

VOL VIII NO 4

JUNE 1990

The New Voice

O F N E B R A S K A

COUPLES



GAYS AND LESBIANS IN THE WHITE HOUSE! SEE PAGE 17
ANGLE PRIDE WEEK ACTIVITIES/RCMC PRIDE CONCERT
SEE INSIDE BACK COVER

COUPLES COME OUT TO CENSUS

by Demian

Millions of gay and lesbian couples could be counted by the 1990 U.S. Census IF the couples selected the "unmarried partner" option to describe their relationship. An overwhelming majority of couples may have done so, judging from responses to a reader survey conducted by PARTNERS: The Newsletter for Gay and Lesbian Couples.

Of the 96 couples responding to the mid-March survey, 92 said they would declare themselves as "unmarried partners". Only four planned to keep their relationship secret.

The respondents reside in 30 states, and have been together an average of 6 1/2 years, ranging from less than one year to 23 years. Female couples accounted for 53 percent of the responses.

"Our readers strongly identify as couples," said PARTNERS co-publisher Stevie Bryant, "but by no means are all of them visible as couples in their communities."

In response to another survey question, 81 percent of the couples said they would be legally married if the option were available.

Until same-sex marriage is available, union ceremonies are a popular option. 31 percent of the couples have had such a ceremony and 26 percent plan one.

OUT IN THE 90'S

The Gay News Network has come to Lincoln! This weekly show is shown every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. on Cable #14. Because this is a community access channel it does not reach Omaha, but if there is anyone in Omaha interested in making arrangements with the Omaha community access channel, it would also be available there. (Occasionally there may be technical problems and a substitute program is shown.)

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays Cornhusker, Inc., has made special arrangements to bring the Gay News Network weekly news and discussion program, "Out In the 90's" to Lincoln. This series is taped live in New York City for later rebroadcast and the phone numbers given are New York numbers. The program is aired on the NYC local community access station.

The format of this program is news followed by different monthly segments: A Round Table Discussion with phone-in

questions and comments; Amy Ashworth of NYC Parents FLAG; and interviews.

The news material is strong! Viewers who are not ready to hear the effects of, and reaction to, homophobia may find some portions of this tape disturbing, just as the TV coverage of the civil rights movement of the 60's was disturbing, and we learned that racism hurts. Any bigotry hurts.

Parents FLAG supports this effort with full knowledge that not everyone will agree with the views presented; but we also believe that a diversity of views is not necessarily negative. Viewing anger and pain hurts; but how can those who are NOT of a minority group come to realize the results of homophobia and heterosexism if not confronted with its reality? People in the gay community can take heart from the choices represented by activism, whether or not they choose to be active themselves.

And why should we care?

The words of Pastor Niemoller, spoken of the Nazis in 1945, tell us why we MUST care:

"In Germany, they first came for the Communists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Catholic. Then they came for me — and by that time there was no one left to speak up."

Tune in next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. for the next "Out In the 90's."

Your comments about this new-to-Lincoln show will determine how long we maintain the effort to keep it coming to you. It takes about three hours every week to edit out the material that Lincoln Community Access does not allow — solicitations for funds for the program to stay on the air. In Lincoln, we have free use of the studio and editing equipment; in NYC they have to pay something like \$200 an hour for the facility, plus editing time.

If you are interested in participating in this effort, contact Parents FLAG for more information. If you are interested in donating supporting funds, it can be done through Parents FLAG.

Write to: P.O. Box 4374, Lincoln, NE 68504, or call (402) 435-4688.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITORS OF THE NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA

Earlier this summer, I had spoken to Sharon (God, I hope I got your name right. I have a problem with putting faces and names together. It makes for a lot of truly embarrassing moments at gatherings where I run into people that I have been intimate with, and I have no idea who the hell they are. I generally assume that I owe them money, and quietly run away.) about contributing some of my poetry to the magazine, and possibly a humorous feature column or two (quite a few people have told me that I am one funny guy, but this usually happens after I take off my clothes. All my life, I dreamed of having a body like Superman, but fate made me cast in the mold of Don Knotts. I'm glad I live in Omaha, Nebraska, where the layered look is accepted.), but after our conversation, I moved twice, got promoted twice in my job, and went through three-point-five "relationships" best left to the tabloids available at your local 7-11 (you've seen the headlines - "I fell in love with the living dead and lost twelve pounds!")

What this all boils down to is the basic

"I'm-sorry-here-is-some-stuff-please-print-it-if-you-like."

My mommy once gave me a book on how to get your submissions printed, and I realize this letter pretty much breaks every rule this guy mentions, but please try to overlook these garbled ramblings. I watched too much television as a wee bairn.

Enclosed are some pieces that I have written over the months. I've noticed that my poetry tends to speak of select moments, rather than an overall message. Gays tend to have much more intense "joinings" than our "normal" counterparts. I think that may be to our advantage at times. We as human beings spend way too much time trying to hide our feelings, or cover them up for the sake of appearance. Every relationship that I have experienced since I came out has run the entire gamut of the human condition.

Hope these moments on paper will suit your needs.

Brian B.

Response: Yes you are late, but I am sure our readers will believe the wait was worth it. You will find three examples of Brian's poetry in this issue and hopefully we will be allowed to enjoy more.

"FAREWELL..."

In 1985 I left Kearney to come to Omaha for a job opportunity. Five years later the time has come again for a move, and this time Phoenix, Arizona, is calling.

In these last five years I've grown a lot stronger, both personally and professionally. I've met so many people and made a few close and invaluable friends along the way. I feel that I'll be leaving a large part of me behind when I say farewell to Omaha later this month.

Vanessa, a special thank you for the opportunity and encouragement to dig out my heels and lipstick again.

Gerry S., for all the stability and sanity you shared with me, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To the "Girls" — Sabrina, Erica, Roxy, Felice, Rita, Kendra, and Velvet (wherever you may be) — thank you for being TRUE queens, and for all your support and friendship. You, too, Stella; I wish you the best always.

To Heidi and the troupes from GLSO, thank you for your faith in me and for the opportunity to keep my word to you — even though others would've had it otherwise. In the future, please know that my love and support are with you wherever you need me.

To the rest of Omaha, I can't complain that the last five years haven't been interesting. I will carry a lot of memories with me to Phoenix, many of them fond and very special to me.

Finally, to ICON: Sharon and Carla, you are and always will be an inspiration to jaded old drag queens like me — bless you.

A fond farewell — The Gods bless and keep you — Love and Lipstick,
Forte De Sade

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FANTASY '90

PLANNING MEETING

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JUNE 11, 1990

GILLIGAN'S BAR

NOTICE!

The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor and in Feature Articles are strictly those of the author. They do not reflect opinions of The New Voice or The New Voice Staff.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed but we will withhold your name if you so state. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length and content.

MAX NEWS - JUNE

The Max congratulates Miss Stephanie Rhodes A.K.A Troy, winner of ICON's 1990 Closet Ball. Closet Ball is always one of the best shows of the year and the latest competition was no exception. Only nine points separated the top three contestants. In fact there was a tie for first between Miss Rhodes and Billie. A last minute tie breaker was called for and Miss Rhodes emerged the victor.

Guess who's going to Florida on the Max and Jagermeister? Marge G. will be flying to Fort Lauderdale with one lucky guest - Drop Dead Rick. Oh well, Rick and Marge, enjoy your trip and say hello to Chris (Marge's son at Florida State). The Fabulous Miss O. provided the nite's (JagerNight, April 26) entertainment along with Ryan, a beefy boy from the Lone Star state. Who was that who licked the sweat off of Ryan's thighs? Thanks Wayne for another fantastic time.

Next to the stage, Viktoria Towne, your reigning Miss Max. Vikie's show reached it's climax with a special guest appearance by the little sisters of Hoboken from the Firehouse Dinner Theatre's Production of Nunsense, the nuns brought the house down with their "habit forming" performance. Great job ladies!

May opened up with the Gay Bowlers' benefit, "Sounds Of The City". All your favorites, Muffy, Dorian, Phoebe, Gloria, Katrina, Jenn Anne and Vikie helped send Scotty and the rest of the bowlers to the Windy City. Special guest Theresa Robinson of Des Moines sang live and Rexie, the reigning Miss Gay North Florida - if there is such a title, returned to the Max stage. Tom Czech(sp) did a great job on the set. Thank you Tom. So what if the show director was a little intoxicated - thanks Arch- and made an idiot of himself, he's been known to do that. "Leave Me Alone!" "I Quit!" "I'll Never Come Back!" Don't you just hate people who can't hold their liquor?

Well guys and gals, June has arrived and Coronation is upon us. Good luck to all the candidates: Gerald, Muffy, Erica and Roxy. On Sunday June 3rd, Come bid farewell to the ninth Court, Joe, Felice and Carla, as they step down from their thrones. It has been a regal year. Also be sure to meet your new monarchs, the following Sunday, June 10th at ICON's Coronation Victory Show. But, Coronation is not all that is going on this month. Marolyn St. James, a former Miss Gay USA returns June 17th for an encore

presentation. Always bringing you the best in Cabaret entertainment, the Max wants to remind you to check out "happy hour" with your bartenders, Chuckles, James, Miss O., Pat and Sean. And yes, the patio bar is open and full of floral color - "Bout time!" Play Safe! - The Max

Remember to vote at Coronation and vote early - the polls close at 7:00 PM

MCC HEADLINES

by Carla P.

District Conference in Colorado Springs was the top news story for some of us in May. Ah! The Colorado Rockies — add that to a plush hotel, good friends, and good fellowship. God truly blesses us! The Conference planners did set aside a few hours for workshops and business meetings. What a weekend!

Quite a group gathered for the potluck dinner and forum on May 20. They heard reports from the Building Search Committee. Several fundraisers were discussed. Be watching for announcements regarding upcoming events.

Since I last wrote, Rev. Howard has "debated" fundamentalist pastors twice: once at UNL and once in Norfolk. Of course no "winners" were declared, but we were thrilled to have him asked to share God's Word: God loves Gays and Lesbians!

MCCO is joining with other religious groups in the Community to plan an Ecumenical Service to open the Gay and Lesbian Pride Week activities. The service will be at 3:00 p.m. at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, June 17.

Don't forget to be watching for us at the Community Picnic in Turner Park following the Pride Parade on June 23. We'll have all the information you need to participate in the Human Rights Campaign Fund Family Registry. Remember their definition of family is broad enough to allow each of us to participate in some manner. If we all register, they'll have lots of ammunition when they push for legislation regarding non-traditional families. Thanks to all of you who picked up information at the ICON Picnic and the other places we've been!

We hope to see you there and in church this week. Our services are held at 420 South 24th Street every Sunday at 10:20 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Until next month, remember: God loves you!



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LOCAL NEWS

FANTASY '90

Fantasy '90 A New Decade of Unity in Leather is getting bigger and better with each week that passes by as July 20 and 21 draw nearer and nearer.

Leathermen and Leatherwomen from all over the country will be coming to Omaha Nebraska for the fundraising events benefiting the National Leather Association and the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Viral Syndrom Clinic. The event is sponsored by Mr. Gay Nebraska '88, Mr. Great Plains Drummer '89. The Leather Journal (TLJ) Man of the Year '90, Dustin Logan his lover Bob Ewing and Dave Rhodes, publisher of The Leather Journal.

Friday, July 20th, Fantasy '90 begins at 6:00 PM with the "registration party" at the Max. Once you have registered, received your Fantasy '90 packet, you will begin the "Pub Crawl". Beginning at 7:00 PM, at the Max, the buses will leave the Max going to the Chesterfield, Gilligan's, the Run and the Diamond. The buses will continue the route until 11:30 PM. At 9:00 PM presentation of colors for all the local and out-of-state clubs in attendance will take place at the Max, presented by the Two Wheelers of Omaha (T.W.O.). Introduction of title holders and guests will begin at 10:00 PM.

Saturday, July 21st, will begin with an "indoor" picnic at the Carter Lake Warehouse Ballroom. (Tickets will be in the Fantasy packet) At the picnic there will be seminars and demonstrations on Safe, Sane Sex by guests and titleholders. Leather, art and rubber sales booths from out-of-state businesses and game booths from Omaha organizations will complete the picnic.

Saturday evening at 8:00 PM the highlight of the Fantasy weekend will take place at the Max. Fantasy '90 will be MC'd and

performed by the titleholders and guests. They will be singing, dancing, speaking and performing their Fantasies on stage.

Some of the guests are Brian Dawson - Mr. Drummer '89, Jan Lyon - Ms. NLA '89 - '90 and Woman of the Year '90, Dave Rhodes - publisher - 'The Leather Journal', Alan Selby - Man of the Year '89, Marcus Hernandez - columnist 'B.A.R.', Susie Shepherd - IMSL '89, Dan Noel - Mr. Atlantic Leather '89, Gabrielle Antolovich - IMSL '90, Chuck Renslow - director IML, Pat Sullivan - Mr. Oklahoma Leather '90, Judy Tallwing-McCarthy - IMSL '87 and co-chair NLA, Shan Carr - IMSL '88 and Woman of the Year '89, Bill Kanouff - Mr. Florida Drummer '89, Chuck Higgins - Mr. Southwest Leather '90 and Mr. Arkansas Leather '89, Linda Vickery - Ms. Southeast Leather '89, Howard Martin - Mr. Washington State Leather '90, Jeff Burnham - Floyd's Mr. Leather '89, Gail Vollmer - Ms. Leather Colorado '90, Jolanne Tierney - Ms. Sacramento Leather '88-'89, Dustin Logan - Mr. Gay Nebraska '88, Mr. Great Plains Drummer '89 and Man of the Year '90. Impersonators Muffy Rosenberg - Miss Max I, Miss Gay Nebraska USA '89 and Miss Gay Nebraska America '89-'90 and Dorian Drake - Miss Gay Nebraska America '88-'89 and Miss Gay Nebraska USA '90 will also perform for us.

To obtain a weekend package to this all star (Or should we say Leather Studded Star) event, fill out the registration form and send it with your check or money order for \$25.00 (\$30.00 after July 4, 1990) to: Fantasy '90, P.O. Box 6364, Omaha NE 68106

NOTE:

Advance Ticket Sales Only!
See You There!

COALITION NEWS

by John Taylor, Chair

Many thanks to the artists who participated in the May 8 evening of dance, drama, poetry and music sponsored by the Coalition For Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights in Lincoln. Seventy people turned out for an evening of fun.

This of course was just the first of many "First Saturday" events (First Saturday of each month). June 2 will be an evening remembering life in the seventies (1970 that is). Gay men and lesbians who were "out in the 70's" will discuss coffeehouse, the bars and women's social and political organizations followed by the showing of the film "Before Stonewall" (A history of gay liberation). Festivities begin at 7:00 PM, June 2, 1990 at Cornerstone, 640 No. 16, Lincoln. We'll have you out by 10:00 PM.

This is a smoke and alcohol free environment. The facility is only partially handicapped accessible. Join us June 2.

ROBERT WAYNE MEANS "HIGH CLOUD"

Artist, generous supporter of the Houston community and friend Wayne Means departed this life Monday, March 5, 1990 at the home of his sister in San Diego CA. Following cremation, his ashes will be returned to South Dakota for interment on Thunder Mountain, the burial grounds of his grandfather Chief Crazy Horse.

As an artist, Wayne's talents and ingenuity were well known in Houston and throughout the Southwest. As an ardent supporter of the community, Wayne's artistic versatility will best be remembered through his "Evening With The Masters". In artist circles he is best remembered for his renditions of Ogalalla Sioux legends which were signed with his ceremonial name "High Cloud". In recent years, his works have been exhibited at the Museum Of Man in San Diego and in galleries throughout the Southwest. As a friend, he will be remembered for his boundless generosity, amazing energy and an approach to life which was uniquely his own.

Wayne Means leaves many friends and has influenced many individuals in Omaha and Eastern Nebraska, his friends will miss him.



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A NOTE FROM THE CHORUS

by Tanith Korravai and Cleve Evans

This summer's River City Mixed Chorus concert, "Ring Out Pride", is especially meaningful to us, and we hope to many in our community. We will perform the song "Names", originally written in memory of those who have died of AIDS. We have made it more personal by rewriting the lyrics to focus on the singers and Friends members of the Chorus who have died; namely, Norm L., Jerry P., Tim C., Marilyn M., Chip J., Alan W., Jonathan M., and John Z.

To go with the song we are making a 12 by 12 quilt with a block for each person, which will be on stage during the performance. Later we plan to send it to the NAMES Project to be added to the NAMES Quilt. (Marilyn's block cannot be sent with the others, since she did not die of AIDS.)

Working on this song and the quilt is a very moving experience for us, and an opportunity to bring members of the Chorus and the community closer together.

Other featured songs include "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", "There Are Fairies at the Bottom of Our Garden", and "The Promise of Living" from Aaron Copland's opera *The Tender Land*. The women will sing songs by two of the women's choruses in GALA Choruses (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses): "Big-Legged Women" and "No More". "No More" is a simple, powerful song about our refusal to be victims anymore. The men will sing "Shop Around", and on a more serious note, "The Ones Who Aren't Here", a song for those who, for various reasons, can't come out.

We hope that many of you will come out and share this very special Pride concert with us. "Ring Out Pride" will be presented in the Strauss Performing Arts Center at UNO, on Saturday, June 30, at 7:05 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 in advance, \$7.00 at the door, and \$4.00 for students and seniors.

For more information, call 556-8352.

BARS CLUBS & LOUNGES

Omaha

The Chesterfield, 1951 St. Mary's Avenue
The Diamond, 712 South 16th Street 342-9595
Gilligan's, 1823 Leavenworth 449-9147
The Max, 1417 Jackson 346-4110
The Run, 1715 Leavenworth 449-8703

Lincoln

The Boardwalk, 20th and O Streets 474-9741
The Club, 116 North 20th Street 474-5692
Panic, 200 South 18th Street 435-8764

Grand Island

Chasins, 4th and Walnut 308/382-0236

PARENTS FLAG TO HIRE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Federation of Parents FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will hire a full-time professional staff to administer its expanding program of support, education, and advocacy on behalf of families with gay and lesbian members.

Paulette Goodman, Parents FLAG Federation President, stated "We have grown substantially in recent years, and it is now clear that we cannot continue to rely solely on volunteers if we are to fulfill our mission of reaching out to all the millions of families who are hurting and in need of education."

Accordingly, the organization has undertaken a nationwide search for an executive director who will head a paid staff at Parent FLAG's national office in Washington, D.C.

The Parents FLAG Federation now has two part-time employees, one in Washington D.C. and the other in its Chapter Development office in Denver. The two offices will be consolidated in Washington by the end of 1990 so that all functions can be centralized under the administrative responsibility of the executive director. The increasing national role of the organization as an advocate for the civil rights of gay and lesbian persons was a key factor in the decision to locate the consolidated operation in Washington. Last month, for example, Parents FLAG officers were among those invited to the White House when President Bush signed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. The Act is the first national measure ever to contain provisions expressly designed to benefit gay citizens.

"We know we have an important role to play in the effort to alter public attitudes toward our children," Goodman

said. "We think society will listen to us because we are motivated by love for our children and a commitment to keeping families together."

The Parents FLAG Federation embraces more than 200 local chapters and contacts. A principal function of the local chapters is to provide support groups and other services for persons who have difficulty understanding the homosexuality of a family member or friend.

The Nebraska Chapter of Parents FLAG Cornhusker, with groups in Lincoln, Kearney, and Omaha, has been active since 1982. The provide support through meetings, a Helpline, newsletter, and a Speakers' Bureau. Parents FLAG Cornhusker also serves as a vehicle for action to those family members and friends of gay people who want information about how to support their gay loved ones in all aspects of their lives. Jean Durgin-Clinchard is President of the local Chapter. As a Regional Director of the seven-state Great Plains Region, she was among the Federation Board members meeting in Denver recently, during which the decisions were made to hire an executive director and to consolidate the two offices.

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LOCAL NEWS

CLOSET BALL QUEEN

On April 22, Miss Stephanie Rhodes was crowned as the winner of the 1990 Closet Ball sponsored by the Imperial Court of Nebraska. Stephanie, sponsored by Roxy, one of the current candidates for Empress of the 10th Reign of the Imperial Court, showed creativity and style in her performance of "Masquerade".



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NATIONAL AFFIRMATION MEETING IN KANSAS CITY

by R. J.

Rosedale United Methodist Church, Kansas City, KS, was the meeting place for Affirmation's 1990 National Conference, hosted and co-sponsored by the Kansas City and Topeka/Lawrence Affirmation Chapters.

The conference started off with a welcome at 7:30 by Gloria Soliz. The keynote address was by Dr. Tex Sample with a reception following.

Saturday morning was devoted to workshops. Ben Roe presented "Taking Care of Yourself". "Celebrating and Maintaining Relationships" was led by Judith Dutton. "Lost and Found: A Journey to Lesbian Esteem" was presented by Karen Reinke. Rev. Paul Evans of the Topeka MCC held a workshop on "Spirituality/Sexuality". Dr. Tex Sample gave a workshop on the "Committee to Study Homosexuality" discussions to date.

The National Business Meeting was followed by "Birthday Party Banquet" at 6:30, celebrating Affirmation's 15th Birthday.

Imagine, if you will, a church basement full of Lesbian/Gay Methodists. They are there, folks, and they definitely aren't going to go away. There were those born and raised in the Methodist Faith, who profess to be Methodists and prefer to remain in the Methodist Faith, and have every right to their faith, regardless of sexual orientation.

92 persons attended the banquet which was catered by Steve Chick of the Metropolis in Westport. The main course was pork chops with apple sauce, boiled new potatoes, string beans and mushrooms. The Affirmation 15th year birthday cake was a very rich, dark chocolate cake. Out of sight!

That evening, "The Pride Company" of Topeka, KS, put on two one-act plays. The first, "If Men Played Cards As Women Do", would have been funny if played by straights. Imagine this play put on by gays! It was a riot! It was really a "deck stacked with queens"!

The next play was, "Oh, What a Tangled Web" put on by a mixed group of the "Pride Company." It dealt with how an innocent little white lie, like an innocent little snowball, starts rolling downhill, and creates an avalanche. Tie that in with how confusing

the English language can be, especially if everyone isn't talking on the same wavelengths. It was great!

Sunday morning brought "goodbye time". It was a great weekend. A chance to meet new people. Del, Ron, and Errol were there from Lincoln Affirmation. Barb and I were there from Omaha. It was a great way to find out more about Affirmation, and what it stands for. It was a very positive weekend. 83 signed up, from the east coast, west coast, and everywhere between. There was also a delegate from Venezuela.

Affirmation worship was held at 10:00 in the sanctuary. Then joint worship services were held at 11:00 with the congregation of Rosedale Methodist and of First Christian Church, which hold joint services.

Kansas City Area Affirmation groups, as well as the Topeka/Lawrence Affirmation Chapters, are a great group of hardworking, caring, loving, lesbian/gay (most, but not all) people. A big thanks to them for putting together this conference and hosting it. Surely God has a very special place in His heart for people like you.

MISHPACHAT CHAVERIM

by Gary

Mishpachat Chaverim (A Family of Friends), Omaha's gay/lesbian Jewish organization, is joining with other religious groups in the community to plan an Ecumenical Service to open the Gay and Lesbian Pride Week activities. The service will be at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, June 17, at Lowe Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1023 North 40th Street in Omaha.

Mishpachat Chaverim recently met with L'Cha Dodi, it's "sister" group in Kansas City, to organize a joint event for this summer.

We also held a "thank-you" celebration for a Rabbi who has been instrumental in helping us. Two Omaha-area Rabbis have been very supportive of our group, including having helped us get publicity in the "mainstream" Jewish press.

For information about Mishpachat Chaverim, phone 551-0510.

UNL GLSA TO SPONSOR "SECRET PASSIONS"

by Rodney A. Bell, II

The UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association showed the hour-long pilot of "Secret Passions", America's first gay and lesbian soap opera, on April 5th.

Members of UNL GLSA voted to air future episodes of "Secret Passions" in Lincoln on Cablevision Channel 14. Half hour episodes of the controversial soap began airing on an afternoon and evening each week in May.

The UNL Gay/Lesbian Student Association holds weekly social meetings on Thursdays at 8 p.m. in Room 342 of the Nebraska Union, 14th & R Streets. For further information, call (402) 472-5644.

NEWS FROM THE MONARCHS

by Carla, Joe, and Billy

By the time you read this, the reign of the Teddy Bear Emperor, the White Tigress Empress, and Athena from Oz will nearly be over. However, never let it be said that there

was a dull moment during the ninth reign of the Imperial Court of Nebraska.

And in keeping with that thought, our last ten days are packed with fun for you! Sunday, June 3, at The Max, join us for a trip through time as the three royal families collaborate in presenting "The Wave of Time". Experience for yourself the minute waltz, a taste of the "wild" west, more poetry by Athena, live vocalists, leather, dancing, and a whole lot more! Show time is 9:30. Don't be late!

Just five days later, Dick Brown, Emperor VII, and Laura Lee, Empress V, will host the Past Monarchs and Out-of-Towners' Show at the Ramada. Rumor has it that at least four out-of-town courts will be on the Show List. Admission is \$5.00. See you there!

A space ship that turns into a castle? Sounds interesting, huh. That's what I thought when I saw the plans for the Coronation set! Impossible? The only way you'll know is if you attend Coronation '90: The Start of a New Wave. Voting will be from 6:15 to 8:45 at the Carter Lake Warehouse. Anyone in the Lesbian/Gay Community, who is a resident of Nebraska or Council

Bluffs is eligible to vote for the Monarchs of the Tenth Realm.

The candidate for Emperor is Gerald D. Brown. Empress candidates include Muffy Rosenberg, Erica DeVain, and Roxie. There are no candidates for Athena.

Coronation is at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 9. Admission is \$10.00. Many individuals, businesses, and organizations in the community will be recognized for their contributions to the community. In addition there will be several special awards given. The evening promises to be packed with memories.

Sunday, June 10, at The Max is the Victory Show. Here's your opportunity to see the new monarchs in action — a preview to the year ahead. Be there if you dare!

As for us, the Monarchs of the Ninth Realm, well, the end always does come fast and furious. We have worked hard to serve you. Many of you have actively joined us in that effort. Thank you for your help, and thank you for a very memorable year.

The Board of Governors of The Imperial Court of Nebraska meets the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at The Max. The community is invited to attend.

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◆ SUPPORT THE 1990 GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE PARADE

The Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Parade will be held on Saturday, June 23, 1990.

If you and your friends choose to walk in support of Gay and Lesbian Freedom, then join us at 4:00 p.m. on June 23. We will gather at 20th and Farnam and walk west on Douglas to Turner Park (30th and Farnam) where a community picnic will be held.

Sometimes people who believe very strongly in supporting Pride Week activities just cannot fit the Parade into their schedule. You can still support those who do march with your financial support of \$5, \$10, \$20 or more. With your permission, we will list your first name (or a pseudonym) on banners to be carried in the Parade to show Omaha the extent of our support. Your donation will demonstrate that for every person walking in the Parade there are many others who support the effort. To show your support for the Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Parade, sign a

donation sheet for someone who will be walking in the Parade. They will collect your donation and turn in the donation on your behalf following the Pride Parade.

The money collected will be split between NAP for PWA's and A.N.G.L.E. to support future Pride Week/Educational opportunities for Nebraska's and Iowa's gay and lesbian community.

Sponsor sheets will be available at several bars and from A.N.G.L.E. officers. These sheets will have a control number and the marchers must sign for the blank sheets. Completed forms and donations are to be brought to the Parade and turned in to an A.N.G.L.E. officer before the Parade steps off.

All forms must be accounted for and returned to A.N.G.L.E.

Organizations wishing to participate may sign for a block of forms.

For additional information contact Dave at 291-6781.

◆ W.

by Brian B.

On cold November afternoons,
he and I would retreat into
that small game.

I would become "Mister", and answer
questions reflecting deep years
of silence, and he would laugh,
he'd play one of his tapes on
my roommate's stereo.

I'd touch his earth-dry hair
(that would curl like a child's when he
stepped out of the shower.) and attempt
a stab at romance
but we would always go back to
"Mister".

I'd stroke his chest,
(a soft contrast of white with the 3 p.m.
grey.)

"Mister, what are you going to do?"
"Will I like it?"

I would kiss him,
and feel the shame others should have
felt
once.

◆ WHAT IS A FAMILY?

by Heidi Hess

What is the traditional American Family? Who lives in it? More to the point; who doesn't?

In 1988, census data indicated that only 27% of the nation's 91.1 million households fit the "traditional" definition of family: two parents living with their children. Eighteen years earlier, in 1970, the figure was 40%.

More astounding, if one considers an even more "traditional" definition of family: a husband breadwinner, a mother who stays at home, and two or more children — the number drops to less than 10% of current households.

Results from the 1990 census are expected to emphasize the shift in family life even more. Households today are composed of two working parents, single parents, step parents, foster families, extended families, unmarried couples living together with or without children, same sex couples with and without children, and one person households. (All above information and statistics quoted from Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.)

So, in essence, the view of the "traditional" American family is truly through the eye of the beholder.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund reports that benefits (insurance, bereavement leave, hospital visitation rights, inheritance, and tax options) can account for up to 40% of employment compensation.

Since only a marriage license allows these benefits in an overwhelming majority of the cities and all of the states, many people are excluded from these benefits, including gay and lesbian couples.

Consequently, due to the majority of people who don't live the "traditional life", the concept of domestic partnerships has become an avenue to include the majority.

"Generally, a domestic partnership has been defined as a household partnership or interdependent relationship (along with other legalized parameters like both people being over 18, evidence of financial and emotional interdependence, etc.) and is used as criteria for granting benefits rather than the more anachronistic and exclusive definition of marriage partner," Lambda reports.

Some cities and townships have adopted domestic partnership legislation. Unfortu-

nately, these actions are incredibly limited, because marriage is a matter of state law, not city law.

Therefore, it is of paramount importance that legislation on domestic partnerships be introduced on state levels. For example, both Illinois and New York are attempting this.

It is important to note the differences between domestic partnerships and gay marriages.

According to Lambda:

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP: Marriages are essentially social institutions — contracts sanctioned by the State. They carry with them a great deal of historical baggage, and are more or less the basic unit around which many Americans organize their lives. Domestic partnerships, on the other hand, provide for a registration of a couple to provide fair allocation of benefits without having to have the same elements (both legal and symbolic) of a marital relationship. Domestic partnerships provide a means to designate one primary person without having to be based on sex, religion, or other traditional relationships.

GAY MARRIAGES: Whether or not one has a special fondness for the institution of marriage, gay people, like non-gay people, are entitled to have the option to participate in it. Also, since many benefits are already ascribed to marriage, gay people would win many advantages with this single issue.

"We are not trying to redefine the traditional family. The family has already redefined itself. When the traditional family could no longer fulfill all of the emotional, spiritual, and economic needs of its members, the non-traditional family reached out with love and support and said 'We are here'," said Cindy Bologna, a plaintiff in the case to have the Domestic Partners issues removed from San Francisco's November, 1989, ballot. The attempt failed and voters repealed the bill by a narrow margin of 49% to 51%.

The potential of full domestic partnerships has long-lasting effects.

You and your partner could be allowed insurance benefits, sick leave, bereavement leave, Social Security benefits, adoption options, inheritance of estate in the absence of a will, file joint income tax returns, and so much more that is exclusively given to people

who have a marriage license.

These are rights that not only you could enjoy, but that future generations of gay and lesbian couples could enjoy also.

*1981.....Wisconsin, first state to pass statewide Gay Rights Bill

Feb., 1985.....West Hollywood, CA, enacts domestic partnership legislation that allowed health benefits

Apr., 1985.....Berkley, CA, enacts domestic partnership legislation allowing health benefits

May, 1986.....Santa Cruz, CA, allows health benefits to domestic partners

*1987.....Sweden passes Gay Rights Bill: allows gays to sign leases; regulation of division of property in event of "divorce"; grants partners inheritance rights

Mar., 1988.....Los Angeles, CA, allows sick leave and bereavement leave

Aug., 1988.....Madison, WI, allows sick leave/bereavement leave

Nov., 1988.....Takoma Park, MD, allows sick leave/bereavement leave

*Summer, 1989.....New York's highest court rules that a gay man had the right, as "family", to inherit his dead lover's rent-controlled apartment lease

Jul., 1989.....San Francisco, CA, allows sick leave/bereavement leave for domestic partners (bill was overturned by a narrow margin ballot vote in Nov., 1989)

Aug., 1989.....New York, NY, executive order was signed, allowing bereavement leave to domestic partners

Aug., 1989.....Seattle, WA, enacts legislation allowing sick leave/bereavement leave to domestic partners

*Oct., 1989.....Denmark allows legal same-sex marriages

Mar., 1990.....Seattle, WA, adds health benefits to its Aug., 1989, legislation

Cities that are considering domestic partnership legislation are: New York, NY, Boulder, CO, Ithaca, NY, Washington, DC, and Minneapolis, MN.

States that are considering domestic partnership legislation are: New York and Illinois.

(All information except * is courtesy of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.)

ZOO BAR, 136 N. 14th
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◆ FEATURES

◆ HOW I SPENT MY SPRING BREAK

by Carla

At 5:00 a.m. Sharon and I embarked on a new adventure as a couple: Hospitalization! We survived the initial examination and consequent diagnoses and treatment, including the seven IV attempts. She was oblivious due to the pain; I was in a daze.

Our visit to the ER (we hospital visitors pick up the lingo so quickly) brought the usual visits from doctors, nurses, EMTS (there I go again), and various assorted technicians. However, we managed to be there long enough to experience a shift change, which meant a complete repeat of our first three hours there; plus Sharon, being an employee of the hospital, attracted a barrage of "curiosity seekers". The word had hit the floors — somebody from the hospital was in ER!

Is this beginning to sound like your Aunt Hilda's visit to the hospital in small town America? Read on, I think you'll agree that this has some unusual twists!

When I returned from making some calls, I found Sharon lying on a cart in a little room with two women smearing jelly on her belly. I wanted to join them — it looked like fun. Unfortunately, they claimed it was all part of a test. Being a teacher, I thought I'd fit right in with this "testing", but then they pulled out this funny little vibrator and began "ooing" and "ahhing" at what looked like pictures of the moon. I knew right then and there this was all too kinky for me, so I just stood back and watched.

Shortly after she was admitted, I was again able to pull myself away from her long enough to run a couple errands. While I was out, I decided I just had to take something very special back to her. Flowers wouldn't do, Candy wouldn't do. A card wouldn't do. A fish was the perfect gift! One of her co-workers had a Beta in the office, and Sharon had been admiring it day after day. So a fish it was! Though she loved the fish, I had boo-booed! Patients can't have "pets" in their rooms. I suggested she tell them she was growing her own dinner!

It wasn't enough I brought contraband

into the hospital and she was an employee, but the next day — Ollie's water appeared cloudy. (No, we didn't overfeed him!), so though he really didn't have to have it, I brought him a filter. This time I learned that Maintenance has to approve all electrical appliances before they are used in a patient's room. Again I had the perfect solution — just tell them that it's really pumping oxygen for you, but you thought if you loaned it to Ollie, he'd grow faster and maybe you'd be able to have him for supper tonight. Actually I said, "#uck Maintenance."

And now I've gotten ahead of myself. Two truly traumatic experiences were exclusively mine during Sharon's hospitalization. First, I had to spend a night in our house alone. I'd never had to spend a night alone since I moved to Omaha two years ago. The house was pretty empty. I felt pretty overwhelmed. Of course I was scared about what was happening to her, but add to that all those wonderful thoughts that float into one's mind about being alone — permanently. I was pretty miserable. Sharon had anticipated that and made me promise to call somebody. I promised, but I didn't do it. Misery does not love company.

Second, I discovered in a new way the importance of continually "coming out". I hated it when the doctors, nurses, etc. thought I should leave the room because I was "just" Carla to them. Most of the time I stayed anyway. But I hated the pauses, the looks, the thoughts that went through my mind. Homophobia is so ingrained in us. Often while sitting with Sharon, we'd hold hands. It gave us the physical closeness that we needed, but more and more as she recovered, we'd pull our hands away when people entered the room. I left this experience with a renewed determination to be "out" more and more.

Within a week our lives had returned to normal, but hospitalization had had its impact on me. As for Sharon, well, she's recovered. Ollie survived about two weeks; then he committed suicide jumping. Fortunately the cats didn't devour him, but as far as I know, there's not too much of a demand for a petrified fish. So much for my special gift. Anyone interested in a slightly used aquarium pump — oops — I mean respirator?

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◆ ALA 1990 GAY/LESBIAN BOOK AWARDS

The Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association is pleased to announce its winners of the 1990 Gay/Lesbian Book Award. Awards are given for fiction and nonfiction. In addition, the Gay and Lesbian Task Force is announcing the winner of its first Award for Exceptional Achievement.

The Gay/Lesbian Book Award was inaugurated in 1972 and is the oldest and most prestigious award of its kind.

For fiction, the 1990 Gay/Lesbian Book Award goes to "Eighty-Sixed", by David B. Feinberg (New York: Viking). Feinberg's first novel was selected by the Gay/Lesbian Book Award Committee for its witty, honest, and poignant depiction of gay urban life in the years just before and after AIDS began to have such an enormous impact on gay life and culture.

"In Search of Gay America: Women and Men in a Time of Change" by Neil Miller (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press), has been selected as the 1990 Gay/Lesbian Book Award nonfiction winner. Miller's account of his travels across rural and urban America was chosen for its insightful, illuminating, and thoroughly entertaining portrayal of the richness and diversity of lesbian and gay life in the United States.

The runners-up, all worthy of recognition as the best gay and lesbian books of 1989, include:

In Fiction:

"Equal Affections", by David Leavitt

"In A Different Light: An Anthology of Lesbian Writers", edited by Carolyn Weathers and Jenny Wrenn

"In Memory of Angel Clare", by Christopher Bram

"A Place at the Table", by Edit Konecky

In Nonfiction:

"Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past", edited by Martin Bauml Duberman, Martha Vicinus, and George Chauncey, Jr.

"Not a Passing Phase: Reclaiming Lesbians in History 1840-1985", by the Lesbian History Group

"Personal Dispatches: Writers Confront AIDS", edited by John Preston

"When Someone You Know Is Gay", by Susan and Daniel Cohen

Armistead Maupin has been chosen as the first recipient of the Award for Exceptional Achievement for his "Tales of the City" series of six wonderful novels, which began in 1978 with the publication of "Tales of the City" and came to a conclusion, to the great sorrow of many, in 1989, with "Sure of You".

◆ BOOKS FOR CHILDREN OF LESBIANS AND GAYS

A new line of books, written for the children of lesbian and gay parents, will be introduced in the fall by Alyson Publications. Plans for the line were announced by publisher Sasha Alyson at "Out/Write 90", a lesbian and gay writers conference held in San Francisco on March 3 and 4.

"Ten years ago, this wouldn't have been possible," said Alyson. "But today, there's such a strong network of supportive bookstores that a specialized line like this can succeed. We believe that these books will be popular not only with lesbian and gay parents but with all parents, teachers, and librarians who recognize and value the true diversity of families that exist today — and who wish to teach children about these new families."

The line will include books for a range of ages, from two-year-olds to twelve-year-olds, said Alyson. Only two such books have previously been published, and this will be the first line of its kind.

by Brian B.

I rode the rain last night
and watched my room become
a nighttime negative.
I heard the screams of my lover's
last touch.

wasn't it you who curled up beside me
as the thunder got too loud?
and you made the patter of a small child
when you went for some water.

I settled with the snow this morning,
sighed with the buffered city.
I felt the turning inside-out
of my lover's last touch.

wasn't it me who howled like the
wounded
and cried once a day in my room?
and stooped like the lost
when I picked up your things?

I wandered with the wind this afternoon
touched each sidewalk direct.
I felt the sudded release
of my lover's last goodbye.

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◆ FEATURES

◆ PARENTS FLAG BOOKNOTES

by Jean Durgin-Clinchard, PFLAG Cornhusker

Over the years I have sought out books for children and youth which contain positive images of gay and lesbian people. I now have a four-page annotated bibliography which has been given out to parents, counselors, librarians, and any others who might be in a position to use or recommend books for young people. I do this because I firmly believe that to change the world we need to start with children ... does anyone remember the "South Pacific" lyrics by Rogers and Hammerstein: "You Have to Be Carefully Taught"?

You've got to be taught to hate and fear,
You've got to be taught from year to year;

It's got to be drummed in your dear
little ear;

You've got to be carefully taught.

You've got to be taught to be afraid,
Of people whose eyes are oddly shaped,
And people whose skin is a different
shade;

You've got to be carefully taught,
You've got to be taught, before it's
too late.

Before you are six, or seven, or eight,
To hate all the people your relatives
hate...

You've got to be carefully taught,
You've got to be carefully taught.

Thinking of this song, my belief, and re-considering books for my grandchildren to read, I realized with shock that I had never given any of these books to them, although I had shared my copy of "Jenny Lives with Eric and Martin" with them when they were little. When my reading addicted grandkids came to visit this spring I brought home the Parents FLAG books for them to read. My fourteen year old granddaughter wrote the following "book report" for me to be a

PFLAG Booknote. I fully realize that this book was reviewed a couple of years ago by an adult for PFLAG, but I felt that you would be interested in a young person's eye view of the same book. My granddaughter, Kiersten, is fully knowledgeable about her Uncles, my son and his lover of thirteen years.

"The Honesty Tree"

by Carole S. McCauley

(paperback \$6.95, Frog in the Well Publishing, East Palo Alto, CA)

A book report by Kiersten E. Moore, Age 14

This book is about a 12 year old

girl named Tinker. She was always getting in trouble. One time she got in trouble for something that was perfectly right, but almost everyone else thought it was bad.

For four years Tinker had worked for two women named Jody and Eila. She liked them a lot and enjoyed working for them in their floral nursery.

In the spring of her fourth year, Tinker's mother told her that she wasn't allowed to work in the nursery anymore. Tinker became mad at this and during an argument she revealed that Jody and Eila were gay. The whole town eventually found out, and besides Tinker being forbidden to see Jody and Eila, their business went down terribly. Many people refused to buy flowers. Eila considered selling the business and Jody left town.

At this point, the story was making me considerably upset, as you can imagine why. I think it is stupid to make such a ruckus about homosexuality. People in the book were saying that Jody and Eila were corrupting Tinker and that homosexuality was a sickness and a sin. That is so wrong it just makes me mad.

In the Memorial Day Parade, Tinker marched with a bunch of college students for homosexual rights. Marching down the street, Tinker was attached by a very big man. She was hurt but not badly, and she kept walking. Things like this kept happening and making me mad. Once Eila and Jody's yard was bombed, and they didn't find out until later that it had been a group of the police officers' sons!

Some good things happened too. A bill was passed that nobody could discriminate against gay people. In the sense that you couldn't refuse to do business with someone just because they're gay. Of course you can't force someone to do business with you if they don't want to; however, the town was changing and eventually Eila and Jody were able to enlarge their business to other towns. During this story I was able to relate easily with Tinker. Not because her life was very similar to mine but some of her feelings were. Even with all the problems she had. I liked her.

I really enjoyed the book. I like a book that I can relate to, if not in the way things happened, but in the way people feel. I think that "The Honesty Tree" was an exceptionally good book.



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◆ GAYBRIEFS: THOUGHTS ON MARRIAGE

by Jim Roche

My teenage daughter finally asked me the big question, "Are you and David going to get married?" I said we hoped to, pretty soon. Then she asked, "Whose going to wear the dress?" I hear comments like that all the time. When I speak on gay issues at colleges someone inevitably asks me a similar question, like, "Well who's you know, dominant?" Or "Who likes being on top?" Gays and lesbians are a real mystery to most people. But a more important point is that so many people seem to think that a relationship, gay or straight, means someone on top and someone on bottom. Something inherently unequal. Opposites attract is the theory I guess. And that is why so many gay and lesbian people don't want to have anything to do with marriages. Because it just seems to reflect the worst that heterosexual relationships have to offer - inequality and oppression. So, why would two gay men or two lesbians want to have anything to do with one of the most oppressive and hierarchical systems around?

As a couple there are certain things that my lover Davis and I want to share. Time together. Interests. Friendships. We already share a lot of things, but because we're gay we can't share some things without a hassle. If one of us were to become ill the other might not be included in choosing a doctor or hospital or treatment. We might not even be allowed to visit each other. More immediately, I was hoping to take college courses this summer, but can David and I as a couple count on being able to use married student housing at any college I might go to?

Now there are legal ways around most, but not all, of this. Wills, power of attorney and probate forms. But after all is said and done it would still be a relationship that is legalized *in spite* of the community we live in instead of with its help. It's still second class citizenship no matter how you look at it. Slowly we are beginning to get our rights here and there around the country. But there is a growing number of people who oppose our rights to state sanctioned or church sanctioned relationships. Why do they make life harder for us because we're gay or lesbian? What's threatening to people who oppose

actions like the San Francisco domestic partnership act, church recognition of gay relationships and so on? They feel gay and lesbian couples threaten the "institution of family." But how can we threaten family because we want to be family? Sounds sort of crazy doesn't it? Our idea of family, one that many gay and lesbian people accept, is one that is in direct opposition to the status quo. Traditionalists see family as a pre-established pattern into which each individual fits. In a family you have and know your place. First and foremost it's a male dominated structure. Father - breadwinner. Mother - caregiver. And our concept of family, the gay and lesbian concept, is one in which we easily switch roles and often do it for what as no other reason than fun. Taking this lightly, as we sometimes do, is even more upsetting to traditionalists. We switch roles, we make up new ones and we relate we relate to each other from the same role or no role at all. It's a concept of family based upon mutuality. Equality. Individuality. Every day we break down the hierarchical, male dominated structure by the way we act and interact together. Just by being equal we threaten the basis of those structures, testing the limits of sexual identity and what sexual roles and stereotypes have to offer. Gay couples can be both masculine and feminine. Same with lesbian couples. We act like men, and we act like women. Sometimes we act like something in-between. We have no rules to break but our own, ones that we have set up and agree upon ourselves. We have fun with those rules and enjoy testing those limits. My daughter is right to wonder whose going to wear what. Who knows?

We are a threat to

the family. A threat to its male oppressive male oriented foundation. A threat to its dominance oriented mentality. To its set rules and regulations. But in spite of what marriage and family has grown to represent to many of us gay and lesbian people, marriage, church unions or domestic partnerships demonstrate that we can keep the best of relationships going while we toss out what isn't of any value. As time goes on and gay and lesbian relationships all in their different forms are recognized by city and state governments, churches and organizations like the California Bar Association, we will help redefine marriage. Redefine relationships. What I hope people will learn from watching us is that we bring more to relationships than the roles we are supposed to play, or the clothes we are supposed to wear.

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◆ FEATURES

◆ WHY THE HOOPLA?

by Jean Mortensen

Last October, on National Coming Out Day (NCOOD), I watched the Oprah Winfrey show. It was, of course, concerned with NCOOD and issues of gay rights recognition. One of the audience members stood as Oprah roamed the aisles and asked, "Okay, so your gay. But why all the hoopla and parades? I mean, I don't feel compelled to march and advertise that I'm straight."

The person who asked that question appeared (guessing from his manner of speech and his nice suit) to be a white upper-middle-class American male. From the nature of his question, I assumed (safely I think) that he was heterosexual. Now I ask you, who better to know less about any form of discrimination than an upper-middle-class white heterosexual male?

Being on TV, the show had to break at that moment for a commercial. I never heard if the man's question was answered, but I've been giving it some thought since. You see, my family has basically said the same thing to me: "Why do you feel like you have to advertise it?"

It's a shame that they can't understand that advertisement isn't the reason. The hoopla isn't meant to say, "Hey, look at me, I'm gay." Instead it's meant to say, "Look at how many of us there are; we want equality, and we won't be ignored any longer." There is a difference.

I suppose we can forgive that man having to ask such a question. After all, you never really appreciate all your privileges until you no longer have them. And if he's always had privileges (I'm assuming again), how could he possibly know the discrimination gay people face?

My hope is that this fellow is enough of an open-minded, liberal person that he's never discriminated against anybody. Wouldn't it be great if the world were full of such beings of conscience? Maybe then there wouldn't be any need for hoopla. Unfortunately, it takes only one bigot to undo the work of a thousand decent human beings. And as long as there are bigots among us, there is need for hoopla.

Bigotry stems from ignorance. Prejudice is born of fear. Heterosexism in the form of homophobia is ignorance and fear of the

unknown. If we gays and lesbians remain invisible, how will anyone get to know our diversity, our wit, our contributions to society, our "normalness"? Indeed if we continue to hide in our safe little closets, we will be sending out the message that we are somehow ashamed of who we are. Better that we use opportunities like Pride Week and National Coming Out Day to say, "hey, everybody, this is who we are. We invite you to get to know the truth of us, not our stereotyped caricatures."

Asking the reason behind all the hoopla is sort of like asking what all the fuss was for in 1776. Or why did women want the right to vote. Or what's wrong with making people of color ride in the back of the bus or making Asian-Americans go to certain camps during World War II. It ought to be obvious to everybody that it's a matter of unfair and unequal treatment, but lots of people need a little help to see the light. The "haves" simply can't fathom what it's like to be a "have not." They have all the societal privileges we lack, and so they don't know what we're missing. That's why all the hoopla—we need to keep educating them.

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◆ LESBIAN AND GAY MALE COUPLES DO IT DIFFERENTLY

Lesbian couples are likely to meet under different circumstances than those common for gay male couples, according to preliminary results from same-sex couples. Lesbian couples most often met through friends or at work, while male couples met at bars more often than any other way.

The "how they met" question was among more than a hundred put to same-sex couples in a national study undertaken last year by PARTNERS: The Newsletter for Gay and Lesbian Couples.

More than one in five of the lesbian couples met at work, but fewer than 5 percent of the men did.

While 24 percent of the men met in a bar, the venue is becoming less prominent as a meeting spot. The newer the relationship, the more likely the couple had met at a social event instead.

Friends, an enduring source of introductions, were responsible for the meeting of 28 percent of the lesbian couples and 19 percent of the men.

The Sex Quotient

Male couples were far more likely than women to have met through sexually charged areas, such as baths, cruising, or classified ads. The male couples also had more sex together, but the female couples enjoyed their sex more.

Male couples had sex nine times per month on the average, while lesbians averaged seven times. However, these figures were boosted by the 21 percent of men and 11 percent of women who shared sex at least 15 times a month. Most active were couples together one year or less, who had sex about twice as often as the average couple.

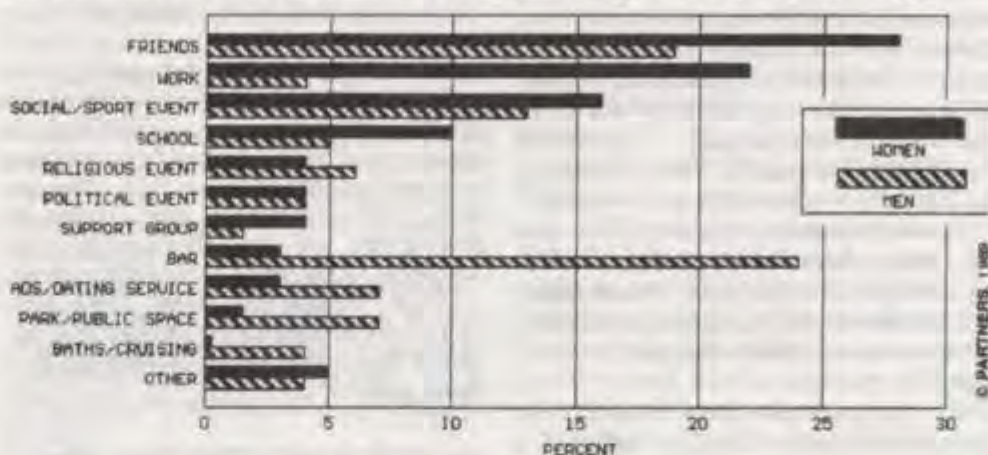
Most of the couples had sex less often. Half of all gay male couples averaged sex no more than six times a month, and half the lesbian couples had sex weekly or less often.

The sex was rated "excellent" by 54 percent of the women and by 31 percent of the men. Another 25 percent of the women and 35 percent of the men said their sex was "good".

Sex outside the relationship was far more common for men than women. Only 4 percent of women reported any outside sex

HOW SAME-SEX COUPLES MET

Preliminary results from a national survey of gay and lesbian couples conducted by PARTNERS: The Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples. Based on 863 couples, about half the data available. Respondents answered more than 100 questions; in this case, completing the sentence "We met through:"



during the previous year. On the other hand, 27 percent of the men had some outside sex during the previous year, though only 12 percent had outside sex more than once a month; 5 percent had outside sex weekly or more often.

Relationship Longevity

Despite the youth of the respondents — averaging 35 years for women, 37 years for

men — lesbians had been together an average of 5 1/4 years and gay men an average of 7 1/2 years.

While several couples had been together longer than 40 years, many of the relationships were only recently started. Half of all the women surveyed had been together 3 1/2 years or less; half the men had been together 5 years or less.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE CANDIDATES FOR EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF ICON

● TEXAS' BIGGEST PARTY AIDS FUND RAISER

Texas' biggest party and AIDS fundraiser, Razzle Dazzle Dallas, will be even bigger and better for 1990.

Slated for Saturday June 16 in the Tower and Grand Place buildings in historic Fair Park, Razzle Dazzle Dallas kicks off gay pride week in a big ol' Texas way!

As has become tradition, the Razzle Disco is a virtual inferno — the hottest of the hot dancing the night away. If you want a bit more intimacy and contact in your dancing, you'll want to head for the Razzle Country and Western Dance Hall. If a show is more to your liking, the show of shows, you won't want to miss the finals of the Mr., Miss and Ms Razzle Dazzle contests.

Gay men and women are a diverse lot, and nothing illustrates this fact better than the Razzle community organizations bazaar. More than 100 organizations — local, regional, state and national — from self-help to civic to social and political use Razzle as a forum to spread their message.

As fun as Razzle is, the real reason for its existence is to raise money for the fight of AIDS and for gay and lesbian rights.

Razzle is very proud to have American Airlines as the official airline of Razzle Dazzle Dallas for 1990. Simply call toll free 1 800 433-1790 and ask for star number S-08604h. American is offering 45% off full fare coach fare and 5% off any published fare, including Super Savers!

Tickets for Razzle Dazzle Dallas are \$15 until June 10, and \$20 thereafter. Write Razzle Dazzle Dallas at P.O. Box 224562, Dallas TX 75222.

★ NATIONAL NEWS

★ IOWA ACTIVISTS WIN HATE CRIMES LAW

by Rex Wockner

Over the loud objections of fundamentalist Christians, Iowa Governor Terry Branstad signed into law a measure toughening penalties for those who commit hate crimes against Gays and Lesbians.

"My fundamental philosophy is that people should not be picked on because of their lifestyle, Branstad said. "They should not be given any protected class treatment, but certainly we should not pick on them."

Iowa's hate crimes law, the fifth such statewide measure in the nation, stiffens criminal penalties for bias or hate based attacks, allows victims to bring civil suits, and mandates collection of statistics on hate crimes in the state.

The new Iowa law also penalizes violence and vandalism based on hatred of a person's race, ancestry, religion, political affiliation, sex, age or disability.

In order to assure passage of the law lobbyists had to agree to language stating that the bill does not grant civil rights protection to Lesbians and Gay men, even though polls show that the majority of Iowans favor a statewide rights law.

The other states with hate crimes penalties are California, Minnesota, Oregon and Wisconsin. Only Wisconsin also has a state Gays rights law.

★ MASSACHUSETTS END FOSTER PARENT BAN

The Dukakis administration announced April 4 that the state will change its ban on gay men and lesbians as foster parents. New regulations will judge prospective foster parents on parenting experience rather than marital status.

The decision to change the policy came with the settlement of a two year lawsuit on behalf of Don Babets and David Jean, an openly gay couple who had foster children removed from their home in 1985. The state then (1985) announced new regulations placing gay and unmarried people at the bottom of the list for potential foster parents.

Under the new regulations (1990), married people and unmarried people with parenting experience are considered equal as foster parents.

★ NEW BACKERS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

The Human Rights Campaign Fund today announces that three additional members of Congress have joined as co-sponsors of the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. The three are Senator Claiborne Pell (D-RJ), Representative Gerry Sikorski (D-MN) and New York's newest member, Representative Jose Serrano (D-NY).

"Senator Pell is our tenth co-sponsor in the U.S. Senate, while Representatives Sikorski and Serrano bring our total to 79 in the House", said Tim McFeeley, the Human Rights Campaign Fund's Executive Director.

Earlier in April, HRCF, announced that Congressman Craig Washington (D-TX) had signed onto the bill. "More and more members of Congress are realizing the injustice of discrimination. They are hearing from their lesbian and gay constituents and they are responding", McFeeley stated.

"It is particularly important that we let Senator Pell and Congress Representatives Washington, Sikorski and Serrano know that we appreciate their support," McFeeley noted. "Lesbian and gay Americans throughout the country can write to them at the U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515, or by calling the Capitol switchboard at (202) 225-3121.

★ TURMOIL AFTER STRAIGHT DIRECTOR HIRED

Two staff members have resigned and dozens of volunteers have left the New York-based Fund For Human Dignity following

the decision of the organization to hire Robert Brading, a straight man to be executive director.

Prior to the resignations, the entire board was asked to resign, condemning them for not including staff in the hiring process, and questioning the judgement of the Brading selection, maintaining Brading is unqualified as a fundraiser and unfamiliarity with gay and lesbian issues.

Stating they would not discriminate, the board stood by their decision that Brading was the most qualified applicant.

Employees responded that the attitude betrayed internalized homophobia on the board's part.

★ AIDS HOUSING ARSON TARGET

AIDS service workers in Dallas were distressed at news of the third in a series of arsons targeted toward a housing program for people with AIDS in Dallas, Texas. AIDS Services of Dallas suffered a two-alarm blaze on Monday afternoon, displacing five children and eight adults who were housed in one of two facilities operated by the agency.

"We have been able to make arrangements temporarily through the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Program to provide housing vouchers at a motel," said attorney, Don Maison, Executive Director of AIDS Services of Dallas. "We're in a holding pattern until we can sort through the rubble and determine the extent of the damage," he said. "I get the impression that the city of Dallas would prefer housing people with AIDS under bridges instead of in decent housing," he said.

The units which burned on Monday were among those that were a part of a renovation grant approved in January through the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Services. Maison blasted city officials for the manner in which the program has been operated.

"This is another example of how Texas in general, and Dallas in particular, has dealt with all programs related with AIDS - irresponsibly," Maison said. "We've done everything we know how to do to get folks to move on this project; we even got the local Catholic bishop to call the mayor's office on our behalf - but to no avail," he said.

ASD was founded in April 1987, and operates two facilities comprising the largest housing program for people with AIDS in the United States. ASD is a 501 (C)(3) tax-exempt charity recognized by the IRS. Contributions can be made to P.O. Box 4338, Dallas, TX 75208-0338.

For more information, contact Mark Rogers (214) 941-0523.

● KNUTSON, NGRA CO-FOUNDER DIES FROM AIDS COMPLICATIONS

Donald C. Knutson, prominent San Francisco attorney who co-founded the National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) died April 19, 1990 from complications from AIDS.

Knutson taught the first school course in the nation on Homosexuality and the Law, at the University of Southern California Law School where he was Professor of Law.

Last year, San Francisco mayor Art Agnos named October 16, as Don Knutson Day. Knutson was also honored with a tribute from Robert Raven, President of the American Bar Association.

Knutson, born July 12, 1930 in St. Paul, MN, graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School, where he was first in his class and editor of the Law Journal. He served as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, and then clerked for Roger Traynor, Chief Justice of the California State Supreme Court.

Knutson was editor of Homosexuality and the Law.



NGLTF's Kevin Berrill and Perl Jude proudly display Bush's signature on the Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

by Doug Hinchliffe

★ BUSH INVITES LESBIANS AND GAYS TO WHITE HOUSE

Lesbian and Gay Americans were invited to the White House to witness the signing of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, April 23, 1990. The signing marks the first time in American history that "sexual orientation" will be included in federal law and the first time in American history that Gay and Lesbian Americans have been invited to a White House bill signing ceremony.

Representatives of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) attended the ceremony, joined by representatives of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and Parent and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG).

Tim McFeeley, HRCF's Executive Director, praised the President for inviting the groups to participate in the bill signing. "It is a significant step by the President to include Lesbian and Gay Americans at an event of real importance to our community. The President strongly supported this bill and we appreciate his support," McFeeley said.

About 150 extremely diverse people attended the signing, including liberal Democrats from Congress, conservative Republicans, gay rights activists and advocates for people of color, religious and other groups.

The law mandates the U.S. Justice Department to collect statistics on crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.

Before signing the bill, Bush made a ten minute speech calling for a "society blind to prejudice, a society open to all." The president explained the bill, mentioning crimes committed because of "sexual orientation," and added, "the faster we can find out about these hideous crimes, the faster we can track down the bigots who commit them."

"The Hate Crimes Statistics Act has been one of the highest priorities of Lesbian and Gay Americans for several years. Now, we must continue to press the President and the Congress to move on other issues — including adequate funding for AIDS — that are of vital importance to all of us," McFeeley said.

Co-sponsors of the bill — Senators Orrin Hatch and Senator Paul Simon — received prolonged applause from activists at the ceremony.

The U.S. Senate passed the bill on February 8, 1990 by 92 to 4 after defeating an attempt by Jesse Helms (R-NC) to attach an anti-gay amendment to the law. The House passed the bill last June 27, 1989 by 368 to 47. The bill takes effect this year.

B.

by Briab B.

he was an interesting one...
 muscles like Curt Swan Man of Steel,
 (hard lines, no sign of chest hair.)
 eyes kiddie-car blue,
 and a stance that portrayed the land.
 you couldn't decide after the first drink,
 but you might ask for the second
 a little faster.

worked since he was fifteen....
 said with honest-state pride.
 used the word "queer"
 a few days after the stylys.
 called me "honery."
 people didn't know his name
 until you described him,
 followed with a pair of opened eyes.

(take me home again.)
 (and push me down on the couch.)
 (hug me too tight again.)

made me drink the wrong soda.
 watched sit-coms as he made stir-fry.
 left messages on the machine.

(take me home now.)
 (i've got a lot to do tomorrow.)

he was a friendly one....
 told me about his dreams,
 I read his Club-Med catalog while he showered,
 (wondered if this was a habit or something.)
 I studied his outline as he walked to his room.
 you spent your time alone from him
 realizing that you might be "init" again,
 and asking why.

(answer the phone, dammit!)

made me laugh when he "talked silly."
 drove me in a red Catalina with weak breaks.

(you held me down by the arms.)
 (my stubble scratched your face.)

made me mad one day....
 answered the phone when he really shouldn't,
 sounded parallel to the old cliché,
 told him not to call back.
 spent the night a little pissed.

(answer your phone.)

HAPPY SIXTH ANNIVERSARY, T.W.O.!

NOW OPEN
2:00 pm To 1:00 am

**"SUPPORT
 THE PRIDE WEEK
 ACTIVITIES"**

HAPPY HOUR
MONDAY THRU SATURDAY
5:00PM TO 9:00PM

PRESENTING NIGHTLY DRINK SPECIALS
NEVER A COVER CHARGE

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? Risky Sex ?
 ? Multiple Sex Partners ?
 ? Casual Sex ?

You may be at Risk
 for AIDS Infection

AIDS

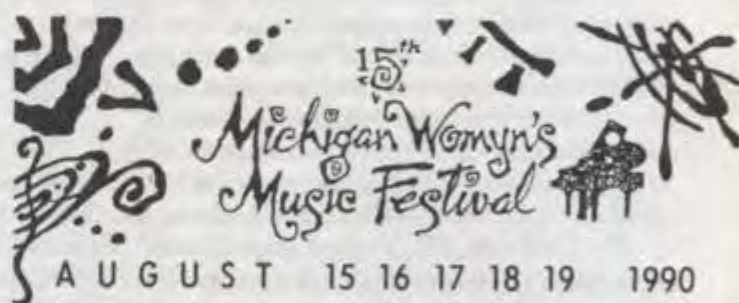
Information — Referral

and
 Testing

Lincoln Lancaster County
 Health Department
402/471-8065


For other testing sites, call:

Douglas County	402/444-7214
Grand Island Hall County	308/381-5175
Nemaha County	402/274-4549
North Platte	308/534-6780 ext. 134
Scottsbluff	308/635-3866



Lillian Allen	Faith Nolan
Rachel Bagby	Phranc
Heather Bishop	Allowyn Price
Brandy, Fineberg, Watkins	Vicki Randle
Cassleberry-Dupree	Rhiannon
Alix Dobkin & Lavender Jane	RhythmMissCity
Diane Ferlatte	Catherine Roma
Kay Gardner	Ranch Romance
Margo Gomez	Assar Santana & Chanel No. 6
Hattie Gossett	Belinda Sullivan
Judy Grahn	Sawagi Taiko
Barbara Higbie	Nana Simopoulos
Julie Homi	Judy Sloan
Helen Hooke	Sharon Still
Connie Kaldor	Sweet Honey In The Rock
Kitka	Linda Tillery
Manor Brass	Adrienne Torf
June Millington	Two Nice Girls
Musica Femina	The Washington Sisters
Holly Near	Karen Williams

W.W.T.M.C. Box 22 Walkhalla MI 49458



THE IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA

PROUDLY PRESENTS:

CORONATION X



1990: The Start of a New Wave

The Warehouse
Tickets \$10.00
June 9, 1990
9:00 p.m.

Voting from
6:15 until
8:45 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

Partners: The Newsletter For Gay And Lesbian Couples will cut its price, double its size and adopt a bi-monthly schedule, according to publishers Stevie Bryant and Demian.

The four year old newsletter will lower its annual subscription price rate from \$36 to \$21. Formerly an eight page monthly, the newsletter now will include 16 pages and be published six times a year. Each issue will feature interviews of two committed couples — one lesbian and one gay male.

A sample issue of *PARTNERS* is available for three dollars. The newsletter's mailing list is confidential: never loaned or sold. For further information, write *PARTNERS* Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109, or call (206) 784-1519.

UNL GALA SEEKS SUPPORT

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Gay and Lesbian Alumni/ae Association, Inc. needs assistance from the gay/lesbian community. Effective June 15, 1990 Chairperson Rodney Allen Bell, III will be resigning as chair and a new one will need to be selected. The volunteer position involves organizational responsibility, decision making, membership recruitment and financial and organizational record keeping. Persons who are interested in the UNL GALA, Inc may write UNL GALA, INC., P.O. Box 30681, Lincoln, NE 68503. or call (402) 464-0371.

ARTISTS interested in Second Annual Gay/Lesbian ART FESTIVAL. Location: THE MAX. Date: August 26, 1990. Please send name, address, phone number, type of media with slide or photo of representative work to: ARTFEST, P.O.Box 31715, Omaha, Ne 68131. Deadline for entries: July 5, 1990

LOOKING FOR LOVE? Make sure that's all you find. Use a latex condom every time. **DCHD** at 444-6875.

ATTENTION ARTISTS! Do you have an idea for the cover of The New Voice? Art work to accompany a story? Cartoons? The New Voice is looking for new ideas for Cover Art and general art work for the magazine. Contact Sharon Van Butsel, 556-9907, or any member of the Steering Committee.

JASON MIKELL, I miss you. Please call Darryl, (415) 647-0754.

STUDENT AND YOUNG ADULT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS, 4 p.m., Sundays, at the UNL Student Union. We are a diverse group with a very liberal religious orientation. Come as you are. All are welcome.

BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP forming in Lincoln. Interested men should contact BMSSG, P.O. Box 80913, Lincoln, NE 68501

TYPISTS NEEDED! If you have access to a computer (preferably a MacIntosh) and/or a modem, The New Voice needs you! A few hours each month are all that is required. For more information, contact Sharon Van Butsel, 556-9907, or Pat Phalen, 455-3701

STEERING COMMITTEE VACANCIES: There are currently two openings on the Steering Committee of The New Voice of Nebraska. If you are hard-working, enthusiastic, and interested in making The New Voice of Nebraska the best Gay/Lesbian Magazine in the Midwest, then we'd like to talk to you. For more information, contact any member of the Steering Committee.

GWM, 27, 5'6", 140 lbs, Brown, Hazel, Mustache. I am looking for friendship and maybe more. Write P.O. Box 5705, Lincoln, NE 68505

DALE WADDINGTON: Where the Heck Are You? I am in New York, and out of the Coast Guard. Please call (718) 343-8314. Mykul fm Sacramento.

WANTED — Responsible retired person to help couple with house and kennel chores in exchange for room/board. Located 1 1/2 hr. W. of Chicago. Must love dogs. (815) 732-2523

ARTISTS interested in Second Annual Gay/Lesbian Art Festival. Location: The Max. Date: August 26, 1990. Please send name, address, phone number, type of media with slide or photo of representative work to: ArtFest, P.O. Box 31715, Omaha, NE 68131. Deadline for entries: July 15, 1990.

SEEKING ENTREPRENEURS, self-employed, free lancers, artists, writers, and organizations interested in starting a business cooperative to share resources, computer equipment, and office space. Please respond to P.O. Box 31633, Omaha, NE 68131-0633, indicating your interest and expertise. There will be an organizational meeting in July.

BENEFIT AUCTION!!

The Chesterfield is pleased to sponsor a benefit auction for

The New Voice of Nebraska.

The Auction will be held at the Chesterfield, 19th & St. Marys, at 6:00 p.m. on June 24, 1990

THE CHESTERFIELD

Joins the 1990 Gay/Lesbian
Pride Celebration
As We Open The Door To
The Gay '90's

Artists

**Interested in Second Annual
Gay/Lesbian
Art Festival**

**Location: THE MAX
Date: August 26, 1990**

**Please send name, address,
phone number,
type of media
with slide or photo of
representative work to:**

**ARTFEST
P.O. Box 31715
Omaha, NE 68131
Deadline for Entries:
July 5, 1990**

**"OPEN THE DOOR TO THE GAY '90'S"
GAY/LESBIAN PRIDE CELEBRATION
JUNE 17 - 30, 1990**

Sunday, June 17

"Faith, Fellowship, and Freedom:
The Keys to the Future"
An Ecumenical Worship Service
Lowie Ave. Presbyterian
1023 North 40, Omaha 3:00 p.m.

Monday, June 18

River City Mixed Chorus
"Open Rehearsal"
Lowie Ave. Presbyterian
1023 North 40, Omaha 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 19

Parents/Friends of Lesbians/Gays
First United Methodist Church
7020 Cass, Omaha, Northeast Entrance
"Open Meeting" 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 20

"Health and Issues Fair"
Metropolitan Club
UNO Gay/Lesbian Student Organization
The Warehouse, Carter Lake, IA
6:00 p.m., An Alcohol Free Event!

Thursday, June 21

"Womyn Welcome Summer"
Womyn's Social (Music & Conversation)
Metropolitan Community Church
4201 South 24, Omaha 1800-1900 p.m.

Saturday, June 23

Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade
Prayer Making Session 3:00 p.m.
Parade Assembly 4:00 p.m.
Float/Display Judging 4:45 p.m.
20th & Farnam
Step-Off 4:30 p.m.
Route West on Farnam
to Turner Park

Community Picnic
Turner Park, 30th & Farnam
Bring Your Food or Buy Food There
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 24

Benefit Auction for New Voice
The Chesterfield, 1921 St. Marys, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 30

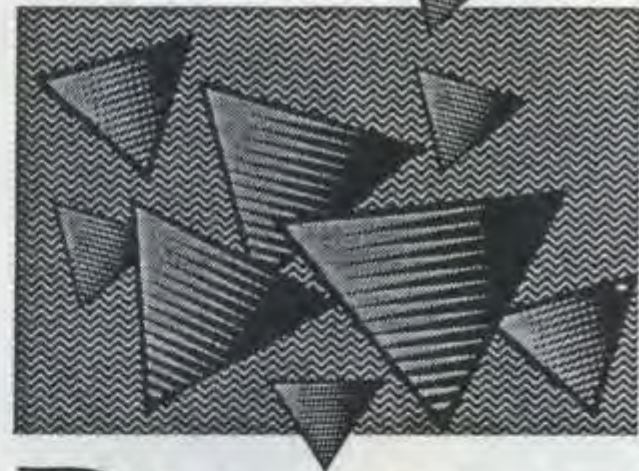
"Ring Out Pride" Concert
River City Mixed Chorus
Strauss Performing Arts Center
UNO Campus, 96th & Dodge, 7:05 p.m.

Sponsored by **ANGLE**
(Achieving New Gay/Lesbian Endeavors)

Want To Help Plan Future Pride Activities?
Call 556-9907 For Information On Future Events

**"SUPPORT
THE PRIDE WEEK
ACTIVITIES"**

RING OUT



PRIDE

Presented by the River City Mixed Chorus

Saturday June 30—7:05 pm

UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center

Tickets: **\$7.00 at the door—\$6.00 advance purchase—
\$4.00 Senior Citizens and Students**—For information,
call 556-8352.

This concert is presented with the support of the Nebraska Arts Council



The New Voice of Nebraska Magazine



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SUMMER HEAT

ICON Stepping Down Show
Sunday • June 3

ICON Candidates Show
Thursday • June 7

ICON Coronation Victory Show
Sunday • June 10

Marolyn St. James
Sunday • June 17

Chicago Meatpackers
Thursday • June 28

Gloria Revelle's Ice Cream Social
Sunday • July 1

THE MAX

1417 JACKSON • OMAHA, NEBRASKA

June is bustin' out all over..!

...and so is Barry...
...and so is Kevin...
...and so is.....
...and so is.....

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APPRECIATE SENTIMENTS
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important in your life...