

The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A



Our Turn

The Cover

The cover depicts the theme of this issue, which features families of gays and lesbians. The photograph was taken in Omaha at the second annual Gay Pride parade. Three mothers from Lincoln's PFLAG organization showed their support and carried signs. Sandy, Associate Editor of *The New Voice*, took the photograph.

A Misunderstanding

It recently came to my attention that some individuals in the community believe that *The New Voice* is a profit-making cooperative or business. I want to clarify our status so this kind of misunderstanding won't happen again. *The New Voice* began operating in March of 1984 as a loosely formed organization. We had no constitution, by-laws, or governing board. All we could claim was a few dedicated people who wanted to serve the community.

As months passed by, it became important that the magazine have structure and credibility. *The New Voice* established a constitution and became incorporated with the state of Nebraska. It was decided by the entire staff that we wanted to provide a free, quality publication to gays and lesbians across the state. We felt that the best vehicle to accomplish our goals was to have a structure of volunteers. *We incorporated as a non-profit cooperative in December 1984. The New Voice has never had a paid staff, nor have we ever made a profit.* We are completely financed by advertising, subscriptions and donations. As part of our by-laws, if any profit is made by the magazine, the money will be donated to deserving organizations in Nebraska.

Every month is a continual struggle to make ends meet. As a non-profit cooperative, we are owned by the entire community, and your sup-

port is crucial and important. This includes financial support. Take a few minutes and send us a subscription. Or if you have a few dollars lying around, send us a small donation. You will feel good knowing you are helping sustain a viable and important organization.

In August and September, *The New Voice* will seek new subscribers, as well as additional staff members. We invite you to help us!

-- Larry Wiseblood, Editor

The New Voice Victory Party

The New Voice invites the entire community to our big Victory Celebration that will take place at 2125 Euclid Ave., Lincoln, on Saturday, August 23 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The victory party celebrates the winning of a major lawsuit that *The New Voice* won exactly two years ago. *The New Voice* had been sued by the *Voice News of Southern Lancaster County*, who tried to

stop us from using our name. The lawsuit was born out of fear, hysteria, and blatant homophobia. *The New Voice* victory gave us strength and stability that still affects us to this day.

If you would like to attend this party, which will feature European desserts, call 475-7740, or write to NVM, P.O. Box 80819, Lincoln, 68501. Reservations are required.



Contact the following staff of *The New Voice* for advertising, classifieds, subscriptions, and articles:

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August 1986

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The New Voice of Nebraska

P.O. Box 80819 P.O. Box 3512
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Local Events

Gay Play to be Performed at UNL

The fast-moving and nationally acclaimed play "As Is" will be performed by the Nebraska Directors Theatre from September 11 through 14 and September 18 through 21 at St. Mark's Church. The play "As Is" is the first drama performed at UNL depicting gay people as the main characters. The play also deals with the sensitive topic of AIDS. The Directors Theatre will donate profits from the play to the Nebraska AIDS Project and the Coalition's Health Concerns Committee. Look for future announcements. Tickets can be purchased in advance.

Premiere Play "Straight to the Point"

Editor's Note -- The play "Straight to the Point" is being scheduled for three encore performances at The Max, on Saturday, August 16, at 7:00 p.m.; and on Sunday, August 17, at 2:00 p.m. and again at 7:00 p.m. If you didn't have the opportunity to see this play before, mark an 'X' on your calendar.

Friday the 13th of June, I attended dress rehearsal for the two-act play "Straight to the Point." As a writer, my superlatives are inadequate to express the exhilaration I felt as I watched this performance. I wanted to shout from a mountaintop, "Gays and Lesbians of Nebraska - don't miss this!" But I found no mountaintop and could only attempt to reach out and touch someone by phone. I was at dress rehearsal as "the press." The next night, I attended as a paying patron. An unidentified patron rented the theatre for a second performance on Sunday night.

The script for this play was completed just four weeks prior to the performance date. Auditions were held two weeks before, and the director arrived one week before.

Following the Saturday night performance, a cry went out for the director. When asked why he didn't come out, Gary told me, "That was for the cast." Someone had brought roses for the cast, but they never got delivered. I am sure the spirit of appreciation expressed in that applause will last longer than any flower.

The play itself is a combination of "La Cage Aux Folles" and "Consenting Adults." The story line involves the problems of a couple as they have conflict over public gayness (in or out of the closet), and includes a mother who is sure she can pray away all gayness. The play opens with a rehearsal scene where Danny (Glynda), played by Vince (Velvet), was putting together a fund-raising show for a Gay Pride celebration. Marty (Rick Brayshaw), a reluctant dancer, is coerced into doing a number with a drag queen -- and it must be remembered that Marty is a professional. Bryan (Bob Musgrave), Marty's lover, gets a phone call and a visit from Mother (Linda Wierzbick), who he has not seen for three years. She, her younger homophobic son (Bruce Watt) and his wife Marianne (Jane Kellog) -- an understanding woman who I would love to have as a sister-in-law -- are appalled by Bryan's life style and shocked by a surprise visit from Glynda.

Since the play was videotaped, I will not reveal more of the plot. The tape will be available through the River City Mixed Chorus.

The play does include a number of musical numbers, with a male chorus line backing Glynda. Being a lover of beefcake, I was impressed! One member of the chorus, Dusty, particularly fascinated me (hell, he's the only male dancer who has ever pulled a five-dollar bill from this lightwad; not once, but thrice). I appreciate his body and his dance ability, but a new appreciation came as I realized that he and the other members of the chorus were dancing as a group. Rick Brayshaw (choreographer) refuses to disclose the hiding place for his whip and chair, but I know I will never watch the Rockettes ad for panty hose without thinking of those boys do-

ing their high kick.

When Michael Micek joined Rick Brayshaw in a dance duo, a hush fell over the audience. As these two men joined their bodies to the rhythm of the music, I noticed the couple next to me join hands in a rare public display of affection. This was not the flurry of the disco floor, but a melting of two males into one expression of love.

Considering the fact that this production boasts a professional director and choreographer, and a group of gay people dedicated to providing a gay community with a marvelous expression of art, it is no wonder that those of us who were privileged to see it came away proud to be a part of the gay community.

The cast and crew were all, as far as I know, gay. Performing was not new to all of them. We have all seen Velvet on stage, and others have been involved in theatre. I have determined that these were Velvet's and Bob's first speaking roles. According to the program, the importance of this particular production is two-fold. First, it is the world premiere of a new play by a remarkable young writer, Carlos Redman. This Omaha production will be listed as the 'original cast as "Straight to the Point" heads for the off-Broadway theatre stage. Secondly, it is extremely important during this period of history that lesbians and gays be presented in a positive light.' (Director's notes by Gary Eilts.)

The preceding was intended to be a rave review!

-- Jerry Peck

Show Notes—Bright, Sparkling Success

"Success" is the first title hit for July's hot, sizzling shows, and the opening act was a sure-five shooter. The impersonators gave us the colorful excitement of success, the glitter and glamor of success, and a toast of wine to success.

The five illusionists are mostly from the early 80's era, and as they strutted their stuff before the spot-

-- continued on page 3

light, I noticed a mini-parade of people enter Kelly's Bar.

Jumping to a great start in this summer night success show was the Princess Royal Mysti Leigh. If anybody can remember Olivia Newton-John, and the former Go-Go Belinda Carlisle, well, put these two wild and sexy performers together, and you have Mysti Leigh, who lipsynced "Nasty Girls." Now, a show night like this would not be complete if Sheza Mann and Tasha Devor hadn't made an appearance. They did.

In "She's Single Again," Sheza Mann lipsynced a string of explosive country-and-Western hits. She received ovations for "Love All Over" and "I've Been Everywhere." Lately, Sheza Mann has become a Nashville all-star.

The next illusionist who comes to mind is that unforgettable Tasha Devor. I mean, right after the opening act, she performed in diamonds as glittery as costume jewelry can be. She lipsynced "Through the Eyes of Love" in the first act, and in the second performed "If You Were a Woman."

Victoria Towne made a rare appearance in this first show of July, as she opened Act II with Peaches LaRue. The hit song: "Chapel of Love." Bringing in this summer's hottest act of the year is really no new act at all. In fact, it's a classic! And none other than Peaches LaRue could portray the part well.

It was as if everyone became absolute friends through laughter. Then Peaches lipsynced "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," which cleverly brought this night's show to an end.

Anyway, all were strong performers, and the show was simply "dynamic." But this is not to forget the remaining cast, such as: Laura Lee, who emceed the "Success" show; bartender Mike B., who slaved to get the cocktails circulating; lights, Jerry D., who spotlighted the entire show; and Paul P., who took admissions and almost took off to Texas with the money.

-- Groan and Bare It

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Local Organizations

A New Social Group Organizes

A new social choices group is forming for gay singles and couples (this includes men and women of all ages). Group activities will be an objective. Some ideas already brought forward include gay aerobics, rollerskating, volleyball, bowling, camping and have informative speakers come and talk to the group.

The first meeting will be an organizational one, and will be held on Wednesday, August 20 at 7:00 p.m. at The Club, 20th and 'O' Streets.

For more information, contact Michael at 477-6857, or Rick at 475-4474.

Your ideas and presence will be deeply welcomed.

Lambda House News

Many exciting things have been happening at Lincoln's first gay/lesbian resource center. The center opened in March and has slowly been moving in directions that will help meet the many and diversified needs of our people in these particularly stressful times.

Currently, the resource center is utilized mostly for meetings of various gay/lesbian organizations and for social events. Future dreams include a gay/lesbian resource library, emergency housing for gays and lesbians and as a hospice for persons with AIDS.

Dreams are kept alive by a few but are made strong by many. Join the movement to make the dream of a gay/lesbian resource center strong.

The house formally adopted the name Lambda House -- The Gay/Lesbian Resource Center this month. Having a name for the resource center will help promote it within our community.

Several groups have been utilizing Lambda House on a regular basis. The Gay/Lesbian Information and Support line recently transferred their operations to the house in a much appreciated move to support the resource center. They also hold their meetings at Lambda House. A training session was held on July 18 and 19 and a general meeting will be held on August 20. Their next training session will be on October 10 and 11.

Community of Grace met at Lambda House during the month of July and will be meeting at the center during the month of August. Services are held Sunday evenings at 7:00. They extend a warm welcome to you to attend these non-denominational services.

Third Culture also uses the resource center on a regular basis. Their support group meets every Monday evening from 7:00 to 9:30. The group is designed to help gays and lesbians deal with any personal issues they may have and is led by trained professionals. No fee is charged.

Supporters Anonymous

Some gays and lesbians cannot be open about their sexual orientation or do not feel safe about disclosing it. Many of these people still want to contribute to gay and lesbian causes. In an effort to make it possible for them to do so and, at the same time, remain entirely anonymous, the Resource Center's Supporters Anonymous Disassociation evolved.

The Supporters Anonymous have two immediate goals. The first is to assist Lambda House with seed money for social events and fund raisers. The second is, when possible, to provide funding to assist in paying utilities as well as for general maintenance and remodeling.

As Lambda House becomes able to meet other needs of the gay/lesbian community, the Supporters Anonymous would like to maintain a

loan fund to be used in emergencies and to supplement emergency housing and food. They would also like to assist with salaries and the expenses of a resource center staff.

Thus far, \$150 has been raised by this group. To contribute to the cause and still remain entirely anonymous, contact Pat Woll at 474-1205.

-- Bob Henne

T.W.O. Announces Upcoming Events

The Two-Wheelers of Omaha (T.W.O.) recently celebrated their second anniversary and are gearing up with the announcement of several upcoming events. Look for postings and future announcements from the club. T.W.O. is a club for people who like leather and motorcycles. Many of the activities are social in nature with the primary emphasis on brotherhood and camaraderie. For more information about the club, or if interested in joining the organization, write T.W.O., 305 Turner Blvd. #8, Omaha, NE, 68131.

(Sun.) August 31: T.W.O.'s Picnic. \$5.00 for all you can eat and drink - on private land. Contact T.W.O.

(Sat.) September 13: Mr. Gay Nebraska Contest - Diamond Bar.

(Sun.) September 27: Knots to You - Diamond Bar.

(Sat.) December 20: T.W.O.'s Black & Blue Christmas Party - Diamond Bar.

(Wed.) December 31: New Year's Eve Pig-Out Buffet - Diamond Bar.

Take Care of Yourself
Nobody Else Will
Practice Safe Sex



Metropolitan Club Meets

The July meeting of the Metropolitan Club of Omaha found seventy-five men and women at the Warehouse in Carter Lake to hear Lou Crompton of the University of Nebraska (Lincoln) speak on the recent decision of the Supreme Court and to present an audio-visual look at Homosexuality in the Arts (Classical Greek).

We saw slides of various pieces of pottery that pictured two men in various stages of embrace (and some engaged in sexual exploration) and learned that these pieces often bore inscriptions which indicated that a man (John, etc.) is beautiful. We were reminded that the Olympic games were originally done in the nude, and that military leaders encouraged soldiers to fight next to "lovers." There is only a small portion of the art which reflects love between two women compared to the love between two men (usually one older and one younger). Some of the art revealed the execution of homosexuals during the Middle Ages. One piece which caught many people's attention was a representation of Hell. The adulterers were on one side, the homosexuals on the other, and bankers (people who use money to make money) were in the center.

Professor Crompton also showed slides of a woman who left the USA to lead a colorful life in Paris at the turn of this century and pointed out the fact that the Supreme Court decision came at a time when we celebrated the anniversary of the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the French who did allow homosexuality at the time.

A time of socializing was held before and after the presentation. A cash bar was provided, but the time spent was a definite alternative to the bar scene. Thanks for an entertaining and informative evening.
-- Jerry Peck



Who is Nancy Hill?

Until I attended the "Great Gatsby" party at the Warehouse, thrown by The Metropolitan Club, I had no idea who Nancy Hill was or what she would do in concert. I was delighted not only with the woman who performed, but by the music she presented.

Nancy Hill sings her own songs, accompanying herself on the guitar. She is soon to release her second album. She hails from the Urbana, Illinois area and recently visited her mother in Omaha. While performing at an establishment in Bellevue, she became acquainted with numerous members of the gay community (which she claims as her own) and has returned here to release her second album. Her music does not reveal her sexual preference, but it was interesting to hear her songs with the gay perspective and realize that "straight" people will accept the lyrics as being just for them. I would classify her songs

as ballads and love songs. She did perform one song that does not appear on her album concerning being "unusually normal," a song which tells of being gay, and normal -- just in an unusual way.

In addition to performing of the music, Nancy visited with the audience, sharing her thoughts, including ideas about the way toilet paper should come off the roll, an idea that occurred to her during a recent a recent tour in Europe. The evening was also enriched by a cameo appearance by Gloria, as she told her "Baskin-Robbins Shoe Salesman" story. The buffet was delicious, and the concert was followed by dancing. Now I know who Nancy Hill is, and will look forward to her next appearance in the area.

-- Jerry Peck

The New Voice took several photographs during Pride Week in Omaha and Lincoln, and copies are available upon request. Write P.O. Box 80819, Lincoln, or call: Omaha 345-2181 or Lincoln 475-7740.





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Imperial Court News

For the past three years, the Imperial Court has raised money (\$60,000) almost exclusively for distribution to AIDS-related organizations. This year we're going to try something new. Our "Labor Day Benefit Bash - A New Beginning, A New Direction" will raise money for organizations and groups in our community. We will continue to support AIDS-related organizations, but we'll keep the monies in our state, with the exception of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (formerly Gay Rights National Lobby).

We're sure each of you is in agreement with our decision to keep the money in Nebraska. We will do the marathon fund-raising and fund-raising activities as in the past, so dig into your pockets and let's help ourselves.

Watch for further announcements of activities and participate.

Along the more fun side; investiture was held July 27th at The Max. Announcement of Prince Royale VI Terry Sweeney, Princess Royale VI Muffy Rosenberg, and our newest addition, Lady Royale I JoJo Morrison, received wide praise and acceptance. The evening was hosted by Prince Royale V Ron, and Princess Royale V Misty, in a Fantasy Island setting. M.C.s for the evening were Ann Marlow and Velvet. The evening concluded as the fantasy changed to a medieval touch. The drawing of three Excalibur swords symbolized the unity of the three monarchs. Everyone had a delightful time as Brandy, Empress X of the Imperial Court of the Rocky Mountain Empire, entertained us as a surprise guest.

Again, thanks to everyone for a fantastic evening.

Imperially yours,
Emperor VI Pat
Empress VI Toadie
Athena I Barb



Investiture



Dick Brown, President of the Board of Governors, entertains with a song "Rainbow Connection".



Empress V Laura Lee (left)
Emperor V Gary West
Athena Beth
Prince Royal V Ron Minobe (R)



Dusty danced to "The Beast in Me"



Pat Phalen Emperor VI (L.)
Terry Sweeney Prince Royal VI (R.)



Princess Royale V Misty (left)
Prince Royale V Ron Minobe (R.)
Hosts for Fantasy Island
Investiture VI 1986.



Left - Right - Princess Royal VI Muffy, Empress VI Tadie,
Royal Prince VI Terry, Emperor VI Pat,
Athena I Barb, Lady Royal I Jo Jo.

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River City Mixed Chorus Attends Festival II

There's something very different about living, eating, and singing with some 1,400 gay men and lesbians. It's not the real world. It's sometimes like a dream, sometimes like a Fantasyland, sometimes harder to deal with than everyday life. But for 15 members of Omaha's River City Mixed Chorus, it was reality from July 2 - 6, 1986.

The event was the 1986 GALA Choruses (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses) Festival II -- the second such Festival, held every three years. The Twin Cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul and the hometown Twin Cities Men's Chorus were the hosts. Over 17 choruses attended from across the United States and Canada. Approximately 1,400 voices sang out in four nights and one afternoon of concerts. And the parties -- well, that's enough for another story!

GALA Choruses was formed in 1983 after its first national Festival, COAST (Come Out And Sing Together), in New York City. GALA Choruses now has 45 member groups from such diverse locations as Los Angeles, Detroit, Denver, New York City, South Florida, Vancouver, Atlanta, and, yes, Omaha.

The River City Mixed Chorus joined GALA Choruses shortly after forming in 1984. Since then, the support received from the national organization has been outstanding. And when the chance came to attend a national Choral Festival -- one so close as the Twin Cities -- the Chorus could not pass it up.

Still recovering from the loss of Music Director John Zeigler, the members knew John had wanted very badly to have his Chorus attend and perform in the festival. Though work schedules were problems for some, and costs got in the way of others, nearly half of the Omaha singers were able to attend the event.

Mornings in Minneapolis were for rehearsal. Afternoons were free time, with the exception of the Saturday performance. Evenings were time for choral concerts, four nights straight (pardon the expression) of

gay, lesbian, and mixed choruses, with the last evening combining three original pieces and one grand finale including each and every voice of the 1,400 in attendance singing out!

Late nights saw the parties. The two "biggies" were hosted by the home chorus (Twin Cities Men's Chorus) and the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington (DC). Other notable parties came through the efforts of New York City and the two Chicago choruses in attendance.

The attendees were spread out over three hotels, which have probably never seen anything quite like this. It was a special feeling to see women and men expressing open affection throughout the hotel, including in the lobby in front of surprised guests. Yes, there was a fair share of "camping" and many inhibitions were tossed to the winds. But it wasn't as wild as one's imagination might be led to believe. After all, there was the serious subject of music.

And indeed, it was presented seriously. From the rousing harmonies of the 100+ members of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, to the small but impressive 9-member Madison (Wisconsin) Gay Men's Chorale, everyone respected everyone else. The pieces ranged from light comedy (it took a while to catch on to Madison's clever *It's Hot Up Here*) to Broadway tunes (including a memorable medley called *Harry Who?* from Los Angeles) and, of course, the serious pieces (from classical to contemporary, Gilbert and Sullivan to a Schubert mass.) A lot of eyes were moist after *Kumbaya*, simultaneously "signed" and sung by all members of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus.

Each and every chorus received a standing ovation at the end of its set of music; each and every chorus deserved it. The diversity of the music of the weekend yielded two descriptions of those attending: "GTG's" and "SMQ'S" (Good Time Girls and Serious Music Queens).

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Because of its relatively young existence, and due to financial considerations, the River City Mixed Chorus did not receive an on-stage slot in Orchestra Hall (with the exception of singing in two of the finale pieces). However, because of the strength of John Zeigler's discussions with GALA Choruses board members last year, the Omaha Chorus was offered a special performance, entertaining a private party of chorus directors and managers. Spontaneous applause from other choruses came during rehearsals in the Holiday Inn hallway, and sincere appreciation was shared by managers and directors at the party. It was an exciting and emotional time for the Omaha singers.

One of the strongest and most heart-felt ovations of the entire event came for the women, when first the Denver Women's Chorus, then all the women in attendance, performed in Orchestra Hall. With the inclusion of the women's music, and later several pieces for mixed choruses, it was indeed a celebration of being "Brothers and Sisters."

Each evening was introduced by a gay-sensitive person of note in the Twin Cities -- perhaps an openly gay legislator, perhaps an entertainer. Each evening had its share of outlandish choreography and its share of tears with songs about love or AIDS.

And when the final evening came, there were the three original works commissioned especially for the Festival. They were composed by Stephen Paulus, Libby Larsen, and John David Earnest. Each was very different, and each used 400+ of the voices in attendance. But it was the final piece, a section out of Randall Thompson's *A Testament of Freedom*, that was the knockout. Imagine 1,400 voices singing out: "The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time!" It was a powerful, tearful, and strengthening experience.

There was a power in Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. The energy was not only on stage; it was also in the audience, and even outdoors after each concert. The hall was

packed, and whether the stage held a 9-voice choir, a 100-voice choir, or the full 1,400 singers, the energy was released by the singers, given to the audience, and given back again.

After the finale concert, there was spontaneous singing in the Plaza outside Orchestra Hall. Members of diverse choruses who had met only days before hugged and cried together. It was a statement of the gay movement, a strong statement, a moving experience for all who were there. Every singer, every audience member was touched very deeply, and took it home with them to their respective home cities.

GALA Choruses Festival III is scheduled for 1989 in Seattle, and if every promise made over this year's July 4th weekend is kept, there could somehow be an even bigger festival at that time.

For the Omaha participants, the only sad part was that John Zeigler could not be along. He would have been proud!

-- Gary

Capitol City Couples Announce Events

Create a positive relationship between you and your lover. Enjoy a social and educational time with other couples. Capitol City Couples offers these and more. As part of Couples National Network we believe in giving couples a chance to make new friends and strengthen their relationship in a new social environment. We offer both educational meetings to create a positive relationship and social events to create the new social environment and make new friends.

Events planned:

August 23, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.: a pot luck BBQ. You provide your hamburger and bring a salad or dessert. Drinks provided, and volleyball. Don't forget your lover!

September 11 at 7:00 p.m.: a program on positive gay relationships - methods, stages and problem-solving in a relationship.

Presented by a Lincoln psychologist.

For more information, call Jim or Rod at 423-1374. Come support your pride as a couple!

Changes Seen at The Boardwalk/Club

The Boardwalk and The Club have made several changes in the past six months to make a more comfortable environment for their customers. The latest change was opening a passageway between the two bars to allow for easy access between the bars without leaving the building. This allows customers to go from the discotheque to the quiet bar and back to the disco again, and to carry drinks between the bars.

The patio was painted in artwork with a summer beach theme. The colors and scenery are very noticeable during the daytime and also add to the look of the patio in the evening.

The color of the building's exterior was changed this summer from blue/green to a thistle/salmon color. Part of the brick wall between the game room and lounge was removed to make a larger entrance and a more open atmosphere. This also makes the bar appear larger and offers a better view.

In the past two years, \$50,000 of light and sound have been added to the disco. One of the newest additions is a sound computer that works with the turntables to provide a better mix. A new bubble machine and a new fog machine have just been added to the dance floor. The Boardwalk is currently the only gay bar in Nebraska to offer a bubble machine.

Other changes will be seen in The Boardwalk in the next few weeks. Old carpeting will be removed and the ceiling will be expanded to allow an additional five feet. Special effects will be added to the ceiling.

The Boardwalk and The Club want to make a better environment for their customers -- a safe place to go to meet new friends. It's worth the trip from Omaha and other points in the Midwest.

-- Larry Wiseblood

GLSA Resource Center Opens

On August 25, 1986, the UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association will open its resource center to students, faculty and the citizens of Nebraska. The center will be called the UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center.

Services that the center will offer are:

- Peer counseling by phone

(472-5644) or in person.

- Referral to empathetic agencies, individuals or resources.
- Coming Out/Being Out Support Group off-campus. Call for further information.
- Audio-visual tapes and slides.
- Library and files on gay/lesbian concerns.


- Reporting center for anti-gay/lesbian violence and discrimination.
- Weekly educational and social meetings.
- Up-to-date information on AIDS and STD's. Condom information and free condom project. Free condoms will be made available as funds arrive.
- Distribution of gay comics.
- Speakers Bureau by request.
- Travel brochures on gay and lesbian resorts, cruises and vacation plans.
- Roommate Referral Service.



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— John 15:12

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

GLSA will begin the fall with a meeting on Aug. 28, focusing on Gay/Lesbian Parents. The September meetings are: Christianity and Homosexuality, Sept. 4; Unity Night - Gays and Straights Together, Sept. 11; Movie, "Welcome Home, Bobby" on Sept. 18; and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Sept. 25. All meetings will be at Andrews Hall, Room 228, at 8 p.m.

Other news of interest for GLSA include: having a booth at UNL's Freshman Friday on August 22; speaking at a Nebraska Council for Youth panel; and a tentative production of the play "Torch Song Trilogy" in March 1987.

The UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center welcomes the faculty, students (high school or college) and the citizens of Nebraska to volunteer, donate materials or funds, and to stop by Room 342 of the City Campus Union and see what's new at UNL.

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Parents of Gays and Lesbians

A Personal Struggle—A Mother's Story

I learned a great deal about feelings from the other side of the coin when I recently interviewed the mother of a gay son. I began to understand more fully the struggles and hardships that parents also go through when they discover their children are gay or lesbian.

Judy Vernon is a lifetime resident of Lincoln. She owns a commercial cleaning company. Besides being a local businesswoman, Judy is also a dedicated mother who takes great pride in her children. She raised two sons and one daughter: Raymond 27, Travis 24, and Fawn 22. This story centers around Travis, the middle child who is gay and who now resides in Denver, Colorado.

Judy describes Travis as her model child, who never got into trouble, was very self-sufficient and mature as a youth. However, there was also a very fragile side of Travis, and during two different periods of his life, emotional problems led to turmoil and hardship.

In the first grade Travis was described as an exceptional child. But in the second grade, teachers saw a different child and thought Travis might be mentally retarded. He was sent to a local doctor who conducted tests (EEG) and determined that Travis was an epileptic. He was started on medication but it didn't work, and Travis went into horrible rages and temper tantrums. Because of growing problems he was sent to the Child Guidance Center in Lincoln. Child Guidance suggested that Travis receive an evaluation at the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute (NPI) in Omaha, and he was placed in the in-patient program. A psychiatrist determined that he was not an epileptic, but felt that Travis was overprotected by his mother and could turn into a "homosexual" if he didn't change the type of clothing he wore and continued to be so close to his mother. NPI "treated" Travis for three months, and after the program was completed, he lived with

his father in Brownville, Nebraska, for six months. (Travis's parents have been divorced since Travis was three years old.) When Travis returned home to his mother, he was more stable and did not appear to have any more serious emotional problems. He became Judy's "Rock of Gibraltar." He did well in school and started working at the Belmont Community Center when he was in the seventh grade.

The second major crisis did not occur until Travis was 17 years old. He worked in the evening at the Community Center, and one night he did not return home. Judy was extremely worried and frantic, because this was so out of character for him. The next day Travis returned home, but admitted that he had checked into a hotel room and had contemplated suicide. He went through a long period of depression and had thoughts of suicide on several occasions. He was placed in the psychiatric wards at Lincoln General Hospital and Bryan Hospital at different times. Judy felt that Travis was overmedicated and mistreated at Lincoln General. At Bryan he received much better treatment, but didn't seem to make much progress. When Travis started to decompensate again, he was admitted to the Lincoln Regional Center as a voluntary commitment. After spending three months at LRC, he was placed at a halfway house (Alternate Living) and continued to receive counseling.

It was shortly after this time when Travis admitted that he was gay. He was 19 years old and was home for the weekend. Judy was discussing the Gay Rights Amendment that was coming to a vote in Lincoln. Judy spoke in favor of the amendment and stated that gays had the same rights as anyone else as long as they didn't infringe on others. Travis replied with "You know, don't you?" Judy did not understand his statement and asked

what he meant. Travis stated, "You know I'm gay."

Judy was shocked and devastated. She couldn't believe what she was hearing. She thought he had been cured at an early age and no other counselors had ever mentioned the possibility that he could be gay. Judy went through the stages that most parents face: denial, guilt, and acceptance.

The first year afterward, Judy seldom discussed the topic with her son. She still tried to believe that her son was not gay. She felt that if he stopped going to the gay bar (Office Lounge), or met the right girl, he could change.

Judy sought information and went to the public library; she checked out several books, which were mostly negative in tone. She placed a great deal of blame on herself and felt that maybe she was the domineering mother whom she had been labeled years earlier at NPI. Judy also thought that if there had been a father figure, things could have been different.

Judy didn't want to meet any of Travis's gay friends, and sometimes felt it would be better if he were out of her life. At this time, she was also facing her own problems and went through treatment for drug and alcohol abuse.

Judy started turning to friends for help and advice. One of her friends felt that Judy needed to face the problem with Travis directly, and referred Judy to a group for parents. Judy called the Gay/Lesbian Information and Support Line (GLIS) and obtained information about Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). She talked to the president of the group, Helen Bratt, and was encouraged to attend the next meeting of PFLAG. Helen also spoke to Judy for hours on the phone and offered understanding and support.

— continued on page 12

Judy was apprehensive about attending that first meeting. A friend drove her to Helen's house where the meeting was being held. She discovered the group to be small and caring. She remembers dominating the entire meeting as she cried and broke down. Judy has attended meetings ever since, and has been an active member of the group. Travis attended some of the meetings with his mother and went to the national convention of PFLAG in Denver in September of 1984. Travis met his current lover, Martin, at the convention, and moved to Denver shortly afterward. Coincidentally, Martin's father was also a member of Lincoln's PFLAG, and also had attended the convention.

Judy became very accepting of her son's lifestyle. Recently she marched in the Gay Pride Parade in Omaha. She is convinced that the help which she received from PFLAG changed her life.

Judy is getting remarried in the fall. She recently told her future husband in a letter that her son is gay. She was afraid to tell him face to face, as she didn't know how he would react. She will be moving to a farm community near Norfolk in September, and is considering starting a third chapter of PFLAG when she moves there. With determination and love, Judy and Travis have resolved their problems and have remained close.

-- Larry Wiseblood

Letter to Dad

Article reprinted with permission for *Manna for the Journey*, a magazine published by Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns. *Manna for the Journey* is published four times a year. Subscription is \$10 for four issues. Correspondence should be sent to

Manna For the Journey
P.O. Box 23636
Washington D.C. 20026

Dear Dad,

The honesty and love you've expressed in the above account exemplifies what a special person you are. With several years' perspective, I am much more appreciative of those qualities in you than I was when I came out to you and Mom.

About a year passed between the time I began confronting my own homosexuality and my initial discussion about it with you. That year became more and more awkward and painful because I felt like I was withholding an important part of myself from you. I was living a lie. I did not want to have such big secrets, and I could not imagine a lifetime of concealment. It became clear that I had no choice but to tell you. You *had* to know, for my peace of mind.

I was extremely anxious about telling you I am a lesbian. At worst, it meant suffering your disapproval of me. At best, we would need to deal with the normal reactions of bewilderment, anger, guilt, and withdrawal. I felt responsible to *make you* understand, and that was a tall order! And yet, deep down, I knew what I had always known. You loved me, and nothing could change that.

Values that you and Mom taught and lived included the willingness to love all kinds of people and the abhorrence of discrimination. Because of these values, I expected you to have little trouble accepting my lesbianism. Oh, I knew that there would be an initial "adjustment period," but I thought it would last minutes instead of months!

Needless to say, my expectations were quite high. What I imagined would be an awkward but satisfying discussion turned into an unsatisfying child-parent battle. You didn't understand, and I had no patience. I forgot to consider that it had taken me time to come to terms with this myself, and you deserved at least as much time. Our talk didn't go as I had planned, but I still felt tremendously relieved when it was over. I had taken an impor-

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tant step. There were awkward moments over the next several months. I felt uncomfortable explaining my feelings to you, Dad. But I knew I was very lucky because you are the kind of person who wants to understand. I even resented, at times, that I needed to help "educate" you. I wanted you to magically understand and accept everything!

The first Gay Pride Day Parade was a turning point. When you told me that you would be marching in the parade with Parents of Gays, I was matter-of-fact. Somehow, it seemed like a perfectly usual thing for a loving father to do. You had

certainly marched for plenty of other good causes over the years! I also remember thinking that, if you marched, I would be obliged to march with you in appreciation. Being newly in love with Annie, and this being my first year in the parade, I was terribly excited -- and not so sure if I wanted to share that excitement with you. (It pains me to make these admissions; I thought I was so mature.) I spent the evening before the march with some friends talking about the next day. Their reaction to your marching was what you had probably expected from me. They helped me begin to realize what a special day it would be.

The day was truly extraordinary. Thousands of people gathered at the starting point, and Annie and I excitedly searched for Parents of Gays. It didn't take us long to spot you. Immediately I was filled with love, pride, and joy at our togetherness. As we marched up Fifth Avenue, no other organization in the parade was cheered and applauded as strongly. The crowds and television crews realized how special it was. It was exhilarating!

Many gay men and lesbians thanked you and the other parents for marching and said they only wished their parents could do the same. I had always taken your love and acceptance for granted and that day helped me develop a much deeper appreciation for you. One of my most treasured possessions is a photograph that was taken that day of the three of us. In that picture, you are holding a sign that says, "We love our gay children." Today I am just a bit wiser and a great deal more aware. Most of all, I am thankful of how lucky I am to know this kind of love.

Love,
Elizabeth

(Elizabeth Smith is a hospice nurse who has lived in New York City for ten years.)

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In Memory of Marilyn

The New Voice recently learned of the death of Marilyn Majors of Omaha. Marilyn was a strong supporter of the community and this publication. She was a caring and devoted counselor who served many people in her practice, including gays and lesbians. Marilyn died suddenly of cancer, which had been diagnosed in the late stages of the disease. She will be greatly missed.



Keep Them Invisible

From a recent daughter to mother letter:

"Did you know that your daughter is now an outlaw -- the Supreme Court says so with their ruling on the Georgia Sodomy Case. Great, isn't it? We protested in front of the Supreme Court -- the *Washington Post* didn't even print one word about it. Not surprising though -- 'keep 'em invisible and they cease to exist.'"

-- From a mother who loves her lesbian daughter

The Pink Triangle

I've wanted a pink triangle to wear, so when I saw the pink enameled piece of jewelry I bought it. My friend asked me "Why?" and then, "What does it mean?" That gave me pause, because what it means to me may be different from the signal that wearing it might send to others.

I wore it to the Parents FLAG meeting which gave me the opportunity to explain not only its significance, but that not even all members of the gay/lesbian community are aware of its history. Gay history, like gay pride, is not taught. The pink triangle was Nazi Germany's visible label for homosexuals in concentration camps. The Holocaust under Hitler included several such visible designations: the yellow star of David for the Jews, and the pink triangle for homosexuals, being only two. Just as Hitler attempted to systematically annihilate other groups, as part of his "final solution," so too were homosexuals worked to death in slave labor camps. Thus, the current use of the pink triangle to symbolize gayness and the will to survive.

It is important, to me, that knowledge of the origin of the pink triangle accompany the choice to wear it. The Holocaust must be remembered and not diminished as something too horrible to possibly ever occur again. Wearing one of its badges provides visible evidence that that horrendous time of man's inhumanity to man is not forgotten

and will not be permitted to happen again, in any degree. It is the symbol of a spirit not to be denied.

A story of those times under Hitler goes: When the Nazis invaded Denmark, they ordered all Jews to wear a yellow star of David. An ultimatum was issued that by a certain day all Jews should wear the yellow star. Throughout the city the word passed, and everywhere bits of yellow material were sewn into yellow stars. The day came, and when the Nazi officials appeared at the King of Denmark's gates, the king walked out wearing a yellow star of David, as did all of the inhabitants. They were one people, non-Jews and Jews, all wearing the yellow star. It is in this tradition that I have chosen to wear the pink triangle. We are one people, gay and non-gay.

I explained this to the other parents. Some knew the history, most did not, and I was asked where they could buy a similar pin. But the story cannot end there, because I have to admit my self-consciousness about wearing the pin, even as I take pride in it. The questions in my head? People who know me will know what the pink triangle means to me, and so I do not worry. People with whom I work don't even recognize it as symbolic of anything, and so my chance to speak out and do some educating is lost because no one asks about it. But wait, perhaps some *do* recognize it, but only in the narrow sense to announce that the wearer is gay. I am not; therefore, I wonder about my "right" to wear it. Will people "entitled" to wear it be perturbed at my presumption?

Perhaps the readers of this piece will make their thoughts known.

-- Jean Durgin-Clinchard

Proud to Have a Gay Son

I have a gay son. These are five of the most difficult words a parent can say. For many years, I have wondered if I would ever say these words without tears. For many years I couldn't. It has been a long

journey from the initial shock to the acceptance that I feel toward my son.

I had my son when I was seventeen, so we are fairly close in age. As a result, we have always been very close to each other. When Ted entered high school, I noticed a distance developing between us. Ted was very reserved and withdrawn about his feelings, but I never pushed him to share things with me. I knew he would share if he really wanted to.

Ted was discovering his sexuality -- homosexuality -- during those years and he was terrified. He didn't talk to me because he thought I would reject him. When he told me this years later, my heart ached that my son thought I would turn away from him. He needed me so desperately then and I wasn't there for him because I never suspected what he was going through. I love my son and would do anything for him, yet my insensitivity to his sexual identity crisis still makes me feel ashamed.

Ted finally came out to me when he was 24. Though we are close and I consider myself to be an open-minded, caring parent, I was overwhelmed. Tears filled my eyes even though I fought to suppress them, and I have a hard time forgiving myself for letting him see the hurt and disappointment in my face. I looked at Ted and I didn't see Ted anymore; a stranger stood before me. I felt alone, scared, and angry. I wanted to slap my son for taking away the happiness and promise of our relationship. More than anything, I wanted it to be a bad dream that would soon be over.

Needless to say, it was not a dream. After months of anguish and secrecy, I reached out to a friend and she gave me the support I needed. In turn, I was able to overcome my initial emotions and give my son the support he needed. However, not everyone has a friend like mine who can take the tears, the fears, and the anger and help to work things through. That's why I recommend PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). It has been ten years since Ted told me he is gay and I am finding out

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there are still a lot of emotions that haven't been worked through. The acceptance process is a cycle of emotions that re-emerge, and each time old fears, doubts, even pain resurface -- just when you think you have resolved everything. That's when you need the support of other parents who are experiencing the same cycle.

Looking back, I know I have hurt Ted by not being as accepting as he needed for me to be. Now I feel I can find acceptance and learn acceptance among other parents. Now I can look at my son and see the child I have always known and loved. I also see a strong, healthy young man any parent would be proud of. I have a gay son -- and *I am proud of him!*

A Parent Expresses View

One of the main objectives of Parents FLAG is to be active listeners, giving parents and others a safe

place to express deep and conflicting emotions. Later comes the acceptance of facts, and self-renewal of our goals as loving and caring parents. Now some of us feel ready to try another step -- that of study and action. The recent Supreme Court decision against gays is threatening and scary to us all, and in order to better understand the decision, John Taylor of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union (NCLU) will speak at our August meeting.

We all need to be working together on this, and any action we decide on should be informed and backed by group consensus. We'd like you to attend! We need ALL of us working together and would certainly welcome you to this meeting. -- Marian

Note: P-FLAG meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Unitarian Church in Lincoln, located at 6300 A street. The next meeting is scheduled for August 27.

P-Flag Book Notes

The Screaming Room, by Barbara Peabody (Oak Tree Publications, Inc., San Diego, Calif. 1986, hrbk. \$15.95), is the true journal of a mother caring for her son, a person with AIDS. According to *The Advocate*, the book was written at the suggestion of her doctor, who felt it would not only be a release for her, but would also be a service to health care professionals. Too often medical people do not seem to be aware of the day-to-day details of the home care of patients like Peabody's son, Peter. This book describes the course of Peter's illness and treatment from diagnosis to his death. It is not a book for the weak in spirit, but it is not depressing even when the reader's heart is torn and the tears flow. It is a tribute to the human spirit, the life that is precious to all of us, and to the courage of thousands of people fighting similar battles. It is a call to arms.

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The question arises: "Why would you want to read something like that? It's too close." I'm not sure of the answer, for other, or even how to recommend it, although I do. There is value in knowing the enemy, in knowing what reality is, and to not bury one's head in the sand. There will be other books by survivors, too many before we are done. Each will describe his or her own way of dealing with illness and dying. All will be valuable because we will know we are not alone, whatever our views, attitudes, or beliefs. Barbara Peabody has not let Peter's death go unmarked. She is still fighting for other people's sons. Perhaps her spirit will mobilize others. Her closing sentence is true for all who have died, for they are not forgotten:

Peter lives on in each of us.

-- Jean Durgin-Clinchard

Coming Out to Your Parents

Part I — Getting Prepared

Perhaps you are contemplating sharing your greatest secret with your family. It's a scary time, full of anxiety and uncertainties. I'm well acquainted with those feelings because I told my family that I'm gay last Easter. I'd put it off for over four years, wanting to spare them the hurt I knew it would inevitably cause. Well, it did cause some pain and quite a few tears, but things are slowly getting better now. There had finally come a day when my mother sensed the distance I was keeping from them so acutely that she asked, "Don't you even care that we love you? Don't you want to be part of the family anymore?"

At first I couldn't even reply with anything more than, "I'm sorry you're hurt." I almost said something about my homosexuality then, but the circumstances weren't quite right. I took a week to think about what I was going to do. I

could not in good conscience let them go on thinking that I no longer cared. The decision was made that we'd all be better off dealing with the truth, even if it hurt. And I don't regret that decision one bit. The weight of carrying around such a big secret is no longer on my shoulders alone. Now my parents share my full life again. Telling them wasn't easy, and it'll be years before all the repercussions die down, but we are at least starting on the road to a healthier relationship.

During that week of thinking time, I considered how to handle the situation. While I'm not a trained counselor or an expert on human relationships, I found a few points that might be helpful to anyone else thinking of coming out. Here are a few things to consider if you're getting ready to tell your parents.

First and most important, be sure of yourself. When your parents ask, "Are you sure you're gay?" you need to be able to confidently say, "Yes, this is who and what I am and always will be." Don't even raise the issue until you're sure. You must feel no guilt about being gay; you must be comfortable with it. Let your parents know that you are a well-adjusted, happy person. After all, the most a parent can ever really hope for is that their child will be happy.

Also consider whether you have outside emotional support. At worst, your parents may reject you, or disown you. We always hope that this is not the case, but it's usually best to prepare for the worst and hope for the best. And even if your family doesn't disown you, it's still a trying time. Be sure there are special friends around you to lend comfort and support. Financial support should be considered too. Are you dependent on your parents? If so, it might be wise to wait until you are more financially independent.

Be knowledgeable about homosexuality: They'll probably have lots of questions. You know your parents so you can probably anticipate what they'll ask. They may only know the myths propagated by a misinformed, homophobic society. Do some

reading beforehand and have facts ready to give them, especially about AIDS. I was surprised to hear how misled my father was about AIDS. He thought he'd be infected if he kissed me. I had to tell him that lesbians have the lowest occurrence rate. He must have believed me, because he's started kissing me hello again.

Consider your motive for telling them. Avoid telling them just to shock them or to "get back at them" if you felt you had an unhappy childhood. Instead, tell them because you love them and want to be honest with them. Tell them because you are uncomfortable with the distance between you and them.

Assuming you have the luxury of choosing when to tell your parents, consider the timing. If they are going through some kind of ordeal (a major move, loss of a job, discovery of a major illness, death of a friend or family member), then it's best to wait a bit. Human beings tend to handle a stressful situation better if they don't have too much stress already.

Consider your parents' moral and social views. Is religion a big issue? They'll claim that the Bible condemns homosexuals. Be prepared for that by talking to a sympathetic pastor who can tell you alternative interpretations to the passages which seem to condemn us. The MCC or Dignity might be able to help. (My parents and I had a real good time with the religious aspect -- my father is a rather conservative minister!) Your family may be concerned with what the neighbors will think. Go ahead and tell them that it's none of the neighbors' business. They don't have to know, if your parents feel this is such an embarrassment. Some day your parents may grow into enough acceptance that they can say, "My child is gay," and not feel ashamed, but that will certainly take time. Perhaps, too, your parents want grandchildren, and they'll only be thinking that homosexuals don't have children. Well, many do. But that's for you to decide, if *you* want them.

Obtain some kind of literature that

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you can leave with them. Chances are that they know very few facts about our lifestyle. A counselor or a gay support group might provide you with a list of books or magazine articles. I know of two good, inexpensive pamphlets: the National Gay Task Force's "Twenty Questions About Homosexuality" and one called "About Our Children," put out by Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Also have ready the address and phone number of the nearest PFLAG group. It's very important for them to know they are not unique and alone in having a gay child. Just remember that you can't force them to go to a meeting or read any of the literature before they are ready. Simply leave them the resources, making sure they have factual information.

Be ready to be extremely patient

with them. They won't like what they hear and will want to reject it. When you tell them, be ready for you and your parents to switch roles. Now they must learn from you. Guide them slowly and gently, allowing them time to learn and adjust to seeing you in a new light. You may have to explain your feelings over and over again. Remember, you've had longer to think about this than they have. They'll have to learn that what is normal for you is different than what is normal for them. This could take years.

Understand that this new knowledge will irrevocably change your relationship. They may have a hard time accepting you if they consider our lifestyle immoral. Once you're out of the closet, you can never go back in.

Finally, be sure this is *your* decision and not someone else's. Don't be pressured into it by friends. Weigh the pros and cons for your own unique situation. You may find it a relief not to have to hide such a big part of yourself anymore, but will it be worth the expected change in your relationship?

Jean Mortensen

Nebraska AIDS Statistics

1983	1	Breakdown:
1984	2	12 Homosexual/ Bisexual
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1986	5	1 IV Drug Abuser

15 total cases		
14 Men		
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Features

The Supreme Court Enters Our Bedrooms

Welcome back to the medieval ages. This is the message sent by the Supreme Court after its 5-4 ruling that upheld Georgia's conviction of a gay man for sodomy. This decision, which is already a critical blow to gay/lesbian rights, could foster even wider-ranging consequences. The court has endorsed state-sponsored invasion of privacy. Beyond that, it has declared itself in favor of a homophobic viewpoint of society, and has opened the way for a possible resurgence of local and state ordinances aimed at gays and lesbians.

The impact of the decision could be devastating to our lives. By decreeing that citizens do not have the guaranteed right to conduct their private, sexual lives, the Court has in essence negated any legal basis for gay rights. Although the language of the decision imports a blanket denial of sodomy (that is, anal and/or oral intercourse), the case involved a gay man, and it is the homosexual population at whom this ruling is ultimately directed. After all, Rehnquist, Burger, *et al.*, probably have a hard time imagining that "normal" couples could be so perverse as to experience the various joys of sex beyond what is required for procreation of the species. It would require something other than the missionary position. I can hear Justice Sandra Day O'Connor pip-

ing up, "They do *what* with their private parts?"

The real issue, however, is not the Court's lack of erotic imagination, but the invasion of privacy. Conservative groups will see this decision as the Court's blessing to strive for all manner of homosexual exclusionary laws at the local level. These attempts could include such issues as housing and jobs. In addition, more local or state sodomy laws will be introduced or actively enforced.

The Supreme Court might as well be attired in Inquisition robes. As long as Reagan-appointed bodies occupy space on the bench, we can expect such medieval intolerance and homophobia. They hope to shut us into a judicial dungeon. The door, however, has been opened by some hard-won gains in our civil rights. We won't let it close again.

-- Stefan Tysk

Gails Hit List

August

1. *Two of Hearts*
Stacey Q
2. *Venus*
Bananarama
3. *Mad About You (Remix)*
Belinda Carlisle
4. *Stop and Think*
Fire On Blonde
5. *Imagination*
LaToya Jackson
6. *Miss You*
The Flirts
7. *Point Of No Return*
Nu Shooz

8. *Rumors*
Timex Social Club
9. *Man Size Love*
Klymaxx
10. *Sweet Freedom (Remix)*
Michael McDonald
11. *Love Of A Lifetime*
Chaka Khan
12. *I Want You*
Animotion
13. *Don't Say (It's Over)*
Stevo Armani
14. *Dancing On A String*
Time Bandits

And for that slloooow dance...

- Rising Desire*
Stephanie Mills
- The Bells*
Sam Harris

Gail's Hit List is a monthly courtesy of the Boardwalk/The Club.

A Letter in Poetry

Brothers and Sisters so loving and dear, prepare ourselves for some fights. Bad times are coming ... They're taking our freedom by doing away with our rights. It isn't enough ... the sadness and pain...the wondering 'who next' we may lost. We can sit back and wait, or we can resist ... and we DO have a way, if we choose. There's something called VOTING in this country of ours, and in numbers it's easy to see ... that by standing 'united' and fighting for cause, those VOTES can help keep us 'free.'

It's 'fear' and 'hatred' that's leading the way, with cruelty and heartless contempt. The lack of knowledge ... a 'Human error' ... by some who feel 'exempt.' Registered VOTERS we ALL must be to accomplish a daring feat ... serious VOTERS engaged against this 'strife. It matters not if you've VOTED 'ever' before, but VOTE NOW for YOUR freedom of life.

Brothers and Sisters so loving and dear, prepare ourselves for some fights. Support each other ... support ourselves ... REGISTER, and VOTE for 'our' rights!

by Donald Hill
Palm Springs, California



The Great Peace March: No More!

It goes on one at a time; it starts when you care to act; it starts when you do it again after they say no; it starts when you say we know who you mean and each day you mean one more.

--Marge Piercy

quote from We Are The Web
(about The Seneca Army Depot
Women's Peace Encampment)

Peace City is a community to which people from diverse backgrounds have come together in order to make a statement against nuclear weapons madness. The Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament involves hundreds of people walking from Los Angeles to Washington, DC to talk with people about nuclear disarmament, to better understand other Americans' concerns around the nuclear and related issues, and to leave individuals feeling empowered to create change toward real peace.

As a lesbian woman, I felt uneasy about setting aside my gay and lesbian rights and women's rights activism for nine months while making this trek for a nuke-free peace. It has become apparent though, in the past few months that homophobia and sexism exist even in our supposedly non-violent, open-minded peace community. The reasons for the existence of homophobia and sexism even here seems rooted in the larger society from which we each come. These destructive attitudes are symptoms of the save disease which has led us into our current nuclear arms stand-off -- a disease which I term "The Other Syndrome."

The Other Syndrome occurs when we look at the world as an arena of Us versus Them. By considering others as Them we deny some level of Their humanity since They are so different from Us. Having denied Their humanity We don't feel the need to try to understand Them, We perceive Them as a threat and can justify protecting Ourselves against Them (i.e., pre-



venting gay and lesbian people from teaching our children, protecting our borders from those 'commies,' 'fag bashing,' deploying missiles in Western Europe).

At some point in time we must stop this insanity and take a chance on trusting. It begins with each of us saying "No More!" -- No More to living under the constant threat of impending nuclear annihilation, No More to denying the humanity of gay and lesbian citizens of the world. On a personal scale we each need to learn how to listen to and really hear each other. Within our own communities, a united group working together will do much to impress on those who are homophobic or otherwise unfairly critical of us that we are proud and respectful of ourselves and each other. If a friend or acquaintance expresses fear of the Soviets ask them why and suggest that the Soviets may be as afraid of us as we are of them. We can each take a few minutes once a week, once a month to contact our congressional representatives (either by postcard or phone) and tell them our feelings about the nuclear issue. In any case, it means taking responsibility for our actions and reaching out to

others in love to foster better understanding between us all.

I want to extend my thanks to Lincoln's and Omaha's Gay and Lesbian Community for supporting their sisters and brothers on The Great Peace March. We are all working toward creating more trust, understanding and love between all people. Each of us has his or her role in this challenge and every part is important for creating the desired changes. It all begins with our saying, individually and collectively, "No More!" then making happen.

Yours in Peace,
Diane Surati
(Detroit/Kalamazoo, Michigan)
for The Great Peace March



DISARMAMENT

Letters

Use of Word Ms. Abused

Dear Editors:

I have been reading *The New Voice* over the past year and I think, overall, the magazine is fairly well done. You've made many necessary improvements in style and policy. I know the staff has dealt with a variety of complex and controversial issues, and I am glad to see more sensitivity on your part for the needs and concerns of a diverse gay/lesbian community. I am sure it hasn't been easy. As such, I am distressed and disappointed by a recent article.

The use of the title "Ms." in the July Shownotes in reference to female-illusionists is insulting. "Ms." was originally a radical title among Feminist womyn who refused to be defined as "property of a man" (Mrs.) or "not yet property of a man" (Miss). More recently, the title has been abused by pseudo-feminists (e.g., *Ms. Magazine*) and made the butt of sarcastic humor (e.g., the television sitcom, "One Day at a Time"). Now, the title is being used to refer to male performers in drag who present a stereotypical, misogynistic image of womyn. The use of "Ms." in this article insults the integrity of Feminist philosophy and those of us who are deeply committed to that philosophy.

I hope the members of *The New Voice* staff will address my concern. The continued ridicule of a philosophy held by many lesbian womyn will surely cost you in terms of credibility and readership.

Teri C.

Our response:

We agree. Unfortunately, as working womyn and students, we cannot always be there to discuss everything that is scheduled for publication in *The New Voice*. As such, we did not see the July Shownotes prior to publication. We assure you that your concern will be discussed at length. Feedback is often the first step in the process of improvement.

Anita and Sandy,
Associated Editors

AIDS and Insurance

Dear Larry:

In response to the article "AIDS and Insurance" in the July issue:

I am employed as an underwriter for an insurance company. An underwriter is a person who reviews applications for insurance. I work only with life insurance.

I am caught between my loyalty to my job and my instinctive loyalty to my lifestyle. At times I do not agree with the homophobia and requirements necessary for an individual who is a suspected gay male. However, these requirements are just as necessary as asking an individual with heart disease for an electrocardiogram, a cancer victim for a pathology report, or an alcoholic for blood tests to determine the extent of liver damage.

Yes, life insurance companies are paying large amounts of money for death claims due to AIDS. But remember, if insurance companies are not permitted to have access to blood tests and continue to pay death claims due to AIDS, that money paid out must be made up somewhere. That somewhere is usually the policyholders' pockets.

What we end up with is healthy men and women paying higher and higher life and health insurance premiums to make up for money lost. Is that fair?

The District of Columbia recently voted in favor of legislature against the use of any blood tests to determine insurability. This move infuriated insurance companies who sell insurance in D.C. Since they do not want to expose themselves to additional death claims, the only other choice was to pull out of doing business in D.C. Several major companies have done this already, with more soon to follow. Is this fair to people, gay or straight, who live in D.C.?

The topic is endless. The media certainly has done its best to exploit and fuel homophobia. The real focus should be on education of the general public, and if the media would cooperate, this could be easily accomplished. Until this is considered, insurance company executives, as well as blue collar workers, will believe what is printed and shown on television, and form their own opinions without ever really knowing all the facts.

Sincerely,

Heidi Schreiber

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Gay/Lesbian Resource Directory— Nebraska

Lincoln

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous. Groups meet weekly. Phone 466-5214.

Capitol City Couples. Organization to promote positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationship, create stability in those relationships, and to share and socialize with other gay couples. Call 423-1374

Community of Grace. Box 6881, Lincoln 68506. Interdenominational worshipping community of gay/lesbian, & those associated. Meets Sunday 7:00 pm.

Gay/Lesbian Awareness at Lincoln High School. Meets every other week. Phone Glis 475-4697.

Gay/Lesbian Information & Support Line. Meets third Wednesday of the month. Phone 475-4697

Gay/Lesbian Student Group at Nebraska Wesleyan. Contact Dr. Mary Smith, NWU, 50th & St. Paul, Lincoln 68504. Phone 465-2351.

Lambda Resource Center—Meeting rooms, outpatient counseling, group activities. 2845 "R" St. Call 474-1205 for information.

Lesbian Support Group. Informal discussion group for lesbians, all women welcome. Meets weekly. Contact Women's Resource Center, Room 117, Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588. Phone 472-2597.

Lincoln Legion of Lesbians. Box 30137, Lincoln 68503. Lesbian-Feminist collective providing a newsletter, confidential referral, & support groups for lesbians. Sponsors cultural & social programs.

Ministry in Human Sexuality, Inc. Box 80122, Lincoln 68501. Non-profit agency providing counseling, education, & supportive action for those seeking growth & understanding in the areas of sexuality & relationships. J. Benjamin Roe, Executive Director. Phone 476-9913.

New Directions Center—Short term individual counseling, support groups, classes and workshops dealing with coming out, relationship issues, parenting. Sliding Fee Scale. Call 476-2802

Open Door Ministry. To provide traditional orthodox spiritual counsel to all people in need at no charge. Phone 474-3390.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Box 4374, Lincoln 68501. Support group for parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. Meets fourth Tuesday of the month. Phone 466-1151.

Presbyterians for Gay/Lesbian Concerns. For information phone 464-5286.

Third Culture. Non-residential subculture dealing with issues such as coming out, social behavior, the gay lifestyle, suicide, & drug/alcohol abuse. Contact Pat at 474-1205.

UN-L Gay/Lesbian Association. Room 222, Nebraska Union, Lincoln 68588. Political, social and educational organization for students & interested others, meets Thursdays, 8:00 pm. Phone 472-5644.

The Wimmie's Show. KZUM Radio 89.5 and 99.3 FM. 12 pm-3 pm every Sunday.

Woman's Journal-Advocate. Monthly feminist publication. Write to P.O. Box 81226, Lincoln, 68501

Omaha

Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous. Groups Meet weekly. Phone 345-9916.

Dignity of Omaha. Providing common experience through Mass & meetings for gays and lesbians and their friends. Regular Mass second Sunday of the month, 7:00 pm, St. John's Lower Level. Phone 341-1460 or 345-9426.

Gay Parents Support Group. Support group for gay parents who have children. Phone 553-2308 for times and locations.

Lutherans Concerned of Omaha. Society of gay Christians and friends together to foster within a church climate of understanding, justice, & reconciliation among all women & men. Phone 592-1209.

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha. Sunday worship 10:30 am & 7:00 pm, Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7:30 pm, Wednesday Evening Praise/Prayer/Healing 7:30.

Metropolitan Club of Omaha. Professional business persons' organization. Meets third Wednesday of the month. Phone for information 391-6253.

Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG). Box 3173, Omaha 68103. Support group for the parents, friends, and relatives of lesbians/gays. Phone 345-2563.

River City Mixed Chorus. Box 315, Omaha 68101. Volunteer community chorus for gay/lesbian & gay/lesbian-sensitive men & women, with the goal of musical excellence in performance. Rehearsals Monday evenings.

Sexual Minorities in the Health Professions. Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Health Professionals or students in the Health Professions. Phone 345-5637.

T.W.O. Motorcycle Club. 712 South 16th St., Omaha 68102. Meets second Sunday of the month. Phone 342-9595

Volleyball Team. 2599 Ellison Ave., Omaha 68111. Phone 451-6464

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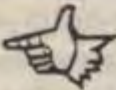
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Affirmation of Nebraska. Box 80122, Lincoln 68501. United Methodists for Gay/Lesbian Concerns. Meets alternately in Omaha & Lincoln, second Friday of the month. Phone 476-9913 or 474-1205.

Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Civil Rights. Box 94882, Lincoln 68509. Advocacy group which lobbies for lesbian/gay civil rights, provides educational presentations, publishes a newsletter & sponsors cultural & political programs.

Imperial Court of Nebraska. Social organization for the advancement of the gay society. Omaha meeting first Monday of every month, except holidays. Phone 342-5710. P.O. Box 3772, Omaha 68102

Nebraska A.I.D.S. Project. Box 3512, Omaha 68103. Center for information, support, and coordination of A.I.D.S.-related community efforts. Phone Omaha 342-4233 or toll-free statewide 1-800-782-AIDS.

The New Voice of Nebraska. Box 80819, Lincoln 68501. Staff meets in Omaha & Lincoln. Phone for times & locations. Phone 475-7740 or 345-2181.

Viral Syndrome Clinic. Dr. Jonathan Goldsmith, Physician. Jan Hopp, RN, 559-7331

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The Diamond	712 South 16th St.	342-9595
The Max	1417 Jackson	346-4110
The Run	1715 Leavenworth	449-8703
The Stage Door	1512 Howard St.	342-8715
Stars Restaurant	1113½ Howard St.	346-6624

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The Club	116 No. 20th St.	474-5692
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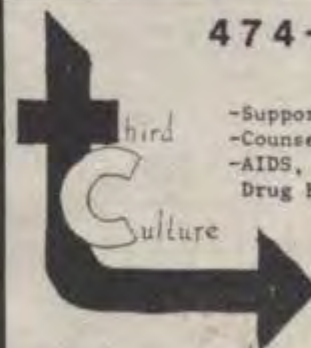
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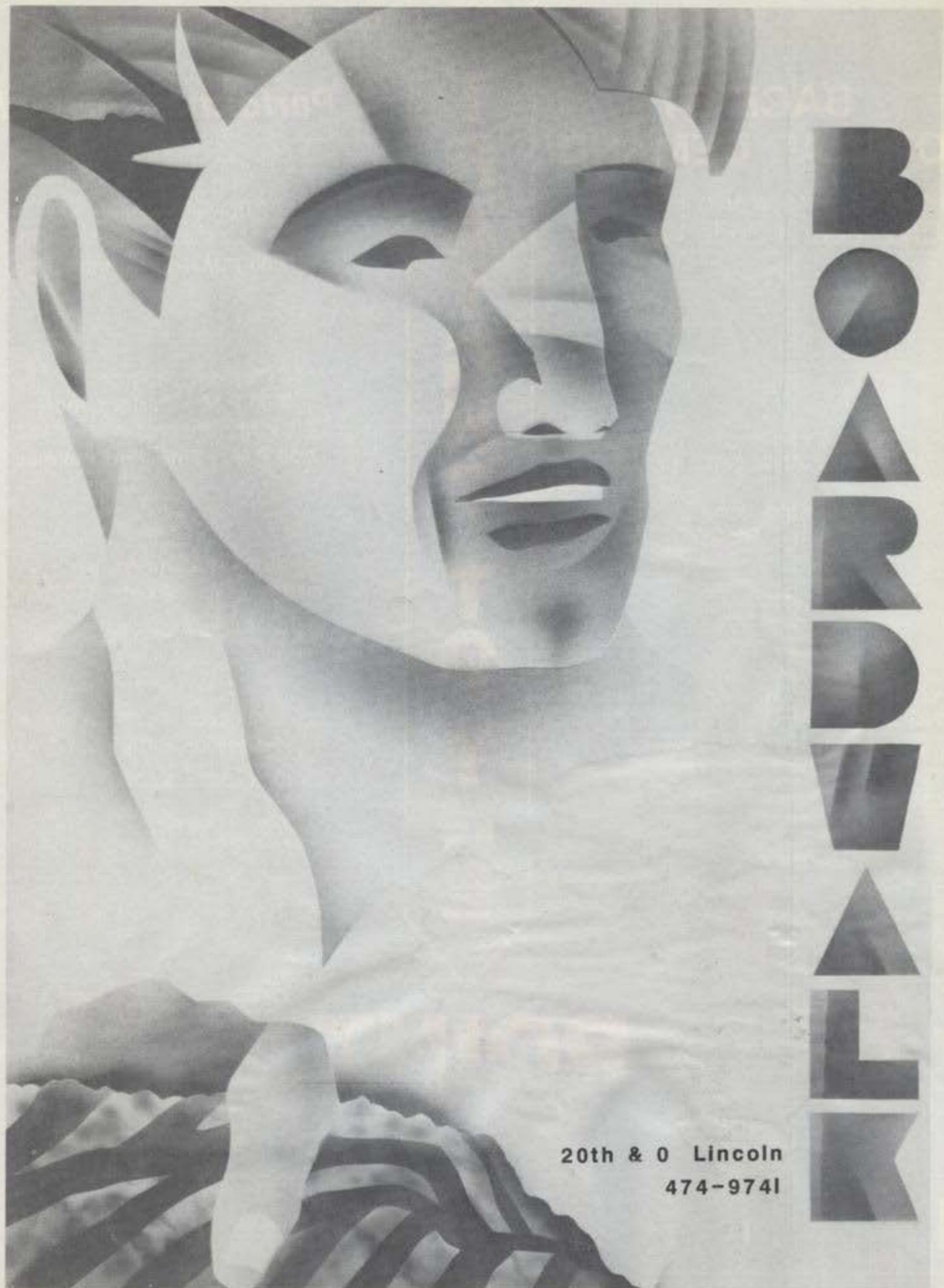
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