

The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A



Our Turn

View and opinions by **The New Voice** staff.

On November 15, 1987, twenty-five people attended a meeting to supposedly discuss the possibility of **The New Voice of Nebraska** continuing its operation from an Omaha-base. Among the twenty-five were the president of TWO, Empress Velvet and Bruce of the Stars, Inc. (The Max). No other gay or lesbian groups or organizations were officially represented, although some were a part of various groups.

The meeting became a debate over a community operated publication under the constitution and by-laws of **The New Voice of Nebraska** versus a "for-profit" publication being proposed by Stars, Inc., which would be controlled by Stars, Inc. (The Max), having a paid staff of editor, associate editor and advertising manager.

After spending an hour discussing the pros and cons, I asked for a show of hands of those that were interested in accepting a position on the steering committee and becoming a part of the working staff of **The New Voice**. Bruce, from Stars, Inc., asked for a show of hands for those that favored a "for-profit" publication. The voting was so close that the count was taken three times.

The division of the community over this issue brought me to withdraw my offer to act as Editor for **The New Voice**, and **The New Voice of Nebraska** was silenced by the adjournment of this meeting.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all that attended this meeting, to those that have encouraged the efforts of **The New Voice** during its three and one half years of service to the gay/lesbian community by gay/lesbian community. I shall always be proud of my association with the staff of **The New Voice**.

The press of the deadline prohibits my allowing time for healing the hurt which I feel with the death of **The New Voice**. The meeting was called for those interested in the survival of

The New Voice. The presence of Stars, Inc. to sabotage those efforts and to further divide the gay/lesbian community was, in my opinion, in the poorest of taste. Stars, Inc. presently operates what would appear to be a very profitable business. On Halloween night, I, along with over 700 others, paid \$5 to walk through the doors, and I paid \$1.25 for a plastic cup filled with ice coated with Coke. Stars, Inc. is not, apparently, satisfied with this degree of profit earned from members of the gay/lesbian community. They now want to enter the field of magazine publication "for-profit" from the gay/lesbian community.

For the sake of the members of the gay/lesbian community, I hope Stars, Inc. can fill a void which I feel has been created by the silencing of **The New Voice**. Since I do not fit into the category of middle to upper class (financially), I don't expect that my voice shall be heard through the proposed publication. I cannot contribute to their "for-profit" philosophy.

Again, thank you to those that have supported a gay/lesbian community managed publication, and especially to Tom of TWO for his verbal support at the fateful meeting. Farewell until the spirit of community stirs again a need for a "non-profit" publication for and by the members of that community.

-Jerry Peck

P.S. (To Our Turn)

Jerry Peck
Acting Editor for January

Following the fiasco of the above reported meeting of November 15th, a number of concerned members of the gay/lesbian community called for another meeting. This core of volunteers shall put out a January issue of **The New Voice of Nebraska**. We do have a person in charge of advertising, a treasurer, a proof-reader and continuation of courier service between Omaha and Lincoln. In the absence of anyone else to head up

...continued

DECEMBER 1987

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Subscriptions: 1 year- \$16.00 Classified Ads: \$2.00 for 20 words or less. 15¢ for each additional word. Display rates given upon request.

The New Voice of Nebraska

P. O. Box 80819

P. O. Box 3512

Lincoln, NE 68501 Omaha, NE 68103



this beginning effort, I shall act as editor until someone more qualified can be found.

**Next New Voice
Omaha Meeting
4 pm, Sunday
December 13th**

Get involved.
Call Jerry at 345-2181.

**Next New Voice
Lincoln Meeting
7:30pm, Thursday
December 10
Volunteers and Writers
Lambda House
2845 "R" Street
474-1205**

-Jerry Peck



About The November Cover

The design which appeared on the cover of the November issues was done by C. Broz, a female from Nebraska who is now living in Iowa. The design is from her card which is on sale in a limited edition at The Common Woman Bookstore.



Letters

Rebuttals- Having the Last Word!

What's the matter with for-profit? Isn't this a free country where entrepreneurs are the ones who are really putting this country work? Has anyone read *Christopher Street, The Advocate, The Alternate News*? Do you think they do it for nothing?

A for-profit publication will either represent the community or it will fold. If a non-profit organization can't do it what difference does it make if it's for profit? "If the community is to survive and accomplish its common goals" everything must be tolerated, or at least given a try.

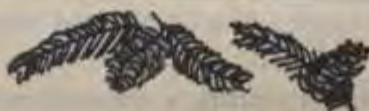
The name calling and the finger pointing must end someday. We need to forget about the past and move on. Why try to organize the community with one voice when it really has many? Perhaps we need to educate the community to listen with ears that are open to diversity, where individuals have an opportunity to express themselves without fear of rejection by their peers who have already been rejected by the other community. Why can't we just agree that we are going to disagree?

Take the initiative and the opportunity to write now and express your sentiments. Tell the people who are going to take over that you've had enough bickering and want to see more action in this publication, not just someone re-typing press releases.

The biggest contributions that anyone could provide this community are ways to fight the spread of AIDS. How about creating opportunities for those who have common interests and goals to meet and get into a relationship that help eliminate playing Russian Roulette with condoms for one night stands? A relationship that lasts a year, encourages monogomy, will do much more good than four dozen rubbers.

I urge you to write and get involved. Time isn't on our side!

-Chuck



Open Letter To Omaha/Lincoln Gay and Lesbian Community From Two-Wheelers of Omaha, MC

We are concerned about the passing of *The New Voice of Nebraska* from our community. It's not a secret that our organization has had its differences with the editorial position of the publication, but it has attempted to be a publication of and for the community.

We felt that the proposed move to Omaha would better serve our organization as well as the community as a whole because most activities take place here. Furthermore, because the community is larger in Omaha, more volunteer help might be available. That's why some of our members were present at a meeting to decide the fate of *The New Voice*.

It is unfortunate for the community that the meeting turned out to be not a discussion of the support for moving the publication to Omaha, but rather a discussion of the merits of a "for profit" magazine that waited in the wings for the pending demise of *The New Voice*. A discussion that had no place at the meeting.

We cannot wish the new "for profit" publication well because we do not believe in such a publication. The Gay/Lesbian community is made up more of small organizations, each with its own place, than larger, financially secure organizations. Any "community" publication must address the entire community - something that we do not believe a profit making publication will do.

Repeatedly, similar things have happened in our community. Groups of community leaders such as the Omaha Bar Owners and Organizations have attempted to do things on a volunteer basis for the well being of the entire

community. Individual organizations have attempted to do things on a volunteer basis for organizations have taken these ideas and/or opportunities to capitalized on the community for their own power, prestige and/or profit. If the "community" is to survive and accomplish its common goals, this cannot be tolerated.

The bottom line is that we do not feel the interests of the "community" are best served by such profit making enterprises.

-Tom, President
Two-Wheelers of Omaha, MC




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Hey, You with the Reindeer!!!

I mean, Dear Santa:

There must be some young may out there looking for an attractive older guy. Someone who is willing to be patient until my full head of brown hair turns more gray and I begin to look my age-45, and not 30ish, like now.

It would be nice if he were a non-smoker, smooth-chested, slim farm-boy-type with curly hair and a smile as big as his out-going nature that compliments his maturity, common horse-sense, and sense of humor. He'd brag with self-confidence that he has something to offer, that he's secure enough to communicate honestly and openly, that he'd appreciate differences and use those to create better understanding.

He'll be looking for someone 5'10", 165#, with a full head of brown hair, brown/hazel eyes, who works out reguarly, has a patch of gray hair in the middle of his chest.

If we can't match the other's fantasies or dreams we'll opt for sincerity and affection as compensation. 'Cause he and I would realize no one is perfect. But we'd both be willing to listen and contribute and work and invest the time in having a happy face greet us after a hard days work; to be met with hands and caresses to forget everything but the present moment.

If you're too busy to write Santa, ask him to look at my ad in The New Voice classifieds. I've heard it pays to advertise.

Thanks, Santa! Hope you'll enjoy the cookies that I'm leaving out for you. If you don't find anyone for Christmas, what is Rudolf doing I New Years?

-By Golly



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Local Organizations & Events

Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights

The Coalition will have a meeting on December 8, Tuesday, at 7:30pm at the Lambda House, 2845 "R" Street. For more info., contact the Coalition at PO Box 94882, Lincoln, NE 68509



Yes,
We Have Some
Regrets,
but we have no
bananas today!

Although it has been rumored that a goodly number of Nebraskans attended the March on Washington, *The New Voice* has not received a great deal of coverage of the event. An article along with photos has, for the second month running, been lost by Federal Express between The Max and Lincoln. We cannot print what we do not receive.

-Jerry Peck



Oscar's Wilder

Oscar's Wilder, a new writer's group for men, will meet to laugh and share, who aren't pros and only want to con you out of a laugh. The first meeting will be December 7th, at Lambda House, in Lincoln, at 2845 "R" Street. More than likely you may miss it because of the publication date of this issue. Leave a message for Oscar for information about future meetings at 474-1205.

We're looking to meet writers and artists to collaborate and do free lance work to publish books that are pertinent to the times for laughter or drama like:

Confessions of an Ad Man.

To all you guys who answered my personal ad and who claim you want to avoid the bars, I now know why. You just don't want to be seen in public. You're really doing the bar owner's a favor cause they can't afford to replace all those mirrors. -So at least be honest when you respond. Sell your sense of humor if you can't sell that spare tire.

I know you think I'm a sleeze for putting this ad in but just because you think it's more chic to cruise the Capitol, and feed the porno booths quarters like a Pac Man addict, who thinks its more chic to waste your time and money in the bar where everyone is either afraid to be themselves (and cruise) for fear their friends will think they are sluts?

Or if the smoke won't kill you the DWI will. At least I'm honest enough to admit what I'm after and that's not a one night stand-even if at times I think that's better than nothing, especially in Lincoln. No one has the....to talk in the bar. If gays were more successful at cruising and connecting, the bars would go out of business - course so would the straight bars.

-by Golly with Tongue N. Cheek



Sunday, December 20, 7:30 P.M.
Strauss Performing Arts Center
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Tickets available at TIX & Younkers

Ticket Donation--\$4 Senior Citizen, Student;
\$6 Advance; \$7 at Door
\$1 from each ticket goes to UNMC Viral Syndrome Clinic
For more information on group rates phone 342-4775



Winter Fest '87

And again, unfortunately the publishing deadline played havoc with timely reporting of events, specifically Winter Fest '87. Following is a schedule of events that have, by now, taken place:

On Tuesday, December 1st, at The Max, the "50's Night Sock Hop" was hosted by Grand Duchess VII Danielle Logan and Grand Duke VII Scott Rezek.

On Thursday, December 3rd, "A Chorus Line" at Center Stage was hosted by Grand Czarina VII K. C. Michaels and Grand Czar VII Tom Peterson.

On Friday, December 4th, the After Hours Breakfast Next to The "Max" was hosted by ICON Board of Governors and Royal Family.

Sunday, December 6th, "Here Comes Santa's Claus(ettes)" fest(ivities) happened at The Max.

Winter Fest '87 proceeds will go to the following: Food For Thought, Toys for Tot's, M.C.C., The New Voice, and the Lambda House of Lincoln.

Sincere thanks to all your efforts from The New Voice and the Lambda House and I'm positive the other organizations, as well. They appreciate the time and energy put into the "fun" raising festivities. We'll look forward next month to learn how close the Imperial Court of Nebraska, Board of Governors and Royal Family came to reaching their \$4,000 goal!

-Chuck

Mike Fitzpatrick
MSW, ACSW

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Omaha phone 397-0330

For a Good Time, Bridget and Friends

Want someone/s to tickle your funny-bone? Bridget and Friends will entertain you with fun and laughter on Sunday, December 13, 8pm at Panic for only a \$2 cover.

When you need a pick-me up after doing all that Christmas shopping, you won't want to miss this evening of fun. Maybe you could even invite a friend and tell them this is their early Christmas present.

Happy Holidays from the whole Gang!

-Milo



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Happenings at The Max

Some of you may have noticed an absence of any news from The Max in last month's issue. That was not because nothing happened, but rather that I had trouble putting it into words. There were male dancers. One wore a sheiks costume. The headgear came to mid-calf and his routine looked more like a drag queen's number than a strip tease. The Screaming Mimies Awards brought out throngs of drag queens, but few were allowed to perform.

This reporter's camera, etc. was removed from the table—hence, no photos, no detailed report. A group of skag drag queens came up from KC and it looked much like a poor Halloween. We have to keep in mind that The Max has provided superb shows week after week. I, for one, don't want to see our local drag queens every week. As Bruce and Stauch strive to provide a variety of entertainment, some are not going to live up to our expectations.

Vacation time kept me away from Omaha for a time, but I got back in time for Halloween. I understand that over 750 people passed through those doors.

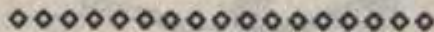


Over 80 registered for the parade of costumes. First place went to Pat Phalen as he sported an over-sized monstrous costume that defied name or description. The press of the crowd made photo taking very difficult. I hope those costumers keep Mardi Gras Night in mind for February.

Midnight Delight and Mr. Lustful brought two new men to perform with them. I got some great photos (48 to be exact), a couple of back rubs and Kisses, it helps to sit at Velvet's table.

"Congrats" to Velvet for being put on full time salary as show director. The great job done as part-time has been appreciated, and with the coming of the addition to the bar, Velvet will need suggestions and audiences that get with the act.

-Jerry Peck



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS"

4th Annual holiday concert
of Omaha's

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

7:30 p.m.

Strauss Performing Arts Center
University of Nebraska at Omaha

\$1.00 from every ticket will go to
the UNMC Viral Syndrome Clinic



Swing Your "Pardner" To and Fro

Whatever way you swing, try this out. For over a month now, Country Night at Panic has been a fun-filled night hosted by the new bartender, Stan.

Stan has been giving lessons for country dance, line dances, the two-step and the waltz. He spoils his customers with drink discounts for those in proper "country/western" attire. Boots and jeans won't do—you gotta be serious and include the likes of a bandana, hat, belt buckle, etc. If your idea of country/western doesn't quite fit Stan's expectations, I'm sure he will let you slide "once" but I'm sure he won't let you try it again.

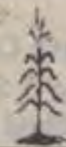
For a good time on Sunday nights, be at Panic, but don't "panic" about learning—Stan's a good teacher. He's cute, too!

-Milo



CAFE

Stop by en route to
Brownville, Indian
Cave, Topeka, Kan-
sas City and all
points south on
Route 75.



Auburn, Nebraska

"The New York of The Midwest"

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Lambda House is Under New Management

Yes, and we're looking forward to having you stop by to check us out. We want to thank those of you who have contributed to the Lambda House. We want you to know that we are anxious to continue to contribute to this community in a positive way.

We feel that may best be accomplished by providing opportunities and activities for individuals to express their potential, utilize and share resources, and meet others with whom they may share common interests, thereby develop personal friendships and meaningful relationships.

We have some new ideas that we want to try but need the help of volunteers to plan and host various activities. Please get in touch—call, write or attend one of our activities this month.

A few of the future activities that we would like to try, as long as their is interest and volunteers to help in the planning, include:

Arts and Crafts Fair-a place to show-off your talents.

Coffee House—a meeting place where you can enjoy a good conversation, desserts and discover information about community resources.

Clothes Encounter-a swap meet. Bring good clothes that are either too small or too big.

Nebraska Connections- a chance to meet others who live in your Heartland community.

These are only a few ideas but we can't do them alone nor do we want to put time and energy into them unless there is an interest from the community.

Drop us a note and give us some feedback. Better yet, we'd enjoy meeting you at one of our planned activities this month.

-Chappie

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

Men and Women Who Please! The women and men of the River City Mixed Chorus will please you with

Holiday Concert
"Home for the Holidays."
Sunday, December 20
7:30 p.m.
Strauss Performing Arts Center
University of Nebraska at Omaha

River City Mixed Chorus (RCMC) is "Home for the Holidays." Lend them your ears. Music—the universal language—and the sounds of the season unite our community once again. The River City Mixed Chorus presents "Home For the Holidays."

Forty-one singing men and women, Music Director, Kevin Jones, accompanist, Nick Behrens, and a number of non-singing "friends" present this—the fourth annual Holiday Concert presented by the Omaha chorus.

The concert celebrates traditional, popular, and religious music of the season, with such varied selections as "Carol of the Bells"; "I Wonder As I Wander"; music from "Amahl and the Night Visitors"; and original selection composed by two women of the Chorus; and music from P.D.Q. Bach.

For each ticket sold, the RCMC will donate \$1 to the University of Nebraska Medical Center Viral Syndrome Clinic.

Tickets are available from Younkers, TIX, or any RCMC member, and are \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door, and \$4 for students or senior citizens. For more information, or for group ticket sales, please phone (402) 342-4775.



Gay/Lesbian Information and Support Line



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 Lincoln, NE
 68502

475-4697

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 St. John's Church—lower level
 Creighton University Campus

341-1460 P.O. Box 31312
 345-9426 Omaha 68131



Benefit for Lambda House

A magical evening happened on October 22, 1987, at the Panic Bar in Lincoln. "Bridget and Friends" presented a show for the community to enjoy and show their support for a worthwhile organization, Lambda House.

Leaving Lambda House that evening, I was feeling down because I knew Amethyst would be playing at the Zoo Bar the same evening. However, when I arrived at the Panic, my spirits were lifted because I discovered that the women of this community do care.

As usual, a show by "Bridget and Friends" has a lot of professionalism, not to mention the non-stop humor. The result was the raising of \$130.00 for the Lambda House.

As manager of the Lambda House, I want to thank the Panic for allowing "Bridget and Friends" to perform at their bar. As manager of the Lambda House, I especially want to thank "Bridget and Friends" for putting on an entertaining show for the audience and for the benefit of Lambda House.

If there is anything, as I indicated at the benefit that night, that Lambda House can do for you the community, all you have to do is call.

Again Thanks!

-Chappie



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1½ years of concern and service

"That's what friends are for!"

* **Nebraska AIDS Project**

• Nightly Hotline 6 to 11 p.m. 342-3233
 • Support Groups
 • Outstate Hotline 1-800-782-AIDS

December Calendar of Events

- Dec 4-Fri, 7pm: Lambda House Cards Night, 2845 R Street
 Dec 6-Sun, 5:30pm: MCC
 Dec 7-Mon, 7pm: Oscar's Wilder-Writers Group, 2845 R Street
 Dec 8-Tues, 7:30pm: Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights Meeting, 2845 R Street
 Dec 10-Thurs, 7:30pm: New Voice Meeting for Lincoln volunteers, writers, 2845 R Street
 Dec 11-Fri, 7pm: Lambda House Cards Night, 2845 R Street
 Dec 13-Sun, 5:30pm: MCC, 2845 R
 Dec 13-Sun, 4pm: New Voice Omaha Meeting.
 To get involved, call at 345-2181.
 Dec 15-Tue, 6pm: Lambda House Soup 'n Salad Pot Luck. You bring the salad fixin's, we'll put the soup on, 2845 R Street, R.S.V.P. (474-1205)
 Dec 16-Wed, 7pm: Lambda House Christmas Tree Decorating Party, 2845 R Street
 Dec 18-Fri, 7pm: Lambda House Cards Night, 2845 R Street
 Dec 19-Sat, 8pm: Lambda House Movie Night-VCR, 2845 R Street
 Dec 20-Sun, 5:30pm: MCC, 2845 R
 Dec 24-Thurs, 8pm: Lambda House Christmas Eve Caroling; bring a gift for exchange, 2845 R Street
 Dec 25-Fri, 3pm: Lambda House Christmas Pot Luck Dinner, 2845 R Street
 Dec 27-Sun, 5:30pm: MCC, 2845 R
 Dec 31-Fri, 9pm: Lambda House New Year's Eve Party-BYOB, 2845 R Street R.S.V.P. (474-1205)



The Common Woman Bookstore

Our Tuesday night speaker series is going great. If any of you have ideas for topics and/or speakers, give us a call. In the works is a series of discussions about AIDS and the different ways it impacts different communities.

Scheduled for December

Susan Fink:
Feminism and Rural Women
 Deb Stevens:
Crystals Clearly
 Lauri Anderson's video:
Home of the Brave.
 Come in and get a schedule.

The Common Woman is just the place to do your holiday gift buying. And we have a gift registry. So you can write down just what you'd like to receive from your holiday gift giver.

Speaking of holidays. We recognize that holidays can be difficult time for some of us. And because of that we will be open on those days. Check with us to get our holiday hours.

Thank you all for your continued support!

**Happy Holidays!
 The Common Woman
 Will be Open
 Christmas Day!**

**Practice Safe Sex
 It's a New
 Adventure**



It's Fun

Features

PFLAG Booknotes

Elliott and Win
by Carolyn Meyer
Atheneum Press, 1986
Hardback \$12.95

Sexual Orientation—is it relevant and necessary to consider in choosing role models for the absent parent in single parent families? Meyer, in *Elliott and Win*, examines this question in the tale of Win, a young adolescent boy and his new-found friend Elliott, a Los Amigos volunteer. Los Amigos is a program similar to Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BB/BS).

In some ways Elliott seems the archetypical yuppie—white, well-to-do, materialistic and a little elitist. Win's best friend Paul speculates that Elliott is gay, taking every opportunity to taunt Win, warning him against spending a night alone in a tent with his big brother when they go camping together.

The reader is drawn through a carefully woven plot involving Win's family, Paul and his father, Win's first romantic relationship with a girl, and even the girl friend's rape. Win is introduced to some fashionably liberal friends of Elliott's when he spends his first night at the ("ugh!") opera. The most redeeming quality of the evening for Win turns out to be the designer pizza they eat before the performance.

Win and Elliott are good for each other: they give and take. Each changes for the better as a result of their relationship. The persistent question of Elliott's sexual orientation pervades the story. The relevant question evolves from one of Elliott's sexual orientation to the question of whether it really matters. It is the reader who is asked to draw the conclusion.

Does *Elliott and Win* accurately reflect the practices of BB/SS? BB/SS has no national policy concerning the fitness of gay men and women to serve as volunteers with children. Local chapters commonly include questions regarding sexual orientation on their

applications, and they reveal the sexual orientation of volunteers to the single parents who apply for big brothers or big sisters for their children. Given the homophobia inherent in society, it is reasonable to assume that a gay woman or man who answers the orientation honestly, will be denied the privilege of serving as a role model to a boy or girl in single parent family.

Massachusetts and Vermont have recently excluded gay people from serving as foster parents in their social service programs. One democratic presidential aspirant, Governor Michael Dukakis, was responsible for enacting this policy in Massachusetts.

Elliott and Win should required reading for members of boards of directors of BB/SS nationwide, and for Mike Dukakis in particular.

-Eric Schuman
Topeka, Kansas

The Christian Gay 'Love Come Down'

Several years ago the church choir presented a Christian cantata entitled "Love Came Down"—idea being that God is Love and God came down to earth in the form of Jesus the Christ child. Christmas has always been special for me, and this idea helped me understand that Christmas is a celebration of Love.

God in His infinite wisdom, appears in the form of an infant laying in a manger among the animals of a stable. We have romanticized this scene and ignore the unsanitary conditions and the stench of the place. We have also focused on the love that His parents, the shepherds, the wise men, and the little drummer boy had for the child.

Although the Christ child could not act out this love for those gathered around Him, that love was present. Freudian psychology implies that a person's life is highly inflamed by the very early years, months and even days. It would seem that we of the human race enter into this world as a loving

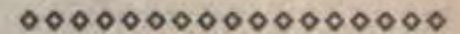
creature. The loving nature can either be nurtured or quenched. What infant could not love those that provide for their every need. We feed an infant, help them belch, keep them clean and dry, and let them sleep as much as they want. As long as we continue to be trustworthy, the love continues.

As Christians we experience a re-birth when we first discover our religious nature in relationship to God. As Gay men and Lesbians, many of us experience somewhat of a re-birth when we first discover our homosexual nature. As Christian Gays and Lesbians we are by nature loving people. Our loving natures, newly discovered, need the nurturing of those around us. We need the church and the gay/lesbian immunity. As we mature as Christians and Gays, we become responsible for the new-born Christian and Gay.

At this Holiday Season, let us celebrate the birth of love in the Christ child and the new Christian and the new gay or lesbian. As Bing Crosby sang in "Say One for Me."—"It's not the Christmas things that you do at Christmas time, but the Christmas that you do all year long." Your loving nature was nurtured by the loving nature of others and as you use your nurtured love, you will have more to give. This year give yourself the gift of greater lovingness by giving love to another.

Merry Christmas and a Loving New Year.

-Jerry Peck



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS"

4th Annual holiday concert

of Omaha's

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

7:30 p.m.

Strauss Performing Arts Center
University of Nebraska at Omaha

\$1.00 from every ticket will go to
the UNMC Viral Syndrome Clinic



Alive, Well, Single, and Living in Omaha

There's no doubt about it; life as a "single" lesbian in this town has been a rocky road at times. Over the past eleven years, during which I've been briefly in relationships, I've learned a great deal. I hope I've been able to learn from some of my mistakes, so I won't have to repeat them in future relationships. God knows I wouldn't wish any of those past boo-boos on anybody—even an enemy!

I have not met the woman that I feel could be my lover and partner yet, and, unfortunately, this, at times, has become a source of social "downers" for me. Looking back, I have wondered about my attractiveness, and questioned my own mind whether I would be desirable to anyone. This feeling is bound to creep in, especially when we are feeling emotionally low.

More and more, I see that it is important for women, who are not attached, to focus on their own positive points, to realize they are not a half

person looking for another half. We have been very socialized by straight society to believe that no one is complete without a marriage partner. This has carried over into our lives as lesbians.

This becomes very noticeable when you go out with coupled-friends. Sometimes it's hard to escape the feeling that you are the third or fifth wheel. Even well-meaning friends can make things even more difficult when they make comments like "Why don't you bring somebody along for a change?" or "I never see you out with anyone."

Solution: You probably shouldn't take these comments too seriously since they may be based on the speaker's own self-doubts. In my own life, one of the positive traits I've developed is that I can go most places alone and feel fairly comfortable about it. I know that once I get there, I'll know people because my range of contacts keeps getting wider. I don't feel I need to take somebody along to put on appearance that I'm with another woman.

One of the positive aspects is that being single has forced me to make more friendships or acquaintances. I

can't "retreat" to the world of being a couple. I've noticed some lesbian couples tend to limit their circle of friends to a very small number.

Another positive: I've slowly overcome the feeling that, when a relationship ends, I have to start seeing another woman immediately. Now I give myself time to take a break and think over why it didn't work out. The major benefit has been that I've learned from mistakes, and hopefully grow as a result of my experiences.

As for times of loneliness, I've had my share and more. About the only way I've found getting around being lonely is to involve myself in organizations or a group(s) that I can believe in. This is bound to put me in touch with other like-minded people who can help me form more meaningful friendships. Don't waste what you have to offer just because you're not in a relationship! Choose a group that sounds good to you, one that can use your talents or experiences, and give it a try.

-Susan K.



George Whitmore's *Nebraska*

Those of you who are old enough to have been reading Christopher Street (CS) since 1979 will remember George Whitmore with delight as the author of *The Confessions of Danny Slocum*, a riveting tour-de-force which first appeared here in July of that year and was later published by St. Martin's Press. You will also remember "The Black Widow" (which ran in CS December of the same year and later appeared in CS first fiction anthology, *Aphrodisiac*, from Coward McCann/Putnam) a story which I believe contains some of the wittiest writing produced in this half of the century. Some of you may also have seen his plays.

You will have come to expect brilliance from Whitmore, and you will not be disappointed by *Nebraska*. This is an astonishing, devastating book. It is plot-tragic consequences of a child's thoughtless lie in a cruel, repressive society. Ours. The story begins in Nebraska in 1956, when the twelve-year-old narrator, Craig McMullen, has just lost his leg in an accident.

But circumstances have crippled him in a much more important way. For as Craig's voice—the utterly convincing voice of an unprivileged, unremarkable, excruciatingly typical American boy—goes on telling his shocking, sickening tale, we realize that that voice

of his contains the explanation of how the horrible things he's describing can happen. It's the voice of the men who elected-and re-elected-Senator Joseph McCarthy and, more recently, Ronald Reagan. Whitmore's skill in creating this voice, and his ingenuity in deploying it, cannot be praised too highly.

For Craig's limited vocabulary tells us so much. The economy of throw-away descriptions like "...the TV next door where you could hear the sound of laughter from New York" is stunning. Or "that summer Wesley got to go to Summer Baptist Bible too—Wesley had about the best life of any boy in Lincoln, Nebraska."

Craig is not a bad kid at all. His nature is affectionate, and he's inclined to empathetic identification with others. But the culture around him gives him nothing to develop his imagination with; he only knows how to think in drab clichés. It seems it is his handicap alone that gives him the will to question a society which punishes the different.

We are left in no doubt about why this punishment is inevitable. Craig's awareness shared by all the characters in it is that there is not enough to go around. "It becomes heartbreakingly understandable why the rights to these things are snatched away from any citizen who seems vulnerable.

Our merciless society has given Craig a sinister stoicism. He applies its ruthlessness to himself as to others. "I had known plenty of boys and girls who

were sitting there in class one day then were gone and totally forgot the next. I figured I was now one of these," he says after his accident.

Craig is uncomprehendingly responsible for the destruction of a human being. Society makes use of Craig's innocence in a repugnant way which should frighten us all.

Because *Nebraska* is primarily a book about the brutality of American innocence. It isn't just a story about what it meant to be gay in this country the day before yesterday. It's about what is still means, all too often, out there in the barbaric hinterlands of our flat and flattening land. And it's about what it could mean again—even here, if Regan gets his way with the Supreme Court—as soon as the day after tomorrow.

Besides being politically important, the book is a real literary treat. So many of our younger writers are fooling around ineffectually with limited diction these days: it's refreshing to see this fashionable device exploited with such purposeful mastery. And the exuberance of this mastery is somehow contagious; for all the grimness of the story, *Nebraska* is an absolute joy to read.

(This article appeared in Christopher Street, CS READINGS, by Lindsley Cameron.)

Greetings



Louise Hay Metaphysical Instructor Alternate
Health Care for PWA'S and PWARC



The Leather Contingent



The Wedding by Couples Inc.
Terry, Pat, John

MCC Service in front of Lincoln Memorial



NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON



The Names Project



Whopie Goldberg at Names Project



The Names Project



Along the Parade Route

AIDS A Personal View - Part II including "March on Washington"

(Back again with more to share about my bout with AIDS and thoughts about our community.)

Since the last issue, I became ill and was down for a time, but I'm back on my feet again—thanks to the great medical staff at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and a great deal of prayers by individuals who give me support.

My love and thanks goes to Kris who has been there as my buddy and took me into emergency and stayed with me until my lover came to the hospital. I am alive and doing well and fighting against a lot of odds, but I don't intend to give up.

My brothers and sisters, I would like to take this time to express my sincere thanks and gratitude for the privilege that you gave me—to go to Washington, DC for the "March on Washington". Words cannot express how I feel about the community I live in and the love and concern you have given me as a person with AIDS.

It was an honor to be in our nation's capital from October 9th to October 12th, as gay men and lesbians united and spoke up about the equal rights we demand as human beings. It was also an honor to be one of the first 100 people to begin the march and to represent Nebraska as a person with AIDS and to be with other PWA/PWARC'S from all over the country.

We were proud to be from Nebraska when another person from Omaha and I carried our state flag, and along with that the thoughts and concerns of our community, to the Capitol.

If words could carry forth the multitude of mixed emotions that we felt as we walked—the anger at our government for their unconcern, the grief for those we have already lost to

AIDS, the bitterness of not being treated equally, but most of all the love that was expressed to us and by us as we marched.

Over the three miles that we walked, people along the way would yell, "Yeah, Nebraska" and cheer us on with deep concerns. People cried and said, "I love you" and would wave the hand sign for the deaf meaning "I love you." Through all this, and as difficult as it was to keep up our strength, we knew then and there we would make it all the way no matter what. It was a great feeling when an elderly couple and their son (who was a march buddy) joined us and explained they were originally from Grand Island, Nebraska but now live in DC and wanted to march with us.

Overwhelming is what I felt when close to 650,000 people became a caring, sharing, loving family—when Whoopie Goldberg pushed a wheelchair from the White House to the Capitol with a PWA in it who was not strong enough to walk any longer—when special care and attention was given to all of us who have AIDS/ARC—when the people also took off coats, sweaters, jackets, etc. as it got cold to keep us warm so we could remain for the rally and not get sick—when the care givers and medical people passed out candy and beverages to keep our metabolisms high—one could feel the love and deep conviction of family and that we, too, are human.

I wish everyone could have seen the Names Project—a colorful, breathtaking memorial quilt covering the area of two football fields made up of 1,920 panels with names of those who have already lost their fight and battle against AIDS. And also knowing that more than 1,000 more names had not been added to it, yet. To see people cry, pray, sing, and honor those who have died with bouquets of flowers as we did. To silently honor Nina and others, it was a time of dealing with the death that will come to me, as I know, too, that someday I also will lose that battle against AIDS.

I want to thank those who were there from Nebraska: Bill, Stosh, Vince, Don, and many others and especially Terry, Pat, Tom, and Tim for their care and concern. Most of all I would like to most graciously thank everyone in this community for their support—for without that, my trip would not have been possible. Thank you and God bless you! I love all of you for that support you have given our community.

The banner which was carried during the march is at The Max. If you haven't been there lately, next time you will see that it has been signed by those who went, along with photos taken during that weekend. This banner along with the photos will be displayed in other bars, organizations, and at MCC.

Please take time to look at the photos and hopefully you will feel just a small amount of the emotions that we felt. Take some time to write letters to your government offices, from city to federal, and express that you desire equal rights in the name of humanity, and as an American citizen, you demand it! Stand up and be counted because it is only through your caring and help that we can and will overcome a great deal of oppression that is forced upon us. *We don't have to take it any longer.*

Open your eyes and see and realize that AIDS is in Nebraska and it is continually getting worse. Become educated to the real facts. Many organizations in our communities have very dedicated people who need your help. Get involved—give them your support, both financial and physical. You can help make it happen here in Nebraska, but it can't be done by sitting back and letting others do the work.

It is time for all of us to unite as a concerned community and forget about personalities or whatever divides us and become a strong family working together in peace and harmony for a common goal—*Equal Rights and Humane Treatment* as human beings.

-David
Omaha, Nebraska

Kris's PWA

And so we continue. . . I'm David's buddy. He is my PWA (Person With AIDS). This story continues from the September article.

David and I make daily contacts by phone and get together to share an occasional lunch. During one week in October, David's stamina started to decline drastically. We found out that one of the possible side affects of AZT was that the drug suppresses the manufacturing of blood platelet while decreasing white blood cells. David suffered severe headaches, fatigue and dizziness to the point he was bedridden. Sleep at times was next to impossible. I changed my calling patterns to late mornings, so I could be with David in ten minutes or less, if the need arose.

One morning, when David finally answered, my heart sank. He and George, David's lover, had arranged for David to go to the emergency room. From the sound of David's voice, we were in trouble. I approached my boss

of fifteen years, and told him I needed to leave for a sick friend. "No problem, we're covered," he said.

I reached the front door at 2 p.m. and rang the bell twice and peered in the glassed door. A minute passed, and I rang the bell again. Perhaps he's asleep? I finally heard slow and deliberate footsteps on the wooden flooring. I yelled his name through the patio door and he responded this time.

The relief I felt was short-lived. A ghost-white, haggard face at the doorway stood before me. The eyes had lost their fire and zest. "I think we better go now, David," I suggested softly, noting his obviously painful state. He nodded in response.

I stood in the doorway of the bathroom, while he shaved and got ready to go to the Medical Center. We checked David in at the desk and headed for the waiting room. David continued to appear weak as we were finally shown into a very small examination room. A nurse went through some

preliminary test. When the examination was finished, no cause was determined for the symptoms that plagued David.

After George arrived from work, we traded places, while one of Dr. Goldsmith's associates examined David. George returned to the waiting room where we exchanged a bear-hug, and a knowing glance.

"I'm okay, now, but I know I'm going to fall apart if something happens to David," George stated.

"We're both going to fall apart," I replied, tripping over some of my words.

David had a complete blood work-up and he was taken off AZT completely. Over a period of three weeks, along with five blood transfusions, his symptoms dissipated, and he regained his strength.

We decided I needed to become more familiar with David's weekly routine at the Medical Center. If David needed to be hospitalized, at some point, I wanted to know the whole clinic set-up and who to call if necessary and be able to enter the hospital at any time of the day

continued



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North Platte	(308) 534-6780 ext. 134
Scottsbluff	(308) 632-1299

or night. The staff at the Medical Center is exceptional, and Dr. Goldsmith is a delight.

Everyone in Nebraska, including myself, needs more information and education about AIDS. Don't short-change yourself and cut your own life short with ignorance and lack of information. It's sad to be uneducated about AIDS, but that can be remedied. Choosing to stay ignorant is a death sentence for yourself and those you love sexually.

Get involved. Start learning more about how to protect yourself and how to be able to support those who are in need now or who will need us in the not too distant future.

-Kris,
Omaha, Nebraska



Fairness Fund Establishes Hotline

Action Hotline to Generate Mail on AIDS Issues; "New Manhattan Project on AIDS" First Focus

WASHINGTON -- The Washington-based Fairness Fund began operating a new national Action Hotline, beginning in July, to generate thousands of mailgrams on AIDS-related issues to members of Congress. An additional Action Hotline is expected to begin operation shortly. Its focus will be on generating mailgrams on fairness issues such as the fight to defeat Robert Bork's nomination to the Supreme Court, reform of immigration laws to end anti-gay exclusion, lesbian/gay rights, and other issues.

The new Action Hotlines will be featured in major gay/lesbian media advertisements. In addition, the Fairness Fund will be mailing announcements to AIDS service organizations, to gay/lesbian groups and activists and to gay/lesbian business establishments.

Callers will be able to dial, toll-free, 1-800-325-6000 (day or night) and ask for an operator (9184) who will read them three 50-word mailgram messages on AIDS issues that community lobbyists have identified as crucial for Congressional action. The messages will cost \$4.50 and will be billed to the caller's personal telephone number.

Current messages available from the mailgram service call for a "New Manhattan Project on AIDS," a reference to the all-out U.S. effort in the 1940's to create an atomic weapon. Just such a no-holds-barred approach is needed now to combat the AIDS crisis, gay/lesbian activists urge.

The Project's primary goals are to accelerate research, increase drug availability and provide the best care possible for people with AIDS. The Project also supports efforts to promote an effective national AIDS education program and enactment of laws to protect the confidentiality of and prohibiting discrimination against people infected with the HIV virus.

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Constituent mail in favor of gay/lesbian issues has historically been scant, said Steve Endean, Executive Director of the Fairness Fund. "Our right-wing opponents successfully exploit the health crisis for political gain, mobilize massive mail campaigns and generate tremendous pressure on legislators," Endean said. "But these same legislators -- even on life and death issues such as AIDS -- receive little or no mail or constituent pressure from the majority of voters in their districts who support our efforts."

Past failures to generate constituent mail on gay/lesbian issues have led many activists to believe that the community is either too "closeted" or too apathetic to play the grassroots role in decisions that affect their lives. However, the Fairness Fund leadership disagrees.

"Many in the gay/lesbian communities live busy professional and social lives, and may not be particularly political or activist-oriented," Endean said. "They are often unsure of when to write, who to write, or what to say to their legislators."

The public opinion mailgrams provide a convenient means to reach legislators, the Fairness Fund staff believes. Since the prepared mailgrams can be changed on a regular basis, the strategy ensures timely communication to address rapidly changing legislative situations.

To ensure the most effective, coordinated constituent pressure and to avoid duplicating efforts, the Fairness Fund has secured the help and cooperation of a broad range of community leaders and groups. Prominent among them are the nation's two primary gay/lesbian lobbying groups, the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The Fairness Fund focuses its attention on "filling the gap" of generating grassroots constituent pressure and mail on AIDS issues and on fairness issues for lesbians and gay men. The Fairness Fund staff has spent several months meeting with community leaders across the country to develop the most effective strategies and raising

the funds to undertake the initiative in the most professional manner possible.

"The 800 Action Hotline is a solid first step to more effective grassroots constituent mobilization, and we believe that it represents a strategy that can reach the broadest possible constituency -- gay men and lesbians and non-gay people alike, and both activists and non-activists," Endean said.

--Fairness Fund press release

Clinical Trial Opportunities Available for Persons with AIDS

The AIDS Action Council has been working with officials at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to increase the dissemination of information regarding the availability of clinical trials across the country for anti-AIDS drug evaluation programs. The AIDS Action Council is a national organization representing over 300 AIDS service providers throughout the United States and has been a powerful force in Washington on behalf of AIDS education, policy and funding.

The AIDS Action Council has learned that many spaces are available in over 15 drug trials presently approved for study in 19 AIDS Treatment Evaluation Units (ATEUs) throughout the United States. People with AIDS are urged to contact the closest ATEU to determine what drug evaluation protocols are underway and to find out whether they are eligible to participate in these drug trials.

ATEU Listings

Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases
Donal Armstrong, MD (212) 794-7809

Johns Hopkins Hospital
John G. Bartlett, MD
(301) 955-3150

University of Washington
Lawrence Corey, MD
(206) 562-2117

University of Miami School of Medicine
Margaret A. Fischl
(305) 549-7416

Massachusetts General Hospital
Harvard University
Martin Hirsch, MD
(617) 726-3815

Tulane University Medical Center
Newton E. Hyslop, MD
(504) 587-7316

University of Minnesota Health Science Center
Henry H. Balfour, Jr., MD
(612) 626-5670

Duke University Medical Center
Dani P. Bolognesi, MD
(919) 684-3103

University of Rochester Medical Center
Raphel Dolin, MD
(716) 275-5770

University of Pittsburgh
Monto Ho, MD
(412) 624-2692

University of Southern California
John M. Leedom, MD
(213) 226-7504

Institute for Immunological Disorders
Peter W.A. Mansell, MD
(713) 691-3531

San Francisco General Hospital
John Mills, MD
(415) 821-8666

Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University
Ruy Soeiro, MD
(212) 430-2371

Stanford University School of Medicine
Thomas C. Merigan, Jr., MD
(415) 725-3929

Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Henry S. Sacks, PhD, MD
(212) 650-7856

National Spotlight

New Hampshire Proposes Homophobia

Lesbians and gay men in New Hampshire may soon be facing infringements on some of the rights that they have been enjoying. "An awful lot of people are really scared," stated Ellen Munisky of the Citizen's Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Rights, of the three bills currently before the New Hampshire legislature. One of the bills, which would prohibit "all homosexuals" from giving blood (listen up, lesbians!) was introduced by Republican Senator John Chandler as a means to slow the spread of AIDS.

Chandler was quoted as saying that he would support a bill to allow homosexuals to give blood -- but only if they gave it all. Another bill, introduced by House Member Mildred Ingram, proposes that all lesbians and gay men be barred from becoming foster parents and running day care centers. Ingram says she just wants homosexuals to "keep their filthy paws off the children of New Hampshire." The New Hampshire State Supreme Court decided that such a bill would not be unconstitutional. A third bill proposes premarital HIV tests for everyone.

--Out Front



Arizona Gay Rodeo Association

A Desert Adventure begins January 15-17, 1988. The 3rd Annual Arizona Gay Rodeo will be held in Phoenix at the El Lienzo Charro Rodeo Grounds. Transportation, hotels and fun all await your call: Andrew Axelrod, 115 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix, Arizona 85013 (602)266-5390.

Don't miss this weekend of adventure and fun!!! The host hotel is: Holiday Inn, Phoenix Financial Center, 3600 N. 2nd Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85013 (602) 248-0222.

Now is the time to ask Santa for a Desert Adventure of your own or give an adventure to someone you know!!!

For more information call: Arizona Gay Rodeo Assoc. (602)938-3932



Before it was too late."

Safe Sex is for your life

Rights for Same-Sex Swedish Couples

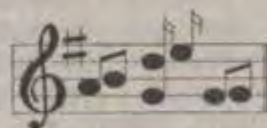
STOCKHOLM -- The Swedish Parliament has passed a bill giving lesbian and gay couples the same rights as common-law heterosexual partners.

Gay couples may sign housing leases as couples, regulate the division of property in the event of a relationship break-up, and inherit property from a partner in the absence of a will.

Stig-Ake Peterson, president of the 6,000 member Union for Gay and Lesbian Rights, stated that although this "does not at all fulfill demands for full civil rights for homosexuals, it is a good platform for our continued struggle."

During the same session the parliament passed another law closing gay male saunas and video bars in "an attempt to control the spread of AIDS." Violators of this new law will face up to two years in prison.

--Equal Time



◆◆◆◆◆
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◆◆◆◆◆

ACLU Publishes Docket of Sexuality Cases

The Lesbian and Gay Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union has just published the first national, annotated list of pending cases involving AIDS, sexual orientation, or consensual sexual activity.

The publication, titled the **National Docket of AIDS and Sexuality and the Law Cases**, is the first ever compiled in this subject area. "I think it will be an extremely useful and important tool for lawyers handling such cases and for interested persons trying to keep up-to-date on the rapid developments in this volatile legal arena," said Nan D. Hunter, director of the national ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

The 133-page **Docket** lists more than 120 cases. Each case summary includes a detailed description of the issues presented in the case, its

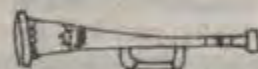
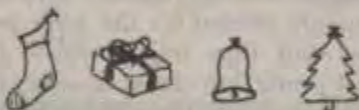
status in court, and lists the name, address, and telephone number of the attorney handling the case. The summary also includes citations for published opinions and the court file numbers. The **Docket** also lists sample pleadings which are available from the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

The **National Docket** includes all the known pending cases as of June 1987 -- not only cases of the ACLU Project and ACLU affiliates, but of all the gay and lesbian legal rights organizations, as well as cases being handled by private attorneys. It includes cases involving discrimination against heterosexuals as well as gay people, such as custody cases involving sex outside of marriage and firings. The AIDS-related cases cover the gamut of discrimination issues, including employment, family law, and criminal law.

"The compilation was an enormous job that's taken about a year to complete," said Hunter. "We will

publish an updated docket each year. We hope that as more people realize that this resource exists, more attorneys will contact us when they file new cases."

A Subject Index of the **Docket** lists cases involving Adoption, AIDS, Association and Assembly, Bathhouses, Civil Rights Laws, Contract, Cruel and Unusual Punishment, Criminal Education, Employment, Equal Protection, Evidence, Foster Care, Handicap Discrimination, Health Care, Housing, Insurance, Labor Law, Military and Veterans, Partner Issues, Prisons, Privacy, Prostitution, Public Accommodations, Quarantine, Religion, Reporting of AIDS Test Results, Security Clearance, Sodomy, Speech and Expression, Testing for HIV Antibody, Torture, Transsexuals, and Violence Against Lesbians and Gays.



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

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The **Docket** is available for \$10 per copy, plus a \$2 postage and handling charge, from the ACLU Literature Department, 132 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036. Checks should be made payable to the ACLU Foundation.

This **Docket** is the newest of such ACLU case lists to be published. Similar compilations are available from the ACLU national office on reproductive freedom and immigration law issues. A complete list of ACLU's publications on "AIDS and Lesbian and Gay Rights" is also available from the Literature Department, at the address above.

New Hampshire Can Deny Gays Adoption Rights

New Hampshire's House of Representatives was advised that it could constitutionally prohibit gays and lesbians from adopting children or acting as foster parents because they are supposedly inappropriate parental role models and because being an adopted or foster child "is difficult enough without the added social and psychological complexities that a homosexual lifestyle could produce."

Legislation was introduced in the New Hampshire House of Representatives to prohibit granting any license to be a foster family where one or more of the adults is homosexual, to prohibit homosexuals from operating day care centers, and to establish an "irrebuttable presumption" that homosexuals are unfit to serve as foster parents, adoptive parents, and to operate day care centers. A statutory "irrebuttable presumption" is one that cannot be proven false by any amount of evidence or testimony to the contrary.

Homosexuals "unfit" as foster and adoptive parents.

Anticipating problems and court challenges to the proposed legislation, the New Hampshire House of Representatives asked the New

Hampshire Supreme Court whether they could constitutionally exclude all gays and lesbians from being foster or adoptive parents and operating day care centers. In Nebraska, giving advisory opinions is the job of the Nebraska Attorney General, and these opinions are not binding law of precedential value. The New Hampshire legislature went directly to their supreme court to ask for a ruling which would prevent later constitutional challenges and could be cited as authority.

In **Opinion of the Justices**, 525 A.2d 1095 (N.H. 1987), the justices advised that: (1) the proposed act's exclusion of homosexuals from foster care and adoption was rationally related to the act's purpose of providing appropriate role models for children, and thus would not violate the equal protection clause of either the federal or New Hampshire constitutions; (2) excluding homosexuals as operators of all types of child care agencies was not rationally related to the act's purpose, and thus might violate the equal protection clause of either the federal or New Hampshire constitutions; (3) excluding homosexuals from foster parentage and adoptions does not violate constitutional protection of due process of law; and (4) excluding homosexuals from foster parentage and adoption does not violate any

substantive right to privacy, or related right of freedom of association, under either the United States or New Hampshire constitutions.

The court majority first found that the rationale underlying the parental role model theory is that persons in the position of parents are the primary role models after whom children consciously or unconsciously pattern themselves. While noting that a number of studies found no correlation between a parent's homosexual orientation and the sexual orientation of the child raised by a gay or lesbian parent, the court stated that "the source of sexual orientation is still inadequately understood and is thought to be a combination of genetic and environmental influences." With a "reasonable possibility of environmental influences," the court majority believed the legislature could "rationally act on the theory that a role model can influence the child's developing sexual identity," and the excluding gays and lesbians from being foster or adoptive parents "bears a rational relationship to the government's legitimate objective of providing adopted and foster children with appropriate parental role models." The court also noted that it was not its business to inquire into the wisdom or desirability of the legislature's choice.

Warmest Wishes

Old-fashioned
Christmas
cheer we
send your
way in
hope that
it brightens
up your Holiday!



While stating that the legislature could completely bar gays and lesbians from being foster or adoptive parents, the court majority also stated that the legislature could not bar gays and lesbians from operating child care facilities, because this extended the parental role model theory too far.

A dissenting opinion noted many ironies, beginning with the fact that consensual homosexual sexual conduct is not a crime in New Hampshire, though heterosexual adultery is. The dissent showed the legislature that, by precluding every homosexual from demonstrating his or her skills as a parent, financial stability is irrelevant, the strength to discipline the child firmly yet patiently is irrelevant, and the courage and love to be generous and loyal, the intelligence to provide proper education, and similar attributes are all irrelevant. Yet, the legislature has no rational basis to conclude the homosexuals will be deficient in any of these characteristics.

Dissent: No evidence for decision.

The dissent also reminded the legislature that it received no meaningful evidence to show that homosexual parents endanger their children's development of sexual preference, gender role identity, or general physical and psychological health any more than heterosexual parents. The legislature received no such evidence "because apparently the overwhelming weight of professional study on the subject concludes that no difference in psychological and psychosexual development can be discerned between children raised by heterosexual parents and children raised by homosexual parents."

The dissent concluded that reasonable alternative methods exist to evaluate the qualifications of homosexuals who apply to adopt or offer foster care, and that the existing New Hampshire law would deny a gay or lesbian's application to adopt or to offer foster or day care when the applicant cannot provide a healthy, caring, and nurturing environment for the child.

--Mark Wojcik

Poetry

Guises In My Muse

I'm not immune, to what others think.
And I'm just a babe, standing on the brink.

I've touched the hand, that feels just like mine.
And now I know, that love can be divine.

Guises in my muse,
Want to bare my soul,
But it could not face reviews.

Others don't care, for what is there,
They long to hide, from secrets they don't share.

To embrace a truth, from which I so long hid,
Seems a cause for celebration, of souls with whom I live.

Banter of my soul,
Loosens in a crowd,
Though they know not of what I muse.

--C.M. Carroll

Tomorrow

I may never see tomorrow; there's no written guarantee;
And things that happened yesterday belong to history.
I cannot predict the future, and I cannot change the past;
I have just the present moment, I must treat it as my last.

I must use this moment wisely for it soon will pass away;
And be lost to me forever as a part of yesterday.
I must exercise compassion; help the fallen to their feet;
Be a friend unto the friendless, make an empty life complete.

I must make this moment precious for it will not come again;
And I can never be content with things that might have been.
Kind words I fail to say this day may ever be unsaid;
For I know not how short may be the path that lies ahead.

The unkind things I do today my never be undone;
And friendships that I fail to win may nevermore be won.
I may not have another chance on bended knee to pray;
And thank my God with humble heart for giving me this day.

I may never see tomorrow, but this moment is my own;
It's mine to use or cast aside; the choice is mine, alone.
I have just this precious moment in sunlight of today;
Where the dawning of tomorrow meets the dusk of yesterday.



The Best White Horse is Gray!

To all you guys I ever met,
I'm the one who got away.
While looking for your white horse
You've watched my brown hair gray.

For twenty years I pitied me
When it really shoulda been you.
You're the ones who lost out!
They've shot your horse for glue.

You stood around the bars and looked,
Sampling only trim, young meat,
Your rubber eyes avoided mine,
You dished out rejection and deceit.

Sometimes you'd stop long enough
To unload your rocks for fun
Mouthing sentimental words
Til the next morning you'd run

Searching for that white horse,
Mounted by that perfect man,
The one you'd hope would hold you,
Someone who'd understand

And speak the words you wouldn't
Cause you believed the other would
Start it all and make a move-
He'd make you feel sooo good!

Life fools you sometimes, doesn't it?
Beware of the great white hope!
Unless you make the first move
You're bound to be the dope

Who's left there still standing,
Waiting for that glorious day
Never giving a second thought
That the best white horse is gray!
-by Golly

The Power of Love

As human beings we often experience pleasure, emotion, gratification and even ecstasy, and frequently call those experiences love. Are they really? Are they real?

Huey Lewis, in his recording, "The Power of Love," seemed to be saying that that power can overcome all things adverse.

As members of the human family and of the Family of God we have many times been unloved, hated, scorned and maligned, the objects of physical violence and the subjects of mental and emotional cruelty.

One thing we can embrace with certitude is the knowledge that our Creator loves us -- regardless by what name we name Him.

Being sure of that Boundless Love we then, as sensitive human beings, should look to see and learn if we can and ought to love our fellow human beings -- our brothers and sisters.

In beginning that quest, looking at our brothers and sisters, we need to focus on the idea that we, individually, are our own greatest challenge.

To love others -- think about it -- we need only to love ourselves and to see ourselves as we really are: often lonely, frequently in pain, more often than not alienated and always vulnerable.

That state of vulnerability is what creates a wall which surrounds us, as individuals, and which will ultimately smother us. Vulnerability creates in us the fear to risk.

It is time we all become risk-takers; the greatest risk one can ever take is that of self-examination. When we honestly and openly examine ourselves we often see those same negative attributes which we disdain in others.

If we can accept what we see in ourselves and change those negative attributes to positive we can then take a major step toward loving others.

We must forgive -- first ourselves, individually -- for whatever weakness or shortcoming we possess; then we forgive the wrongs which have been done to us.

If I am petty I must first forgive myself for having been petty; only then can I forgive you who may have been.

How can I remove the splinter from my brother's eye unless I first pluck the beam from my own eye? Without having done so I cannot see clearly.

Only the power of love will enable us to achieve all of this.

Love is an unselfish attitude we must first hold toward others in order to be loved. We must first give in order to later receive; it's kind of a law written somewhere.

Holy Scripture teaches that love keeps no record of wrongdoing; let us then do likewise.

Let us be lovers, one of another, in a spirit of closeness and oneness. Keep no records, hold no grudges, bar none from your love; we are all brothers and sisters, members of the human family and of the Family of God.

Warning: Retain your sense of humor; there will be those who will see you as foolish and who will deride you as being naive. Nonetheless persevere in your love and in your loving and soon they will see your joy and rush to your side to partake of it and share in it.

In and with love,

--Leigh Funkhouser



Play Safe



from the staff

Classifieds

Santa Wish List from the Lambda House:

File cabinets, dining room table (the bigger the better), folding chairs, VCR, dishwasher, stereo, bookshelves, coffeemaker, soup bowls, paper towels, tissue paper, paper napkins, plastic glasses, paper plates, garbage disposal. Call Chappaie at Lambda House, 474-1205.

Hey You with the Reindeer!

If you really want to respond to a real person because you don't believe in Santa any more, write Boxholder 30078, Lincoln, NE 68508-after you've read the article with the above title. Want to have a Merry Christmas?

Rooms for Rent

at the
Lambda house

Gay/Lesbian
Resource Center

Call 474-1205.
Ask for Gideon.

As in Personal ads. You really should consider jumping on the band wagon before you miss out. Why even *Bloom County* is pushing personal ads.

Just the other night I suggested it to a friend and he told me in his most righteous voice that he "doesn't do ads." I asked him if he "did windows?" "No, just the Capitol."

CLASSIFIED AFFAIRS, A Gay Man's Guide to the Personal Ads, by John Preston & Frederick Brandt, is a book I plan to review next month. Traditional ways to find a "match" aren't working these days.

Because of this months deadline and having over extended myself by volunteering, I haven't had enough time to express much of my sick sense of humor. But be warned, next month, you've had it—if the new staff will agree. So please, write and tell them "by Golly" you want something to laugh about in their next issue.

-by Golly



Dear Santa:

I'm a dark-eyed man with skin so fair, attractive, slender with brownish hair. I stand 6' tall, not too big or too small! I do smoke and drink socially a bit, I'm out-going and have humor and wit! I'm just 25 - still very young, I'd say, I'm in excellent shape-why I'm not even gray! My interests vary, I love nature, too, hugs, togetherness being happy like you! I dwell in a log house in a beautiful setting, But Santa, you don't know how lonely I'm getting. Sitting here by the fire and Christmas tree, no man to share in this season with me. Santa, I seek someone kind and sincere, Wanting a nice man for Christmas this year! One who's adventurous and has a good mind, the outgoing, caring, hang-in-there kind! To my interests he should relate, I'm looking for a lifetime mate. I'm a wholesome man, affectionate and true, and I want a man who is that way, too! On Santa, won't you hear my plea-Leave a nice man under my Christmas tree? Someone who wants me, not just for today, but for all the Christmases to come our way. I'd be good to him, just wait and see, he'd be someone special to me. And when Christmas is over and the New Year begins, there'd be two happy people to ring it in! Thank you, dear Santa, that's my wish this year, Merry Christmas to you and to all your reindeer!

Write "Christmas Poet"
P. O. Box 99
Elk Grove (Sacramento), CA 95624
S.A.S.E. Please for reply.

Omaha Bars, Clubs, and Lounges

The Chesterfield, 1951 St. Mary's Ave., 342-1244
The Diamond, 712 So. 16th St., 342-9595
The Max, 1417 Jackson, 346-4110
The Run, 1715 Leavenworth, 449-8703
Sack's Landing, 3018 No. 93rd, 571-0790

Lincoln Bars, Clubs, and Lounges

The Boardwalk, 20th & O Sts., 474-9741
Cherchez la femme, 200 So. 18th, 474-9162
The Club, 116 No. 20th St., 474-5692
Panic, 200 So. 18th St., 435-8764



Gay/Lesbian Resource Directory

NEBRASKA STATEWIDE

AIDS Resource List

Care & Testing

- Lincoln General Hospital**
2300 South 16th-Lincoln (402) 475-1011
- Bryan Memorial Hospital**
1600 South 48th-Lincoln (402) 489-0200
- St. Elizabeth Community Health Center**
555 South 70th-Lincoln (402) 489-3802
- University of Nebraska Medical Center**
42nd & Dewey-Omaha (402) 559-6202
Jonathan Goldsmith, MD
- Veterans Administration Medical Center**
600 South-Lincoln (402) 489-3802

Confidential Testing

- Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department**
2200 St. Marys Avenue, Lincoln, NE 68502
(402) 471-7800

Counseling/Support Groups

- Open Door Ministry-Lincoln**
Father David (402) 474-3390
- PFLAG-Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays**
Jean (402) 435-4688
- Brother William Woeger**
c/o Omaha Catholic Archdiocese
100 N. 62nd, Omaha, NE 68123
- AIDS Interfaith Network**
1106 N. 36th, Omaha, NE 68131
- Project CONCERN**
Box 3772, Omaha, NE 68102 (402) 455-3701

Education

- Lincoln Cancer Center**
Barb Morton (402) 483-1827
4600 Valley Rd., Lincoln, NE 68510
- Lambda Resource Center**
2845 "R" Street-Lincoln (402) 474-1205
- Nebraska AIDS Project**
Box 3118, Omaha, NE 68131 1-800-782-AIDS
- Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department**
(402) 471-7800
- American Red Cross**
1701 "E", Lincoln, NE 68501 (402) 471-7997
- Project CONCERN**
Box 3772, Omaha, NE 68102 (402) 455-3701
- The Common Woman**
1065 No. 33rd St., Lincoln, NE (402) 464-6309

Financial

- Nebraska Department of Social Services**
10th & "O" Streets, Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 471-7000

Referrals

- Mary Caudy**
Director of Social Services
Lincoln General Hospital (402) 475-1011

Legal

- Nebraska Civil Liberties Union**
633 S. 9th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
John Taylor (402) 476-8091
- Mowbray, Chapin & Walker, P.C.**
201 N. 8th Street-Suite 242, Lincoln, NE 68508
Jim (402) 476-3882

- Affirmation of Nebraska** (402) 476-9913
Box 80122, Lincoln, NE 68501
United Methodists for Gay/Lesbian Concerns. Meets alternately in Omaha and Lincoln, second Friday.
- Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights**
Box 94882, Lincoln, NE 68509
Advocacy/Lobbies for lesbian/gay civil rights, educational presentations, newsletter, cultural, political programs.
- Imperial Court of Nebraska** (402) 733-1924
Box 3772, Omaha, NE 68102. Social organization for advancement of gay society. Omaha meeting first Monday each month, except holidays.
- Presbyterians For Lesbian/Gay Concerns**
(402) 733-1360-Cleve

- Nebraska AIDS Project** 1-800-782-AIDS
Box 3118, Omaha 68131
Info/support. Coordinates AIDS related community efforts.
- The New Voice of Nebraska** (402) 474-1205
Box 80819, Lincoln, NE 68501
Monthly magazine serving gay/lesbian community.
- UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center**(402) 472-5644
Nebraska Union, Room 342-Meetings, (Mail Room 222)
UNL Campus, Lincoln, NE 68588. Social activities, AIDS education, roommate referral, groups, library.
- Viral Syndrome Clinic**
University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE (402) 559-6202-Jonathan Goldsmith, MD
(402) 559-4420-Ann Lamb, MSW

LINCOLN

- Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous**
(402) 466-5214-Call AA central office for location.
- Gay/Lesbian Information & Support Line**
Box 94882, Lincoln, NE 68509 (402) 472-4697 evens.
Referral, support phone line staffed by peer counselors.
- Lambda Resource Center** (402) 474-1205
2845 "R" Street, Lincoln, NE 68503
- Lesbian Support Group** (402) 472-2597
Women's Resource Center, Room 117, Nebraska Union
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588
Informal weekly discussion group for lesbians.
- Lincoln Legion of Lesbians**
Box 30317, Lincoln, NE 68503
Lesbian-feminist collective. Newsletter, confidential referral, support group, cultural and social programs.
- Metropolitan Community Church of Lincoln**
2845 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68503 (402) 474-1205
Sun. worship 5:30pm (6-45pm Pot Luck) on 2nd, 4th Sunday; Bible Study 5:30pm alternate Sundays.
- Ministry in Human Sexuality, Inc.**
Box 80122, Lincoln, NE 68501 (402) 476-9913
Non-profit. Counseling, education, supportive action for those seeking growth, understanding in sexuality, relationships. J. Benjamin Roe, Exec. Director.
- Nebraska Wesleyan Student Group** (402) 465-2351
(Dr. Mary Smith) Meets weekly and confidentially.
- New Directions Center** (402) 476-2802
Short term counseling, support groups, classes, workshops dealing with coming out, relationships, parenting. Sliding fee scale.
- Open Door Ministry** (402) 474-3390
Orthodox spiritual counseling to all in need at no charge.
- Parents/Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)** (402) 435-4688
Box 4374, Lincoln, NE 68501 Support group, parents, friends, relatives of lesbians/gays. Meets 4th Tues.
- The Common Woman** (402) 464-6309
1065 N. 33rd (33rd & Appll), Lincoln, NE 68503
Bookstore-Coffeehouse (Women's social Fri. 7pm-mid.)
- The Wimmis' Show** 12-3p.m. every Sunday
KZUM Radio 89.3 FM Stereo
- Woman's Journal-Advocate**
Box 81226, Lincoln, NE 68501.
Monthly feminist publication.
- Women's Assistance Emergency Fund**
Box 82852, Lincoln, NE 68501

OMAHA

- Dignity of Omaha** (402) 341-1460 or 345-9426
St. John's (lower level) Common bonds thru Mass, meetings for gays, lesbians, their friends, 2nd Sun, 7pm.
- Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon** (402) 556-9907
MCC, 420 S. 24th St., Omaha, NE 68103
Meets Friday, weekly, 8:15pm.
- Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous**(402) 345-9916
MCC, 420 S. 24th St., Omaha, NE, 68103
Meets Friday, weekly, 8:15pm
- Gay Parents Support Group** (402) 553-2308
Support group for gay parents who have children.
- Lutherans Concerned of Omaha** (402) 592-1209
Gay Christians, friends together to foster climate of understanding, justice, reconciliation among all.
- Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha**
420 S. 24th St., Omaha, NE 68103 (402) 345-2563
Sun. worship 10:30am, 7pm; Adult Sun. School 9:10am;
Tues. Bible Study 7:30pm; Wed. Program 7:30pm.
- Omaha Business and Professional Club**
Box 3124, Omaha, NE 68103 (402) 493-3343
Networking organization of business and professional persons. Meets third Wednesday monthly.
- Omaha Mxpackers** (402)-341-4233
2116 N. 16th #9-Omaha, NE 68110 Scott Cries, Secty
- FACT (People of All Colors Together)**
Box 3683, Omaha, NE 68103 (402) 895-0865
A gay/lesbian interracial organization that offers educational, political, social activities.
- Parents/Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)** (402) 566-7481 (Ruth)
Box 3173, Omaha, NE 68103
Support for parents, friends, relatives of lesbians/gays.
- Project CONCERN** (402) 455-3701
Box 3772, Omaha, NE 68102
AIDS info., speakers, brochures, posters, VCR tapes.
- River City Bowling League** (402) 344-3821
Dean Vandepool, Secretary
- River City Mixed Chorus** (402) 342-4775
Box 315, Omaha, NE 68101
Volunteer community chorus for gay/lesbian, gay/lesbian-sensitive men, women with goal of musical excellence in performance. Rehearsals Monday evenings.
- Two-Wheelers of Omaha (TWO)Motorcycle Club**
305 Turner Blvd #8, Omaha, NE 68131
- UNO Student Group** (402) 334-4426 (Wes)
Box 31351, Omaha 68131-0351
Gay, lesbian student social/support group.

"Experience the Ultimate"

The
MAX

...Omaha

1417 Jackson

Omaha, Nebraska 68102

(402) 343-4110

THE NEW VOICE

WILL SURVIVE

THANK-YOU

**TO ALL WHO HAVE
COME OUT TO HELP
OUR COMMUNITY
MAGAZINE !!!**