

V O L I N O VIII

*The
New Voice*

O F N E B R A S K A

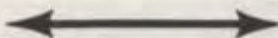
**THE
BARS**

The New Voice

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Assoc. Editor for Omaha — Jerry P.
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Subscription Director — Tim Kuntz
Contributors — Gail, Cynthia, Gary, Dave, John, Pastor Jan
John, Don, Joel, Julie
Cover—Theme of Bar Issue, Ed Sell

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The New Voice
P.O. Box 60819
LINCOLN, NE
68501



Don Longmore
401 S. 39 St.
OMAHA, NE
68131

The Bar Issue

The Early Days

The Diamond Bar in Omaha was the first bar in Nebraska to openly welcome gays. Jimmy Sechaer saw gay men kicked out of other bars for no reason and after he witnessed 3 men get harassed outside Joe's Bar, Jim decided to welcome the men to The Diamond. Mr. Sechser told the men to bring their friends and the word spread throughout the community. Thus, in 1950, a new social outlet for gays was established.

Another bar, The Frolics, opened in the early 1950's and was located between Farnam and Douglas, on 18th St. The bar was half-oval, and above the bar, there was a stage with entertainment. The bar was exclusively gay, but some straight patrons came to watch the performers. The bar closed in the mid '50s after an insurance company bought the building.

The Ron-d-voov was a lively piano bar that opened in the late 1950s after The Frolics had closed.

Another early bar was The Peppermint Cave, which was later referred to as just The Cave. It was located in the lower level of the Hill Building, which also contained The Ron-d-voov. The Cave opened in the early 1960's and started with live entertainment, which later changed to canned music. The Cave closed in 1979 but will always be remembered as a popular spot on the run. Many patrons in the 1970's would make the entire circuit to The Stage Door, The Diamond, and The Cave. This was easy to do since all three bars were less than a block apart from each other.

The Alley Will Soon Offer More

In 1978, Cuzz's, a restaurant and disco bar, opened at 1113 Howard Street in the Old Market area of Omaha. The restaurant was on the street level, and the disco bar was located on the lower level with an atrium entrance off Howard.

In 1981, the restaurant was leased to Godfather's Pizza, and Cuzz's continued to operate as a straight disco bar until the owner decided to open after hours and encouraged patronage of the gay community. The mixture of gays and straights was not as successful as he had anticipated, so he closed for a brief spell and then reopened on weekends only.

With other business ventures occupying much of his time, he closed the disco again in 1983, and then reopened as THE ALLEY and catered to a strictly gay clientele.

February of '84 saw the bar change hands, and the new owner began an extensive remodeling program, adding a second bar, the GOLD CROWN ROOM, which is the first strictly gay piano bar in Omaha in years. There is a meeting room available for the use of all gay organizations in Omaha and Lincoln. An old Wells Fargo vault in the disco room is now being remodeled into a wine and champagne cooler room.

Progress continues on THE ALLEY kitchen, and when it is completed, lunches will be served Monday through Saturday. After the bar closes on Friday and Saturday nights, breakfast will be served until 3:00 a.m., a first for an Omaha gay bar. A champagne brunch will be offered each Sunday.

While the entrance to THE ALLEY remains at the back door during the evening hours, the atrium entrance on Howard will be open for the noon hour lunch trade in the restaurant, which is scheduled to open sometime in October.

--Don Longmore

Lincoln's New Classy Bar—The Board-Walk

Last month something historic happened to the gay community in Lincoln. For the first time in recent memory, Lincoln has a gay-owned gay bar.

Remember the Alternative Bar at 29th and O Streets? Well, it has closed and in its place is the Board Walk, co-owned by Phil Hogan, Mike Maguire, and Ray Kozisek. This newest addition to Lincoln's gay night life has a patio, a disco floor, a video screen, a store that will soon carry leather, films, and other assorted goodies, and plans to expand.

Mike Maguire's license as manager of the Board Walk was approved in August. He is also the primary finance person for the Board Walk. His lover Ray takes care of interior design and promotions.

Operations manager Phil Hogan who, along with Maguire served in law enforcement prior to going into bar management, is originally from Wayne, Nebraska. Two years ago he decided he needed a change and went to work as manager of the Sanctuary, along with Jamie Miller, the current manager of the Board Walk.

Last spring, the four of them decided that the Lincoln gay community needed more variety in terms of bars, so they left the Sanctuary and purchased the Board Walk. An opening party was held in June.

Hogan expressed pleasant surprise at the amount of help and support they received from the community at large, noting in particular the many hours of volunteer labor that went into getting the bar ready to open.

Manager Jamie Miller brings to the Board Walk eight years of experience in bars in California and Texas. He also helped with the coffeehouse prior to its closing.

Asked to elaborate why he felt a need to open a new bar in Lincoln, Hogan hesitated for a moment and then said, "People have a right to spend their money in any atmosphere they like with no strings attached." He went on to cite his concerns over what he perceives as exploitation of the gay community by outsiders.

New Voice readers will recall in August several fundamentalists decided to spend Saturday evenings at the Board Walk passing out literature. Several patrons felt harassed by their presence, and the police were called numerous times. They have apparently gone into hibernation for the winter, and Hogan expressed pleasure at their absence. He also noted that they are basically the only harassment the bar has received.

--Mei Dahl



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Wimmin Enjoy Cherchez la Femme

You can "look for the wommon" at Lincoln's only wimmin's bar, located on the corner of 18th and N streets.

Cherchez la Femme is not Lincoln's first wimmin's bar, however; The Sanctuary, in the building directly above Cherchez, was a wimmin's bar until three years ago. Cherchez's co-owner and manager, Kelly Erisman, worked at The Sanctuary following its turnover into a mixed bar. She had considered the idea of opening another wimmin's bar until 1983, when she decided to make the idea a reality. Construction started in January, and with the energy and effort of friends, Kelly celebrated Cherchez la Femme's grand opening on August 11, 1983.

"It's not that the wimmin wanted to be separate," Kelly says, "They were looking for a place to meet for discussions and friendships." The hard work and determination that went into opening the bar, she adds, is what gives the wimmin "a sense of their own space." Men, however, are not unwelcome, and there is pleasant interaction between the patrons of Cherchez la Femme and The Sanctuary. Still, according to one wommon who frequents both bars, "The men and wimmin respect each other's space."

Lesbian and straight wimmin find that Cherchez has a lot to offer. Wimmin can dance to a variety of music, including contemporary pop, wimmin's music, and other kinds of music by request. The bar itself serves alcohol, specialty and non-alcoholic drinks. According to Kelly, "There is no pressure on anyone to drink alcohol here. A lot of wimmin see Cherchez as a nice place just to socialize." Monthly calendars highlight birthdays, theme parties, beer-busts, tournaments, and scheduled wimmin's entertainment. Video games and a pooltable are available for those who enjoy spirited competition among friends.

Many wimmin agree that the atmosphere makes Cherchez la Femme a special place to meet with other wimmin. Wimmin of various political and educational backgrounds come together at Cherchez to share concerns and experiences with friends, and to celebrate and party together. The atmosphere seems to meet everyone's need.

Kelly sees her experience with Cherchez la Femme as "trying at times, but rewarding." "It took a lot of work to get started, but I feel satisfied to see the wimmin coming together. That is what Cherchez is here for, and I'd do it all over again." She adds, "The wimmin are the real asset: they make the wimmin's bar a special place."

Cherchez la Femme is open from 4-1 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays, and from 6-11 p.m. on Sundays.

--A.F.

Distribution of The New Voice is limited. Insure delivery (in a non-descript manila envelope) of your copy by subscribing today.

The Chesterfield Provides Nice Atmosphere

When Alma and Nancy opened The Chesterfield in November of 1982, they had their sights set on a small and cozy "neighborhood-type" bar, where gays would feel comfortable to just sit and talk and get to know each other better. They ended up with not only an intimate bar, but perhaps something they hadn't reckoned on--a family.

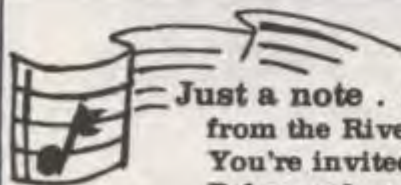
The building, near 20th and St. Mary's, apparently started out as a grocery store, but has been a bar for 40 or 45 years. Nancy reminisced that when she and Alma were remodeling the bar prior to opening, they planned on doing the work themselves. "But then," she recalled, "We had all these young gay women come knocking at the door, saying, 'Hey, we heard this is gonna be a women's bar.'" And, since it was owned by two gay women, the picture they got was that it was going to be a women's bar. Both owners are quick to stress, however, that gay men are more than welcome.

The Chesterfield's regular customers have turned out to be a fairly tight-knit family. The women are very supportive of each other, sharing mutual concerns and feelings and talking over problems. Alma and Nancy take a personal interest in them too--in some instances referring them to a lawyer, dentist or doctor. "When somebody has a problem, they come to us," said Nancy, "and if we can't help them, we send them to somebody who can. The other day we got a call at 2 a.m., and it's been like that since we've been open." To some of the regulars, they are known affectionately as "Mom and Dad."

The Chesterfield's commitment to the gay community can be evidenced by its support of M.C.C. fundraisers, a bowling league, softball teams, flea markets, and hayrack rides.

Nancy denied rumors that the bar is for sale and claimed they plan to keep it. As Alma put it, "The bar is in our blood."

--Julie Morgan



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The Diamond — Landmark for Gay Community

Jimmy Sechser's bar, The Diamond, is indeed a landmark in the Omaha Gay Community. The bar opened in the early 1950's and was the first bar to welcome gays. It also gained national attention since it was one of the earliest bars to open in the Midwest. The Diamond was originally a cigar store, located at 516 So. 16th. Jim switched the store to a straight bar and then welcomed gays when he saw other bars mistreat gay men. Men usually entered through the back door in the early days because of fear of walking into a gay bar. The Diamond has always advertised itself as "The Gayest Bar in Omaha" and has never been afraid to admit to serving gay patrons.

When the building next to the Acquila Courtyard was destined for demolition in 1977, The Diamond moved to its present address with a smooth transition. Remarkably, the new bar bore an amazing resemblance to the former location. In 1970, Jim married an acquaintance of his daughter, Cindy, and together, they have not only run the establishment, but have started a family and are now the proud parents of four children: Margaret 11, Ellen 10, Gregory 6, and James Patrick 6 months.

The Diamond is a unique bar with a stable clientele with a wide range of ages. They have more regulars than the other bars; some of them have been going to The Diamond for years.

The Diamond opens at 9 a.m., earlier than any other Nebraska establishment. It is a quiet bar, where people can socialize in a friendly atmosphere. No changes in the bar's decor are planned for the future, so The Diamond can maintain its original look.

Cindy and Jim love to meet new customers and make them feel happy. Regular customers have always been treated special.

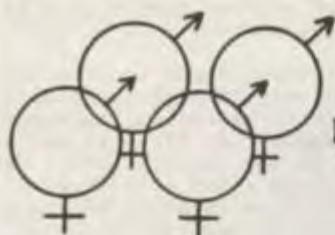
The Diamond is destined to go right on glittering on South 16th St. for many years to come.

Lincoln's Original Bar — The Office Lounge

The Office Lounge is Lincoln's first gay bar. Unlike the Omaha bars, Lincolnites didn't have a place to go until 1978. Some individuals, including Jay Quast and Calvin Luff, approached Sandi and Jerry Irwin and asked them if they minded if gays and lesbians socialized in their establishment. The Irwins had no objections and a transition eventually took place. More and more gays and lesbians took the opportunity to support a gay bar, and the evening crowd became exclusively gay.

Jerry and Sandi Irwin bought The Office in July, 1973. A regular straight crowd has always been a part of The Office scene and are the majority in the afternoons and early evenings.

Recently, the Irwins added new carpeting and a video screen to The Office. No future plans for remodeling are planned. Sandi invites everyone to stop in and enjoy the best dance floor and sound system in town.



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The Sanctuary — A New Era

The Sanctuary Bar, located at 200 So. 18th St. in Lincoln, is open Sundays from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., and Monday through Saturday from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. It is co-owned by Jerry and Sandy Irwin and Michael Rater. Mr. Rater (perhaps known as well in the gay/lesbian community as Liesa Durant, Princess Royal to the Imperial Court of Nebraska) is also the manager of the Sanctuary. The building was constructed in the late summer of 1977 and was originally a "watering-hole" for lawyers, statesmen, and other professionals from the downtown area.

The Sanctuary was opened in July of 1981 as a lesbian bar and was purchased by Jerry and Sandy Irwin in November of that year. The bar was remodeled and reopened to serve both men and women in the community. Mr. Phil Hogan and Mr. Jamie Miller took over the management of the Sanctuary in the spring of 1982. During their association with the bar, Mr. Hogan and Mr. Miller remodeled the inside to modernize the decor. In January of 1983, the basement of the Sanctuary, which at that time was Mr. Hogan's apartment, was renovated and in August, Cherchez la Femme opened downstairs. In May of 1984, Jamie and Phil moved down to O Street to open The Board Walk.

Summer of 1984 brought many changes to The Sanctuary. In May, Mr. Rater took over the manager's position. In June, Lafayette's Kitchen Klatch opened at the bar, and in July, the interior was remodeled again.

The Sanctuary strives to provide a quiet, laid-back atmosphere similar to that of someone's den or living room. The music is never so loud that one leaves hoarse from casual conversation. There is also a nice patio to which one (or two) can retreat for a bit more privacy.

Future plans for The Sanctuary include: the return of their wide-screen TV, and at some time, enclosing the beer-garden so that it can be used during the winter months.

Mr. Rater challenged me to find a bar in town--gay or straight--that compares with the reasonable prices that he sets on drinks. One can often find weekend specials here, and The Sanctuary is the only bar that we know of that has an "Employee Night," when employees from the bars in Lincoln and Omaha (gay/lesbian bars, that is) can receive a discount on their drinks. Mr. Rater says that this is a way in which he can personally encourage unity and make for a better working relationship between the management and staffs of other drinking establishments that serve our community.

--Tim Kuntz

The Max — The Ultimate Hot Spot

If Omaha's newest gay bar could be put into a formula, it might simply be this:

The Max = High Tech + High Energy!

Owners Bruce and Don wanted to design and build the hottest and "cruisiest" gay bar in town, the ultimate hot spot.

The Max includes a flowing walk-around floor plan with no dead ends, intended to encourage cruising, a HOT disco bar with special lighting effects purchased from points around the world (including a monorail system for lights), and a long serving bar. Its decor, in the basic color of black with grey and chrome highlights, simulates a TV studio with an open grid lighting display. But hold on . . . there's more!

A second bar, done in burgundy and brass, is called the day bar and is for patrons looking for a quiet and restful atmosphere. Bruce says they'll also open an adjacent patio later this fall.

If you are looking for any resemblance to the co-owners' former establishment, the Hollywood, you won't find it. The Max--at 1417 Jackson--is all "today." Bruce admits the quarter of a million dollar price tag is a bit over budget.

"I've thought for a long time that gay people needed as many institutions as possible," says Bruce, "and for a long, long time, the only institutions were the bars. So we really supported other institutions like the M.C.C. / Omaha or the Imperial Court, which," he says, "help lend a 'sense of community.'"

On a philosophical note, Bruce says that Omaha might seem conservative, but, he stresses, it is progressive, pointing to the recent Imperial Court coronation at Joslyn Art Museum as an example. Bruce says that the coronation was not only a "classy act," but also precedent setting.

--Julie Morgan

The Stage Door Plans to Expand Disco

Omaha's longest existing gay disco, The Stage Door opened in June, 1975. It was formerly a straight bar called The 1512. In 1978, The Stage Door expanded with a large disco floor and more seating. The Stage Door was the first gay bar to open a beer garden and offer large video screens. The Red Room has pool tables and a game area, and many shows and performances take place at The Stage Door. Recently, The Miss Gay Nebraska Contest was held there.

The Levi Loft, a leather and jeans bar was unsuccessful in attracting clientele and lasted less than a year. Also, after hours was tried unsuccessfully.

Mr. B., owner of the lounge, plans to add additional space to the dance floor and next year, he wants to remodel The Red Room's interior. He does not feel that The Max will hurt his business.

Recently, rumors have been circulating that The Stage Door has sold its building to the city and will close in less than a year. Mr. B. says that all these rumors are false, and he is not selling for a parking lot or retiring. In fact, as he pointed out, he plans to facelift The Red Room and expand the Disco.

Mr. B. invites all gays and their friends to come to the bar and have a good time. The Stage Door attracts a peaceful crowd that enjoys the music and dancing. The Stage Door's casual atmosphere attracts gays and lesbians from all segments of the community.

WANTED: people to contribute articles for consideration of publication in The New Voice. If it is in good taste and tastefully done, it has a chance. Contact The New Voice, P. O. Box 80819, Lincoln, NE, 68501.

The Run Continues to Make Changes

That which was once a neighborhood bar known as the Cloverleaf changed hands on February 5, 1982. The name was changed to The Run in honor of the late night flow of traffic that passes its doors as they circle the Douglas County Correctional Center. (Guess who?)

Under the new management, patrons were from a different segment of our society. Some of the "old" neighborhood oldsters were in for some surprises! They have since meandered off to somewhere. Disco music replaced the former sounds, and the basement became "The Men's Room" for a time. The other room was remodeled, and The Loft was added for those that wanted to watch those bodies without suffering from ear damage, and efforts continued to improve the bar.

In September of '83, Mark and Annie took over the management of The Run, featuring catered meals for a time, and remodeling was done to remove the remaining unturned stones of the former Cloverleaf's main bar. Future plans include a cafe in the former Men's Room and a Beer Garden in the back of the building and extended use of the big screen TV and VCR.

When asked, "What do you see as your role as a part of the gay community?" Mark replied, "My role in the gay community is to provide a place where people can come to meet other people, have a nice time with reasonably priced drinks and no hassles. If it were not for the good friends I have made here, I would not have remained to watch the gay community grow and to continue to help where I can."

The Run is neither the oldest nor the newest gay bar in Omaha, but it meets the needs of a segment of a society within the larger society.

--Jerry P.



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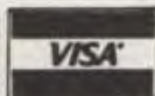
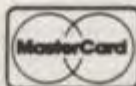


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Confessions of a Non-Bar Person

First of all, I must state that I believe in free enterprise--more power to bar owners. I believe in personal liberties--more power to those who frequent bars.

However, I, myself, am not a bar person.

It has nothing to do with bars being "gay" bars. Some of the nicest people I know frequent "gay" bars. Most of the nicest people I know frequent some sort of bar.

I am not a "teetotaler." I do drink, though rather lightly and not very frequently. I am not a total introvert--I like people, and usually enjoy being with them.

But I am not a bar person.

Okay, you ask, do I have a reason. Yes . . . generally two reasons: First, I enjoy a good conversation. That means, to me, hearing and being heard. My experience, in most every bar I've ever been to, is that the noise levels cover up much of a good conversation.

Second, I am a non-smoker. I do accept and generally tolerate smokers. But I don't like smoke-filled rooms. And most bars I've visited are virtually defined as "smoke-filled rooms."

So . . . I like to chat and I like to breathe. And my bar experiences generally do not agree with either.

People tell me the so-called "quiet bars" overcome a lot of this. Yes, they are a step in the right direction, and I appreciate what I've seen so far.

But I'm also glad to see alternate forms of entertainment and communication springing up in our community. Like coffee houses. Like various activities, such as bowling and singing. And, I hope, more are on the way.

I suppose the fact that I am a very light drinker means my desires for alcohol don't overpower my dislike of noise and smoke. Or the fact that I am not a person to "cruise" keeps me from a lot of the "bar scene" in general.

But I would assume there are hundreds--thousands???--of others out there like me. Waiting for other things to do besides go to the bars.

For those of you who enjoy bars, ENJOY. For those of us who don't, HELP!

--Gary

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Syndrome (AIDS) and its transmission.

Our Turn

Recently I disclosed my real identity because of The New Voice's legal battle with The Voice News of southern Lancaster County. This was a real difficult decision for me as I feared the response from my family, co-workers, and friends. I also feared harassment from my neighbors and society generally. This was especially true when I realized that my name would be used in several newspapers which were covering the trial. My final decision was founded on principle. I felt I could handle the harassment, but I could never live with myself if I didn't fight for my rights and the rights of the magazine.

The fear of the unknown faces most gays and lesbians, especially during the difficult coming-out stage of our lives. However, this fear is overexaggerated in most cases, but paranoia runs rampant in the conservative Midwest.

I found through my own experience that all my fears were unjustified. I didn't lose my job, my family in Bellevue received no negative response, and it appears that my friends have greater respect for me now since I am totally honest with them. I wasn't harassed by my neighbors, and I didn't receive any threatening calls or letters. This is not to say that in the future there could be no problems, but now, I feel pretty good about opening up and being myself. As a mental health counselor, I would not recommend this route for everyone. But I would suggest making a careful assessment of your own circumstances and seeing if disclosure would result in boosting self-esteem and self-respect, or if openness could result in more harm than good.

--Larry Wiseblood,
Editor

GLIS BOOK FAIR CORRECTION

The New Voice regrets that in the article about the GLIS Line Book Fair (Vol. I, No. VII) that the wrong date was given. The correct dates are:

Saturday, October 13 at the Unitarian Church
(during the annual meeting of the Lincoln
Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights),

and

Saturday, October 20th and
Sunday, October 21st at Commonplace UMHE
333 North 14th (see article).

We also regret that the name of Beth Pauley was omitted. Beth Pauley is the co-coordinator of the book selection committee, who selected the wimmin's literature.

Our Turn

Since moving to Lincoln a year ago, I have learned several things about its gay community.

The first thing I noticed was that many of the same people were doing all of the volunteer work. I see a need for more assistance so that the other dedicated volunteers don't get burned out.

I recognized the quality of The New Voice from the beginning. Nebraska needs a voice. One that would lend a fair ear to us.

A third thing that I noticed is the essential need for the community to move in new directions. Remember, this is 1984!

New directions which I can foresee are a gay/lesbian community center, a literary association, a radio show for KRNU, sports organizations, a free university to educate, and a gay/lesbian drug and alcohol program.

These are my reflections of the homophile community here. I love each and every one of you.

--Randall Baaron

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NEWS & FEATURES

Controversy Strikes Miss Gay Nebraska Contest

The Miss Gay Nebraska Contest held on August 26 had the ingredients of a very successful event--a good crowd, good performances and a special guest: Tasha Kohl, Miss Gay America 1983.

However, an error in the tabulation of ballots struck down the designated winner at the event--Rachel Ward of Lincoln. The day after the event on August 27, the votes were rescored, and a new winner was announced.

Chantel Lace was given the official title, while Dietra Snow finished second, and Rachel Ward placed third.

The New Voice Receives National Publicity

Recent publicity about the positive outcome of the lawsuit against The New Voice included a segment in USA-TODAY, a national straight newspaper distributed all over the country. And surprisingly, the story was the only one listed for Lincoln, NE, for the period of August 24-26.

The New Voice was also listed in the September issue of The Patlar, a national gay publication.

Other publicity included articles in the Omaha World Herald, Lincoln Star, Lincoln Journal, and other Nebraska publications. Also several radio stations ignored the story, and initial coverage of the lawsuit was covered more extensively when The New Voice was first sued.

Wish List —

The New Voice magazine needs many items to be a more successful publication. Donations of items will be acknowledged in the magazine. Help us make dreams come true!

Telephone answering machine
Photocopier
Typesetting Computer
Miscellaneous office supplies
Postage meter
File cabinets

Electric typewriters
Office space
Stationery, envelopes
Reporters, including more wimmin
Staff photographer
Layout table

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at the**

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*** Club-Disco**

*** Outdoor Beer Garden**

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Candidates Ignore Survey

The Lincoln Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights recently mailed a survey to the Nebraska Congressional delegation, as well as to candidates running for their seats. The following questions were posed in the survey:

- (1) do you oppose discrimination against gay people, specifically in the areas of housing and employment?
- (2) do you oppose the military's policy of not recruiting gay/lesbian personnel?
- (3) do you support the amendment of current immigration laws to allow the entrance of gay/lesbian aliens?
- (4) do you support increased funding for AIDS research?

Only two people returned the survey--Nancy Hoch and Rep. Douglas Bereuter. Ms. Hoch did not complete the survey, but sent campaign literature instead, asking for our support. Mr. Bereuter sent a letter, explaining he would not respond to the survey because he was "limiting the number of surveys he was completing this year by focusing on a few that will receive wide distribution to the general public via the print medium." He said this in spite of the fact that he knew that the results of the survey would be published in The New Voice, which circulates to approximately 750 people, and be communicated to Nebraska gay and lesbian organizations.

The gay community can only be dismayed by the indifference or snubbing it continues to receive by candidates running for office or those claiming to represent us in Congress. If readers want to express their concern over these non-responses, they should send letters to:

Rep. Douglas Bereuter
Senator Edward Zorinsky
Senator James Exon
Rep. Virginia Smith
Rep. Hal Daub

at U.S. Congress
Washington, D. C.

Tom Cavanaugh
7363 Pacific Street, Suite 202
Omaha, Nebraska 68124

Monica Bauer
2601 N. 47th St.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504

Nancy Hoch
Box 279
Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410

An additional, even more important, way of making your feelings known is to vote. At present, there is no candidate who has earned our support, but the Democratic Party, as apprehensive as it is to be endorsed by gay/lesbian organizations, has been more inclined in Congress to support gay civil rights. Given no clear signal, however, readers will understandably remain ambivalent about candidates who lack the courage to make their positions known.

--Scott Stebelman



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Here and There

by Larry Wiseblood

Gay activists in New Orleans plan to overturn the state's law which punishes sodomy with five years in jail. A coalition of homosexual organizations, still stunned over the New Orleans City Council's rejection of a gay rights ordinance, said they would file a challenge to the sodomy law this summer. Under the statute, it is a felony to have "unnatural" sexual intercourse, including oral or anal sex, with any other person, including a spouse, state officials said.

--Cascade Voice

Space, Inc. was formed in Denver, Colorado, to support political candidates with proven track records for the gay/lesbian community. Space plans to purchase media coverage, interview candidates, publish questionnaire results, sponsor a voter registration drive, and host a "Meet the Candidates" night.

--OUT FRONT,
Denver, Colorado

Gay Mormons will meet in Phoenix, October 12-14, for their annual conference. Affirmation, the organization for present, inactive, and former members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, has chosen as its theme: The Gospel--Affirmation and You.

For information on Affirmation, write P.O. Box 46022
Los Angeles, California
90046

or call: (213) 255-7251.

--The Patlar,
Sacramento, Calif.

A federal appeals court has ruled that private consensual gay sexual acts are not protected under the U.S. Constitution. The unanimous ruling by a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia came in the case of James Dronenburg, 31, a Navy petty officer who was discharged in 1981 after acknowledging that he had engaged in homosexual acts.

--THE ADVOCATE,
Malibu, California

A new toll-free national gay information service called Gay 800 is designed as an alternative to gay guidebooks. A feature of the service is that it is computerized and always current. The switchboard for Gay 800 is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Those wishing to reach the service for referrals should call 800-223-7030.

The
New Voice
Benefit Ball
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Support Group for Gay/Lesbian Students-Weeslyan

U N L Gay/Lesbian Student Association

American Foundation for the Fine Arts

U N O Gay and Lesbian Support Group

Ministry in Human Sexuality

Lincoln Legion of Lesbians

Gay Parents Support Group

Lesbian Support Group

Open Door Ministry

Neat Packers

T. W. O.

Dignity of Omaha

Community of Grace

River City Mixed Chorus

Black & White Men Together

Gay Men's Rap Group - Omaha

The Imperial Court Of Nebraska

Gay and Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha

Lincoln Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights

Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays - Cornhusker

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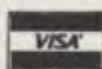
Gail's Hit List

- | | | |
|------|--|------------------|
| 1. | Let's Go Crazy | Prince |
| *2. | Dyamite | Jermaine Jackson |
| 3. | The Glamorous Life | Sheila E. |
| 4. | Borderline/Lucky Star (Remix) | Madonna |
| 5. | She-Bop | Cyndi Lauper |
| 6. | Right by Your Side | Eurythmics |
| *7. | Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go | Wham! |
| 8. | Lights Out | Peter Wolf |
| *9. | Body Rock | Maria Vidal |
| *10. | Better Be Good to Me | Tina Turner |
| *11. | You Don't Stand Another Chance | Janet Jackson |
| 12. | High Energy | Evelyn Thomas |
| 13. | Strut | Sheena Easton |
| 14. | Sexomatic | Barkays |
| *15. | I Feel for You | Chaka Khan |

* New Entries
 + #1 last month



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An Interview With Supermouth IV — Kevin Dugan

- Q: Kevin, what made you enter the Supermouth contest?
A: Two things: First, a dare from a lot of my bar customers at both The Run and The Diamond bars. Second, I wanted to see how far I could get on a, well, "Why not? - Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained" attitude.
- Q: What is a "Supermouth"?
A: This is the way that Sweet 98 FM hires one of their disc jockeys for a year; he, in turn, additionally works as a PR man with the contest and make personal appearances throughout the year.
- Q: What did you win?
A: A one-year contract for an air shift at \$20,000.00, beginning September 10, plus a \$1,000.00 wardrobe, and the use of an '85 Firebird for the year.
- Q: What qualifications were needed to enter the contest?
A: A person has to complete an application; the minimum age is 14, and you can't be presently employed by any radio station in the metro Omaha area.
- Q: You were DJ at The Run. What other experience do you have that you feel might have helped you win?
A: I was also DJ at The Hollywood, and I worked in commercial radio in the last 7 years in Indiana, Mississippi, and Texas, which gave me experience and a knowledge of what they might be looking for.
- Q: As a member of the gay community, how does your being gay affect your perspective of being a Supermouth?
A: I entered the contest in hopes of being a positive influence of the gay community. I want to use the title to the advantage of the gay community whenever possible. The support from the gay community helped, especially the calls to the station following my first 30-second interview. The gay community also helped me celebrate my victory.
- Q: Do you plan to be "openly gay" on the airways?
A: I'm not going to hide it, but neither do I intend to flaunt it in a "non-professional" way. The management is aware of my sexuality and as long as that does not interfere with my job, they don't care. Most of the gay community knows that I am "Supermouth" so there is no need to broadcast the "news."
- Q: What do you expect to do after you are done being Supermouth?
A: After my "reign," I may remain on staff at Sweet 98 FM. I would like to remain in radio and particularly with Sweet 98 or its affiliates.
- Q: What personal information would you care to share with our readers?
A: My hometown is Indianapolis, Indiana and I'm 25.
- Q: What kind of music will you play as Supermouth?
A: That will be controlled by the Program Director. However, my "chatter" will be my own creation, and I hope to spend some time with "on-the-air" conversations.

New Service Provides Alternatives

As I consider the gay community in which I live, I realize that the variables of being gay make myself and others very selective in our associations. Yes, most gays prefer gay contacts, but what binds groups together? Cliques are formed by: drag queens, bar flies, AAers, bowlers, and those that attend MCC. What about those gays that are not into these activities? Do we of the gay community create the stereotyping which we oppose?

There is a group in Omaha that plays bridge and is looking for a replacement. In Iowa, there is a group that goes to a park on Sunday afternoons to play volleyball. I can't count the times I have heard fellow gays say that they would have done this or that, but didn't want to do it alone.

All of this is to say that there is a need for an "interest-coordinating" service. I am willing to create a file of names categorizing non-sexual activities that can be shared (you can cruise on your own). The number of categories is limited only by your response. I need a name (real or false), an address (zip code minimal), and a telephone number where you could be contacted (collect outside Omaha) and what activities you would like to share (going to cultural events, playing cards, going junking, hot air ballooning, forming a team for sports, camping, boating, recipe exchange, quilting--you name it.) As information comes in, I will contact those that match. After that, it's up to you. To contribute to this pool of alternative addresses, respond to me in care of The New Voice of Nebraska--Attention: "Alternative Pool."

--Jerry P.

Pages from the Past

The Gayly Nebraskan in its November 1974 issue reflected back to November 22, 1970, when 75 people gathered at UMHE Commonplace in Lincoln to have fun at the first Coffehouse. At that time, no bars existed, and there were no other meeting places, except for private parties and gatherings.

The first Coffehouse was like a small junior high dance. Someone brought his phonograph, people danced, ate popcorn, and drank lots of punch (non-alcoholic). Coffehouse continued for several years and became a weekly event with an improved sound system and many well-planned activities. However, in the late 1970's, bars replaced Coffehouse as the central social arena.

T H E M A X

Thanks

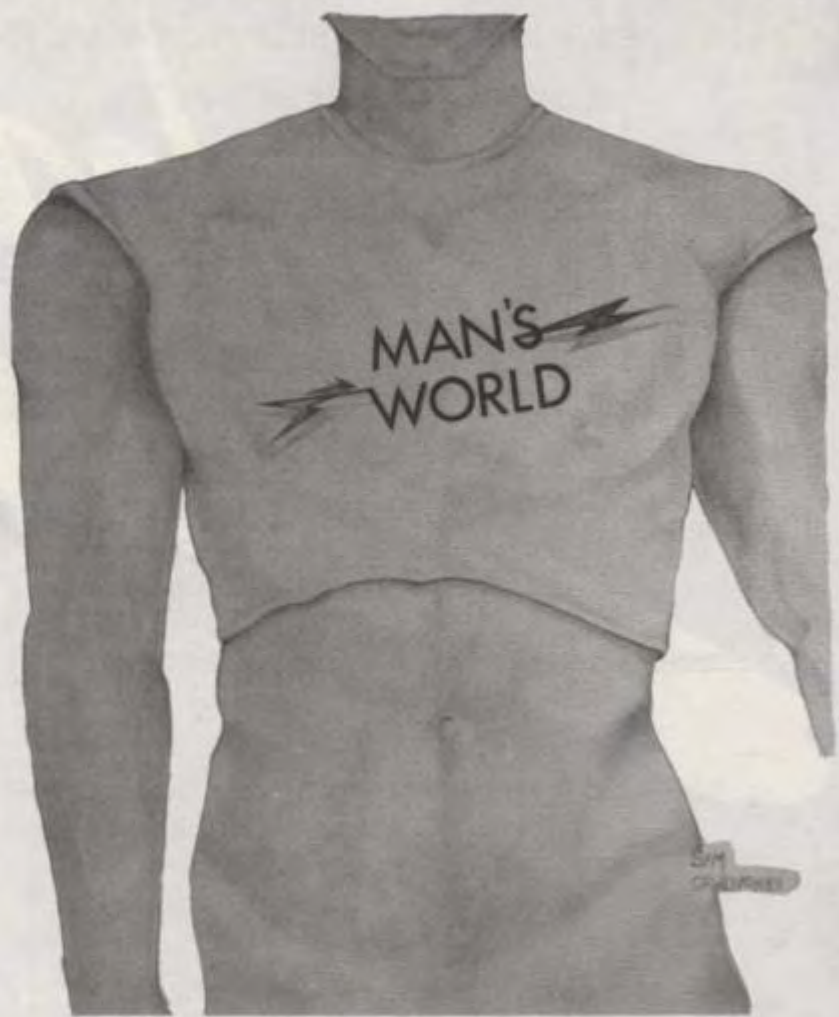


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Mass Appeal Receives Praise

Every now and then a production comes along that makes me laugh with a lump in my throat. Such a production was Mass Appeal, starring Rex McGraw and David Landis.

Everyone who has ever been close to organized religion will have nostalgia about certain parts of this play--the emotions, the behavior, the speech all smack of authentic churchianity.

Rex McGraw was simply magnificent as Father Tim Farley, an aging priest who has served the same parish for many years and has finally attained the status, in his own words, of "beloved." He is a truly goodhearted man who nevertheless has a knack for sugar coating the truth if it will make somebody feel better, which in many cases means he is not doing his parish a favor. The parish responds, though: they shower him with gifts, particularly sparkling burgandy in sufficient quantities to celebrate every Mass in Christendom until 1989.

Enter Mark Dolson, stage right. He is an idealist who believes, in his own words, that the Church's mission is to become obsolete. This somehow does not sit very well with the Old Guard, particularly the faculty at the seminary who come to church one morning to see Sister's Marching Marionettes and instead get treated to a sermon on how God is not impressed with their cashmere coats.

Dolson has already come to the attention of the faculty by defending two seminarians involved in a gay relationship who were forced out of the seminary by a reactionary old Monsignor. The Monsignor somehow develops a disliking for Dolson; perhaps the fact that Dolson calls him a homophobic autocrat has something to do with it.

Farley is appointed Dolson's advisor and each proceeds to introduce the other to himself: Farley meets Farley and Dolson meets Dolson. We learn that Dolson is himself bisexual, though the play does not deal with whether he entered the priesthood in order to evade his bisexuality through celibacy. We further learn that Farley was an abused child and consequently has a sexuality buried so deeply in the recesses of his subconscious as to be nonexistent.

Asked by your reporter what he considers the central theme of the play, McGraw responded that there were many but perhaps the main one is, What is truth? Our readers may recall that Pontius Pilate asked Jesus the same question. What is truth indeed? Does it mean saving the Monsignor's feelings by telling him one has an appointment and therefore, regretfully, cannot view the Monsignor's pictures of Yugoslavia? Or does it mean very candidly telling the Monsignor that he is a homophobic autocrat? Is it simply acknowledging that what is, is? Does truth still mean fidelity and constancy?

More importantly, is truth even relevant? Dolson tells us that it is, and at the end of the play it appears that Farley is swinging over to the same opinion.

--Mel Dahl

A Metro Area Men's Spa

The Omaha-Council Bluffs metro area boasts one men's spa (bath house). It is called Man's World and is located in Council Bluffs.

In May of this year, Man's World came under new management by Lee and David. A number of changes have been made. The primary change was in the area of housekeeping. (It no longer takes 3 baths to get your feet clean.) The main floor has new carpeting, paint, and conservative lighting (second floor plans are awaiting roof repairs). A vinyl conversation pit has been added to the TV area (cable), and a DP-2000 fitness center has been added. Lee and David use new videos each week and have extended the hours.

We know you are out there, and we at The New Voice would like to know more about you. We want to share your knowledge with all of the community, but are not always able to do so. We need your help in getting out information about your events, meetings, and happenings.

If there is anything you want us to know, please contact us, or write The New Voice, P. O. Box 80819, Lincoln, NE, 68501.



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Astrology — Scorpio

A VIEW FROM THE STARS

-- by Phoenix

SCORPIO--the Scorpion

October 22-November 21

Element: Water

Key Words: I Desire

Ruling Planet: Pluto

Mode of Expression: Fixed

Life's Task: Regeneration/transformation of the three-fold personality; tests on Mental, Emotional, and Physical levels are involved. In Scorpio lies the battlefield where personality must die (become regenerated/transformed) and become the servant of Spirit. This goal is achieved by service, humility, and compassion.

Pluto here gives raw power to be used for transformation. Woe to the individual (and those around them) if that power is misused.

Scorpio is the only sign with 3 symbols:

- 1) The Scorpion, Unevolved
- 2) The Eagle, the bird which flies higher than any other
- 3) The Phoenix, Evolved, reborn from the ashes of the dead self (personality) transformed.

Scorpio rules the generative (genital) organs, and this, along with the strong emotional desire, nature, and built-in sensuality (not necessarily sexuality) accounts for Scorpio's reputation as the "sex sign." These characteristics can result in promiscuous sexual activity and/or possessiveness, and jealousy--even violence in relationships. In relationships, Scorpio needs to learn stability and steadiness--intense love and commitment alone is not enough. Partnerships call for equality and responsibility which Scorpio would (frequently) rather avoid.

Scorpio's a natural psychologist, usually capable of homing in on others' weak points; this faculty, along with sharpness and a tendency to sarcasm makes them potentially vicious (and effective) "in-fighters." Scorpios make good friends, compassionate, and helpful, and bad enemies. Scorpio's capacity to hold a grudge and "get back" is legendary.

In no sign are positives (Evolved) and negatives (Unevolved) more obvious than in Scorpio.

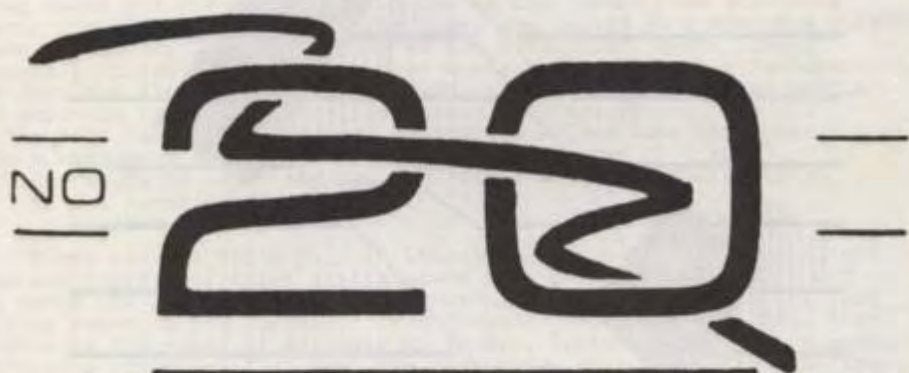
Negatives: Vicious, Vindictive, Violent, Secretive, Sarcastic, Jealous, and Resentful.

Positives: Strong, Subtle, Effective, Helpful, Loyal (when committed), Intense, and Spiritual. A Defender of Justice.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Scorpio!

NOTE: If this picture of Scorpio appears too black or too white, it is not intentional. Scorpio's a bit difficult for me because, you see, it's my sun sign too.

--Phoenix



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Alternative Life Styles

Backfair

Benefit for GLIS

On Saturday October 13th with/
Coalition's General Meeting at
Unitarian Church, 6300 'A'.

October 20th
October 21st
at Commonplace

10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
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Imperial Court News

Once again, the Imperial Court of Nebraska held its Labor Day Fundraiser. This year, it lasted from Thursday, August 30 through Monday, September 3. All of the money received was given to the research of AIDS. We had a number of events, such as beerbusts, impersonators shows (drag), a bar-b-que, male dancers, and even "Drag Queen Mud Wrestling," which was at the Carter Lake Warehouse during the picnic. If you missed that, you missed an event of a lifetime! Monday night was the finale show at the Stage Door, where some of Lincoln's finest performers gave us a night of varied entertainment. Our goal for this year was \$15,000.00, but with the wonderful people who attended the fundraisers, we raised over \$20,500.00. To all of the bars, organizations, and people who helped make this year such a wonderful success, THANK YOU!!

Our motto of Unity and More in '84 is more than just a motto; it's a commitment.

There was the State Fair in Lincoln, Septemberfest in Omaha, and numerous other activities taking place over Labor Day, but this did not deter the Imperial Court from scheduling the most successful fund raising event in its history. From Thursday night, August 30th, right on through the close of business on Monday, September 3rd, there were activities scheduled that kept the gay community hopping. All of the bars in Omaha and Lincoln took part in the festivities, and the members of the Court put in many long, hard hours of work in the weeks preceding the Labor Day weekend. Those laborious hours paid off with the satisfaction of raising an astounding \$20,500.00 for AIDS research, topping last year's total by \$9,300.00

The Court extends sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the bar owners and their staffs for their cooperation; to all the volunteers who did so much to help; to everyone who generously contributed raffle prizes; to all the entertainers; to Peony Park for the use of the Warehouse ground for the picnic; and most certainly to all members of the gay community who attended the various functions and purchased tickets for the trips and raffle prizes.

We can all take pride in this tremendous success, for we would guess that, per capita, no other city could top it.

--Gary West, Emperor
IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA

On behalf of the Board of Governors and the
Royal families, Thank You!

Respectfully,

Vince Percy-Velvet
Empress IV

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at the**

STAGE DOOR

*** Club-Disco**

*** Outdoor Beer Garden**

*** Game Room-Video**

*** Top DJ's**

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**BEER BLAST- SUNDAYS 8-10pm (Except show nights)
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B.A.G.L. Offers Support to Abused Partners

The problem of domestic violence is gaining nationwide attention and is becoming a concern to law enforcement agencies, taxpayers, and the general public. Battered and or abused partners, whether they be family members, spouses, or unmarrieds living together, need comfort, shelter, emotional, and psychological support and guidance. A new opportunity has just become available for those in the metro Omaha/Council Bluffs area--B.A.G.L.

B.A.G.L. stands for Battered/Abused Gays/Lesbians. Jerry Kruse, spokesperson said, "In the ever increasing visibility of the domestic violence situation of today's society, there is an area that needs to be addressed and that is the area of abuse in gay/lesbian relationships."

Many groups working in the domestic violence area have targeted the gay community for support. B.A.G.L. is now a reality. While the main thrust of B.A.G.L. is for mutual support in the gay community, it is also a referral source for professional support and guidance, for those who find themselves in an abusive situation with their partners, spouses, or family members.

It is B.A.G.L.'s belief that while professional help is sometimes necessary, many dollars, both private and public, can be saved through the use of a peer-based support system.

B.A.G.L. meets weekly at the Metropolitan Community Church. More information can be obtained by either writing B.A.G.L. at P.O. Box 8141, Omaha, Nebraska, 68108, or by calling Jerry Kruse at 402/345-5797.

GLIS Training for New Volunteers

On Friday, October 5 and Saturday, October 6, GLIS (Gay/Lesbian Information Support Line) is offering training for new volunteers.

A high-quality training package will be offered beginning from 7-10 p.m. on October 5 and continuing from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 6 at Commonplace, 333 No. 14th, Lincoln.

For making a reservation, or for more information, contact the GLIS Line between 8 p.m.-12 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday at 475-4697, or write to us at Box 94882 Lincoln, NE 68509.

Lambda Projects Seeks Funding

During the past three months, the Community of Grace (COG) has been working on a grant proposal for an alcohol and drug intervention program in the gay and lesbian community.

Between 29 and 35 percent of gays and lesbians abuse alcohol. Nebraska has no program relating sexuality to alcohol and drug abuse. To address this issue, COG formed a proposal committee.

The COG committee submitted a grant request to the State of Nebraska, Department of Public Institutions/Division of Alcohol/Drug Abuse for \$53,000. This is the first time a gay/lesbian group in Nebraska has taken the initiative to request major public funding for alcohol and drug misuse in the gay/lesbian community.

The proposal committee decided to name the gay/lesbian alcohol drug project "Lambda Projects of Nebraska." The project includes:

1. A major conference concerning the extent of alcohol/drug misuse in the gay/lesbian community.
2. The formation of a gay/lesbian alcohol/drug council of Nebraska (GLADCON).
3. Educational intervention programs for the gay/lesbian community.
4. Educational training programs for the larger community and treatment agencies.
5. The development of a supportive referral and aftercare system for gay and lesbian persons with alcohol problems.
6. A self-help group known as the "third culture."

On September 17, 1984, COG was notified that the proposal would not be funded this year. Many treatment and social service agencies and individuals expressed strong support for the project. They encouraged COG to continue to seek funding through next year's proposal process.

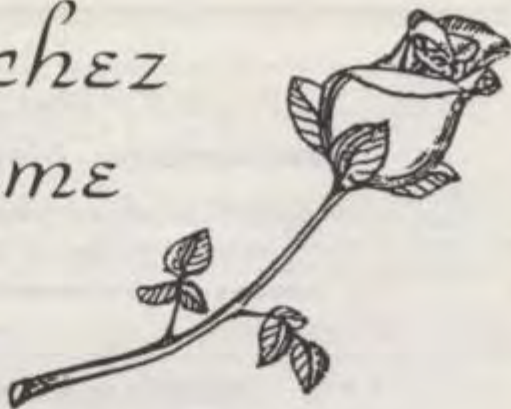
Pat Wall, coordinator of COG, expressed COG's appreciation to those individuals who devoted countless hours of time to develop and steer the proposal through the appropriate channels. Wall said, "We (COG) would also like to express our gratitude to all of the individuals in the gay/lesbian community and the larger community who were supportive of and assisted with the project."

In the coming weeks, COG, through its proposal committee, will be seeking alternative sources of funding for Lambda Projects. Funding suggestions from the community and private donations are invited.

The "third culture" (TC) already functions without funding. The TC acts as a support group for gays and lesbians. The members of the TC work together to enhance and develop social skills and healthy behaviors. It provides support for gays and lesbians at all levels of sophistication. In addition, the development of leadership skills for use within the gay/lesbian community is encouraged. Anyone interested in learning more about the "third culture" may contact COG or Pat Wall at 474-2213.

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Phoenix Rising Dissolves

On Sunday, September 16, 1984, the Board of Directors of Phoenix Rising, Inc. announced that it would dissolve as a nonprofit organization. The announcement was made after the proposal to dissolve was presented to the board by Pat Wall, Director of Social Services for the group, and passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Edward Sell, P.R. Director, said, "It became impossible for this board to fulfill its promise to support lesbian/gay individuals and organizations in our community. We decided that we could best serve our community by taking our energies and abilities and working in the existing gay/lesbian organizations and groups."

Phoenix Rising, Inc. was incorporated in December of 1983 as a nonprofit social, educational, and recreational support organization specifically for the lesbian/gay communities.

Letters



Mr. Dahl:

I am from a small town, located ninety-five miles west of Lincoln. I first learned about The New Voice through an A.P. release in the Hastings newspaper, but they left off the address for your magazine. I wanted a copy, and I also wanted to subscribe to The New Voice.

I called the University of Nebraska, as well as the city library, but no one whom I talked to had heard of your magazine. Finally, the A.P. carried another news item, with the name of the attorney who defended you, so I was able to contact the attorney and, at long last, I was able to obtain your mailing address.

The New Voice is like an angel sent from heaven for us people out here in rural Nebraska, the Dakotas, Kansas and elsewhere. For fourteen years, I have always wanted to get in contact with an honest, clean down-to-earth publication. Just knowing that your magazine exists helps me. Life as a gay in outstate Nebraska is not easy. If someone jokes about being gay, that is enough for some people to make one an outcast. I know I'm not alone as long as your magazine is published.

Thanks for listening,

--Jim

GLIS Book Fair Coming

The second annual Alternative Lifestyles Book Fair is coming!

The Book Fair is a benefit for the Gay/Lesbian Information and Support Line (GLIS) and will be held two consecutive weekends.

The first day will be

Saturday October 13 at the
Unitarian Church
6300 A St.,

during the annual meeting of the Lincoln Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights, starting at 9:30 a.m.

The Fair will also be open on

Saturday, October 20th from
10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on

Sunday, October 21st from
12 noon to 7 p.m.

The Main Chapel of Commonplace will again be the site for the Fair.

A local author, Gordon Graham, will be at the Book Fair on the weekend at Commonplace to autograph his works.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help or needing more information may call Andrew Rust at 475-1378 or call the GLIS Line at 475-4697.





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OCTOBER

HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL

5 GRAND PRIZES

OCTOBER 31

New Voice Benefit Ball Oct. 14th

The New Voice of Nebraska would like to extend its gratitude to the Board Walk management and staff, as well as the performers who helped make our fundraiser on September 9th a success. We would also like to thank those of you who attended and contributed to our Legal Defense Fund.

We have a goal of \$3,000 and would like to reach this goal by the end of this year. There is a fundraiser scheduled for Sunday, October 14, at The Alley bar that is being called "The New Voice Benefit Ball." We have chosen a 'Carnival' motif and plan to have The Alley decorated festively to provide a truly 'gay' atmosphere. We have asked each of the gay/lesbian groups to sponsor a booth to show their support for The New Voice.

If you would like to sponsor a booth with a group of friends or donate something to be used as a prize or dress up as a clown, or help decorate, or want to share your ideas, contact one of our LDF Committee Co-Chairpersons:

Tim Kuntz, 435-5973 (Lincoln)
or Ken Dillard, 346-8219 (Omaha) or 391-1425 (Omaha)
Tues-Friday.

Plan to attend one of our committee meetings (for information, give us a call).

To submit ideas, suggestions, and/or contributions, write:

LDF (Legal Defense Fund)

c/o The New Voice

Box 80819

Lincoln, NE 68501

We appreciate your support and want to maintain our right to publish Nebraska's 1 and ONLY magazine by, and for, OUR COMMUNITY!

C L A S S I F I E D S

*The
New Voice*

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1215 HARNEY STREET

Different Points of View—Age of Consent

I firmly believe in age of consent laws for several reasons. The first is that minors need guidance in most cases. Many are not mature enough to make rational decisions regarding drinking, sexual acts, and legal matters. The laws attempt to ensure that a minor is mature at a certain time to make rational decisions.

The second reason for consent laws is that parental control is necessary. Parents need to exercise control over their youths to give them important truths based on their years of wisdom. The hypothesis behind this line of reasoning is that the parents inject their wisdom into the underaged individual so that they can learn rationality.

Another reason is that without age of consent laws, the youth might believe that society is a vessel of promiscuity, drunkenness, and orgastic in nature. Without age of consent laws, the youth might not think about the serious consequences of promiscuity, alcoholism, and legal contracts.

The facts are: 1) Teenagers are responsible for paying higher car insurance because of their high rate of accidents;
2) Youths have a higher frequency of abortions;
3) Teenagers are responsible for most shoplifting;
and 4) Teenage alcoholism is on the rise.

Laws are made to protect civil society. Before civil society, man was in the state of nature. He had no structure or laws. Thomas Hobbes, in his book The Leviathan paints a sorry picture of man in the state of nature. So I ask you, would not these teenagers be as rash, impulsive, naive, and irrational as man was in the state of nature--without age of consent laws?

--Randall Barron

Once upon a time, eleven years ago to be exact, your reporter was 14 years old. Your reporter had known for a long time that he was gay, didn't know any other gay people his own age (this was Spokane, Washington, in 1973) and was very lonely. He did know that three blocks from his home there was a city Park that was, well, let us say that it had a reputation.

One night your reporter decided the time had come, so that evening he took a stroll through the park. While there, he met a 26-year-old law student who really should have known better than to spend the evening assignating (that's opera talk for having a good lay) with a 14-year-old kid. He was one of the gentlest, kindest people I have ever met, and I have often wondered in the years since whatever became of him.

The thing that I find really and truly bothersome about that little evolution (aside from the fact that it is a public disgrace that in our society gay teenagers have nowhere to go except public parks) is that if the long arm of the law had reached out and touched us, my 26-year-old law student would have gone to jail for statutory rape in spite of the fact that whatever happened that night, rape was not included. It was willful, joyful fornication eagerly entered into by both participants. Further, if memory serves me correctly, he didn't proposition me, I propositioned him.

Whose body is it, anyway? When the state begins to play not Big Brother but Big Mama (No, no, musn't smoke that; Naughty, naughty, musn't read that; Thou shalt not have an orgasm until thou art sixteen), it has essentially nationalized our bodies and decreed them to be state property. Big Mama, keep your laws off my body.

For the record, this is not a discussion in which I have a personal interest. As a rule I prefer older men. However, if I am going to demand that the state get out of my bedroom I must demand that the state get out of everybody else's bedroom as well.

Throughout most of history, the idea of an age of consent in the late teens or early twenties was unheard of. In ancient Greece and in most of the Middle East today, there was no such thing--pederasty was at least tolerated, and in some instances encouraged. The ancient Hebrews had an age of consent, but they had the good sense to set it at 17. Here in the United States, there are states where girls are allowed to marry at age 12, and a minimum age for the purchase of liquor did not happen until after Prohibition. In Western Europe, there is still no minimum age for the purchase of alcoholic beverages, nor is there an age of consent in most of Asia and Africa (with the exception of South Africa, which has various other customs I don't approve of either).

The bottom line is that a person either consents to an act, or he/she doesn't. If the act was indeed consensual, it is none of Big Mama's business. If there is some question about whether consent was actually there, let the party who initiated the act be charged with rape and let a jury decide whether it was consensual, regardless of the ages involved. Obviously a baby cannot give consent, and a jury would not be expected to find that there was consent in that case. On the other hand, when there is a 13-year old on the stand testifying that he liked the idea, too, the court should not assume that his age made the consent any less valid.

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--Mel Dahl

Research Can Provide Better Understanding

Research in the field of homosexuality does not enjoy a well-earned reputation in the gay community. It is looked upon as biased and inaccurate. It is perceived as a tool by which the 'straight community' can put down the gay community. To the gay community, research seems to accent the sexual aspects of the gay lifestyle and de-emphasize the many other facets of gay life. The research seems to paint a one-dimensional picture of gays, yet gay men and women believe themselves to be full, three-dimensional human beings. In fact, gay men and women can be found in every facet of the society in which they live. They work at every job imaginable, in every profession existing, and belong to all types and kinds of groups, associations, and organizations. They exist in the society and in the community, are a part of the community, and contribute their talents to serve the well-being of the community. Yet, this is not reflected in the "research" about homosexuality.

Gay men and women often don't like research about gays. This is, I believe, for the reasons stated above and because, let's face it, a lot of the research reads like "mumbo-jumbo." Who knows what all those statistics mean? Who cares? All that is seen are the effects of the research as cited by religious fundamentalists and anti-gays. There seems to be no positive results of the research. So, who cares? I care, for one.

I have read some very positive and well-done recent research in the fields of psychology and the social sciences on the subject of homosexuality. Two recent works, The Theory and Practice of Homosexuality and The Married Homosexual Male are good examples of current research. These books look at homosexuality and help dispel some of the old myths and wives' tales that still circulate. Both works see homosexuality as a lifestyle--not as socially deviant behavior (with its negative connotations). And, although both books are soundly based on current research, they are both very readable.

We in the gay community need to change our perceptions concerning research. We need to read it, understand it, examine it, determine its validity and reliability, and use it. This is easy to say, yet it will be difficult to do. How many of us could read the research and understand what it is saying? How many of us would be able to interpret the research? How many of us would be able to discern good research from bad research? And, how many of us would be able to accept criticism? We have to face the fact that not everything the gay community does is good. We share with society as a whole a common fault--we are human and fallible. We make mistakes. We sometimes do things we shouldn't. Research will sometimes pick out our quirks, our problems, and our behaviors for study. Sometimes, the results of good research will not be to our liking. Are we prepared to accept the results and work to build a better community? After all, the reason for undertaking good research is to build a better knowledge base which, in turn, will help us better our understanding of ourselves. Sometimes this can be scary.

--John

Days With You

If I want to spend my days with you,
If I want to feel the soft skin of your face,
Map the channels of your soul,
Does this frighten you, my heart?

Come, put your fingers through mine--

With these fingers which you bend so easily,
I will know you.
Like a blind man, touching you,
I will discover your secret dreams
And dream them, too.

--Joel Brodsky

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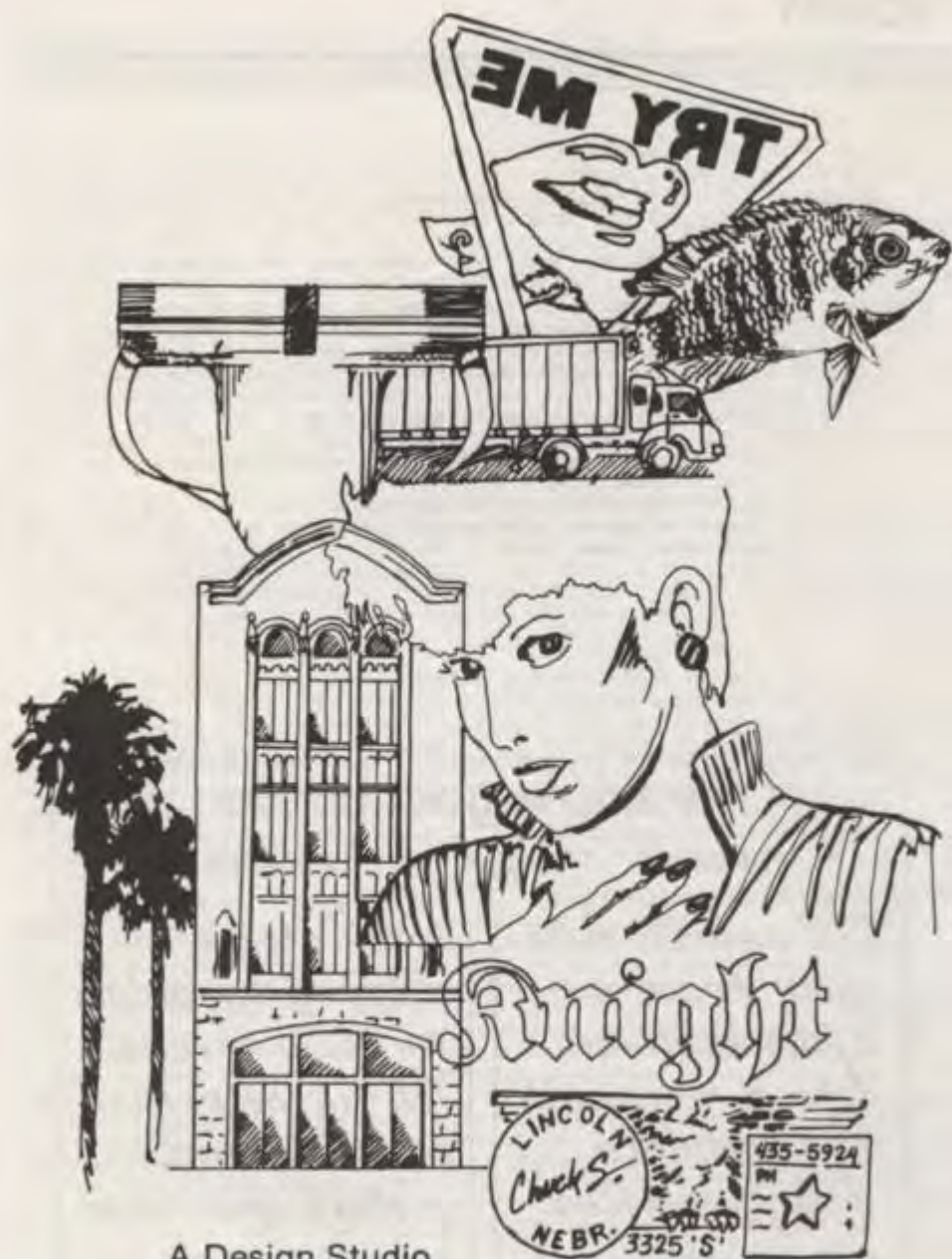
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Dean --

". . . And while I'm standin' here, this heart of mine is singin' . . . Lover, come back to me!"

Love, Keny

Distribution Locations

Obtain a copy of The New Voice at the following distribution points:

Lincoln

The Board-Walk 104 N. 20th

Cherchez La Femme 200 S. 18th

Nebraska Bookstore--Lifestyle Section 1135 R

Office Lounge 1705 "O" St.

Open Harvest Food Cooperative 2637 Randolph

Women's Resource Center Rm. 116 Nebraska Student Union 140R

Omaha

The Alley 1119 Howard (rear entrance)

The Antiquarium Bookstore 1215 Harney

Chesterfields 1951 St. Mary's

The Diamond 712 S. 16th

The Max 1417 Jackson St.

M.C.C. 420 S. 24th St.

Stage Door 1512 Howard St.

The Run 1715 Leavenworth St.

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Mans World

T.J.'s Corner

Dear T. J.,

I have been going out with this really terrific guy for the last couple of weeks. Yesterday, I found out that he is married and has a daughter. He says that he loves his wife and little girl, but also has "strong feelings" for me. I don't want to compete for his affection, and I need more than casual sex with him. I want to stop seeing him, but every time he calls, we get together. How can I say NO?

"Can't Give It Up"

Dear "Can't,"

Give it up! You understand part of your problem, but fail to see it all. You contradicted yourself in your letter. You are the only one who can decide how you feel and until you get truly honest with yourself, you'll be confused. First of all, do you really want to say 'NO'? Sit down and list the pros and cons of ending the relationship, then do the same for pursuing the relationship. Be totally honest about how you feel. Evaluate your alternatives. Choose the best. Stick to your decision.

Sincerely yours,

T.J.

* CONFIDENTIALLY*

Dear "What Now?"

I don't agree that "one man's pain is another man's pleasure." In a relationship such as yours, open lines of communication are a must. Sometimes, the word "no" can be very encouraging, depending upon how you say it. Tell your lover that when you say 'No,' you mean it. Don't allow yourself to feel guilty. Eventually, she should realize what your limits are and will most likely respect you for them. It's like one of my ex-husbands used to say, "I can't make you happy if I don't know how you feel." Thanks for writing. I really enjoyed your letter.

Best of luck. Love,

T. J.

Dear "Unsigned,"

I seriously think that you need professional help soon.

--T. J.

345 7181
GAY/LESBIAN RESOURCES OMAHA

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER (Need contact person, contact NEW VOICE)
DIGNITY OF OMAHA, 345-5637

Providing common experience through Mass and meetings for Catholics who are Lesbian & Gay or their friends. Regular Liturgy each second Sunday of the Month at 7 PM; regular gathering each fourth Sunday of the Month. Call for location.

GAY AND LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 345-9916 WEEKLY MEETINGS:

Fridays, 8:15 pm, Lutheran Medical Center, 3rd floor, open to all
Saturdays, 1:30 pm, Omaha Chapter House, 216 N. 48th, open to all
Sundays, 4:00 pm, Lowe Ave. Presbyterian Church, 1023 N. 40th, men only—please

GAY AND LESBIAN BOWLERS (need contact person, contact NEW VOICE)

GAY MEN'S RAP GROUP 345-2975, MCC Omaha, 420 South 24th St.

Community rap group, combining planned format with general discussion. Other activities planned. Meetings every Monday at 7:30 pm, at MCC Omaha.

GAY PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP 553-2308

Support group for gay persons who have children. Please phone for meeting times and locations.

IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA 455-3701

Omaha meeting first Monday of each month, except when falling on holiday. Phone for location.

MEAT PACKERS (need contact person—contact NEW VOICE)

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF OMAHA 420 So. 24th

Quaker church with Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Sunday worship, 10:30 am and 7:00 pm. Wed. Bible Study, 7:00 pm. Wednesday Praise, Prayer, and Healing, 7:45 pm. Rev. Ian D. Krass, Pastor.

MID CITY CHORUS 345-0939 420 S. 24th

Gay and lesbians singing together in a social environment. Future performances are possible. Meetings Tues., 7:30 pm at MCC.

PARENTS & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS 345-2563, P.O. Box 2173, Omaha 68103

No formal organization at this point. Support group for parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians and gay men.

**B.A.G.L. (Battered/Abused Gay/Lesbians) P.O. Box 8141, Omaha, Nebr.
68108 Phone 345-5797**

UNO GAY AND LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP 556-2355

Constructive, supportive environment for gays & lesbians. Open to everyone. Monthly meetings in or near UNO Campus. Please call for time and location.

RIVER CITY MIXED CHORUS

Volunteer community chorus for gay — sensitive men and women to sing together. For more information, phone 345-0939 or 341-8429.

OMAHA BARS

THE ALLEY 1113 Howard St. (rear)	346-6624
THE CHESTERFIELD 1951 St. Marys	342-1244
THE DIAMOND BAR 712 S. 16th	342-9595
THE RUN 1715 Leavenworth st.	342-9356
THE STAGE DOOR 1512 Howard St.	342-8715
SWINGTIME LOUNGE 2820 Cuming St.	341-3406
THE MAX 1417 Jackson St.	346-4110

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LESBIAN/GAY RESOURCES LINCOLN

GAY/LESBIAN ALCOHOL ANONYMOUS Groups meet weekly. Call 466-5214
LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP, 472-2597.

Informal discussion group for lesbians; all women welcome. Meets weekly. For more information, contact the Women's Resource Center, Room 117 Nebraska Union, Lincoln NE 68508. 472-2597.

LINCOLN COALITION FOR GAY & LESBIAN CIVIL RIGHTS, Box 94882, Lincoln 68509

An advocacy group which lobbies for lesbian/gay civil rights, provides education presentations, publishes a newsletter and sponsors cultural and political programs.

LINCOLN LEGION OF LESBIANS, Box 30137, Lincoln, NE 68503

A lesbian-feminist collective founded in 1978. Provides a newsletter, confidential referral and support groups for lesbians and sponsors cultural and social programs.

MINISTRY IN HUMAN SEXUALITY, INC., Box 80122, Lincoln, NE 68501, 476-9913

A non-profit agency which provides counseling, education and supportive action for those seeking growth and understanding in the areas of sexuality and relationships. Contact J. Benjamin Roe, Executive Director.

THE NEW VOICE, Box 80819, Lincoln, NE 68501

Monthly magazine with emphasis on creative literature and promotion of local organizations and activities. Meets the 1st and 2nd Tuesday of each month at Commonsplace UMHE, 533 No. 14th st., Lincoln.

OPEN DOOR MINISTRY, 535 F St., Lincoln, NE 68508, 474-3390

A project of Holy Archangels Monastery to minister specifically to Lincoln's gay and lesbian communities. Weekly Mass on Saturdays at 6 pm. Father David

PARENTS/FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS—CORNHUSKER, Box 4374, Lincoln, 68504

A support group for parents, friends and relatives of lesbians and gay men. Meets in the evenings on the fourth Tues. 466-1151

SUPPORT GROUP FOR GAY/LESBIAN STUDENTS at Nebr. Wesleyan Univ.

Contact Dr Mary Smith, NWU, 50th & St. Paul, Lincoln, NE 68504, 466-2371

UNL GAY/LESBIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION Meets Thurs., 8 am. 228 Andrews Hall. UNL

MCC—Lincoln Mel Dahl P.O. Box 80733 Lincoln 68501 phone in evenings

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE FINE ARTS

A non-profit foundation committed to making a positive contribution on behalf of gay men and lesbians to Lincoln's cultural life. Sponsors arts events

COMMUNITY OF GRACE BOX 81645, LINCOLN, NE 68501

An interdenominational worshipping community of lesbians, gays and those associated with us. Meets weekly on Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Gay & Lesbian Volleyball League (Need contact person, contact NEW VOICE)

GAY/LESBIAN INFORMATION AND SUPPORT LINE CALL (402) - 475-4697

LINCOLN BARS

BOARD WALK 104 N. 20th 474-9741

CHERCHEZ la FEMME 200 S. 18th 474-9162

THE OFFICE LOUNGE 1705 "O" St. 474-9298

THE SANCTUARY 200S. 18th 474-9142