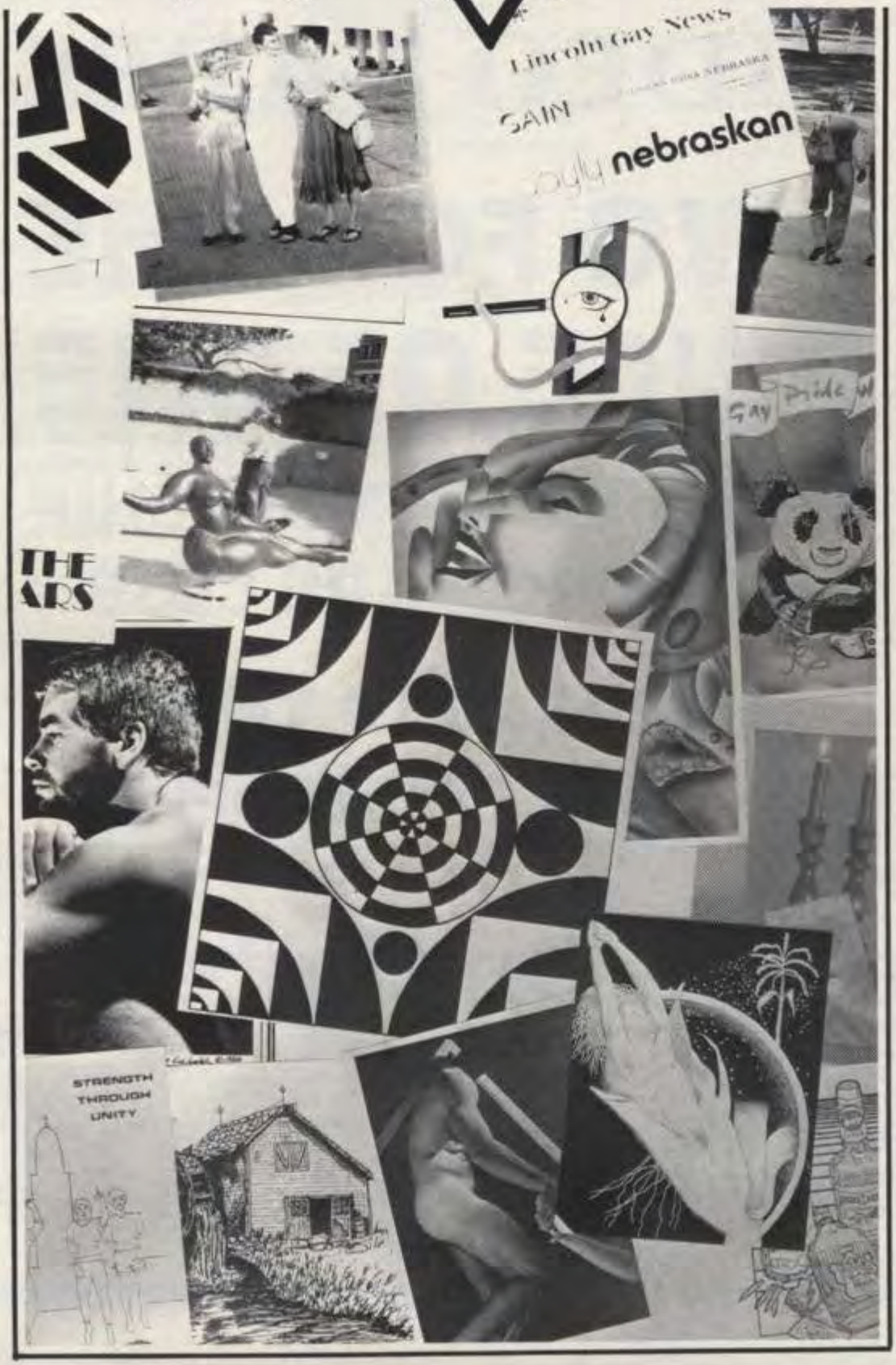
VOL. IV NO. I

MARCH 10, 1987

The New Voice

OF NEBRASKA



Our Turn

Views and opinions by *The New Voice* staff.

The Cover

This issue's cover represents three successful years for *The New Voice*. Many artists and photographers contributed their works during this time. The collage was designed by Larry Wiseblood, founder and editor of *The New Voice* for the past three years. Sandy was recently named as new editor.

A Solid Future With Your Support

Since my assignment to editor of *The New Voice*, I have received a lot of support from friends in the community. However, some have been concerned about the future of the magazine. I do not hesitate to reassure them that *The New Voice* will survive staff re-structuring.

What, if anything, will be different about the magazine? I see *The New Voice* as a public forum for the gay/lesbian community -- not to speak for us, but to allow individuals and organizations to express various concerns. *The New Voice* is also a resource tool for the community: providing information to gays and lesbians and to those who support us. I want to focus on these objectives with your assistance.

Naturally, some opinions will be very controversial. That much will not change. However, if something in *The New Voice* disturbs a reader, I want to be sure she/he has every opportunity to respond in turn.

After all, we are a diverse community and we don't agree on everything. Let's not be afraid to discuss our differences openly and honestly. I would like to see *The New Voice* facilitate such discussion. The magazine will only reflect what the community puts into it.

In the meantime, I hope I can count on your continued support. Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss your needs/concerns.

--Sandy
Editor

Don't Assume Anything

I have often hears it said the *The New Voice* is a "gay male magazine." I can agree with that label to a point. While it is true that more articles are written by and about men, it is also true that more articles are submitted by men. We have clearly invited womyn to submit articles on any subject, but the response has been disappointing.

We have wanted *The New Voice* to function as a forum for the gay/lesbian community -- a publication reflecting the diversity of interests and politics within our community. As expressed, every article and opinion should stand on its own. This is, of course, a difficult objective. Obviously, the white, male, middle-class perspective has been over-represented.

I will not hesitate to admit my disenchantment with *The New Voice*. (I have considered leaving the staff on numerous occasions.) I am still participating in its publication, however, because I enjoy working with the printed word -- even if I don't agree with what is said. Also, if a gay/lesbian publication seeks to accurately represent lesbian interests, I would rather have a few lesbian womyn on staff, even reluctantly, than none at all.

I am somewhat annoyed that a few womyn in the community have questioned my Lesbian Ethics because I help out with this magazine. My personal politics are just that: personal; seldom does my own philosophy agree with those ex-

March 1987

THE NEW VOICE STAFF

EDITOR—Sandy
ASSOCIATE EDITOR—Anita Freeman-Soltisyk
COPY EDITOR—Gary Carey
TREASURER—Jodi
SECRETARY—John Arnold
DISTRIBUTION—Randy Sowards
TYPESETTING—Randy F., Steve H.
PHOTOGRAPHERS—Sandy, Larry Wiseblood
Jerry Peck

OTHER STAFF—
Larry Wiseblood, Dave Michael
John Riley, Jerry Peck
Garry Griffith, Pam
Randy J.

PHONE CONTACTS—
LINCOLN 475-7740 Larry Wiseblood
OMAHA 453-6550 Garry Griffith
345-2181 Jerry Peck

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The New Voice of Nebraska
P.O. Box 80819, Lincoln, NE 68501
P.O. Box 3512, Omaha, NE 68103

pressed in *The New Voice*. Yet, there is an assumption that if I have my name on the staff page, I must agree with every opinion published in *The New Voice*. If anyone wants to know where I stand on the issues, just ask me. You might be surprised.

--A.F.-S.

A Diverse Community

As gay men and lesbians congregate in major cities such as Omaha and Lincoln, attempts are made to create organizations for mutual support. The greatest obstacle to these organizations is the negative attitudes from those outside of the organizations (and too often, from within).

It is easy to criticize or withdraw from the activities of a particular organization. Struggling to make changes can cause burn-out as can being involved in too many organizations that need your participation and support (both financial and moral).

Before one becomes too critical of any organization they should investigate the program to search for the positive things that are being done. The organization may not meet your particular needs at this time, but it surely is meeting someone's need.

Consider, too, the difficulty that our organizations face. The gay/lesbian community is a diverse minority, which means that organizations have a smaller number to draw from than the non-gay/lesbian groups. We are diverse in backgrounds and in present life situations. The only common bond that we share entirely is our sexual preference for those of our same sex (homosexuality). Not even that is without diversity. Gay men differ greatly from lesbians, and within these two groups there are diverse attitudes as to what is sexually acceptable. We are all in the process of coming out, and in different stages of homosexual development. As gay men and lesbians we attempt to incorporate our sexuality with our cultural background, emotions, philosophy, religion, and politics. The blending is complex, and the end product is indeed unique. To find one someone who shares your perspective in all areas is a monumental task. For an organization to be formed to meet the needs of any group is an even greater task.

My hat is off to each and every organization in this area. I cannot be active in all groups or financially support all groups extensively. I can encourage those involved, attend functions that meet my needs, and give financially as I am able. I can be proud of their accomplishments, and offer constructive criticism. With all of its diversity, I am proud to be part of our gay/lesbian community which strives to provide mutual support for those that are willing to accept it. The benefits of being a part of the community are many, but we each have to apply for the benefits. Get involved. It feels good!

--Jerry Peck

The New Voice
Needs Your

★ *Time*
★ *Commitment*
★ *Support*
★ *Talents*
★ *Contributions*
★ *Feedback*
★ *Articles & Poetry*
♥ *Love*

Contact
Box 80819,
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501

475-7740

Letters

Concern About Couples Group

Dear *New Voice:*

As so often occurs in everyday life, situations arise which, if left unattended, can cause many hurt feelings and misunderstandings which cannot be repaired. While there are many who do not really care what happened with Capitol City Couples, there are a few of us who would like to clear the air.

Capitol City Couples is a worthwhile organization which can provide the gay/lesbian community of Lincoln with a support group which does no currently exist in any organized fashion. Its goals are to provide a social, informative, educational atmosphere in which couples can share with other couples. (So stated in a rather abbreviated form.) Those of us who participated in the organizational meeting of the group were willing to do what ever was needed to get it going. It is a true statement to say that we were enthusiastic about the concept. At that meeting, the majority who attended to take our time with the education/informative aspect and work to build up our membership and get to know one another better. However, after that meeting, the wishes of the majority were basically ignored and meetings were scheduled and events planned that we were not a administrative body to do just that.

We held a meeting which was attended by the same couples which participated in the organizational meeting to air our differences. It became apparent at that meeting that our goals/desires for the group were different from those of the couple who initially began the group. As they began the group and had very definite ideas of what they wanted to do, we chose to withdraw our membership. It was simply a matter of their objectives differing from ours.

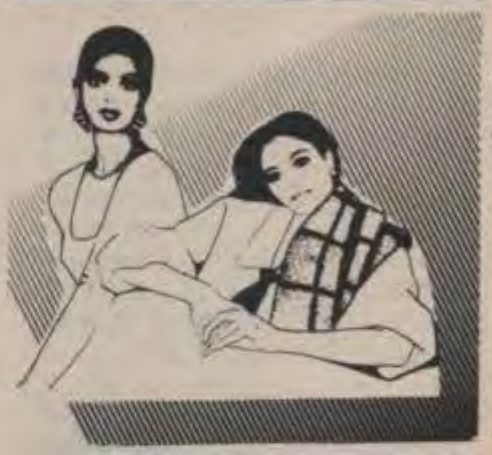
We do not desire the demise of Capitol City Couples; in contrast, we wish it the best of luck and a long and fulfilling existence. We do not, however, have any intention of lying. If we are approached by anyone seeking information about Capitol City Couples, we will continue to do as we have in the past: we state the group's goals/objectives; if asked why we no longer belong, we will say our objectives differ from the organization's. Anything beyond that is our personal opinion, which can either be accepted or rejected. Capitol City Couples, either as a group or individual members, are entitled to not only their personal opinions, but the right to voice them; so are we.

Former Members of Capitol City Couples

Jamie Miller
Michael S. Francis
Dale Wicks
Peg Quinn
Loren Berthelsen
Stephen Danko

Response to Letter

Capitol City Couples is a member of Couples National Network and is bound by the terms of the organization's guidelines. If confusion was to be, it comes because the former members either didn't or wouldn't understand or conform to the terms.



The New Voice Begins Fourth Year

Third Anniversary

With this issue, *The New Voice* begins its fourth year. *The New Voice* has a proud past and is the longest-running major gay publication in Nebraska. Many volunteers and supporters have contributed to this magazine in the past three years. We are truly a community publication representing Omaha, Lincoln, Council Bluffs, and cities and towns all over the state of Nebraska.

The idea for starting *The New Voice* had its roots in the summer of 1983. I had talked to Gary Carey, a former staff member of the defunct *Capitol Times*, about the need for re-establishing a newspaper or magazine for the gay/lesbian community. Gary provided a great deal of sound input toward establishing a local publication.

In December, 1983, I distributed flyers at the Office Lounge and at the Sanctuary in Lincoln. I asked interested parties who felt the need for a publication to attend a meeting at Commonplace U.M.H.E. on the UNL campus. The first meeting was in early January, 1984, with six enthusiastic people in attendance. Future meetings were sometimes discouraging when only a few people attended, and at that point, I almost gave up. But with persistence, the first issue was set to go to press sometime in February, 1984.

The first major obstacle was having a financial base to cover expenses. I called friends and asked for contributions so the first issue could get off the ground. Five people donated $25 each to start the magazine. Delays occurred because of a small staff, a lack of articles, and problems with layout and design. Tom Pasco suggested the name *The New Voice* which was adopted by the group. Dave Michael designed the magazine's logo.

The first issue was distributed on March 11, 1984 with a circulation of 500 copies and a total of 12 pages. The magazine started as a Lincoln effort, but quickly blossomed into a statewide publication. Advertising was solicited for the first time in April, 1984 for the second issue. The smaller 5.5" x 8.5" size was used the first two years.

Distribution has increased to 1250 copies. The magazine is financed by advertising, fund-raisers, subscriptions and donations. *The New Voice* has always been a volunteer effort with no paid staff. Many talented artists, photographers and writers have helped the magazine.

We have faced many obstacles but have survived. This includes negative attitudes from individuals, bars and organizations. Controversial articles and covers have caused us problems. A diverse community will have diverse opinions and it has not been easy to represent such diversity, although we have tried to maintain a neutral stance. We were also embroiled in a lawsuit directed at us from the *Voice News of Southern Lancaster County*. The Hickman publication lost in its attempt to stop us from using our name. On a positive note, we received publicity from several local newspapers, as well as *USA Today*.

The New Voice will continue to be a viable, creative effort with your support. Recently, we were featured in *The Advocate* (February 17, 1987), which referred to us as a "really good, monthly gay magazine."

--Larry Wiseblood

Many Publications Have Come & Gone

Lincoln and Omaha have seen several publications come and go since the early 1970's. The early newsletters from the Lincoln Gay Action Group were the first to appear and had many varied titles, including *The Newsletter*, *New Newsletter*, *Forum*, *Gay News*, *UN-GAG LIN-AGE News*, *The Gay Answer*, and *The Liberator*. *The Gayly Nebraskan*, besides providing information about the Lincoln Gay Action Group and University Gay Action Group, also had gossip and local and national news. The early publications were usually mimeographed. This lent to their seeming to be poor-quality publications that sometimes looked as though they had been put together hastily.

Join Your Coalition!

Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights
Box 94882, Lincoln, NE 68509

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone(s) _____

Enclosed is my contribution of $ _____ (Suggested annual dues are: $10—Single, $15—Household; those who can pay more are encouraged to do so. Low income persons may pay less or request a waiver of dues.)

I would consider: ☐ Serving on a committee. My special interests include: _____
☐ Helping from time to time
☐ Participating in the Speakers Bureau

☐ Committing a monthly or quarterly amount to support the Coalition financially.

I have the following skills which might be helpful: _____

I am involved in the following other organizations: _____

☐ I don't wish to become a Coalition member at this time, but would like to receive the quarterly newsletter.

☐ I am especially concerned about confidentiality—please send all mailings to me in envelopes, by First Class mail.

The next major gay publication to come on the scene was *GAIN* (Gay Awareness in Iowa and Nebraska), which started its first issue in June 1977 and continued until late 1979. *GAIN* was a political and social group located in Omaha that had an emphasis on Gay Rights, locally and nationally. *GAIN*, a monthly newsletter, was the first gay publication in Nebraska to accept advertising and print photographs.

The *Lincoln Gay News* started as a monthly publication of the Lincoln Gay Action Group, but later became independent after the Lincoln Gay Action Group folded. The publication started in the spring of 1978 and lasted until the summer of 1979. A special issue appeared in July 1981. The *Lincoln Gay News* emphasized news and events. Photographs and colored paper gave the *Gay News* a distinct flavor. The monthly publication also was the first to use a smaller 7" x 8.5" size. The *Lincoln Gay News* will always be remembered for its professional content and for a better look than had been seen in Lincoln gay publications.

The Capital Times of Lincoln was a short-lived monthly publication that started in August 1981 and died by the year's end. Articles stressed organizations and events. Organizational newsletters have also been an important part of the gay community, with the *M.C.C. Newsletter* being the oldest and largest. Other organizations with current newsletters include Dignity, P-Flag, T.W.O., Community of Grace, and the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights.

--Larry Wiseblood

Local Events

Gay/Lesbian Student Month

The UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center has declared March 1987 as Gay/Lesbian Student Month. The purpose of Gay/Lesbian Student Month is to educate the public on gay/lesbian concerns, create awareness on campuses and raise funds for the Gay/Lesbian Resource Center.

The following events will be held during March 1987:

- March 6 and 7 (Friday and Saturday)

  "Torch Song Trilogy" A three part play about "life" that shows the human side of people: humor, sadness, and many other emotions. The play won the Tony Award for 1983. Curtain time: 7:30 p.m. Location: Nebraska Union Ballroom. Advance tickets are available at the Nebraska Union front desk for $4 for students and $5 for non-students. Tickets will be sold at the door the night of the play for $4.50 for students and $5.50 for non-students. Refreshments will be sold at intermissions.

  The play is directed by Gene Guenther. The Assistant Director is Chris Grolitzer. The cast is: Kevin J. Jones as "Arnold," Christopher Grolitzer as "Ed," Katie Boner as "Laurel," Scott Campbell as "Allan," Rita Vermeulen as "Ma," Joel Cason as "David," and Mark Withrow as "Lady Blues." The play is funded in part by a grant from the Lincoln Arts Council.

- March 10 (Tuesday)

  "The All New Gay/Lesbian Dating Game" A fun alternative to "normal" boring dating games. 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., Kelly's, 200 S. 18th. $1 entry fee for participants, $2 door cover. Prizes for the participants. Sign up sheets will be available at Kelly's and Cherchez la Femme.

- March 10 (Tuesday)

  "The Gaylywed Game" Find out how well gay/lesbian couples think they know each other. 9 - 10 p.m., Kelly's, 200 S. 18th. $1 entry fee for participants, $2 cover at the door. Prizes for the participants. Sign up sheets will be available at Kelly's and Cherchez la Femme.

- March 12 (Thursday)

  Dating seminar and the video: The Male Couple. 8 p.m., Nebraska Union, room 342.

- March 15 (Sunday)

  Potluck Picnic with Nebraska's Gay/Lesbian Groups. 2 - 6 p.m. Bring table service, a beverage, and a main dish. Call 472-5644 for location.

- March 15 (Sunday)

  "Sometimes a Fantasy" - A benefit show displaying the finest forms of gender illusion in the state. 8 - 10 p.m. Cost: $2 at the door. Location: Nebraska Union Ballroom.

- March 19 (Thursday)

  Wear Blue Jeans if You're Gay/Lesbian Day !!! Show your pride.

- March 19 (Thursday)

  "Lesbian Couples" A panel discussion of lesbian relationships. 8 p.m., Nebraska Union, room 342.

Couples Group Sponsors Social

Capitol City Couples will host a coffee social on March 11, 1987 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Lambda House at 2845 R street.

Meet other couples and have fun. Bring along other couples to join in the festivities. For more information call Jim or Rod at 423-1374.

Something Familiar Something Peculiar

This rather interesting title describes the second of three concerts during the third performance year of Omaha's River City Mixed Chorus.

The Chorus, under the direction of Judith Bieker, presents its Spring concert, "Something Familiar ... Something Peculiar," at the Strauss Performing Arts Center Recital Hall on the UNO campus, Sunday, March 29, at 3:07 p.m. (Yes: 3:07 p.m.)

The concert features a wide variety of music, including selections from Sondheim, Faure, Barber, and Omaha composer John Coe. Familiar, and peculiar, tunes will indeed be presented.

Advance tickets are $5.00 each, from any Chorus member, Brandeis, or TIX. Tickets at the door are $6.00 each. Tickets for students and seniors are $3.00 each.

Weekend parking is plentiful and free, adjacent to the Performing Arts Center on the UNO campus.

Midwest Gay Arts Festival II Planned

Held as the kick-off event for two weeks of Gay Pride celebrations in Omaha, the Midwest Gay Arts Festival II is scheduled for the weekend of June 13-14, 1987, at the Strauss Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Plans for the 1987 festival include:

- Performance by nationally-known singer ***Sue Fink***
- The Pride Concert of the ***River City Mixed Chorus***
- Special guest appearance by Kansas City's ***Heartland Men's Chorus***
- Second annual ***Art Show and Sale***

Midwestern artists are invited to display their arts and crafts at the art show and sale during the Festival. For information, please contact:

Art Show Chair
River City Mixed Chorus
P.O Box 315
Omaha, NE 68101

The Chorus would like to hear from other area organizations interested in the Festival. For information on tickets, accommodations, or to be placed on the Festival mailing list, please write:

Operations Chair
River City Mixed Chorus
P.O. Box 315
Omaha, NE 68101

Your response by April 15 will help us plan for the Festival. We hope this Festival is a source of pride and unity for the gay population of the Midwest!

Imperial Court Benefit for Lambda House

On February 1 at Kelly's Bar in Lincoln, performers from the Imperial Court of Nebraska gave a sparkling benefit performance to celebrate Project Concern and Lambda House.

For this reporter who has lived mostly on the community's fringe, this performance was a first-time and exciting introduction to illusionist work -- and I was impressed! I found the artistry and good taste of the performers effective, entertaining and enjoyable.

The benefit cleared $175, which was enormously welcome. Lambda House is extremely grateful for this generosity and effort on the part of Imperial Court, some of whom are planning a project in Omaha similar to Lambda House. We wish them all the luck in the world, and hope we can be as much a part of their success as they are of ours.

--P.W.

New Chance House Raises Funds

On Sunday, February 8, New Chance House held its first fund raise at The Max at 9:00 p.m. The success of the event was due to the entertainers and the support of the crowd in attendance.

The New Chance House fund raised over $2000 that evening by selling raffle tickets, prize auction, receipts from the door, and tips from some of the entertainers. It was the total of all of these efforts that made the evening a success. The total of funds for the project is $2680. Early funds for the project were obtained by "The Group," men and women who gave their time catering dinners and parties, giving their earnings to this fund. Their donation of $305 started the New Chance House Fund. Members of "The Group" were Tom Cech, Ron Minobe, Don Parks, JoJo Morrison, JoAnne, Gary West, and David Hansen.

The New Chance House has the following officers: president Gary West, vice-president JoJo Morrison, secretary Lonnie Peterson, and treasurer Donna.

The goal of the New Chance House is to be able to have meeting rooms and conference rooms for groups and organizations in the community with the primer purpose to provide temporary housing for men and women of the community in their time of need. We hope that you or someone you know or love never needs this temporary shelter, but it will be available if needed. Your help will make this project become a reality sooner. Any help will be appreciated and can be used.

Anyone wanting to make donations or wanting more information, please feel free to contact any officer, or Gary West, 2911 Mason Street #1, Omaha, NE 68105.

Jesse Jackson Speaks at the Indian Center

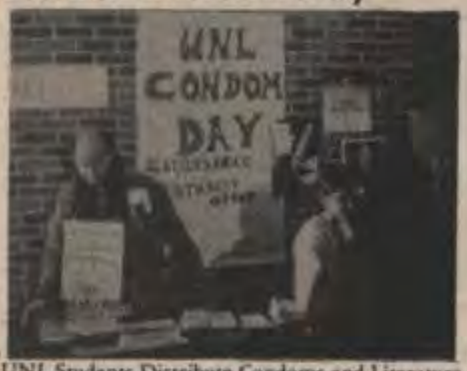
The Reverend Jesse Jackson visited Lincoln on February 11. While here, he spoke at the Indian Center to a large group of people including farmers and several minorities, as well as members of the Gay/Lesbian communities.

Rev. Jackson addressed many issues which he and the Rainbow Coalition are involved with concerning the Midwest, including the plight of farmers, minorities, children's rights, and the rights of gays and lesbians.

When confronted about his views on the rights of gays and lesbians, Rev. Jackson replied that "gays and lesbians have the same constitutional rights as everyone else" and that "they are people, too."

--John Riley

UNL Condom Day Stirs Controversy



UNL Students Distribute Condoms and Literature

February 17, 1987, UNL Condom Day, will be a day in the school year that the UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association members, volunteers, and people across Nebraska will never forget.

GLSA planned to hand out condoms outside of the Nebraska Union. University officials first argued that condom distribution was illegal and the pamphlets unsuitable. After that excuse was found to be ludicrous, UNL officials sent their attorneys to court to get a temporary restraining order. The NCLU backed GLSA with an attorney and the condoms and pamphlets were distributed. Judge Donald Endacott refused to issue a restraining order, since UNL officials "failed to present clear and convincing evidence that to do so would pose a threat" and ruled that the distribution of condoms would fall under freedom of speech. GLSA had a booth in the Nebraska Union giving out literature. UNL Condom Day was one event in celebration of National Condom Week.

A fully detailed story will appear in April's issue of *The New Voice*.

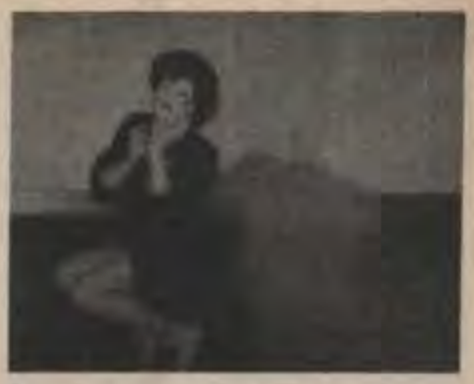
--Rodney A. Bell, II

Absolutely "The Max"

Benefit Held for The Chance House

A benefit was held for The New Chance House on February 7 at The Max. The backdrop was a slide presentation of the various properties that are being considered and people involved in this project.

I attempted to get one shot of each performance (except for the skagg-drag numbers), and my roll of 24 exposures ran out before the show was over. (It was a looong show.) I can not elaborate on each performance, but will relate what was outstanding for me. I enjoy a good laugh, so when Don "Flowers" came out in a mini skirt, maxi hat with flags rising from his anklets, I enjoyed. Gary West donned his balloons which were burst, followed by the removal of his frock. (What a sight.) We also were entertained by an impersonation of a female impersonator, impersonating Grace Jones. He tends bar at The Max, and has the nicest stomach hair. (Does that make it skagg-drag?)



An unexpected privilege was the debut of the new Judy Garland. It took me some time to recognize Vince as Judy. I told him later that all he needed to make the illusion more complete was a reputation of being an alcoholic. Vince now has business cards indicating that he is the "Show Director" for The Max. If he listed his titles and characters, he'd need at least a 5 x 7 inch calling card.

A new performer made her appearance as a male impersonator, and a man did a male impersonation. Drag shows sure have changed since I saw my first one seven years ago -- and all for the better. The

...continued

show was for a new cause, and I'm sure that every performer would have liked to have been a part of the show, but the show does close at one.

--Jerry Peck

Bridget & Friends Perform to Large Audience

Several hundred enthusiastic lesbians and gays enjoyed the original comedy and lip-sync of Bridget and Friends on February 22 at The Max. This was the first performance at The Max for Bridget and Friends, a Lincoln-based troupe of womyn. The event was a fund-raiser for *The New Voice*, whose April issue will provide details and photos of the event.

--Larry Wiseblood

A Big Salute to Our Organizations

Stepping Stones

I laughingly call myself a "late bloomer" -- I was 40 years old before my first homosexual relationship. Like many people I had done a great job of repressing feelings and desires that didn't seem "normal."

When I discovered the joy and satisfaction of loving another woman, I began my coming out process immediately. I barely paused at the closet door.

All through this process, various organization played an essential role. I gradually became more open, increased my circle of friends and found more and more role models who were happy, emotionally healthy, and comfortable with their sexuality.

My first involvement was with Metropolitan Community Church. I had been away from organized religion for 15 years and didn't think I would ever be actively involved in church again. In MCC I found a church that touched needs that were deeply buried. I found people who had a deep belief in God and a style of service that reflected this. I was most deeply touched by the communion service as I saw people going forward, singly and in couples, for communion and a personal prayer. The bonds of fellowship and love could be felt throughout the congregation.

After several months I began to feel a need to also affirm that I could be lesbian and a competent, professional person. I knew no other homosexuals in my profession and began to feel very isolated. A close friend encouraged me to try the Metropolitan Club. I worked up my courage and attended a dance sponsored by the group. I sat on the sidelines for a while but then a smiling lady asked my name and invited me to join her and her friends. I suddenly found that I was not isolated and not the only professional who was homosexual.

A friend and I attended a River City Mixed Chorus concert and I discovered that a group of gay and lesbian singers could present serious music of high quality. I admired those musicians so highly and was thrilled when I passed auditions and became a singing member.

I had also become aware of a loosely organized group called the Womyn's Group. On a beautiful fall day I joined 250 other lesbians for a riverboat cruise. I came close to cardiac arrest as I considered the variety of ages, styles, and professions represented. It is true -- they're *everywhere*.

I've begun to repay some of the debt I feel I owe to the organizations that helped me through my "growing up" time as a lesbian. I'm most active in Metropolitan Community Church but I've also helped organize a gay Al-Anon group and am active with River City Mixed Chorus and Metropolitan Club. I attend the monthly meetings of the Bars and Organizations of Omaha group and will be helping with Pride Week activities this summer.

It's important to me to participate in these organizations. They still serve the original purposes I identified, allowing me to be open, increase my circle of friends, and continually find new role models who are comfortable with their sexuality.

The various organizations have served as stepping stones for me throughout my coming out and growing up process. Each new group brought me one step further as did each new and more visible activity. Today I am comfortable with myself as a woman, a lesbian, a professional, and an active member of the gay and lesbian community, thanks in a large part to our various organizations.

--Sharon

Adult Children of Alcoholics Meets in Lincoln

Adult Children of Alcoholics, Struggle for Intimacy, It Will Never Happen to Me . . .Perhaps it has happened to you, and now you're wondering what to do. You may be one of many who grew up in a home where alcohol caused problems. Adulthood promised freedom and you were surprised when things you said never would happen to you, began happening.

Maybe you are presently involved with someone who drinks too much. Perhaps you're drinking too much. Do the words "I'll never do what dad did" or "I'd leave her in a minute if she treated me that way" come back to haunt you?

One way to see if you relate to Adult Children of Alcoholics is to pick up one of the books mentioned at the beginning of this article. If you do find yourself identifying, it may be painful, too painful to deal with alone, just as life may be at times.

There are many resources available to Adult Children of Alcoholics in the Lincoln/Omaha area. In Lincoln, professional services are offered by Child Guidance, as well as by individual counselors. Several support groups exist, and more are taking off.

One such group is the Gay/Lesbian Adult Children of Alcoholics meeting which gathers on Sunday evenings. This group is approaching its one-year anniversary. A Gay/Lesbian group may provide a more comfortable environment to share about same-sex intimacy, as well as other Adult Children issues. For more information about this group, call 488-3190 or 477-5235.

--Chris Carroll

Al-Anon for Gay and Lesbians

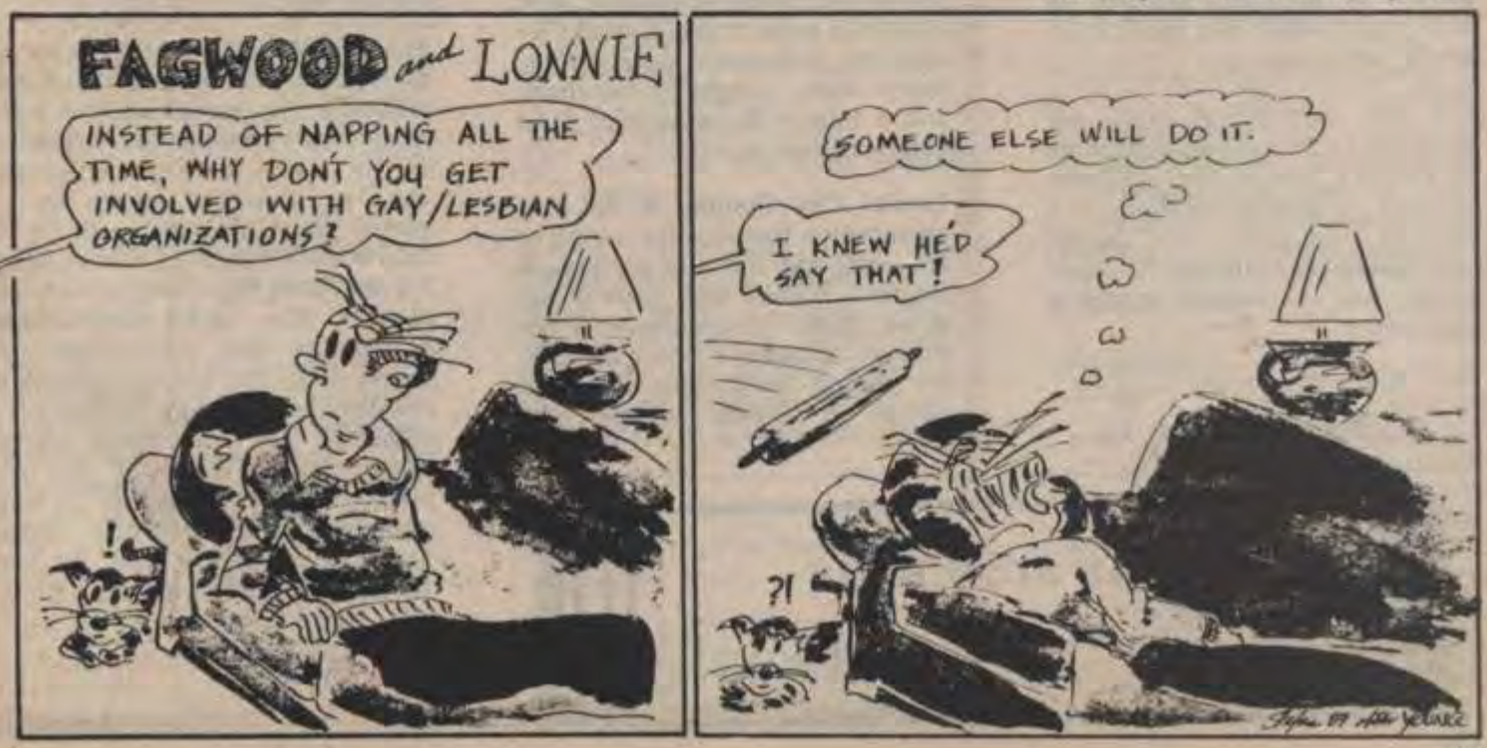
Have you ever been in a relationship with someone who drinks more than they should? Does someone in you family drink too much or user drugs? If so, Al-Anon may be able to help you learn a more peaceful way of life.

I seem to gravitate toward alcoholics. It seems I have a deep inner conviction that I can help those persons realize their full potential and become who they were meant to be. As you might imagine, that belief has caused me more pain than seemed possible.

I was married to an alcoholic for seven years and lived with another one for five years. I have gone through the arguments, the making-up, the wild spending sprees, and the sinking feeling when there's not enough money to pay the bills.

My greatest pain came from learning that my son was addicted to alcohol and drugs. I felt that I had failed as a parent and went through things for him that I wouldn't do for any lover. I bailed him out of jail, believed his stories about his stereo being stolen, and didn't do anything when loose change disappeared. He was finally arrested and juvenile court ordered him into treatment for his chemical dependency.

This marked the beginning of my recovery because I had to attend the "Family Program" with other parents, friends, and lovers of people in treatment. I learned that alcoholism is a disease -- a progressive, fatal disease. I also learned that the family and friends of the alcoholic suffer from a disease called "co-dependency." As I slowly came to understand, co-dependency simply means that we forget to lead our own lives as we focus our energy on the alcoholic's behavior. I had seen this in my own life as I dealt with my husband, my lover, and then, my son.



Part of my program of recovery involved Al-Anon. Al-Anon is a support group for the family and friends of alcoholics. Through a series of steps, you learn to take care of yourself and to find peace and serenity even though the alcoholic my still be drinking.

At Al-Anon meetings, people share their hope, strength, and experience in a setting protected by traditions of anonymity. While no one is required to speak, honest and open sharing is a useful tool. For someone who is gay or lesbian this may be difficult when most of the group are straight and you are not "out" to them.

Some gays or lesbians do attend regular Al-Anon meetings and are able to be open about their sexuality. For others of us, it is not possible to be so open. We talk about our "friend" or our "roommate" or talk about "Michael" when her name is really Mary. Even with these constraints we learn from others and grow in the program.

Several of us felt a need for a place where we could grow in the Al-Anon program and also be open about our sexuality. Out of this desire, a gay Al-Anon meeting was formed last summer. This meeting developed into a strong, positive group where feelings are shared openly. We've now begun a second meeting, so there are Al-Anon groups for gays and lesbians on both Friday night and Sunday afternoon in Omaha.

You are welcome to visit our groups any time. If you want more information about the Al-Anon program in general, contact your local Al-Anon office. For specific information about the gay Al-Anon groups, call our contact person at (402) 556-9907.

Hope to see you soon!

--A Grateful Member of Al-Anon

A Look at Capitol City Couples

Capitol City Couples is an outreach of Couples National Network and Couples International Network with sister organizations across the U.S. and overseas.

Statement of Purpose:

Capitol City Couples is an organization for self-identified gay/lesbian couples. We hold no political or religious affiliation. We support the positive aspects of a relationship and the sense of stability that it represents for our community and lifestyle.

Goals: The goals are in accordance to our statement of purpose:

1. to provide education programs to create the stability of the relationship
2. to provide a social support network to develop the positive of the relationship
3. to provide a social outreach for gay/lesbian couples.

In the past year Capitol City Couples has done a variety of events. We hosted a legal forum and financial planning workshop, held dinner/movie parties, and a wine and cheese party.

In the up and coming months, Capitol City Couples plans to have a couple's social coffee, Kansas City social trip, a summer picnic outing, movie night, a night on the town, and a formal dance entitled "Did you miss your prom?".

Capitol City Couples is the only organization that devotes it time to the needs and wants of gay/lesbian couples. Backed with years of national efforts, Couples Network has worked. Couples all over the U.S. are joining the Couples Concept groups of Couples National Networks!

C.O.G.

The Community of Grace, a worshipping community of lesbians and gays and those who support them, meets regularly on Sunday evenings at Lambda House at 7:00. Those who feel a need for support for their spiritual lives, and are seeking answers to tough spiritual questions, are urged to come and find fellowship and friends. For further information call 474-1205 and ask for Helen, Del or Pat.

Dignity Offers Support to Gay Catholics

Dignity's present officers were elected in March 1986, including: President, Russ Warzyn; Vice President, Dan Oswald; and Secretary/Treasurer, Joe Phillips. Although chapter by-laws are still pending, new elections are scheduled for March. Nominations for officers were held at the February Mass and gathering, and will also be accepted following the March Mass. The election will be held at the social following the March Mass, and new officers will assume their duties at that time. Please consider who you think can provide the leadership Dignity/Omaha will need to continue its ministry to our community.

Recently the Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), Vic Basile, made a fund raising tour through the Midwest. HRCF Board of Governors member Don Flowers of Omaha has reported that as a result of Vic's efforts here, over $80,000 was raised for the campaign fund in Omaha alone. This makes Omaha the community with the highest per capita giving rate. Our community has the distinction of having provided the first and second largest contributions the HRCF has received to date. The HRCF is a political action committee which obtains its support and funding from the gay and lesbian community and lobbies for causes supporting gay rights issues.

...continued on page 13

Join the Dignity family in Florida this summer at the Eighth Biennial Convention July 23-25 in Bal Harbour, Fla.

Celebrate in the sun! Celebrate with friends! Be part of the largest lesbian/gay religious conference ever! Join MCC's national conference for a joint ecumenical service! The registration fee is $155. Room rates run from $64 to $75. For registration information send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Dignity/Omaha, P.O. Box 31312, Omaha, NE 68131.

G.L.S.A. Has Early Beginnings

The UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association has a fairly old and varied history. The group formed in the fall of 1970 under the auspices of Joe Creason and Professor Louis Crompton. The group's name was LINGAG/UNGAG (Lincoln Gay Action Group/ University of Nebraska Gay Action Group).

The early formation of LINGAG/UNLGAG ties in with the controversy over a "Homophile Course" at UNL taught by Louis Crompton, an English Professor. Terry Carpenter, a state legislator, proposed legislation to outlaw homosexuality being taught in schools. The NU Board of Regents proposed that the course be taught by James Cole. The "Homophile Course" proposed by Professor Crompton is the root of the Human Sexuality class currently taught at UNL.

The early LINGAG/UNGAG held its meetings in Commonplace. It provided support for students and non-students alike.

The UNL gay community filed a formal constitution in 1983 as the UNL Gay Student Association and gained formal recognition. The group continued to act as mainly a support group from 1970 - 1985.

The association changed its constitution in the fall of 1985 to include "Lesbian" in the title. The organization applied for office space in the Nebraska Union and received it on June of 1984.

GLSA held a concert (Lynn Lavner) and educational meetings in the Spring of 1985. April 1985 was the first year of Gay Student Month.

In the fall of 1985, GLSA blossomed. The group provided a telephone hotline, peer counseling, referral, educational meetings, a coming out support group, free brochures, and a Speaker's bureau. Successes and attempts of GLSA during the school year 1985-1986 include the protest of Paul Cameron's speech to the Young Americans for Freedom, Lesbian and Gay Education Week, Gay/Lesbian Student Month featuring a concert, speakers, social events, a co-sponsored safe sex workshop, challenge of ASUN to provide a non-discrimination policy on sexual orientation, and asking UNL Administration to develop an AIDS policy.

In the fall of 1986, GLSA received a larger space allocation and called the space "Gay/Lesbian Resource Center." The GLRC features:

1. telephone or drop-in referrals,
2. a roommate referral service,
3. safe sex products and condoms,
4. distribution of ***The New Voice of Nebraska***, ***Gay Chicago***, ***Equal Time***, and ***The Kansas City Alternate News***,
5. free brochures,
6. reporting center for anti-gay/lesbian violence and discrimination,
7. a library,
8. peer counseling,
9. speaker's bureau, and
10. empathetic employer referral service.

Recent controversies are the Lesbian/Gay Programming Committee, a survey on homosexuality on the ASUN (UNL Student Senate) ballot, and the UNL Condom Day. The GLSA/GLRC has receive grants, donations, and materials.

Coverage of UNL Condom Day will be featured in the April issue of ***The New Voice***

--Rodney Bell, II

Imperial Court News

Changes all around! Many of you in Lincoln know the Athena is now JoJo Morrison. She made her first presentation at Kelly's in a benefit show for the Lambda House. Congratulations to JoJo. Also, best wishes to Barb as she continues down new avenues in our community.

We had a great time at Kelly's last month. The "Kid" and Pat allowed us to help make some money for the Lambda House. A special thanks to Kelly, Amanda, and Victoria for their help and support. It was great to be in and meet new people in Lincoln.

Denver's coronation is April 11, 1987 and many of us from the Court will attend. Anyone wishing to join along can contact me or other ICON members for information. Denver's theme this year is "A Journey to the Land of Enchantment" and I'm sure we'll have an enchanting time!

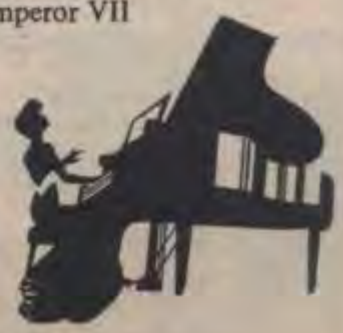
Nebraska's Coronation VII will be June 20, 1987. We'll see a lot of out of town guests over the weekend so plan to attend and see new talent.

This year, April 1, 1987, will be Closet Ball III. No better day could be chosen for this annual event. The Max is our host. Entry forms and details will be out soon. Some dates to remember:

- April 1, 1987 Closet Ball III
- May 17, 1987 The Imperials Step Down
- May 21, 1987 Introduction of Candidates for reign VII
- June 20, 1987 Coronation VII
- June 27, 1987 Pride Parade

Imperially yours

--Pat Phalen
Emperor VII

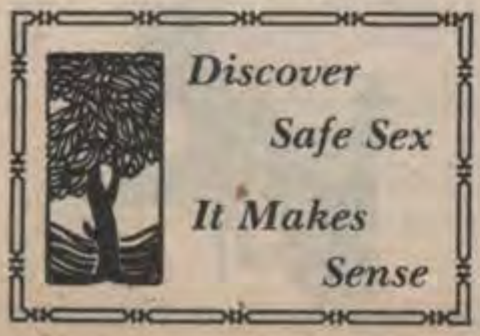


Project Concern Provides Materials and Referrals

Where do you find information regarding Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome? In 1986 a group decided to answer the question and Project CONCERN was organized. CONCERN is acronym for Coalition of Nebraskans promoting a Centralized Education and Referral Network. Project CONCERN started with an idea of making written material available to the gay and lesbian community and has since broadened its scope to include the community at large. Project CONCERN tries to make a visible presence in the community by being in the gay and lesbian bars handing out condoms as well as safer sex information. It currently has available some forty titles of brochures regarding the topic; titles for gay men, lesbians, straight men and womyn, persons of color (with some literature in Spanish), and children. Project CONCERN has acted as a liaison between the gay and lesbian community and the American Rec Cross, UNMC, NAP, and several individual health care professionals. Project CONCERN is also designed to provide quantities of materials to organizations, meetings, and conferences.

Originally Project CONCERN was to serve as a gift to Emperor VI of the Imperial Court of Nebraska and has recently considered continuing past the reign due to a positive community response to its services. Financing has come from private donations, fund drives, and from ICON's PWA committee.

For further information you can contact Terry Senney (402) 455-3701 or Dick Brown (402) 451-4737.



Lincoln's Community Center —Lambda House

Lambda House is entering 1987 with high hopes. A house management committee has been formed, and meets on a weekly basis to discuss the operation of the house.

Among our activities are card playing on Friday night, hosting the Community of Grace on Sunday night, and serving as a general meeting place for various organizations within the community.

A volunteer coordinator has recently come on board to provide information and referral.

If you would like to take part in these activities or want more information, call Gideon at 474-1205.

--Russ

RSCAD Rides Again!

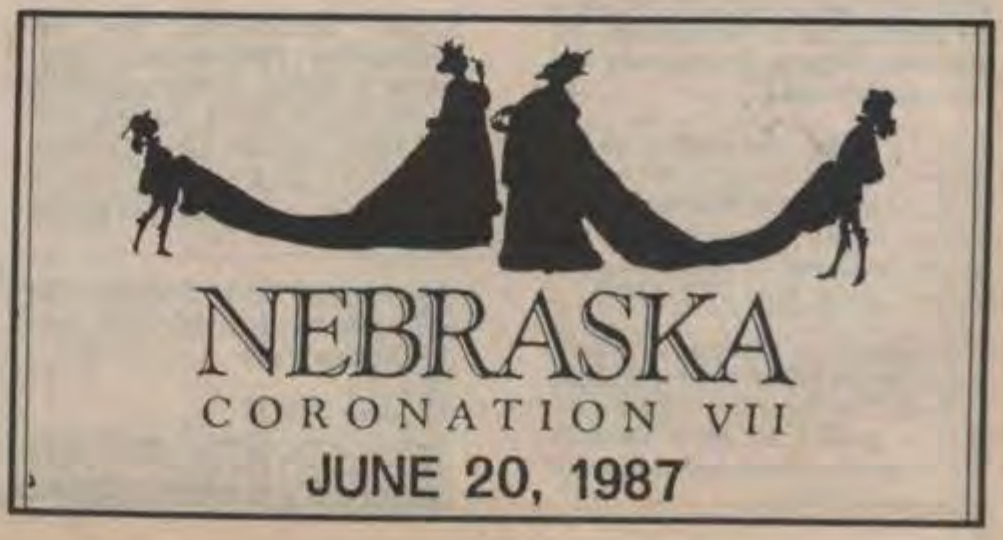
Resource Center Supporters Anonymous Disorganized, a group of invisible persons with generous hearts, once again has helped Lambda House to survive another month. The House is debt-free (except for mortgage) and RCSAD has vowed it will stay that way. It is a comfort to know that caring people are willing to give financial support to this worthwhile effort. Contribution: $100. Thank you very much.

--P.W.

Lambda House (Call Gideon)

Lambda House is a Gay Community resource -- a comfortable older home which does not advertise its presence in a low-key area of Lincoln -- which provided meeting space for groups and organizations. It has a growing library collection of excellent gay/lesbian reference texts, as well as good fictional reading. Lambda House has a well-equipped kitchen with microwave oven for groups desiring to hold pot-luck supper or luncheon meetings. It is open from 9 to 5 daily, Monday through Friday, by arrangement with Gideon. Gideon is a volunteer who gives his time to answering phones and helping those with work-hour needs. This includes social service workers, who are discovering that confidential but easy accessibility to the Gay Community is a valuable resource to the larger community.

Housing, temporary or permanent, is available at Lambda House. Needs to make housing as luxurious as possible include chests, dressers, lamps, bedside tables, small chairs and occasional furniture for the solarium, which houses the library. Redecorating and remodeling assistance is badly needed and greatly welcomed. Fees for the use of Lambda House are $5 an evening for groups and $25 for parties. Call Gideon for arrangements. Rents for rooms are $150 by the month, $5 (or a donation in an emergency) a night for sleep-overs. Omaha folks are urged not to drive to Omaha from Lincoln under the influence.



Lambda House has a casual and friendly atmosphere. It was purchased by Lambda, Inc. and is managed by a team which meets regularly and provides services for the House. If you are interested in helping in the decision making for Lambda House and have skills in electrical maintenance, carpet laying, painting, cleaning, decorating, etc., call Gideon.

Lambda House is listed in the phone book, but its address is not publicized. It can be reached by calling 474-1205. If no one is there, leave a message -- please! We care that you are interested!

--P.W.

M.C.C. Celebrates 13th Anniversary

MCC Omaha has just celebrated its 13th anniversary of being a chartered church in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and more importantly, of reaching out in the gay/lesbian community of Nebraska with the good news of God's love for all people.

One of the things that has enabled MCC to be one of the stabilizing influences in the gay/lesbian community and to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with agencies and organizations in the total community has been the tendency toward longer term pastorates. The former pastor, Rev. Robert C. Darst, and MCC's current pastor, Rev. Jan D. Kross, have served the church and community for ten of its fourteen year history.

MCC Omaha is currently involved in a program of working toward church growth that has been successful in many of our MCC's throughout the country as well as many main-line denominations. Based upon a "spiritual gifts" concept the focus is not on what are known as charismatic gifts, but on what gifts God has given to each of us to help build up the Body of Christ. Being a "grass-roots" organization, MCC is a firm believer in the priesthood of all believers. Discovering and developing the gifts God has given to each Christian for use within the church is enabling our lay-ministry to grow.

We are also continuing to search for a church property that would enable us to increase our outreach with programs and use by other organizations.

Nebraska AIDS Project Enters Second Year

As their second year starts, a new group of volunteers was recruited for the Nebraska AIDS Project. Sunday, February 15, was the day set aside for interviewing potential volunteer candidates for the hotline. About fifteen people showed up for the application and interview process.

Once the candidates were selected they went through an intensive training course, taking most of a

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February weekend in classes at Creighton University, which included approximately fourteen hours of instruction held over two days. All sessions were video taped by Ann Porter of Hour Long Photo for those unable to attend that weekend.

The training specialized in an in-depth study of AIDS and related disorders, suicide prevention, and general attitudes against gays and lesbians. Referrals were provided to assist in locating medical, legal, counseling, financial, and educational AIDS services in Nebraska.

Counseling skills were provided, including active listening, which covered listening for total meaning, responding to feeling, noting all cues, testing for understanding, and paraphrasing. Telephone skills, problem solving techniques, and crisis intervention were also a part of the course.

The main focus of the session was to provide information on the prevention of AIDS through accurate and honest information. Also covered are gay and lesbian issues and lifestyles.

Volunteers were provided with the purpose of Nebraska AIDS Project in the areas of information, education, referrals, and philosophy. The statement to volunteers is, "NAP will provide emotional and information support to persons with AIDS, significant others, and gay and non-gay persons concerned about AIDS. Volunteers will provide crisis intervention and referral resource about AIDS-related crises to the community in general."

Volunteers are expected to cover phone calls at least one night per month, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., preferably following a routine schedule. Rigid guidelines regarding anonymity are adhered to.

This is a dedicated group of volunteers, both men and womyn, gay and straight, who are committed to this very worthy endeavor. Over fifty percent of the original group are still working for the hotline.

The Nebraska AIDS Project can be reached by calling 342-4233 or 1-800-782-AIDS (Nebraska only), from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily.

Programs Offered by YWCA's New Directions Center

The New Directions Center at Lincoln's YWCA began in 1980 as a project of the Junior League. It was designed to provide peer support for women in transition. The Junior League was involved for three years, at which time United Way support began. NDC has evolved from a peer support program to a professional counseling and support service, assisting women as they make life transitions on issues such as career choices and changes, parenting, lifestyle, grieving, and relationships. NDC is considered Lincoln's displaced homemaker center.

In 1981, the Junior League supported the beginning of a satellite program to NDC called Transcend. Transcend was designed as a wholistic prevention program for women at high risk for alcohol and drug abuse. Divorced, separated, widowed women, women from alcoholic families or with addicted partners, women who have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse, and lesbian women are shown by research to be at particular risk for substance abuse. After Junior League, Transcend was funded by state prevention funds and is supported currently by the Wood's Charitable Fund and Burlington Northern.

In 1986 the Single Parent Career Counseling Project, funded by federal dollars (Carl Perkins Act), expanded NDC services to help single parents develop options for supporting themselves and their families. Chrysalis, formerly Adult Education at the YW, provides cultural, educational and entertainment programs targeted for women.

...continued

The New Directions Center, Transcend, Single Parents Career Counseling Project and Chrysalis combine to provide short-term individual counseling, support groups, classes, workshops, career information resources, job-seeking assistance and personal growth experiences for women and single parents eighteen years of age and older. Staff assist participants in empowering themselves to make changes in their lives. YW membership is not required to participate and most services are available on a sliding fee scale. Child care is available. To schedule an appointment, or for more information, call 476-2802 and ask for the NDC intake person.

Note: NDC staff want to communicate to *The New Voice* readers their positive support and sensitivity to lesbian issues, including coming-out issues, sexual identity, partner counseling, lesbian parenting and health issues including alcohol/drug abuse and AIDS.

--Mary K.

P.A.C.T. Seeks to Overcome Barriers

Is there racism in the gay/lesbian community?

- "Whenever I'm out with my lover, it seems the stares just won't stop! What's so unusual about a black man and a white man being together, anyway?"
- "Ever since I came to Omaha I have noticed these white men here will never talk to me, they just keep looking at me. Why won't they at least come up to me and say 'Hi!' instead of looking at me like I came from Mars or something?"

Those two statements alone show there is indeed racism in the gay/lesbian community. It does not make sense that people who know what oppression is, like gay people, will oppress others of their own kind. But it happens.

It's hard enough to have good friendships inside the community across racial lines. But for some reason, cross-racial relationships are even more difficult. Subtle and not-so-subtle forces are constantly at work to undermine the stability of cross-racial relationships.

Why? Perhaps because people who are oppressed can not get at their oppressors, so they end up taking out their frustrations on each other. Maybe that's why the "general population" of the gay community discriminates against female impersonators, those into leather, and anybody else who doesn't fit the "Hi, I just bought these clothes at the New Breed Shop in Brandeis" mold.

Whatever the reason, it is clear that it's no different here in Nebraska from anywhere else: Blacks, Hispanics, Indians, Asians all have a harder time working their way into the mainstream of the gay/lesbian community.

That's why there is a group like People of All Colors Together (PACT).

Our purpose statement says it best: "We are a gay/lesbian interracial organization committed to being a support group for each other. We are dedicated to overcoming racial/cultural barriers through educational, political, cultural, and social activities."

PACT meets twice a month. Members share what's going on in our lives and then discuss some issue impacting our lives.

In addition, we plan frequent social/cultural outings. Since we formed in October, we saw a play at Omaha's Center Stage, feasted on Skeets' ribs together, went to see "The Color Purple" one more time, and gathered together at local bars.

The group is for individuals and for couples. It's open to anyone who wants to have interracial friendships -- a whole lot of new friendships have been forming the last few months. We take seriously our role of being a support group for each other.

We are part of the National Association of Black and White Men Together (BWMT). BWMT is a nation-wide gay/lesbian group which incidentally is planning a name change to include women.

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The national organization tends to be more activist. Local chapters tend to be more organized for social purposes. However, many local chapters have launched boycotts of bars in their cities which discriminate against Blacks and Hispanics in their admissions and hiring policies.

Currently the Nebraska Chapter has twenty-two people who attend meetings and events, with twelve to fourteen who are very active in the group. So far all members are from Omaha, but we are willing to meet occasionally in Lincoln if there are Lincolnites who are interested in being a part of the group.

For more information, feel free to call 895-0865, or write PACT, ATTN: Larry, P.O. Box 3683, Omaha, NE 68103.

--L.M.

History of The River City Chorus

It began as a musical inspiration, jointly shared by Omahans who experienced the Twin Cities Men's Chorus in Des Moines, in February, 1984. It is now in its third concert season, and is today the largest mixed chorus in the national GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses) network. The River City Mixed Chorus is proud to represent Omaha, Council Bluffs, and Lincoln.

In the spring and early Summer of 1984, a few interested people had a goal: to start a gay/lesbian chorus in Omaha. The fledgling group's original name was the Mid City Chorus, performing at local fundraisers and for an Easter church service.

Because the goal was to have equal representation by men and women, the founders renamed it the River City Mixed Chorus. A purpose and set bylaws, closely modeled after the Twin Cities Men's Chorus, were created. Audition information was circulated around the community. This small group worked diligently to build the groundwork for an autumn start.

The official purpose of the Chorus was adopted:

> ***The River City Mixed Chorus is a voluntary community chorus, organized to provide the opportunity for gay/lesbian and gay/lesbian-sensitive men and women to sing together. The primary purpose of the Chorus is musical excellence in performance.***

With a high level of anticipation in the air, September 21, 1984, was the first rehearsal/audition date, at the Unitarian First Church of Omaha. Turnout was small, but very heartening. The Chorus was underway! Soon, the Chorus moved to better facilities at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, where they continue to rehearse today.

The total of members for the first concert period was eleven, including eight singing men, one singing woman, director Jerry Kruse, and one non-singing member. Sweaty palms, a lot of throat-clearing, and words of support from friends and lovers took the Chorus to the first concert, December 16, at The Max. The community showed up and applauded. After many months of rehearsing, the Chorus was here to stay.

After the concert, Jerry resigned as director, and the RCMC immediately began the search for a new director. From within its own ranks, John Zeigler, a professional musician, was hired as the second director. The RCMC also hired Dale McDole as accompanist.

January of 1985 brought twelve new members, including more women. The RCMC officially became part of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA Choruses), joining over forty gay, lesbian, and mixed choruses nationwide in the group. Omaha's RCMC has since been mentioned several times in *The Advocate*.

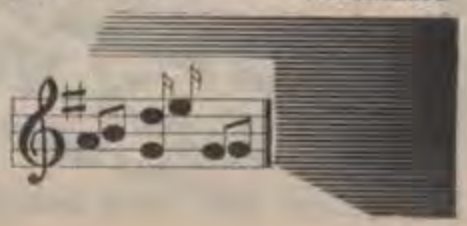
The Chorus presented its second concert in April, returning to the beautiful sanctuary of the Unitarian First Church of Omaha. In May, they repeated that concert in Lincoln as their first out-of-town performance, a joint venture between the Chorus and *The New Voice of Nebraska* magazine. The audience was small, but appreciative.

Wrapping up the season was the Gay Pride Week concert at "The Alley," an Omaha bar. Membership had grown to twenty-six.

Through the summer of 1985, members of the Chorus took their music to such diverse places as a wedding, the Imperial Court Picnic on Labor Day, the Meatpackers' AIDS benefit, and the opening of a new exhibit at Omaha's History Museum. Two members attended the GALA Choruses national conference in Washington, D.C., where Omaha made quite an impression on the likes of choruses from New York City, San Francisco, and Washington D.C.

And the "business end" of the Chorus moved forward. In may, 1985, the RCMC was officially incorporated. In February, 1986, the Chorus received its IRS tax-exempt status, eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.

In the fall of 1985, the group totalled thirty members: twenty-eight singers, plus music director Zeigler and accompanist McDole. An intensive holiday season was underway. From the start, the RCMC had planned two performances: on for "the community," and one for the general public. But, as the AIDS health crisis became more and more the prevailing issue, they decided to help out in the best way the Chorus could: to make the "community concert" a benefit for the Nebraska AIDS Project. Both concerts included accompaniment by Omaha Symphony harpist Mary Walter. The members were kept moving. The holiday season included a "thank you" performance for Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, a holiday mini-concert at Omaha's History Museum, caroling in the Old Market, a couple of fundraisers, plus a performance at the Christmas party of The Metropolitan Club. ...continued



In February, 1986, the Chorus held its first major fundraiser, a Quiche-Off quiche baking contest and dinner. It was another way the RCMC could share with its community. As the Chorus approached the 40 member mark, the Spring concert was set for March. Director Zeigler planned and executed the most ambitious program yet, accompanied by a number of instruments.

Shortly after the spring performance, John Zeigler entered the hospital for some tests. He was complaining of shortness of breath and of being very tired. His friends were concerned, and they had good reason to be.

John had AIDS.

Though many people helped build the Chorus in its first two years, the driving heart and soul was John Zeigler. When John died in May of 1986, the Chorus felt devastated. Some members were unsure whether they could continue.

But, through the determination of a lot of people, and because they knew John would have wanted it, the RCMC did continue. Plans were already in motion for the first Midwest Gay Arts Festival, including an original play, an art show and sale, and the summer Pride concert. Accompanist McDole stepped forward to lead the Chorus in its summer performance. Through hard work and many tears, the summer event was a success.

Then, in July, 1986, an event happened which seemed to mark the Chorus's "coming of age." A dozen members of the RCMC took part in the GALA Choruses Festival II held in the Twin Cities. Seventeen choruses performed individually on stage, and were joined by twelve additional GALA member choruses (including the RCMC) in three commissioned works and a spectacular finale. The festival will stick in a lot of minds forever: 1400 men and women celebrated on stage at Orchestra Hall, and Omaha's River City Mixed Chorus was a part of it! Many new friends were made, and it's an understatement to describe the event as one of "pride."

After a summer break, the Chorus re-convened, with Dale McDole continuing as interim director. Several major fundraisers were planned and executed, including Monte Carlo Night, held in conjunction with six other community organizations, and the second Quiche-Off. The Chorus presented its third Holiday Performance in December, 1986, at UNO's Strauss Performing Arts Center.

The Board of Directors decided to "audition" directors during the year, with the goal of hiring a permanent director in 1986 to lead through the next GALA Festival, in 1989 in Seattle.

Currently leading a chorus of forty-two women and men -- the largest mixed chorus in the GALA network -- is Judith Bieker, director for the March 29, 1987, concert. (Judith had performed as a soloist with the Chorus in Spring of 1986.

Kevin Jones is set to direct the June, 1987, concert, part of the Midwest Gay Arts Festival II. The Festival is scheduled to include a joint concert with Kansas City's Heartland Men's Chorus, an art show and sale, and a performance by nationally-known singer Sue Fink.

For information about the RCMC, please write:
River City Mixed Chorus
P.O. Box 315
Omaha, NE 68101
or phone (402) 342-4775.

River City Mixed Chorus Auditions

The River City Mixed Chorus has announced dates for auditions for women and men wishing to sing with the Chorus at the Summer concerts.

Auditions will be held Monday, April 6, 1987, at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street in Omaha. Auditions will be held on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 7:00 p.m. No prepared material is necessary.

The Chorus invites men and women with an interest in vocal music to audition. This concert preparation period will have rehearsal Monday evenings, April 13 through June 1, 1987. Two major concerts are planned: a joint concert with the Heartland Men's Chorus in Kansas City on Sunday, June 7, and the Pride Concert, part of Midwest Gay Arts Festival II in Omaha, on Sunday, June 14.

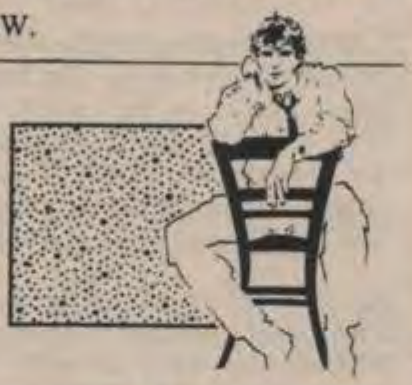
For those interest but unable to audition April 6, or for more information, please phone 342-4775.

Third Culture Develops Support Systems

Third Culture has a four-year history of providing peer counseling and counselor training based in transactional analysis theory. Its groups have met continuously, focusing recently on recreation, but ready to initiate support groups and transactional awareness training as needed. Its current agenda includes a group for sero-positive persons and persons concerned for them, which meets regularly at the Community Mental Health Center (Room 140) on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Peer counselors are urged to attend these meetings, which serve to raise the consciousness of those in attendance to the needs of persons who are frightened of AIDS and its potential effect on both the gay and larger communities. By joining forces with others who are impacted by this terrible disease, we can work for better understanding and cooperation with funding and social agency programs.

Third Culture is a therapeutic support system for persons coming out or new in Lincoln, and who need an opportunity to share their needs and frustrations. Meetings (Poker Club) are held on Friday evenings at 7:30 -- a nice send-off to a weekend of fun. Third Culture accesses Lambda House at the program level, but no longer leases that facility. However, it does support Lambda House, both with its finances and its proximity to Lambda housing (call Gideon). You are urged to check us out and discover the exciting world of the visible gay community in a confidential and caring program. For more information, contact Pat or Gideon at 474-1205 or GLIS Line.

--P.W.



T.W.O. Forms Women's Auxiliary

The Two-Wheelers of Omaha, MC is pleased to announce the formation of a women's levis/leather/motorcycle club. A club to promote friendship and camaraderie among women of like interests. Any women interested in joining TWO's Auxiliary please write TWO Auxiliary, c/o TWO, Box 1292, Omaha, NE 68101-1292.

Legal Briefs

Employment Rights for Gays Improving

An important case concerning sexual orientation and employment rights may be settled on February 6, 1987, in the District of Columbia.

Killian Swift worked as a stenographer for a reporting company. Swift covered the White House, transcribing the President's public speeches and press conferences. His word required security clearance for access to the White House.

In the fall of 1983, a man named Dennis Sculimbrene asked Swift's supervisor whether Swift was gay. The supervisor confirmed that, to her knowledge, Swift is gay. In January of 1984, the reporting company was notified that Swift had been determined to be a security risk and would no longer be allowed to enter the White House. The reporting company then fired Swift.

Swift's mother wrote to Nancy Reagan to find out why her son's security clearance had been revoked. One can only admire this gay man's mother who chose to write to Nancy Reagan, who is herself the mother of a son whose sexual orientation is a speculative subject of bar conversation and the presumed inspiration for the novel, ***The President's Son***, which involves a conspiracy to hide the president's son's sexual orientation so that the president could be re-elected.

The mother never heard back from Nancy, but instead received a letter from the deputy counsel to the President. The letter stated that "no determination was made that your son is a 'national security risk.'" Nonetheless, Swift could neither regain his security clearance nor obtain an explanation of why he lost his clearance.

Swift then sued the United States, alleging that the government unreasonably and unlawfully denied him access to the White House to perform his duties as a stenographer, thus violating among other rights his constitutional rights of privacy, freedom of association, and equal protection of the law.

District Judge Green of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (a trial court for federal claims) issued a courageous opinion on December 5, 1986, which refused to dismiss Swift's petition as the government had asked. The court distinguished last summer's Supreme Court decision ***Bowers v. Hardwick***, 106 S. Ct. 2841 (1986), which found that a bartender at a gay bar in Atlanta had no constitutional right to perform oral sex on another man in the privacy of his own bedroom, and that the State of Georgia could criminally prosecute that behavior. The ***Swift*** court stated that ***Bowers v. Hardwick*** "did not reach the difficult issue of whether an agency of the federal government can discriminate against individuals merely because of their sexual orientation." The same conclusion had been reached by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (a federal appellate court) in ***Doe v. Casey***, 796 F.2d 1508 (D.C. Cir. 1986), where the Central Intelligence Agency was told that it could not fire an openly gay man just because he was gay unless the CIA explained why the man's homosexuality presented a security risk. (The traditional assertion of a threat of potential blackmail does not exist where the person is out of the closet.)

Having distinguished ***Bowers v. Hardwick*** and relying upon ***Doe v. Casey***, the ***Swift*** court wrote that "the government may not discriminate against homosexuals for the sake of discrimination, or for no reason at all."

If the government settles the case at the settlement conference on February 6, Killian Swift will have completed an important contribution to the body of sexual orientation law developing after ***Bowers v. Hardwick***. If the government refuses to settle, further litigation and possible appeals will follow.

--Mark Wojcik

The Legal Eagle

These legal highlights are being provided for informational purposes only. They are not intended to be exhaustive of current case law, and are not to be substituted for legal advice. We will try to present you with interesting excerpts of court rulings on a regular basis, if there are enough gay/lesbian/AIDS related issues provided through our legal channels.

Family

The New York Supreme Court, Suffolk County, held that unless a direct adverse impact upon a child's welfare is shown, the sexual orientation of the father should not be a consideration in the custody dispute. ***M.A.B. v. R.B.***, 13 Family Law Reporter 1135, Dec. 2, 1986. In Arizona, however, the Court of Appeals ruled that since homosexual conduct is prohibited by statute, that a person's bisexuality may be a factor under consideration when determining the acceptability of a potential adoptive parent. ***In Re Pima County Juvenile Action B-10489***, 12 Family Law Reporter 1557, Aug. 11, 1986.

--Marti

River City Chorus Cookbook

Everybody loves to eat and everybody has a favorite recipe.

Those are the two main reasons Omaha's River City Mixed Chorus is planning to publish a cookbook, scheduled to be available this summer.

The cookbook, a fundraiser for the Chorus, will have a "campy" nature and will be of special interest to "our community."

Any members of the gay and lesbian community are invited to submit favorite recipes for inclusion in the cookbook. Recipes are welcome whether they're your creation, a favorite of yours, or from a friend's kitchen. Please write for details to:

Cookbook Chair
River City Mixed Chorus
P.O. Box 315
Omaha, NE 68101

Be watching for complete information concerning purchasing copies of the cookbook.

New Videotapes on Lesbian Issues

Two new lesbian videotapes have just been released by Women Make Movies, a feminist media organization that distributes films and video tapes by and about women. The tapes add to ongoing discussion on two important themes: the persistence of homophobic violence, and the growing phenomenon of lesbians having children.

Just Because of Who We Are drew capacity crowds at recent premieres in New York City and Toronto. The tape movingly scans the spectrum of violence against lesbians, and shows how the community is fighting back. From queer-bashing to arrests, from parental rejection to attempts at institutional "cures," the women in the tape recount their experiences with warmth and unquenchable spirit. Against this painful background, lesbian and gay activists face off against anti-gay forces in vivid, open confrontations over lesbian and gay rights. Produced by a multi-racial collective, ***Just Because of Who We Are*** reflects an unusual respect for diversity and helps diverse constituencies understand the often "invisible" violence lesbians face.

Alternative Conceptions takes on the controversies surrounding artificial insemination, an issue increasingly important as more lesbians choose to have children. Upbeat and warm, the tape unravels the complex legal, medical and social issues involved when lesbians use donated sperm to become pregnant. Doctors, lawyers and social workers detail questions, snags and solutions, and lesbian mothers tell, for example, how they explain the facts of life to their children.

Women Make Movies distributes more than 75 films and tapes. The two productions form part of "Lesbian Voices/Lesbian Lives," a special collection which includes a hilarious lesbian sitcom, a daring lesbian thriller, an eye-opening history of women who passed as men, and more than 25 entertaining and educational films on lesbian youth, parenting and other issues.

For more information contact: Basia Holub, 212/925-0606 or Women Make Movies, Inc.; 225 LaFayette Street, Suite 212; New York, N.Y. 10012.

L/G Programming Faces Obstacles

The proposal to create a Lesbian/Gay Programming Committee has passed the University Program Council (UPC) City, UPC, Executive Board, and the Union Board. The proposed committee is asking for $882 to provide gay/lesbian programming (e.g., concerts, speakers, films, etc.).

The Committee for Fee Allocations (CFA) which governs student fees agreed the programming committee is needed, but put the requested student fees into two already existing UPC-City committees. The reason CFA did this was "fear"; straight students would not attend the events sponsored by such a committee. The Lesbian/Gay Programming Committee was not dissolved, but left with $0. UPC-City appealed CFA's decision, but received no change.

The next steps are the Student Senate (ASUN), Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs, Chancellor Massengale, and inevitably, the NU Board of Regents.

The Young Americans for Freedom, Paul Cameron, and the Citizens Against Pornography have organized a campaign against this. We need positive letters to the Board of Regents. Please voice your support by writing:

Margaret Robinson
NU Board of Regents
Varner Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68588

--Rodney Bell, II

Prejudice and the KKK

In early February on the CBS Evening News I watched a feature concerning Forsyth County, Georgia where Blacks marched peacefully in demonstration through an all-white section of a town. This of course was countered by a demonstration march and membership drive of the Ku Klux Klan. Then I saw a most appalling scene: a mother held a baby in here arms and asked him, "Can you say KKK? C'mon, say KKK."

This poor child is already being taught prejudice, being taught to despise those who are different than he is. This is a great disservice done to a child. Being taught to hate during one's formative years is a lesson not easily unlearned.

The KKK originated during the Civil War era to "discipline" the Negroes freed by the war, as well as those who supported their freedom. It disbanded somewhere around 1877, but was revived in 1915 due to World War hysteria. It dissolved again in 1928, but came back to life with the next World War. Since its beginning, it has evolved from being just anti-Black to being anti-Jew, anti-gay; in fact,

it seems as if the Klan is anti-everything except white American male supremacy.

What a sad commentary on our humanity in certain parts of our country. But sorrier still is the commentary of the mother teaching her baby to say, "KKK."

Any of you who are grandparents, parents, aunts or uncles, brothers or sisters, I urge you to teach the children tolerance, that "different" doesn't mean bad or wrong but merely "not the same." It's so easy to learn prejudice from society that we must begin the lesson of tolerance at home with they're young. That might help alleviate some of the hatred generally felt against Blacks, Jews, American Indians, Russians, and the gay people we all know and love.

--Jean Mortensen

Madame Zelda's Horoscope—Aries

Welcome to the new zodiological cycle. May your dreams come true, and may you be happy.

Aries

Arrogance? Yes, dear, it's me. It's hard, Aries for you to be humble. You are wonderful and you know it.

Often, it's difficult to express your star chart to you. You're always right, (in your opinion, anyway). You know what you want and how to get it. You are an animal in bed.

Aries leans toward a narcissistic outlook on life. They feel superior to others and don't account for their real qualities: loveable, dependable, loyal, and great at oral sex.

If you can get the one born in Aries to smile early in the morning, consider yourself exceptional.

Aries are very sexual individuals. They love loving and the love being loved. A night with one born under this sign is truly one to remember.

Retain your cool, Aries. Being so smug won't cut it. Smile when it hurts and life will be more enjoyable for you. You are almost as wonderful as you think you are.

Aries, you are very special and you always work at improving it.

Happy Birthday, Aries!

--Madame Zelda

Sports

Omaha Team Wins Chicago Tourney

The Omaha Gay Volleyball team recently won the Chicago Regional Tournament. This is the second straight year that Omaha has won this prestigious tournament. Several teams from the Chicago area also competed. The Omaha Gay Volleyball team is currently preparing for national competition. Good luck and congratulations to our local team.

Kansas City Hosts Bowling Tournament

Easter weekend will be the time for gay and lesbian bowlers to be in Kansas City, Missouri for the MAKIT '87 Tournament.

The Mid America Kansas City Invitational Tournament (MAKIT) will be held Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19. Last year teams from twenty cities participated and this year expectations are for even a larger turn out to vie for big cash prizes and lots of fun.

Cost will be $50 if paid by March 10, $65 until March 17. A $100 cash prize for the best Easter bonnet will also be given.

This tournament will be sanctioned by the American Bowling Congress and the International Gay Bowling Association (IGBO).
More information and entry blanks are available from Dean at 344-3821 or Bob at 339-9913.

--Tank Miller

New Voice Bowling League Standings

1. The Chubbs (15/1)
2. Vanity's Other Halves (12/4)
3. Out To Lunch (10/6)
4. Piss & Moan (9/7)
5. D&J (8/8)
6. 1+1=0 (7/9)
7. Not Too Serious (7/9)
8. The Farts (6/10)
9. Rotten Apples(3/13)

High Team Series:
The Chubbs 1170

High Team Game:
The Chubbs 431

High Individual Series:
Scott R. 635

High Individual Game:
Scott R. 245

River City Bowling League News

River City Bowling League standings as of February 15, 1987:

1. A&E Video (64/28)
2. Ultimate Max (60/32)
3. OBG's (58/34)
4. Run After Hours (57/35)
5. Maxipads II (56-36)
6. Six Balls Plus None (51/41)
7. JR's Diamonds (50.5/41.5)
8. Cruiser's Crew (48/44)
9. Run Blue Lights (48/44)
10. Station WRKH (46.5/45.5)
11. Mona's Maulers (45/47)
12. Chesties II (37/55)
13. Wild Ones (33.5/58.5)
14. Betty's Bombers (32/60)

Come watch the fun on Sunday's at 4:00 p.m., King Louie Rose Bowl as the bowling season enters the final weeks.

--Tank Miller

Classifieds

Lambda House Rooms
Rooms for rent at Lambda House. Near bus to UNL. For information, call Gideon at 474-1205.

Roommate Needed
Responsible male roommate needed immediately - West Omaha area. Call Dave 496-7774 after 10 p.m.

Humor

Prose—

P.B. & J.

Why do I find it so hard
To tell you that I love you?
So often, I think it,
But the words stick in my throat
Like peanut butter to a spoon,
While my heart melts into jelly.

--P.N.

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Metropolitan
Community
Church of Omaha

Sunday Services:
(Breakfast & Bible Study)—9:10-10:10am
Worship Services—10:30am and 7:00pm

Tuesday: Bible Study—7:30pm
Wednesday: Mid Week Program—7:30pm

"This is my commandment, that you love one another."—John 15:12

Rev. Jan D. Kross, Pastor/420 So. 24th
P.O. Box 3173, Omaha, NE 68103
Phone (402) 345-2563

The New Voice

UPCOMING THEME ISSUES
WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

APRIL—HEALTH CONCERNS
MAY—BISEXUALITY
JUNE—GAY PRIDE MONTH

Omaha Bars, Clubs, and Lounges

The Chesterfield, 1951 St. Mary's Ave., 342-1244.
The Diamond, 712 South 16th St., 342-9595.
The Max, 1417 Jackson, 346-4110.
The Run, 1715 Leavenworth, 449-8703.
The Stage Door, 1512 Howard St.,

Lincoln Bars, Clubs and Lounges

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

Gay/Lesbian Resource Directory

Nebraska Statewide

Affirmation of Nebraska. Box 80122, Lincoln 68501. United Methodists for Gay/Lesbian Concerns. Meets alternately in Omaha and Lincoln, second Friday of the month. Phone 476-9913.
Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights. Box 94822, Lincoln 68509. Advocacy group which lobbies for lesbian/gay civil rights, provides educational presentations, publishes a newsletter and sponsors cultural and political programs.
Imperial Court of Nebraska. Box 3772, Omaha 68102. Social organization for the advancement of the gay society. Omaha meeting first Monday of each month, except holidays. Phone 733-1924.
Nebraska AIDS Project. Box 3512, Omaha 68103. Center for information, support, and coordination of AIDS related community efforts. Phone Omaha 342-4233 or toll-free statewide, 1-800-782-AIDS.
The New Voice of Nebraska. Box 80819, Lincoln 68501. Monthly magazine serving the gay/lesbian community. Staff meets in Lincoln the first Wednesday of each month. Phone 475-7740 or 345-2181.
UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center. Room 342 (Mail: Room 222), Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588. Hotline: 472-5644. Social activities, AIDS education project, roommate referral, support groups, and library.

Lincoln

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous. Group meets every Friday. Phone AA central office for location, 466-5214.
Capital City Couples. Organization to promote positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships, create stability in those relationships, and to share and socialize with other gay couples. Phone 423-1374.
Community of Grace. Box 6881, Lincoln 68506. Interdenominational worshipping community of gays/lesbians, and those associated. Meets Sunday at 7 p.m. Phone 474-1205.
Gay/Lesbian Information and Support Line. Box 94882, Lincoln 68509. Referral and support phone line staffed by peer counselors. Phone 472-4697 in evenings.
Gay/Lesbian Student Group at Nebraska Wesleyan. Contact Dr. Mary Smith, NWU, 50th and St. Paul Sts., Lincoln 68504. Phone 465-2351.
Lambda Resource Center. 2845 R St. Meeting rooms, outpatient counseling, group activities. Phone 474-1205.
Lesbian Support Group. Contact Women's Resource Center, Room 117, Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588. Informal discussion group for lesbians; all womyn welcome. Meets weekly. Phone 472-2597.
Lincoln Legion of Lesbians. Box 30317, Lincoln 68503. Lesbian-feminist collective providing a newsletter, confidential referral, and support groups for lesbians. Sponsors cultural and social programs.
Ministry in Human Sexuality, Inc. Box 80122, Lincoln 68501. Non-profit agency providing counseling, education, and supportive action for those seeking growth and understanding in the areas of sexuality and relationships. J. Benjamin Roe, Executive Director. Phone 476-9913.
New Directions Center. Short term individual counseling, support groups, classes, and workshops dealing with coming out, relationship issues, parenting. Sliding fee scale. Phone 476-2802.
Open Door Ministry. To provide orthodox spiritual counseling to all people in need at no charge. Phone 474-3390.
Parents/Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Box 4374, Lincoln 68501. Support group for parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. Meets fourth Tuesday of the month. Phone 435-4688.
Third Culture. Non-residential subculture dealing with issues such as coming out, social behavior, the gay lifestyle, suicide, and drug or alcohol abuse. Phone 474-1205 (Pat).
The Wimmin's Show. KZUM Radio 89.5 and 99.3 FM. 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. every Sunday.
Woman's Journal-Advocate. Box 81226, Lincoln 68501. Monthly feminist publication.

Omaha

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous. Group meets weekly. Phone 345-9916.
Dignity of Omaha.Providing common bonds through Mass and meetings for gays and lesbians and their friends. Regular Mass second Sunday of the month, 7 p.m., St. John's lower level. Phone 341-1460 or 345-9426.
Gay Parents Support Group. Support group for gay parents who have children. Phone 553-2308.
Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon. Group meets Fridays at 8:15 p.m. at MCC. Phone 556-9907.
Lutherans Concerned of Omaha. Society of gay Christians and friends together to foster within a church climate of understanding, justice, and reconciliation among all women and men. Phone 592-1209.
Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha. Box 3173, Omaha 68124. Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday Mid-week Program at 7:30 p.m.; Adult Sunday School at 9:10 a.m. Phone 345-2563.
New Voice Bowling League. c/o **New Voice of Nebraska**, Box 3512, Omaha 68103. Wednesday at 9:15 p.m. Alternative sport at Ames Bowling Center. Phone 345-2181.
Omaha Business and Professional Club. Box 24973, Omaha 68124. Networking organization of business and professional persons. Meets third Wednesday of each month. Phone 345-2966.
PACT (People of All Colors Together). Box 3683, Omaha 68103. A gay/lesbian interracial organization that offers educational, political, and social activities. Phone 895-0865.
Parents/Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG). Box 3173, Omaha 68103. Support group for the parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. Phone 556-7481 (Ruth).
Presbyterians For Lesbian/Gay Concerns. Organization meeting scheduled for February 28. Phone 733-1360 (Cleve).
Project CONCERN. Box 3772, Omaha 68102. AIDS related information. Speakers, brochures, posters, and VCR tapes. Phone 455-3701.
River City Bowling League. c/o Dan V., 2116 N. 16th St. Apt. 12A, Omaha 68110. Sundays at 4:00 p.m. Alternative sport at the Rose Bowl. Phone 344-3821.
River City Mixed Chorus. Box 315, Omaha 68101. Volunteer community chorus for gay/lesbian and gay/lesbian-sensitive men and women with the goal of musical excellence in performance. Rehearsals Monday evenings. Phone 342-4775.
Two-Wheelers of Omaha (TWO) Motorcycle Club. 305 Turner Blvd. #8, Omaha 68131.