she said.

"Sen. Aker said, 'We decided that wouldn't be appropriate.' Aker said he and Hassard did not intend the amendment to allow gay marriages or to force Boy Scout Troops to hire homosexual scout leaders," said Wick. "If Aker and Hassard actually used this example, then they would be guilty of stereotyping, demonizing and marginalizing gays and lesbians. Studies show that children, particularly girls, are more likely to be molested by a family member. Using the specter of child molestation to fear-monger legislation into law is reprehensible."

"Rep. Hassard is reported by the Rapid City Journal to have said 'We are Americans... We have to finally understand we can't go on splitting up.' Yet Hassard is further to have said her bill to ban affirmative action will not prohibit discrimination against lesbians and gays or people perceived to be gay or lesbian. Further, she is telling companies that already hire gays and lesbians and provide insurance benefits to same-sex partners not to do business with or in the state of South Dakota. That is anti-business and a surprising position for a Republican legislator. Additionally, she never tried to stop verbal gay-bashing on the floor of the House last year and voted to ban same-sex marriage in support of Hunt's hatred of gays and lesbians," said Wick.

Wick says Hunt and his supporters have demonized and marginalized law-abiding, tax-paying, business owning, and hard-working gay and lesbian citizens of this state by promoting the ban on same sex marriage. "Many good citizens will most likely oppose anti-gay legislation and reckless statements by legislators who encourage discrimination," said Wick.

Free Americans Creating Equal Status of South Dakota, Inc. is a non-profit educational organization supporting the first state gay and

lesbian library, the first statewide newsletter for gays and lesbians, and provides information for the betterment of conditions for the state's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered citizens.

FACES of South Dakota, Inc. sponsored the first statewide organizing tour for gays and lesbians in South Dakota in October last year. It also sponsored the state's first candlelight vigil for gay and lesbian victims of discrimination and violence in Vermillion and Sioux Falls.

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SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS! A WORKSHOP FOR CHURCHES

Spreading the GOOD NEWS! is a workshop for church members, Pastors, and all who would address the gay/lesbian conflict in the church. It will be held on Saturday February 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass in Omaha.

The workshop will address the issues of A Theology of Sexuality and Working Thru Our Issues: Spreading the GOOD NEWS in Your Congregation. Workshop leaders are Sylvia Thorson-Smith, Lecturer on Sociology and Religious Studies at Grinnell College, Consultant for the Presbyterian Pornography Study, and past Lecturer on Women's Studies at Wichita State University, and author of *Reconciling the Broken Silence*, and Michael D. Smith, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Grinnell, Iowa, Past Campus Minister at the Universities of Wisconsin, Arizona, and Colorado, on the National Board of Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns, and Co-Author with Sylvia Thorson-Smith of *Gender Issues*.

The workshop is sponsored by the IMN Joint Strategy and Action Team: Ministry with Lesbian & Gay Persons & their Families. The cost of the workshop is \$25 which includes lunch and a copy of the text *Reconciling the Broken Silence*.

To Register, send name, address, telephone, church denomination, and a \$25 check made payable to Interchurch Ministries to:

Interchurch Ministries
215 Centennial Mall South, #411
Lincoln, NE 68503-1888

NETWORK Q

Those of you who receive Lincoln Cable Channel 20 community access (formerly Channel 14) can see Network Q on Fridays at 1 p.m. and Mondays at 3:30 p.m. This time schedule should continue for at least another month. Network Q is the first national weekly gay and lesbian TV series.

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ANGER = ACTION

Lesbian Avengers Organize in Omaha

A chapter of the New York based Lesbian Avengers has begun here in Omaha. The Lesbian Avengers is a direct action activist group that concentrates on exposing and protesting homophobia and lesbophobia in all its forms.

Says Erin, starter and leader of the Omaha chapter of the Lesbian Avengers, "The dykes that are members of this group are angry, not only at the hate-mongering Radical Right, but at the discrimination and homophobia that exists on a citywide level. They are no longer interested in writing letters to politicians who don't seem to care; they want direct hands on action, and loud, in-your-face visibility. When these women use the power they possess as lesbians, people in this city will definitely notice."

Some of the projects in the works in the near future for the Lesbian Avengers include escorts to cars after the bars close to protect against the many queer bashes, press conferences, a drum corps, parades, fire-eating in the Old Market, protests at companies that fire gays and lesbians, and various fundraisers.

Penney, another member of the group states, "I believe the goal should be the education of both the gay and heterosexual communities. I think that the average heterosexual, while they may not agree with homosexuality, will be shocked and angered when they find out that it is legal to fire gays and lesbians based on their sexual orientation alone, that we can be discriminated against in housing and schooling, and that thousands of kids struggling with their sexuality commit suicide every year because they cannot find the resources they need to recognize and deal with their feelings."

Watch for the Lesbian Avengers around town because they definitely plan to be very visible.

Also watch for upcoming articles as the Lesbian Avengers expose further homophobia and discriminatory actions all over town.

If you are a pissed off lesbian who is looking for a productive political way to channel your anger, the Lesbian Avengers is open to new members. There are no dues or fees for membership.

For more information, call the ANGLE Information and Referral Line at (402) 558-5303 and leave your name and number for Erin.



HGRA ROYALTY PERFORMS AT NAP BENEFIT

Mr. HGRA, Gregg, was among those performing at the Benefit Show at DC's on January 7. Miss DC's, Aramis, brought her friends from Sioux City and invited some of the best of Omaha's Talents to put together a fun-filled show with all the proceeds going to the Nebraska AIDS Project.

PANHANDLE VALENTINE DAY DINNER

Circle your Calendar for PGLSS's February event on Wednesday February 14. Reservations will be taken for a romantic Italian Dinner with soft music and candlelights. Singles and couples are invited to attend. The dinner will be at the Western Nebraska Arts Center and will be by reservation only.

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KEEPING AN EYE ON GAY RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Omaha Senator Ernie Chambers has again introduced legislation that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace.

The bill, LB 903, would amend the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act to make it unlawful to fail or refuse to hire, to discharge, or to harass any individual, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of the individual's race, color, religion, sex, disability, marital status, national origin, or sexual orientation.

The bill includes some very powerful language that state, in part, "It is the policy of this state to foster the employment of all employable persons in the state on the basis of merit regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation and to safeguard their right to obtain and hold employment without discrimination... Denying equal opportunity for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation is contrary to the principles of freedom and is a burden on the objectives of the public policy of this state."

LB 903 includes exemptions for religious organizations, residential care facilities for children less than 18 years old, and cannot be used to authorize quotas or other types of affirmative action programs with respect to sexual orientation.

The public hearing for this bill will come before the Business and Labor Committee. The date for this hearing was not immediately announced. The members of the Business and Labor Committee, hometown and Lincoln phone number are as follows:

Chris Aboud, Omaha, 471-2623 (Committee Chair)

Floyd Vrtiska, Table Rock, 471-2733 (Committee Vice Chair)

Ernie Chambers, Omaha, 471-2612

M.L. "Cap" Dierks, Ewing, 471-2632

Don Priester, Omaha, 471-2710

Dianna Schimek, Lincoln, 471-2632

Jerry Schmitt, Ord, 471-2631

Call Senator Chambers and let him know that you appreciate his efforts to provide the right of fair and equal employment to all Nebraskans. Call the other members of the committee and ask them to support LB 903 when it comes up for public hearing. Call your own state senator and ask him or her to support the bill. Your communication with committee members and state senators is critical to passing this legislation.

If you don't know who your state senator is, you can call the legislative information hotline in Lincoln at 471-2709 or statewide toll free at 1-800-742-7456.

These numbers can also be used to request a copy of any bill, a bill's sponsor or sponsors, the status of any bill and the date for a bill's public hearing.

Web sites on the Internet can also be used to get various information about the legislature. Those addresses are:

<http://www.lcs.state.ne.us>

<http://unicam1.lcs.state.ne.us>

Senator Jennie Robak of Columbus has introduced hate crimes legislation that would enhance penalties for crimes motivated by racial and religious prejudice. LB 919 includes provisions for crimes whose motivation is based on sexual orientation. The bill states, "A person in the state of Nebraska has the right to live free from violence... because of his or her race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability. Call Senator Robak to voice your support for this bill. Her Lincoln office is 471-2715.

If you would like to be involved in working on legislative issues that affect our community and state, call Citizens for Equal Protection at 402-398-3027. Your participation will make a difference.

METRO CLUB

Meets February 15

6:30 PM -- Neon Goose

Subject: Gay/Lesbian Travel Ideas

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PLANNING YOUR FUTURE WHEN MARRIAGE IS NOT AN OPTION

It's said time and time again that gays and lesbians are among the most affluent members of society, yet many are woefully unprepared financially for sharing a future with their partner. Married couples enjoy a variety of financial and legal benefits not available to unmarried couples, but that doesn't mean gay and lesbian couples are completely excluded from joint financial security. More couples sharing homes are "domestic partners," which includes gay and lesbian couples, adult children living with parents and siblings living together. Common sense and a few tips can ensure domestic partners' financial security as they grow older together.

Tax Planning

Married couples generally file Federal taxes jointly, combining itemizations and deductions. Gay and Lesbian couples need to figure out "who takes what" in terms of deductions to balance and efficiently use tax laws to their advantage. For example, if you and your partner are raising a child and carrying a mortgage, deciding who takes the tax deductions could affect your tax bracket, and ultimately affect how much in taxes you'll both pay.

Taking deductions for your partner and your partner's children was until 1990, unthinkable. In 1990, the Tax Court ruled that if one person contributes over half of the support of his/her partner and children, he/she may claim them as tax deductions. For example, if Sharon supports her partner Linda and Linda's daughter, Sharon can claim Linda and her daughter as tax deductions — as long as the community in which they live does not expressly forbid non-married and non-related people living together. Some do.

Life Insurance Policies

To be a beneficiary of your partner's life insurance policy, you must have an "insurable interest" in the insured party. Insurance companies have the right to (and will) deny a claim if you cannot prove you have a financial interest in your

partner's life (i.e. you couldn't take a lie insurance policy out on Liz Taylor and hope to collect on it). If you believe there will be a problem with your insurance company paying your partner, you can make your own estate the beneficiary of your policy by setting up a trust, then name your significant other as the beneficiary of the trust.

When minor children are involved, there are special concerns. For example, Linda and Sharon are jointly raising Linda's young daughter. If Sharon should pass away, then Linda and her daughter are not entitled to Sharon's Social Security benefits like they would if Linda was legally married to a man. Furthermore, unless Sharon works for a very progressive company, Linda and her daughter will not receive Sharon's pension. Linda and Sharon should determine an amount of life insurance that would replace Sharon's lost salary and social security benefits.

Estate Planning

If no will or trust exists, probate court will determine who will be the beneficiary of the estate. Probate court will not designate the domestic partner as beneficiary if it is challenged (by family members, business associates, etc.). You should establish a trust (with a lawyer's help) and leave your estate to the trust. Then in your will, you should clearly name your partner as beneficiary of the trust. While even this can be challenged in court, the more detailed your legal documentation of your wishes, the better the chance your estate will be divvied up accordingly.

Joint Banking

Two people need not be related to open joint savings and checking accounts with rights to survivorship. This means that both parties can withdraw funds from the joint bank accounts even if one dies.

Investment Planning

There are several factors that gays and lesbians should take into account when making investment

and retirement choices: some employers are more flexible in naming the beneficiary of an employee's pension and life insurance policy; Social Security benefits are only paid to legal spouses and dependents; children can, in some cases, be designated as a beneficiary of a pension plan.

Savings strategies do not change radically if you are legally married or sharing your life with another adult. Domestic partners should pay special attention to ownership, beneficiaries (or transfer on death designations). In addition, plans should be reviewed for distribution of assets if a couple should split up — they don't have the advantage of divorce procedures and legal distribution channels.

Conclusion

It's clear that gays and lesbians don't have the same financial advantages as their heterosexual counterparts. These few tips should help you establish a financial line of defense for any financial catastrophe.

Ralph Bryant, Jr. has been a Certified Financial Planner with American Express Financial Advisors in Southfield, Michigan for 12 years.

IMAGINE: A GAY CLUB IN HIGH SCHOOL

East High School in Salt Lake City, Utah may have a Gay and Lesbian Club soon. Some students there have petitioned to start such a club. The school will probably not be able to deny the request since Utah's Equal Access Act and federal case law says schools must allow all after-school clubs or none at all. Ironically, the equal access law was proposed by conservative groups who wanted to ensure the right of students to form Bible study and prayer groups.

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The New Voice
wishes the best of
luck to all those
taking part in the
**1996 ICE
BOWL**
Regional
Tournament to
be held in Omaha
on President's
Day Weekend.

LOOKING AHEAD: A CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS DURING THE COMING YEAR!

To add an event to this calendar or to the Community Calendar,
write: *The New Voice*, P.O. Box 3512, Omaha, NE 68103 or call (402) 556-9907

February

- 1 - Babe's Street Opens
- 10 - Gala Gender Ball, Cedar Rapids
- 11 - PFLAG Brunch at MAX
- 11 - Chili Feed at the Chesterfield
- 14 - PGLSS Valentine's Dinner
- 16-18 - Ice Bowl Tournament
- 17 - Spreading the Good News!
JSAT Workshop
- 17 - Heartthrobs & the Broken
Hearted - The MAX
- 24 - GLAGN Annual Drag Show
Benefit for NAP, Hastings

March -

- 10 - ICON SnoBall
- 31 - Transgender Law - Speakers

April

- 4 - MCCO Maundy Thursday Svc
- 5 - MCCO Good Friday Svc
- 7 - Easter Sunrise Service MCC
- 21 - ICON Closet Ball
- Frontrunners Sat. Runs Resume

May

- 23-26 MCC District Conference.
- 27 ICON Memorial Day Picnic

June

- 2 - ICON Stepping Down Show
- 8, 9 - RCMC Concert
- 14, 15, 16 - ICON Coronation
- 22 - PrideFest (Tentative)
- 30 - Pride Parade & Rally

July

- ??? - ICON Picnic
- 7-15 - RCMC at GALA Festival
- 20, 21 - Int'l Ms Leather
- 21 - ICON Investiture
- 28 - Int'l Gay Rodeo Convention

August

- ??? - Fantasy Leather Weekend

September

- 4 - ICON Labor Day Picnic

October

- ??Fall Harvest Cedar Rapids, IA
- 11 - National Coming Out Day

November

- 10 - ICON Food 4 Thought
- 10 & 17 - All Iowa AIDS Benefit

December

- 1 - PFLAG Holiday Gathering
- 8 - ICON Toyz 4 Totz

Let us know about YOUR events so we can include them in the calendar!!

WHERE CAN I GET A COPY OF THE NEW VOICE?

We've listed many of the regular distribution points below. If your group or business would like to be included on our distribution list, please contact us.

Omaha:

- Babes Street
- The Chesterfield
- D.C.'s
- The Diamond
- Downtown Grounds
- Gilligan's Pub
- The MAX
- Metropolitan Community Church
- Nebraska AIDS Project
- New Realities
- Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays
- Retro
- The Mystery Bookstore
- The Run
- St. Mary's Tan
- Visions (Custom Framing)

Council Bluffs:

- Adult Emporium

Lincoln:

- Nebraska Book Store
- The Panic
- Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays
- Q
- UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center
- Women's Resource Center

Kearney:

- GLAGN
- Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays

Des Moines:

- Blazing Saddle
- The Garden
- The Playpen
- Shooters Lounge
- Chat Noir Cafe
- The Side Saddle Cafe

Sioux City:

- Three Cheers

Of course, you can subscribe for only \$19 per year and have *The New Voice* delivered directly to your door (in a plain, brown envelope, of course).

Bars & Restaurants

Des Moines (A.C. 515)

- Blazing Saddle 416 E 5th St.,
246-1299
- The Garden 112 SE 4th St. 243-3965
- The Play Pen 424 E Locust 243-9626
- Shooters Lounge 515 E 6th 245-9126
- Chat Noir Cafe 644 18th 244-1353
- The Side Saddle Cafe 418 E 5th
282-7041

Omaha (A.C. 402)

- Babe's Street 19th Leavenworth
344-2310
- The Chesterfield 1901 Leavenworth
345-6889
- DC's 610 S. 14th, 344-3103
- The Diamond 712 S. 16th, 342-9595
- Gilligan's 1823 Leavenworth,
449-9147
- The Max 1417 Jackson, 346-4110
- The New Run 1715 Leavenworth,
449-8703

Lincoln (A.C. 402)

- Panic 200 S. 18th St. 435-8764
- Q 226 S. 9th St. 475-2269

Sioux City, IA (A.C. 712)

- Kings & Queens 417 Nebraska Street
252-4167
- 3 Cheers 414 20th St. 255-8005

Sioux Falls, SD (A.C. 605)

- Touche's 323 S. Phillips Ave 335-9874

**Remember!!
This Magazine is
only as good as
YOU make it!!**

**We still need individuals
to write about shows and
other events in the
community. We need
information about
organizations and
upcoming events. We
need to know what's
happening in Lincoln,
Grand Island,
Scottsbluff, Sioux City,
Des Moines.**

**We Need
Your Help.**

AIDS/HIV RESOURCES

HIV TESTING*

*We urge you to inquire about anonymity & confidentiality before testing.

Charles Drew Health Center,
2201 N. 30, Omaha 68111 (402) 453-1433

Douglas County Health Department,
1201 S. 42, Omaha 68105 (402) 444-7750

Outreach Center, 1723 Leavenworth Omaha, NE 68102, Open every Friday 1-4pm. Every other Friday from 10pm - 2am. HIV testing, education, support.

Equilibria Medical Center, 544 S. 24, Omaha, 68102 Call (402) 345-2252

Lincoln-Lancaster Co. Health Dept 3140 'N' Lincoln 68510, 441-8065 Testing, counseling Walk-in tests: The Panic, 200 S. 18, 2nd Tues. Urban Indian Health Ctr, 140 S. 27, 434-7177

Grand Island-Hall Co Health Dept, 105 East 1st St, Grand Island, Mary (308) 385-5175

Hastings College Health Center, Hastings, NE 68901 402-461-7372 Ask for Judy

McCook Family Planning, 111 West "C" St., McCook, 69001, (308) 345-3626

Nebraska AIDS Project, 3610 Dodge, Suite 110, Omaha 342-6367. AIDS Hotline 402-342-4233 or (800) 782-AIDS [2437]

Nebraska Dept of Health, Kearney, 3423 2nd Ave, 68847, 308/234-8183 Norfolk, Norfolk Regional Ctr, Adm Bldg #16, (402) 370-3395

NorthPlatte, Craft St. Office Bldg, 200 So. Silber, 69101 (308) 535-8133

Nemaha County Health Department, 1824 N. Auburn, 68305 (402) 274-4549

LEGAL

Petersen Law Offices, Thomas M. Petersen Attorney & Counselor, 2712 S. 87th Ave., Omaha, 68124 (402) 393-8080

Taylor & Wild, Suite 25, Gold's Galleria, 1033 "O" St, Lincoln, (402) 434-9482

Mowbray, Chapin, & Walker, P.C., 910 "L" St. Lincoln 68508-2228 476-3882 Jim

Nebr Bar Assoc., 635 S. 14, Lincoln, 475-7091

Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, Box 81455, Lincoln 68501, (402) 476-8091

AIDS ADVOCACY

AIDS Coalition for Empowerment (A.C.E.), Box 31305, Omaha 68131, For anyone living with HIV & those interested in AIDS advocacy Call Nebraska AIDS Project at 342-6367

PASTORAL CARE

AIDS Interfaith Network, 100 N. 62, Omaha Br Wm Woeger 558-3100 (Chancery) Service: 2nd Monday, 7pm, St Cecilia's, Nebraska Chapel, 40th & Webster

Lincoln Interfaith Council, 140 S. 27th St., Lincoln 68510, 474-3017. AIDS/HIV Healing Service: 1st Tues, 7pm, St Francis Chapel, 1145 South Street, Lincoln. Public is invited

INFORMATION & REFERRAL*

*More info call Neb AIDS Project 342-6367

AIDS Educ Project, UNL G/L Resource Cntr, Rm 342, Neb Union, Lincoln 68588, 472-5644

American Red Cross, 2245 Heather Dr, Crete 68333 (402) 826-3785 1701 'E', Lincoln 68501 (402) 471-7997 2515 St Marys Ave, Omaha 68105 431-4447

Community Prescription Service AIDS Info, medicine, supplies by mail, 1-800-677-4323

Douglas County Health Department, 1201 S. 42, Omaha 68105 (402) 444-7750

Grand Island/Hall Co. Health Dept, 105 E. 1st, Grand Island (308) 385-5175

HIV Clinic, Univ of NE Medical Center, 600 S. 42nd, Omaha, (402) 559-6681

Lincoln Cancer Cntr, 4600 Valley, 483-1872

Lincoln-Lancaster Co Health Dept 3145 'N', Lincoln 68510, 441-8065 Testing, counseling

Nebr AIDS Educ/Training Center, AIDS education to health care professionals. UNMC, 600 S. 42 Omaha 68198, (402) 559-6681

Nebraska AIDS Project (statewide) (800) 782-AIDS [2437]

Omaha Office: 3610 Dodge, Suite 110, 68131 Volunteer Services & Administration 342-6367; AIDS Hotline 402-342-4233, HIV testing.

AIDS awareness, practical support, counseling

Lincoln Office: 3818 Sheridan Blvd 484-8100

Central Nebraska Office: 3423 2nd Ave Kearney, NE 68847, (308) 865-5610

Northeast Nebr Office: 304 N. 5 St., Ste C, Norfolk, NE 68701, (402) 370-3807

Western Nebraska Office: 3707 Ave. D, Scottsbluff, NE 69361, (308) 635-3807

North Platte Area Support Grp, Call: (308) 535-8133

COUNSELING & SUPPORT

AIDS Care, The Mercy Center, 427 E. Kanesville Blvd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503, att: Colleen Kibbe-Vest (712) 328-2609

AIDS Support Group: Sponsored by PFLAG, Box 4374, Lincoln, 68504, 7pm, 475-2437

Calico II HIV-AIDS Support Group, Meets 1st & 3rd Tues. 7pm, Alliance For Info call: (308) 762-8259

Family AIDS Support Group: Sponsored by PFLAG-Omaha, Meet 1st Sunday, 2pm. First United Methodist, 7020 Cass, Omaha

Grand Island Area HIV/AIDS Support Group, Meets 3rd Tuesday, (308) 385-5175

Harambee Mental Health Services, Business & Technical Center, 2505 N. 24, Omaha, NE 68110, (402) 451-3913. Mental Health Services to people of color who are infected with HIV, their partners, and their families. A program developed by Charles Drew Health Center.

Kearney Area HIV/AIDS Support Group, 1st Monday, info, phone Barb (308) 865-5610

Nebraska AIDS Project (statewide) (800) 782-AIDS [2437]

Omaha Office: 3610 Dodge, Suite 110, 68131 Volunteer Services & Administration 402-342-6367; AIDS Hotline 402-342-4233, HIV tests, AIDS awareness, practical support, counseling

Lincoln Office: 3818 Sheridan Blvd 484-8100

Central Nebraska Office: 3423 2nd Ave Kearney, NE 68847, (308) 865-5610

Northeast Nebr Office: 304 N. 5 St., Ste C, Norfolk, NE 68701, (402) 370-3807

Western Nebraska Office: 3707 Ave. D, Scottsbluff, NE 69361, (308) 635-3807

Western Nebraska HIV/AIDS Support Group, Scottsbluff, Call (308) 635-3606



RESOURCE DIRECTORY

*****LINCOLN*****

Alcoholics Anonymous, Meetings.
**Thurs. 7:30pm, Unitarian Church, 6300 "A", Lincoln, Info contact V.J. at 477-3526
**Fri. 8pm, 1st Plymouth Church, 20 & D, Lincoln, 438-5214

BIPALS (Bisexual People / Alternate LifeStyle) Box 80913, Lincoln, 68501, 1st Mon. 7:30pm, Cornerstone (upstrs) 640 N 16. All sexes welcome

Ecumenical Catholic Church of America, 2201 N. 31 St., Lincoln 68503. (402) 464-0270. Pastor Jim Arling, Deacon Gary Balch, Prayer Meeting Sun. 11am. Open Communion. Please Call with Questions/Prayer Requests. All Are Welcome.

Gay Men's Support Group, c/o Counseling & Psych Services, Rm 213, Univ. Health Ctr, UNL, Lincoln, 68588-0618, 472-7450. Confidential

Lesbian Discussion Group, Womens Resource Ctr, Room 340 Neb Union, UNL, Lincoln, 68588-472-2597, Call for meeting information

Lincoln Women for Sobriety Mtg, Saturdays, 10am, Gathering Place, 15th & "E", Lincoln, Contact Judith at 472-2598 for information

The Male Space, 3rd Sunday 2pm, 1744 "L" St, Lincoln. Focus "Spiritual Healing". Gay/Bi Men, all ages, all races welcome. Membership \$12/year. Info write/visit: Mark Whitworth, Dir., 1744 "L" St. Lincoln, Ne. 68508 S.A.S.E.

National Org. for Women (NOW) Lincoln - political/grassroots activist org in issues relating to full equality for women - meets monthly, Lincoln NOW, Box 80172, Lincoln, NE 68501, 477-1226

Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Box 30128, Lincoln, NE 68503-0128, 434-9880. 4th Tuesday, 7pm, Unitarian Church, 6300 "A", Group for family of people with HIV, and G/L Youth Group meet same time & place. SAGE, Box 22043, Lincoln 68542-2043, Info, Conference Updates, Education for older Gay people, Intergenerational Coffee House 2nd Saturday, 6-9pm, Lesbian Videos at 7:15pm, at 3319 S. 46th, Lincoln. All welcome.

UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Ctr, Rm 234 Nebr Union, 14 & R, Lincoln 68588-0455, 472-5644, Social, info, referral, library, General meetings Tuesdays, 7pm, during school year

The Wimmin's Show, 12-3pm Sunday, KZUM, 89.3 FM stereo, Lincoln

A Woman's Place, Box 67035, Lincoln, 68506, nonprofit org dedicated to empowering women.

Youth Talkline 473-7932, Friday & Saturday 7pm-Midnite, Lincoln. Emotional support, referrals, AIDS info for callers Age 23 and under Project of Coalition for G/L Civil Rts

YWCA Counseling & Education Department, 476-2802, Lincoln. Information and Referral.

*****OMAHA*****

Alcoholics Anonymous,
**Stonewall Grp, Wed, 7:30pm, Mercy High
**Gay Mens Stag "An Alternative", Fri. 7pm,
**Live & Let Live Group, Friday 8:15pm

A.N.G.L.E. (Achieving New Gay/Lesbian Endeavors), Box 8343, Omaha 68108-0343 Phone: 558-5303, Networking, consciousness raising, PRIDE activities throughout the year

Citizens For Equal Protection, Box 55548, Omaha, 68155 (402) 398-3027. Legislative action- eliminate discrimination for g/l/b employment, housing, education, public accommodations. 1st Thursday, 7pm, 1st Unitarian, 3114 Harney

EAGLE-Omaha, Employee Assoc. of Gays & Lesbians US WEST. Contact Pat Phalen, 1299 Farnam, 11th Flr, Omaha 68102 (402) 348-8569

Frontrunners/walkers, Box 4583, Omaha 68104, HOTLINE 496-3658, Running/Walking Club (SASE for info)

Gay And Lesbian Organization of UNO (GaLo), for all UNO Students & sponsors, Meet Mondays 4-6pm on UNO Campus. Milo Bail Student Center, 3rd Floor, Board Room, Information call Jonathan Raymond (402) 571-8518 or Diallo Mudd (402) 554-3492 or EMail

Gay And Lesbian Parents Group (G.A.L.P.), 1st Thurs, 7:30pm, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563 Emphasis on Gay/Lesbian Parent & significant other. Mtgs open to anyone.

Gay/Lesbian Information & Referral Line, A service of A.N.G.L.E., Inc., (402) 558-5303

Gay Lesbian & Affirming Disciples (GLAD) G/L/B/Affirming Disciples of Christ 553-2386

ICE BOWL Invitational Bowling Tournament, Box 3622, Omaha 68103-0622, Tournament is held President's Day Weekend each year.

L.E.O. -- The Leather Engineers of Omaha, An educational and social group for Gay Men with an interest in the Leather Lifestyle. For info write: L.E.O., P.O. Box 8181, Omaha, 68108

Lutherans Concerned, 453-7137, 7pm, Mar. 3, June 2, Oct. 6, Dec. 1, Meet at 1st Lutheran Church, Omaha

Metropolitan Club, PO Box 31484, Omaha, NE 68131-0484, Meet third Thursday of month, For gay and lesbian professionals to meet, socialize, and network with others.

Men's Support Group, Meet Tuesdays 7:30pm, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22 St. Call 345-2563

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 819 S. 22 Street, Omaha, 345-2563, Send mail to: Box 3173, Omaha, 68103, Children/Adult Christian Ed.; Worship Service 9 & 10:30am

New Realities, Books, Tapes, Gifts, Old Market Passageway, 1026 Howard, 68102, 342-1863

National Org. for Women (NOW) Omaha - political & grassroots activist org issues of full equality for women- Omaha NOW, Box 3325, Omaha 68103-0325, (402) 391-7303, Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7pm, 1st Unitarian, 3114 Harney

Omaha Meatpackers, AIDS fundraising organization Call: (712) 366-1791

Omaha Players Club (OPC), PO Box 34463 Omaha 68134, (402) 451-7987. Leather/SM education & play group. Men's & women's group

Omaha Women for Sobriety meet Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Omaha YWCA, 222 S. 29 St, Contact Judith at 472-2598 for more info.

ONYX IMAGES, Box 31026, Omaha, NE 68132-9998. Support/Social Fraternity for African American men. Age restriction for membership. Support for brothers of all ages.

Parents-Friends of Lesbians And Gays

PFLAG 2912 Lynnwood Dr., Omaha, 68123, 291-6781. Meets 1st Methodist, 7020 Cass, Meadowlark, West End, 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, "Program & Sharing", 4th Sunday, 2pm, "Sharing"

Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns, 733-1360, Cleve, Omaha

River City Mixed Bowling League, Sundays, 1 & 3pm, Skylanes, Center Mall, Omaha

River City Gender Alliance, Box 680, Council Bluffs, IA 51502 For crossdressers, transsexuals, & those wishing to know more. All orientations. Newsletter. Meet 1st Saturday, Omaha

River City Mixed Chorus, Box 3267, Omaha, 68103-0267, 341-SING (341-7464). Volunteer chorus for Gay/Lesbian Sensitive people.

7th Day Adventist Kinship Inc, Support/Info: Les/Gay College Student 800-4-GAY-SDA

Straight Spouse Support Grp 7-9pm, 1st Methodist 7020 Cass, Room 209, 291-6781

Women of the Plains, Box 24355, Omaha, 68124, Bring women's culture back to Omaha

Women's Support Group, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22nd, 345-2563. Meets Saturdays 11am

WomenSpace, Box 24712, Omaha 68124-0712, Quarterly newsletter for lesbian voices & events to build heartland lesbian community

Youth Support Group, sponsor: PFLAG. For gay, lesbian youth & those questioning sexuality, age 13-21. Meets Sat., Omaha, Call 291-6781

REGIONAL/STATEWIDE

American Business & Professional Guild, Box 142, Sioux City, IA 51102, Network of gay business/professional men from IA, MN, SD, & NE, Meet last Sat. of each month. Write for info.

Coalition for Gay/Lesbian Civil Rts, Box 94882, Lincoln 68509 Advocacy, newsletter

GLB Alliance, c/o Health Center, Hastings, College, Hastings, NE 68901. Info: Judy at 402-461-7372 (Health Center) or 402-462-2961 (home) For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Students & Friends - a safe place to meet, discuss & learn.

Gay & Lesbian Assoc. of Greater Nebr., Support meetings, social events, newsletter: Info: GLAGN, Box 2401, Kearney, NE 68848-2401 or call: (308) 472-3249

Heartland Gay Rodeo Association (HGRA), Box 3354, Omaha, 68108-9998 Info: Dan 344-3103. All who enjoy/support rodeos & country activities. Meets 1st Saturday DC's, Omaha

Imperial Court of Nebraska, Box 3772, Omaha 68102 Organization for the advancement of Gay/Lesbian society, Board of Governors Meeting 1st Monday each month, All Welcome

Integrity Prayer Service, Wed, 6pm, St. Thomas Episcopal, 12 & Douglas, Sioux City, IA. Call Al (712) 276-8369 or Rev. Kerr (712) 258-0141

Lincoln/Lancaster Drug Projects, 610 "J", Lincoln, 475-5161, Dennis Hoffman, Case Mgr Outpatient chemical dependency treatment while affirming sexuality. Sliding Fee

The New Voice of Nebraska, Box 3512, Omaha 68103, Subs, \$19/year. Deadline: 10th of month

Internet Address: tjr@scs@prodigy.com

Panhandle Gay & Lesbian Support Services, Box 1046, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-1046 Telephone: (308) 635-8488

Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gays

***PFLAG**, Kearney, NE, meets 3pm, 3rd Sunday at St Luke's Episcopal. Call (308) 382-0752 or (308) 995-5490. Direct correspondence to: PFLAG, 1320 8th Ave., Holdrege, NE 68949

PRIDE Group, c/o Counseling Ctr, Wayne State College, Wayne, NE 68787. Info: Karen or Virginia (402) 375-7321. Gay, Lesbian, Bi Students of WSC Meet people, discuss issues, provide community service, educate, raise awareness.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

EVERY SUNDAY

Worship Services, 9 & 10:30a.m.
MCC- Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563
Gay /Lesbian Walking Club, 10am, 38th & South, Lincoln, by tennis courts
Ecumenical Catholic Church, Prayer Mtg., 6pm, 2201 N. 31, Lincoln, 464-0270
River City Bowling League, 1 & 3pm, Skylanes, 42nd & Center, Omaha

EVERY MONDAY

Network Q, 3:30pm, Cable Channel 20, Lincoln
GaLo UNO Student Grp., 4-6pm Milo Bail, 3rdFloor Board Rm, 571-8518/554-3492
HIV Tests, NAP, 3610 Dodge, Suite 110, Omaha 7-9:30pm
River City Mixed Chorus Rehearsals, 1st Methodist, 7020 Cass, Omaha, 7:15pm

EVERY TUESDAY

Women for Sobriety 5:30pm YWCA, 222 S. 29, Omaha, Call Judith 472-2598
Mens Support Group 7:30pm MCC, 819 S. 22, Omaha
Study Groups, 7:30 pm, Ecumenical Catholic Church of America, Lincoln

EVERY WED.

Gay Men Disc Grp., Lincoln 6pm, Contact Luis 472-7450
Frontrunners Run, 6:30pm, Brownell-Talbot, Omaha
PFLAG AIDS Support Grp., Lincoln 7pm, call 475-2437
Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30pm, Mercy High, Omaha
Integrity Prayer Svc., 6pm, St. Thomas Episc, Sioux City, IA

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

February 4 (1st Sunday)

Frontrunners, 10am, Memorial Park, Omaha
Family AIDS Support, 2-4pm, 1st Meth, Om
Scott Randsome performs at 9:30 at The MAX, Omaha

Feb 5 (1st Monday)

ICON Board Mtg, 7pm
The New Run Bar, Omaha

Feb 6 (1st Tuesday)

AIDS Healing Service, 7pm, St Francis Chapel, South & 11th St., Lincoln
ANGLE Meeting, 7pm, UNO Religious Center, 110 N. Happy Hollow, Omaha

Feb 7

(1st Wednesday)

February 11 (2nd Sunday)

Frontrunners, 10am, Metcalf Park, Om
PFLAG Brunch, 11am, The MAX, Om
MCC PSC Circle, 6pm, 477-3215 Lincoln
Chili Feed, Sponsored by ICON at The Chesterfield, 1903 Leavenworth, Omaha
Miss City Sweetheart, The Q, Lincoln

Feb 12 (2nd Monday)

AIDS Interfaith Service, 7pm, St Cecelias, Omaha

Feb 13 (2nd Tuesday)

Free/Confidential HIV Tests by Lancaster Co Health Dept 5-7pm The Panic, Lincoln
P-FLAG Omaha Board Mtg, 7:30pm, 1st Methodist,

Feb 14

(2nd Wednesday)

Valentine's Day

February 18 (3rd Sunday)

Frontrunners, 10am, Keystone Trail N, Om
Gender Alliance Forum, 12:30pm, MCC-O Community Resource Center Development Mtg, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 2-5pm
PFLAG/Kearney, St Luke Episcopal, 3pm, 2304 2nd Ave, (308) 382-0752/995-5490
Ice Bowl Tournament & Banquet
Heartthrobs & Broken Hearted The MAX

Feb 19 (3rd Monday)

Feb 20 (3rd Tuesday)

NOW-Nat'l Org for Women Lincoln: 7pm, Women's Club, 407 S. 14th, 477-1226
Omaha: 7pm, 1st Unitarian, 3114 Harney, 391-7303
Grand Island HIV Support Grp, 7pm, (308) 385-5175

Feb 21

(3rd Wednesday)

RCMC Tampa Tupperware Party, Gilligan's Pub, 7pm, (308) 385-5175

February 25 (4th Sunday)

Frontrunners, 10am, Central Park Mall, Om
MCC PSC Circle, 6pm, 477-3215 Lincoln
Q Review Cabaret, The Q, Lincoln
Laura Gray at The MAX, 1415 Jackson, Omaha, 8:30pm

Feb 26 (4th Monday)

Feb 27 (4th Tuesday)

PFLAG, 7pm Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Lincoln, 467-4599
Frontrunners Monthly Mtg, 6:30pm, Omaha, 496-3658
Mardi Gras Celebration!! The Q, Lincoln

Feb 28

(4th Wednesday)

March 3 (1st Sunday)

Lutheran Concerned 1st Lutheran 7pm Om

Mar 4 (1st Monday)

ICON Board Mtg, 7pm

Mar 5 (1st Tuesday)

ANGLE Meeting, 7pm, UNO Religious Center, Omaha
RCMC Cabaret at Dundee Dinner Theater, Omaha
AIDS Healing Service, 7pm, St Francis Chapel, South & 11th St., Lincoln

Mar 6 (1st Wednesday)

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

EVERY THURSDAY

HIV Test Site, Nebraska AIDS Project, 3610 Dodge, Suite 110, West Door Omaha 7-9:30pm

G/L Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30pm, Unitarian Church, 6300 "A" Lincoln, Call V.J. 477-3526

EVERY FRIDAY

Network Q, 1pm, Cable Channel 20, Lincoln
Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm, 1723 Leavenworth, Omaha
Lesbian Discussion Grp
Lincoln 7:30pm 472-5644
Al-Anon - Canceled

Alcoholics Anonymous Omaha: "An Alternative" Mens Stag 7pm, Lowe Ave "Live & Let Live" 8:15pm Pella Lutheran, 303 S. 411 Lincoln: 8pm, Plymouth Congregational, 438-5214
Youth Talkline, 7pm-12m, Support/ Info for callers up to age 23, 473-7932, Lincoln

EVERY SATURDAY

Lincoln Women for Sobriety, 10am, Gathering Place, Lincoln, Judith 472-2598
Womens Support Grp, 11am, MCC-Omaha
Youth Support Grp, 291-6781, age 13-21 gay lesbian, or questioning sexuality, Omaha
Youth Talkline, 7p-12m, 473-7932, Lincoln

THURSDAY

February 1 (1st Thursday)

Citizens for Equal Protection, 7pm, 1st Unitarian, Omaha
Gay & Lesbian Parent Support Group, 7:30pm, MCC-Omaha
NOW Program Night, 7pm, 1st Unitarian, 3114 Harney, Omaha
Babe's Street Opens, 19 & St. Marys

Feb 8 (2nd Thursday)

P-FLAG 1st Methodist-Mead Hall, 7020 Cass Omaha 291-6781 7pm
Straight Spouse Support Group 7-9pm, Mead Hall, 1st Methodist 7020 Cass, Room 209, 291-6781

FRIDAY

February 2 (1st Friday)

February 9 (2nd Friday)

Frontrunners, 6:30 p.m., Friday Afternoon Club The Chesterfield, Omaha
Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm & 10pm - 2am, 1723 Leavenworth, Omaha
Womyn's Book Discussion Group, Call Laurie 556-0937 or Beth 435-2418

Feb 15 (3rd Thursday)

Metropolitan Club, 6:30pm, Neon Goose, 10th & Pacific, Omaha
GLAGN Support Group, Grand Island, (308) 384-7235

February 16 (3rd Friday)

February 23 (4th Friday)

Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm & 10pm - 2am, 1723 Leavenworth, Omaha

March 1 (1st Friday)

March 8 (2nd Friday)

Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm & 10pm - 2am, 1723 Leavenworth, Omaha

SATURDAY

February 3 (1st Saturday)

River City Gender Alliance, for Transgender community Box 680, Council Bluffs 51502
Heartland Gay Rodeo Assoc, DC's, Omaha General Meeting 6pm

February 10 (2nd Saturday)

Deadline for March Issue of New Voice
SAGE Coffee House 6-9pm, Lesbian Videos 7:15pm, 3319 S. 46, Lincoln, 488-4178
Juli Burney & T. Marni Vos perform live stand-up comedy at the Lied Center, 8pm, Lincoln

February 17 (3rd Saturday)

ICE BOWL Regional Bowling Tournament, Omaha
JSAT Workshop, "Spreading the Good News", 1st Methodist Church, Omaha
Game Night, 6:30 pm, MCC- Omaha

Feb 22 (4th Thursday)

March 2 (1st Saturday)

Mar 7 (1st Thursday)

P-FLAG 1st Methodist-Mead Hall, 7020 Cass, Omaha 291-6781, 7pm
Straight Spouse Support Group 7-9pm, Mead Hall, 1st Methodist 7020 Cass, Room 209, 291-6781

February 24 (4th Saturday)

American Professional & Business Guild, Sioux City, IA, For Information, write: ABPG, Box 142, Sioux City, Iowa 51102
GLAGN 4th Annual Drag Show & Dance, Adams Co. Fairgrounds, Hastings
RCMC Spaghetti Dinner, Unity Church, Om

March 9 (2nd Saturday)

River City Gender Alliance, for Transgender community Box 680, Council Bluffs 51502
Heartland Gay Rodeo Assoc, DC's, Omaha General Meeting 6pm

CLASSIFIEDS

ORGANIZATIONS

D.J. For Hire

For Parties, Receptions, and Fundraisers, any type of music for your special occasion. Call Paul Today ...572-6222

TYPING NEEDS?

493-4075/493-2308

Will handle all, very reasonable rates; documents, correspondence, term papers, other office work including mail processing. (My96)

Home Improvement Company. Painting, Wall Papering, Faux Finishes, Kitchens, Bathrooms, Ceramic Tile, Flooring. Michael 344-3262 (Au96)

Give Your Valentine a special gift — YOU wrapped up in nothing but a golden tan from St. Mary's Tan. 2202 St. Mary's Ave., 341-3740

MASSAGE

OVERWORKED? UNDERPAID? STRESSED OUT? RELAX! Pamper yourself with Swedish Massage in the privacy of your home. Nationally/state licensed. Call 553-8657 for information/appointment. (Ju96)

Full Body Swedish Massage. Healing, Nurturing (in a Peaceful Environment) Juan-Carlos, C.M.T. (402) 342-1017. (Mr96)

Full Body Rub — Deep heat & Oils. Relax, Release Stress, Body Grooming. Call 6-10 p.m. and weekends only 491-3176 (Mr96)

It's the perfect Valentine gift! Gift certificates, special lotions, oils, and accessories from St. Mary's Tan. 2202 St. Mary's Ave., 341-3740

FOR RENT

Non-smoking Roommate wanted: White heterosexual female with gay friends looking for gay individual to share rent of 1700 sq. ft. fully furnished two bedroom/two bath ground level apartment located near Westroads. Country kitchen, formal dining room. \$375/mo. Deposit and references required. Call 397-7416. (Fe96)

Roommate wanted to share two bedroom house in Benson. \$250.00 a month. References required. Call Teresa 455-4147 — leave a message. (Fe96)

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Attend the Imperial Court of Nebraska (ICON) Board Meeting Monday, February 5 at The New Run Bar 1715 Leavenworth Omaha 7 p.m.

PERSONALS for Womyn

GWF, Tall, Feminine, Blonde, Slender, Blue Eyes, "40", seeks GWF for Relationship. Enjoy sports, movies, music, romantic dinners. Call 453-7989. Julie. (Fe96)

Spring Break is just around the corner! Don't hit the beaches looking as white as the winter snow. Start tanning now at St. Mary's Tan, 2202 St. Mary's Avenue, 341-3740

PERSONALS for Men

GWM, 28 y.o., 6', 170 lbs, looking for friends only. My other half works too much and I'm looking for a little excitement. Call to leave message. 712-325-4069. Ask for Rob. (Fe96)

GWM 39, HIV Neg. 6', 160#, Looking for males 25-40 for safe, fun times — Looking for well endowed men. I'll be waiting to hear from you. 402-457-4271 (Fe96)

B1 White Male, submissive bottom seeks well endowed dominant top. Age and Race no problem, Blacks especially welcome. Use me for your pleasure. Open to all but pain. Write: PO Box 392, Essex IA 51638 (Fe96)

BIWM, 45, seeks married WM with average or better build, a non-smoker, and wanting to meet and enjoy whatever on regular basis. Must be flexible, clean, and discrete. Age unimportant. Have many interests, especially yours. Write: Box 37088, Omaha, NE 68137—0088 (Fe96)

Young thinking and acting GWM, early 50's — Handsome, active, and spirited — Looking for others in the area interested in becoming friends, possibly dating, and whatever else that may follow! Write to: Jerry, P.O. Box 31054, Omaha, NE 68131-0054. I'm looking forward to hearing from You! (Fe96)

HARD HAIR... Just Wanted To Wind You Up! Happy Valentines DayFondly, DB
PRINTING PLUS.....We Love You,
New Voice Staff

GWM, 27-6' 195lbs/Blnd/Green - very masc — Prof. Seek: Ltr - w/ Honest Person who is willing to live life to the fullest - yet remain in the closet! In return I give a life of love and happiness, one that allows Freedoms yet creates a warm family. Your secret is safe with me! (Write Me) R/

PO Box 44091
Omaha, NE 68144-0091 (Fe96)

Feeling Blue because you'll be alone on Valentine's Day? We can't guarantee that a golden tan will help you find your one true love, but it can't hurt!! **St. Mary's Tan**, 2202 St. Mary's Avenue, 341-3740.

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha is looking for a part-time Music Director to lead our music program. Responsibilities include preparation & presentation of choral music for one service on Sunday (20+ voice choir), scheduling special music for second Sunday service, choir rehearsal during week, and presentation of special musical programs during the year. If interested, please send a resume or letter to:

**Rev. Dr. C. Earle Lewis,
Pastor
P.O. Box 3173
Omaha, NE 68103**

The New Voice of Nebraska Classified Ad

Write your ad here: _____

Classified ads in the *New Voice of Nebraska* are \$3.00 for 20 words or less. Each additional word is 20¢. Ads must be received by the 10th of the month preceding the month you wish your ad to appear.

Mail to:

**The New Voice of Nebraska
P.O. Box 3512
Omaha, NE 68103**

Scott Randsome Pumps Up The Midwest At THE MAX on February 4

Sunday, Feb. 11

The ICE BOWL Show Is Back
Celebrate The Weekend With The Winners

Sunday, Feb. 18

Heartthrobs & The Broken Hearted
An E.C.O.N. Variety Show



Sunday, Feb. 25

THE MAX Presents Our Superstar Show
Miss Laura Gray
Entertainer Of The Year

Scott Randsome

THE MAX

Jackson At 15th
Omaha - 316-1110

Valentine's Day

Thursday 1st
BACKTRACKS-Disco dance & costume contest.

Sunday 4th
SINGLE-OUT PARTY-Get "singled out" for a date.

Sunday 11th
MISS CITY SWEETHEART-Oldest continuous pageant in the state.

Sunday 18th
WET JOCKEY SHORT CONTEST

Sunday 25th
Q REVIEW-Cabaret entertainment at it's finest.

Tuesday 27th
MARDI GRAS-The 3rd largest Gay Holiday!

**Q 226 South 9th.
Lincoln. 475-2269**

*Make reservations now
for Valentine's Day Dinner.*