

FEBRUARY

1994

The New Voice

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Sweetheart..



VIEW OF A SANDBOX

by Brian Bowles

"I can't conceive the hidden life anymore, don't think of it as life. When you finally come out, there is a pain that stops, and you know it will never hurt like that again, no matter how much you lose and how bad you die. This I know: Those who are still in the closet will get the tale wrong, however I tell it. Get it wrong as a cardinal would or a shit-eating bachelor Republican."

Paul Monette from *Becoming a Man*

What does it mean to come out? I think we all come out in many ways in our lives about many different things. My dad and I are not very close and really never were. Recently, my dad sent me the book *Becoming a Man* which surprised me quite a bit. I was very touched. It is a book about coming out by a very well known gay writer Paul Monette, who also wrote the famous book *Borrowed Time*. In reading this quote, I wonder what the world would be like if every person that was gay was honest about it. We all have our reasons for not being honest about who we are. Who will be the Rosa Parks of our movement? I believe there are many Rosa Parks in our own community every day.

The real problem with being gay is the lack of support by our community. There are so many people who are filled with fear that don't see a need for change. In fact, they even work against it. I met a gay man recently who is in the Air Force who doesn't believe gays should be admitted into the military. These are the people that really confuse me. Can you say: THERAPY? I'm sure a good fundamental church is just what he needs. Some people don't want answers. However, is the support there for minorities within the gay community? Do we really accept diversity?

I just spent my Friday night at the Max, and a recurring thought came back tonight, separation. Why do we always need to find labels for people, so they fit in their right position in society? This

is something I have to watch myself on all the time. You can see this at the bar. The women go to one side of the dance floor and then men to the other side. I feel like I'm at a dysfunctional high school dance where everyone forgot the dress code. Gosh, I wonder who made all these rules. We should get a new rulemaker.

The rainbow flag has always been something in my mind that represented strength through diversity.

Why is there this unsaid animosity or dividing line between men and women in our community? I do believe there are differences for men and women in both coming out and in their lifestyle. I do believe that being gay means that you seek out an intimate relationship with a person of your own sex. However, I believe that people need each other through this struggle towards equality, regardless of your sex. How do we expect the world to accept a gay community filled with diversity, when our own community doesn't accept it?!

You also see the tight racial lines separating us even further. I told a friend that I thought a guy was handsome, and he happened to be African-American. He said he is not attracted to black guys. All I could think was how many doors this person closed for himself.

If you can't look beyond the barriers society has set up for since you were a child, don't expect the same from the rest of the world. It is time to clean up our act. We need education about diversity in our own community. Being gay doesn't make you an expert on diversity. We are given the gift of understanding if we use it. We all know what is like to feel alone. We all know the feeling of wanting to be like everyone else. We all want to fit in. We all know what it is like to be "outside of the norm". We can use these experiences to empathize and understand each

other. Don't close any more doors on people. Educate yourself, because you know what it's like to have the door slammed in your face. It frustrates me a great deal to see how much prejudicial thoughts control the way I interact with people.

I guess because of my age, I am still an idealist. My friends tell me this will change. I hope it doesn't. I still relate to Robert Fulghum's idea of life being like a sandbox. I wish we could all have a big sandbox that we met at every weekend instead of a bar. Because we are gay, we would be more creative and have a big swing set with a D.J. behind the big castle booth with a huge light show every night, but we had to play together and no group could isolate. If you didn't play with everyone, you would be sent to the sand dungeon where Velvet would read the riot act. I don't believe in a perfect world, but I do believe in progress. Progress begins in each person by taking their own step toward educating themselves and taking their own inventory. I know I have a lot of progress to make. See you at the sandbox.

WATCH FOR OUR SPECIAL 10TH ANNIVERSARY PULL-OUT SECTION "A LOOK BACK AT OUR FIRST 10 YEARS" IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE NEW VOICE OF NEBRASKA!



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Omaha, Nebraska 68103

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDITOR RESPONDS

Dear Andrew,

I took you at your word and promptly contacted Tim Kennedy of the *Times*. His response appears on this page.

There are several points in your letter which I find somewhat confusing. However, I understand several points very clearly and I do not agree. I praise the *Times* for clearly reporting incidents of child sexual abuse in a factual, unbiased manner. I feel it is absolutely imperative that the gay and lesbian community help educate the public regarding the clear and absolute distinction between homosexuality and pedophilia. Same sex relationships between consenting adults must be differentiated from abusive relationships of any kind, whether those relationships are based on power and victimization (as in rape) or are based in feelings of inadequacy (as in pedophilia).

I feel that it is the responsibility of a newspaper such as the *Times* to report factually on any events which may impact our community. Child sexual abuse by a priest or any other public figure is such an event, because it may reinforce negative stereotypes. It is only as we come out strongly opposed to child sexual abuse that we can put these myths and stereotypes to rest.

Tim, I encourage you and your staff to keep up the solid reporting of hard news which has become the trademark of the *Times*.

Sharon Van Butsel
Editor
New Voice of Nebraska

SULLIVAN ACCUSES TIMES OF "CATHOLIC BASHING"

Dear Editor,

Certainly, the arrival of the new gay weekly newspaper, *Times of the Heartland*, is a welcomed trend but I see some things which are very wrong about the *Times* newspaper and I hope that others who share my concern will forward their comments to the *Times* staff.

I have talked with Tim Kennedy but my words have fallen on deaf ears and he and the staff have become very defensive. The *Times* has chosen to engage in defamation of Catholics by solely reporting only those allegations of child sexual abuse involving Catholic priests regardless of the facts and ignore numerous other such allegations in other denominations. Such defamation has been used against homosexuals for a long time and to see an "ex-Catholic" engage in such defamation is sick and to see gay people engage in the same form of bigotry as their opponents is awful. *Times* has defended their reports as "news" but I say it is yellow journalism. Would they give such coverage to Nambla from a *Lambda Report* viewpoint.

I am not surprised because magazines on the left like *Ms.* magazine in its January issue gave credence to charges of "ritual child sexual abuse" in spite of the fact that such tales stem from anti-Semitic and Neo-Nazi organizations and conspiracy advocates like Lyndon LaRouche. Sad enough, anti-Catholic bigotry historically has been closely tied with anti-homosexual bigotry.

I speak on behalf of many gay and lesbian Catholics and religious people when I say "Stop persecuting us twice." Can't you see when they say the Priest molested a boy, you're saying homosexuals molest children? Can't you see you're engaged in anti-Catholic defamation? Can't you see your own disdain for Catholics hurts your Catholic gay and lesbian brethren?

I hope all people with an opinion on this matter will call or write the *Times* at (402) 341-6900, *Times*, 601 S. 16th St., Suite 710, Omaha, NE 68102 and let Tim Kennedy know what you think.

Sincerely,
Andrew Sullivan

THE TIMES RESPONDS

Dear Editor,

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to respond to Andrew Sullivan's criticism of the *TIMES* and its coverage of child abuse within the Catholic Church.

Mr. Sullivan has submitted several opinion pieces to the *TIMES* for publication - one of which was published as a guest column and another which appeared in edited form as a "Letter to the Editor." Most recently Mr. Sullivan has written to complain about the *TIMES*' front page story on the accusation by Steven Cook of Philadelphia that he was sexually abused several years ago by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, the current Archbishop of Chicago.

Mr. Sullivan has intimated that it is his view that by printed such allegations it is implying that homosexuals are pedophiles, and has been quite upset that no articles have appeared accusing members of the Protestant clergy of similar abuse.

The *TIMES* does not create the news, it merely reports it, and the story of one of the nation's leading prelates being accused of sexual abuse, particularly when that individual has been in the forefront of alienating the Church's policy regarding the treatment of both priests and victims in such abuse cases, is unquestionably newsworthy. Is the issue of the *TIMES* in which the story was carried an editorial was also printed encouraging readers not to draw any conclusions until all the evidence had been presented and was weighed.

The *TIMES* does not suggest that homosexuals are pedophiles, but it does insist that child abuse be treated as a crime. Too often children become victims of relatives, neighbors, and clergy simply because we have, as a society, been unwilling to openly discuss the problem, and lack the fortitude to challenge those committing the offenses.

Whatever Mr. Sullivan's opinion, there is no validity in his claim that the *TIMES* bashes Catholics. However, as a Catholic, I must acknowledge that I am more familiar and sensitive to issues within the Church, and therefore, am more capable and prone to comment on them. To that degree there may be bias.

Sincerely,
Timothy M. Kennedy
Publisher
Times of the Heartland



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EMOTIONALLY DISTRESSED

Dear People,

I am an emotionally disabled or emotionally distressed person at times; sometimes often, and sometimes it affects my physical health as well. I long for the day that I am comfortable and feel good more often which includes feeling good about myself and friends and someday a boyfriend. My wants in life have always been the same since the age of 8: 1) Amount to something to myself, God and other people. 2) Have a place I can call home. 3) Have a boyfriend. 4) have some happiness in life.

I would guess that this is true for a lot of people in the gay community. I don't care if I ever bear the word gay again. I'm just Roger and still want the same things from life I still do and have desired since I moved downtown to be a member of the gay community and the community as a whole whether it is in Omaha or somewhere else. I wish to be liked and loved and to like and love back. I believe in consideration for and by people not involved in my life directly. I feel life is a gift from God as are the things in the world and God doesn't create Junk — He creates people. Most of the people I meet of any variation are basically good people. I like my church and myself and my friends. I long for the day I feel liked and loved by the people I like and love. I also long for the day I feel good about myself, my body, my mind, and feel like I belong.

I want to live and get something out of every day and everything I do as best as possible. I woke up today unable to decide whether to cry, take a bath, eat breakfast, or take my dog Jake for a walk but today will be a good day somehow. I do thank God I'm alive and for what I do have — the gift of Life whatever else I have.

I suspect that some of my brothers and sisters in the gay community may feel much the same way. I long for the day when I will have and be able to handle all the rights, responsibilities, benefits, and pleasures other Americans and humans anywhere enjoy.

P.S. I took Jake for a walk and cried the next day. Both were necessary, but I hope I enjoy life more, including taking my little dog Jake for a walk or all the rest of the things I do or want which don't seem extravagant and they are up to me with the help of God and advice and friendship from others.

Roger Demarest

LINK-ON ASKS SUPPORT

A Personal Note to Our Friends:

The Board of Directors is proud to announce that Link-On has received, from the Internal Revenue Service, notification that we are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation. This process took over one year. Link-On is only a few home health care organizations in the state with this status.

As president of Link-On it has come to my attention that many friends and supporters have lost faith in our efforts.

As with any beginning organization we had our share of growing pains and experiences. It is my belief these growing pains can only make us a stronger organization.

Overall, it has been a year of enormous progress. We are a non-profit organization, all necessary Department of Health requirements have been fulfilled, reviewed and accepted. These were no easy tasks.

However, Link-On must stabilize our financial situation before we can provide services. Operating, insurance, salary, medical supply and other costs must be provided for. To open our doors without financial security would be a disservice to our clients, employees, and supporters. As a result, all efforts are geared towards locating, contacting and applying for financial resources with corporate foundations and governmental agencies. These efforts are being accomplished with minimal financial resources and volunteer assistance. In order to concentrate on these efforts the Board decided to not have a "Light for Life" ceremony this year. We will have this ceremony next year.

Our goal is to secure the necessary financial backing to provide services in 1994. This will be no easy task. With your continued support it can be done. I want to thank all former board members and others who made contributions to Link-On.

I would especially like to thank Deb Coffey for her assistance. I would like to thank present board members, Doug Boss, Mikki Drees, Todd Sukstorf and Rick Swaink, the Agency Director, for their continued support and assistance.

I, along with the other board members, want to guaranty to all our friends and supporters that Link-On will not fail. We only ask that you not lose faith in our efforts. Our determination is strong. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (402) 435-3261.

Larry Williams

LETTER POLICY

The New Voice will publish only those letters to the editor which include full name and either address or phone number so we can verify authenticity. You can request that your name not be published but we must be able to contact you for verification.

THANKS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LIGHTS

Dear New Voice of Nebraska,

I would like to thank everyone who donated contributions to our outdoor holiday lighting extravaganza. We won the city overall competition (over 120 entries) for the third time and \$110,000 was raised for the Nebraska AIDS Project. My family and I again would like to thank all who viewed it. Have a great year.

Denny D. and family

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FEATURES

NOT NOBODY GETS IN TO SEE THE WIZARD...Not Nobody...Not Nohow...

by Scott Lowther

If history remembers each decade for a particular social event or theme, I believe the 50's will be remembered for the creation of the mythical "average family" in television programs such as *Ozzie and Harriet*, *Father Knows Best*, and *Leave it to Beaver*. The 60's marked the beginning of civil rights movements in America. The 70's was the sexual freedom decade. During the 80's this country focused on social and financial responsibilities such as the homeless, AIDS, world hunger, the environment, and balancing the federal budget.

I wonder how the "gay 90's" will be remembered by history. Certainly, the struggle for gay rights, the last major civil rights battle, rages on with the military, private corporations, and state and local governments. We can't discount the impact of this "progress" on this country's future since, for the first time in American history, being gay is nearly accepted, if not downright chic! What new pressures does this place on us as individuals?

I routinely browse the self-help and psychology sections of bookstores. They're difficult to avoid since they're all the rage these days. Each one suggests improvement in some area of my life. In fact, a friend and I were recently lamenting over this very subject. Just how does one become the well-adjusted, whole persons we're "supposed" to be in the 90's?

If I am interpreting the concepts correctly, in order to be really healthy and well-adjusted, I'm supposed to be comfortable on my own, yet be open to the possibility of a relationship. Of course, this is limited to a relationship with another well-adjusted person who is equally comfortable on his own. If we do manage to come together, we have to avoid excessive detachment or enmeshment, which inevitably lead to dysfunction.

I'm also supposed to be have a spiritual foundation, whether through the practice of a chosen (or inherited) religion, 12-step program, or meditation. This is not the "I go to church on Sundays routine"; rather, this is a daily connection with my higher power.

As a true 90's person, I'm to be physically fit. A regular fitness routine, preferably evidenced by an expensive membership to a gym or health club, is required. I have to save up because such a membership required an entire new ensemble of workout wear. Who wants to be seen looking their worst while trying to look their very best?

A tea-totling, non-fried, low-cholesterol, no-fat, low-sodium, high-fiber, low-caloric, carb-loaded, nearly vegetarian diet go without saying. Any potential mate must also be a non-smoking, pseudo dietitian if a relationship is every going to work.

Next, I am nurturing my "inner child". This process is easier after completing a \$1500 group therapy program which helps me deal with the emotional baggage my parents supposedly dumped on me during my childhood.

All the while, I feel almost duty-bound to maintain a certain image as a card-carrying urban gay male. Therefore, I purchased a nice car (a sports car as opposed to the usual foreign model),

wear "comfortably preppy" clothing (as recently described by a would-be date), and designer fragrances.

I'm already spreading my feeble faculties pretty thin when I overhear a conversation at the bar a few weeks ago. One good-looking guy (O.K., yes... that's what drew my attention... his conversation) was explaining to another that he "only dates guys who earn over fifty-thousand dollars per year". The other included his criterion of a beautifully appointed home or condo. I stopped listening when the conversation shifted to a requirement for at least one overseas trip each winter. You've got to draw the line somewhere.

Afterward, I stopped at the supermarket for a soda (I know, I should have bought juice) where I encountered the tabloid headline, "How to keep your man from cheating on you!" I feel better... No stress here.

I guess each decade boasts its own problems. I just hope I have the stamina for this self-help, self-esteem, self-actualization, spiritual, come-out-of-the-closet, higher-education, fiscal responsibility, dress-for-success, shop-till-you-drop, iron-pumping, assertiveness-trained, condom-wearing, neighbor-hugging era.

Lately I feel a little like Dorothy and Toto, noting that "people come and go so quickly here". So, until I am better able to integrate these concepts, or find Mr. Perfect Gay 90's (whichever comes first), I'm adopting the philosophy of: "Not nobody gets in to the Wizard...not nobody...not now".

His Wizardness can, however, occasionally be persuaded to grant a temporary audience to attractive men bearing gifts who agree to "pay no attention to that man behind the curtain". He's still under construction.

A DIFFERENT REALM

by Rodney Allen Bell II

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In a different realm...

the abyss of light shined over it and the land around it. "The Light" grew in intensity and magically drew elements and entities from the abyss.

Unicorns galloped gaily around the land with angels upon them, Fairies, wiccans, the chosen, the truth, the life, the One and the Way spread all over this land.

In this different realm...

people become incarnate from ages past Drawing their life from "The Light" over the abyss. The creatures of the land danced merrily around the abyss as life giving energy renewed what once was dead.

In this realm...

The prophecies are fulfilled in centuries of human time a speck in "The Light's" time. I turn over, rub my eyes startled and wake from this dream in my own realm.

PAGAN

TRANQUILITY PRAYER

by Rodney Allen Bell II

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Mother Goddess give me the tranquility to accept the things I can, the strength to change the things I am able to and the awareness to know the difference.

THE GAIJA'S PRAYER

by Rodney Allen Bell II

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Our Mother Gaia who art on the earth;

Nature honors your name;

your blessings come.

Nature's will be done as it can be

with Mother Gaia;

Provide for us our needs in life;

Love those who don't seem to love us

on Mother Earth as it is in the cosmos.

Show us the way to truth.

For Mother Gaia, Earth is your daughter

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CLEANING OUT MY CLOSET: Thanks for Everything

by Shelley Roberts

It occurs to me as we move to the next step, that what we have come is about a competition. Now that we are a discovered society, instead of a hidden one, now that our books, and images, and very lives are haggled over by the vast, commercial entertainment enterprises as bartered fodder, that we run the enormous hazard of losing our camaraderie, and our reality, in the newest rivalry for dominance.

Now we are the cover of *Newsweek*.

Now we are the best-sellers, and box-office and six o'clock news. We are this week's Sunday supplements.

We are the stuff of open Senate investigations, not into the immorality of our lives, but of its ordinances. And even as the ogres roar and below, their smoke and stench are about old stories dying in the telling. Mythologies crashing into pieces on the ground. And out of the fuzzy definitions will soon emerge in flesh and flaw, our banner carriers.

And we find ourselves engaged in headlong tumble for loudest and freshest and first with the lemonade details of our lives. Perhaps as precursor to the granting of the freedom in which to live them. Perhaps only for the prestige and pleasure to be the prominent authors of the tales. Heras will be born this year. And Heroes. And Devils incarnate who months ago were merely companion felons in the fracas quest for yet-undelineated triumphs.

Fist fights happen on the way, in the headlong ego rush for property rights to claim the center. And on the way, the combatants learn the blood realities that whosoever of us owns the NOW will be the stuff and property of the decade's faint historians. The long-fighters toil to keep the late usurpers without a valid ticket, from the stage.

And an equally opposing force of sudden bloomers, determines directly to force the inefficient and the ineffectual from seats too long gathering dust on old accomplishments. Harsh words and judgments clatter, and in the din and class to assume the dais, we forget the properties.

So I should like to hold up a hand and call a temporary truce. To say thanks we too often forget, for services rendered. To sprinkle laurels where too often merely, we sow them.

If you made a decision on our behalf, whether it proved you a perfect hindsight fool or victor, thank you. Decisions are the very thing we are most currently in need of, and the very thing for which we are suffering a drought.

If you said, "No." Or, "Stop!" or "Not anymore!" along the way, for yourself or someone else, to what should not have been, we're in your debt.

If you kept on when no one else arrived, or offered any relief, you've earned our thanks. No one said it would be easy. And she was right.

If you've pasted, or stapled, or colored, or carried. If you've copied or carted or collated, or simply shown up, I hope that "Thank you" is enough to say.

If you edited, or wrote, or just kept printing when there wasn't any more. Money, or backing, or energy or gratitude. But still you sent one more thought that there somehow be, together, another side to get to, we should have said we're grateful sooner.

Thank you if you called a thousand people. Or eleven. For any reason that put us face-to-face. Seeing who we are is what is letting us see who we can become. And if your called a million, thanks again.

You sure know how to throw a swell party. We'll be talking of it for years. And it's so easy to forget to give our appreciation.

If you sung your song when only dozens paid for the performance, and still you sang again, we owe you much.

If you paid for the performance when the audience was small. Or stretched the budget to contribute, you have our so-far unexpressed acknowledgment. And thanks. We needed you then. And now is no exception.

Or if you just wrote a check because you had it. Anyone who says that money is not a contribution is a liar. Or a fool. Or poor. So, thank you, if we haven't mentioned it yet.

If you prayed for us and not upon us, we are truly blessed.

If you let go of your humility, and modeled roles that made others possible, no matter the dimensions, our hat is off.

If you signed up a voter or voted yourself in a race you either won or did not, we are much obliged.

If you threw a parade and everyone came and complained, we didn't mean it. We meant to tell you how much it meant to us.

If you opened a business in our name, and took the slings and arrows of our misdirected outrage just for believing that could do well and good at the very same time, we appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

If you convinced a Kiwanis member or your neighbor or talk show audience or the PTA that we have something of value to say, we say, "Thank you."

If you told your mother so she could come out and fight for you and for us, your bravery is commendable. And so is hers.

If your best was merely waiting in the wings till you could join us with honor, we honor you.

And if your outrage or your circumstance gave you no choice but to staff the barricades till we could join you, we are very much obliged.

Sometimes we get caught up in the immediacies of our own lives, the petty details of our communal tasks, and we never stop to find the step-back place from which to see how far we've come, just how much we've done, and how very much we owe each other.

So, as long as I was in the neighborhood, I thought I'd stop for a moment and say what for too long has gone without saying.

Thank you for all you've done.

I'm just sorry it took us so long to get around to it.

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Shelly Roberts is a nationally syndicated columnist, and author of *The Dyke Detector*, Paradigm Publishing.

Look for her newest book, *Hey, Mom, Guess What...? 150 Ways to Tell Your Mother*, Now at your local bookstore.

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"YOU'LL BE SPECIAL TO ME" Interview

We meet a mixed-race family from Ohio who just celebrated their first anniversary together. Steven G., a health administrator and pre-law student, and Stephen H., a professor of agriculture, adopted Christopher, who recently turned four, last September. For Steven G., who like his son is African-American, it's a new experience. For Stephen H., who is white, it's a second chance to be a father — he has two adult children from a prior marriage. Since becoming a couple six years ago, the two have pursued the adoption option — first in New York, then in Ohio — as an openly gay couple.

Stephen, you're a dad again. Why?

Stephen H.: After my divorce, I felt I hadn't had a chance to be the parent that I wanted to be. Kathy was 10 and Brian was 7 when my divorce occurred. Every time I went to get the kids, I had a legal battle on my hands — even for a two week visitation. After three or four years, I finally got an attorney to turn that around. When Stephen wanted to adopt, it was something I also wanted to do. I wanted to give a chance to some kid who didn't have the opportunities that my kids had — even with the divorce.

And Steven, what motivated you?

Steven G.: There are kids out there who need love, and I had the love. It used to be that a hard-to-please, "special needs kid" had M.S., Down's Syndrome, was wheelchair bound or something. But then they changed the definition to include black male children who are three-years-old and older. Now that really hurt me personally. Another driving force was hearing, "Black men do not take care of their own." I can look through my family history, and we have always been there. I couldn't let some of these black male children fall into that "special needs" category. Instead I thought — you're going to be special, but you're going to be special to me.

How did you get started?

Steven G.: When we met, Stephen and I briefly discussed that I would like to have a kid. We were living in upstate New York, and adoption for gay men wasn't as prevalent as it has become. A year or two later we moved right outside of New York City. I kept stressing to Stephen, "The time is coming. I want to have a child."

Stephen H.: After we moved, we became affiliated with Center Kids in New York, which was absolutely wonderful. They gave us all the information we needed to do an adoption. We found a "facilitating agency" trying to place minority children within our county. They didn't have children, but they would do the home study. If a "custodial agency" became interested in us, that work was already done. A social worker came to our house, and she realized that we were together. She asked if we're a gay couple, and we said "Yes, we are." She said, "Well, we've done this before, but I think it's wonderful." We started working with a couple of agencies (with children) in New York that were friendly to gay adoptions. At that point I had the job change which brought us to Ohio. And we had to start all over again.

Was it more difficult in Ohio?

Stephen H.: After we moved, we didn't know where to start. We had no contacts, no organization like Center Kids for support and information. So we had to strike out on our own.

Steven G.: I bought a government publication listing all the adoption agencies in the U.S.

Stephen H.: We started contacting public agencies, private agencies — everywhere we went in as an openly gay couple. If one of us went in as a single male and they later learned that we were gay, that was grounds for removing the child from the home. Every place we went, they would say, "We think this is wonderful, but it's never been done in Ohio. We'd sure like to see it done, but we don't know how the courts are going to react." We went through about a year of this until Steven found an agency, working for the placement of black children primarily in black homes.

Being open about being gay...is that usual?

Stephen H.: It's very rare to go in as an openly gay couple. They wanted to be able to show that they would stand behind a gay placement, and to show that it could be done successfully.

Steven G.: Here they are, working with a gay male couple — and an interracial couple too. When we spoke to them, all they said was, "Isn't it wonderful that you guys have been together for so long?" Race? They didn't care about it.

Stephen H.: They told us they had been looking for the "ideal couple" with whom to try this, and we fit the profile they were looking for — a stable couple with stable incomes, professional, etc.

What were your views of the race of your future child?

Steven G.: Before we left New York we discussed what we wanted — a little boy between the ages

continued on next page

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continued from previous page

of 0 and 5. The child could be biracial — we weren't specific.

Stephen H: But primarily we were looking at a biracial or a black child, because Steven would be the adoptive father. In Ohio, at this point only one (unmarried) person can legally adopt.

What was the process easy?

Stephen H: Their board had lots of questions, but the director was pretty resourceful. She invited us to a social function, and made sure we were introduced to all the board members. The philosophy was they would get to know us as individuals and not just statistics.

What next?

Stephen H: They completed the home study, but none of the agencies with children could get past the fact that we were two men. Finally, there was a picnic for prospective parents and children that were up for adoption—for many agencies throughout Ohio. For the straight couples there, it was like they were in a store picking out kids to buy. Steven and I started playing with the kids. We started playing baseball and tag...

Stephen G: ...and running, and going down the slide, and playing on the swings. We just started doing it, because we enjoyed it.

Stephen H: It was spontaneous, and we had a good time. A week later, three agencies called and said they had a child for us. It was the direct result of having seen us interact with the kids.

And then you met Christopher?

Stephen G: The information we got on Christopher was that he doesn't talk. He doesn't warm up to people very well, and he is very standoffish.

Stephen H: We thought he might be developmentally delayed. We went to the agency and he was playing on the floor. We had talked to some adoptive parents we know about some things to look for, because we didn't have a lot of

information on Chris. They gave us some pointers and some things to take with us — various games and toys — so that we could observe what his reactions were. His reactions were fine.

Stephen G: Technically, we were meeting to discuss the child. Instead Stephen and I ended up on the floor, playing with Chris, and the social workers talked. We thought, "you guys go on ahead and do your business, we're having fun." And everyone said, "We're just amazed — he doesn't do this with anybody."

Stephen H: At the time, Christopher only said one or two simple words. His speech was delayed. But the social worker told us that after that first meeting, in his own broken way he told his foster mother, "I have two new daddies." And nobody had said anything to him.

And they okayed the placement...?

Stephen H: They said, "We've got two or three stipulations." First, they wanted to follow us longer than just the standard year, because they wanted to prove that gay families and gay fathers can be successful in raising children. The second was that they wanted to delay finalization longer than the traditional six month period, because they wanted to have a good history, and a good background before they went before a judge. None of this was negative. They were supporting us, so that we wouldn't have any problems.

Stephen G: And we didn't take any chances. For instance, when we went to do our paperwork for the agency — instead of getting two or three references — we got eight references.

Stephen H: It progressed from the point of everyone being overly cautious to now — when they came to us and offered us another child. It's been a really amazing story. The social workers are just flabbergasted — at how Chris has taken to us and how well he's adjusted — and how he's progressed and now he talks all the time.

What does Christopher call you?

Stephen H: We struggled with that because of the two Steves. I'm "Daddy J"-J for my middle name. Steven G: And I'm "Daddy."

What was the general reaction to your family?

Stephen G: People at the mall look at Stephen...look at Chris...look at me...look at Chris...and they can't figure out what's going on. Stephen H: Most of the time people smile and say "That's kind of nice." I don't think the animosity is really out there in the majority of people.

And your families' reactions?

Stephen G: We went to my family for Christmas, my mother, who hadn't yet met Chris, says, "Okay, he'll be spending the summer with me, right?" They were making plans. He was family.

Stephen H: We've been very fortunate in that our families — my family, too, my other kids, my mother — have been very accepting.

So what's the last year been like?

Stephen H: WONDERFUL!

Stephen G: Last year at my birthday, Stephen asked me, what do you want for your birthday? I said, "All I want is to get Chris." Then at Christmas, he asked, "Honey, what do you want for Christmas?" I said, "Don't worry about it. We've got Chris. I couldn't ask for any more."

Thank you to Steven and Stephen for sharing the story of how Christopher came into your life.

Resources for Multi-Racial Families

Interrace, Box 15566, Beverly Hills, CA 90209
Association of MultiEthnic Americans, P.O. Box 191726, San Francisco, CA 94119;

Books for Our Children, 217 East 85th St., Suite 184, New York, NY 10028

People of Every Stripe, PO Box 12505, Portland, OR 97212; catalog (\$1)

Brown Bear Books, PO Box 780-I, 34-A Armory St., Englewood, NJ 07631

-GLPCL Network - Fall 1993



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EXCUSES BY BRIAN: WHY DIDN'T YOU WRITE?

by Brian Bengtson

Dear Sharon and Carla,
and everyone else at *The New Voice*,

I ran into Pat Phalen the other day at the Max, and he asked me why I didn't have any submissions for the January issue. I ran through all the reasonable explanations stored in my litany of excuses, some of which include:

A.) My Barbie lunchbox was recalled due to a nasty Thermos-meltdown at an Indian first grade lunchroom, and I had to be quarantined.

B.) All the men I had slept with read that crack about changing the sheets, and showed up at my apartment, causing the Fire Department to step in due to regulation about maximum capacity.

C.) I saw Cher with Bemis and Butt-head, and thought I was having a flashback.

D.) My mother had read something about PWA's taking shark cartilage, and started to turn the basement into a coral reef. She thought it would be cheaper to grow her own.

E.) My roommate received a severe blow to the head, and thought he was Petula Clark, so I had to teach him all the words to *Don't Sleep In The Subway*. and

F.) I thought the holidays were depressing enough without having to read one of my poems.

Of course, I wasn't witty enough to recite any of these little ditties, so I just shrugged and mumbled, "uh.... I forgot?"

So as penance, I am including two of my newest pieces. I also want to thank everyone who showed up at the Downtown Grounds last month (and if you missed me, I will be there again on February 17 at 8:30 p.m., where I will be reading some of the new works, and a few old favorites), and I again want to thank *The New Voice* for giving all of us poets a place to vent, and display our talents. If a culture can be gauged by its poets, then the Omaha Gay and Lesbian community is truly at the cutting edge.

Thanks again,
Brian Bengtson

FIRST CHILL

When the first snow comes, the first real snow,
and all the days after are shaded with bittersweet
haze like an old seventies movie, seen at 2:30 am,
I think of the things lost after winter.

I remember a final straw solstice
that ended with his shirt and pants
diving off the balcony
to the justifying drifts on the walk.
When I think of the men
and the now-hocked jewelry
and all the hopeful beginnings with
each year's end,
I smile like the old woman on the park bench
watching lovers kiss.

I look at the flurries through streetlights
and watch the night scatter through the flakes,
like the fuzz on the screen
when the stations signs off,
and I wonder about those lessons that life
was supposed to teach us,
try to guess how much I have learned.

I become aware of the first echoes of my breath,
that come with the early chill,
and I see each new man for the season,
like a new pair of mittens
to keep my hands covered and warm.

What have I become?
At seventeen, I didn't know what I would be
now, And I dream of apologizing to that
misguided kid,
"I'm sorry I don't have a loft in New York,
or a lover that stayed with me forever."

I go on my winter bus rides, watch the city
become a first-grade picture book
and all the colors and shapes become basic
through glass steamed over by anonymous breath,
and passing dirt and soot.

How many changes will I have left?
How many winters and how many haircuts?
How many pauses of reflection
like the guy in front of the mirror in a bar bathroom,
slightly drunk and checking his style?

I touch my tongue to the flagpole
like the old grade school dare
just to see if it will stick.

IN-BETWEENERS

I am twenty-four hours
of tendons rubbed in a silhouette
of skin.

I eat my memories
as a judgmental hand breaks through
hair of passing favors.

I am a bookshelf of mother's cliches,
and all the lessons learned
with a finger waving and
a tongue lashing.

I receive the sound
of a generation's questions
about the table of contents,

and painfully blunt eyes seek shelter
from these wall-paper thoughts, while
sacred fingers rub all wounds dry.

I am the last page
of the coloring book
to be hung on the fridge.

My new-earth face melts
into the couch's gravity,
and I sleep.

NEW MAGAZINE

Focus: G/L/B/T Youth

A new national magazine created for young
Gays and Lesbians became available January 6,
1994. Its title is *Y.O.U.T.H.* (*Young Outspoken
Ubiquitous Thinkings Homo's Magazine*). Its
purpose is to alleviate the stress and isolation
many Gay teens and adolescents feel as a result of
maturing in our present society. Its message is
clear. No longer is it acceptable to repress,
degrade, or ignore Queer youth!

The magazine has departments: G/L/B/T
history, role models, peer advice and national
news, devoted exclusively to Youth issues. "We
hope to create a more motivated, enlightened, and
concerned community for the future and today,"
says the 20 year old publisher, Matt Marco.

This endeavor is a massive effort of coalition
and a tribute to diversity. The Supermodels
segment, designated to role models, features Rod
and Bob Jackson-Paris in the premier issue and
Lea DeLaria has been interviewed for the second.
The Health/AIDS segment is written by two
Youth employees of the DC Whitman Walker
Clinic, Troy Peterbrinks and Tammi Coles. The
college campus report is written by Paige Velez
Gilbert, a chairperson for the United States Student
Association and the National Lesbian, Gay and
Bisexual Student Caucus. The Religion column
is written by C. Alexis Tancibok, the 23 year old
founder of the national Christian publication,
Malchus, and a spiritual leader of St. Cyril's
Byzantine Community Church. Staff writers are
located across the country, including New York,
Houston, Chicago, and the West Coast.

Y.O.U.T.H. Magazine will be carried by over
60 Gay and Lesbian bookstores across the nation.
Y.O.U.T.H. Magazine is a bimonthly publication.
Its retail cost is \$2.50, but there is a subscription
rate of six issues for \$12.00. Anyone interested in
subscribing, advertising, or contributing (either
financially or with submissions) should contact
Y.O.U.T.H. Magazine at PO Box 34215,
Washington, DC 20043, or call (202) 234-3562.

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Feb. 20

1994

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Feb. 27

1994

NEBRASKA AIDS PROJECT presents Fig Leaf Follies

REFRESHMENTS
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4:00

Feb. 27

1994

AIDS BENEFIT

BACK BAR
\$3⁰⁰ COVER
10:00

NATIONAL NEWS

MAKING A CONNECTION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

by Bill Darker

On Thursday, January 7th at 1:00 in the morning, the city council in Lewiston, Maine, became the second in the state to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The ordinance had the support of many community leaders, including Lewiston's mayor and chief of police. However, the ordinance had its detractors.

Largely Franco-American (many speak French as a first language), Lewiston's 40,000 citizens are blue collar, Roman Catholic and conservative. A group, "Citizens of Lewiston for the Repeal of Special Homosexual Rights," initiated a petition for the repeal of the ordinance. They garnered the necessary signatures.

Equal Protection Lewiston (EPL) was formed to mobilize support against the repeal efforts. They worked hard to challenge the opponent's claim that civil rights are "special" rights. They organized an office, prepared flyers, took polls, and placed calls to get the message out. They gained endorsements from civil groups and respected individuals in the community. My first contact with EPL was with Finance Coordinator Janet Welch, an impassioned woman who knows Lewiston well. She arranged for me and my colleague at HRFC, Julio Abreu, to come to Maine for the final push until election day on November 2nd. We stayed with local businessman Denis Gilbert, an openly gay man.

Last May, Denis was the victim of a brutal attack perpetrated by two men who knew of him through his business. They had arrived at his home and asked if they could come inside for a glass of water. Of course, Denis obliged. Once inside, they attacked with a knife, stabbing him fifteen times in the ensuing struggle. They left only when they thought a silent alarm to police had been triggered. Gilbert was victimized but refused to remain a victim. He got involved, and so did his family, including an uncle Lewiston's chief of police, Laurent (Larry) Gilbert.

Larry Gilbert looks just as one might expect a chief of police to look. What was most unexpected was that this man was one of the most committed to seeing that the civil rights ordinance stayed on the books. I spent all of a Saturday riding around with him and his 13 year old son, canvassing Lewiston with EPL literature and knocking on doors to ask if we could place "Vote No! Discrimination" signs on lawns. During the day we discussed the repeal effort but most importantly we talked about our personal experiences with this discrimination "thing", and he asked about my own experience on being gay in today's society. I have rarely had such a deep and intimate conversation with my own family, and here I was having one with a virtual stranger! A connection was made. It is all about connections.

Grass-roots canvassing is not an easy job, but a necessary one. Equal Protection Lewiston has a very committed team of volunteers to conduct information distribution, make phone calls urging voters to vote, and on election day monitor the polling places. There seemed to be a problem however. Numbers. Having been to the local gay bar in Lewiston, which is owned by Roland Blais who was a member of the Hate/Bias Crime Task Force and instrumental in mobilizing support in the community, I noticed a sizable gay community for a city the size of Lewiston. I wondered, "...Are these people only able to leave their homes

at night? I don't see them volunteering." I discovered the answer a few days later on November 2nd, election day in Lewiston, Maine.

As election day neared and I began to really get to know my gay and straight brothers and sisters in the volunteer effort, I felt that even though I was a complete stranger to them a few days ago, an outsider from inside the bellway, that I belonged. Denis Gilbert let us have complete run of his home for ten days and volunteered daily. Roland Blais, local gay bar owner, expended a tremendous effort in organizing and canvassing. Lewiston Mayor James Iowanec canvassed and helped us put up signs. Janet Welch, the spearhead of EPL, a Franco-American Lesbian and native of Lewiston, inspired us all.

The polls opened on November 2nd at 7:30 A.M. and I arrived at my designated polling place to monitor the activity to make sure no underhanded deeds took place by the forces of the extremist right. Two women from the "Vote Yes to Repeal Special Rights" camp were there with clipboards ready to challenge Bates College students as to their legal residency. After she voted, one young student told me that she "sensed a lot of hate" from the two clipboard ladies. I simply agreed and said "That's why we're here." "Thanks," she said. We connected.

Later in the day, I observed a young college student with a March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Liberation T-shirt approach the ballot table. The two elderly women workers upon seeing the pretty design in the shape of a triangle on the shirt wanted to read it. Tracing the text on the shirt with her finger, one of women was speechless, unsure of what to say, the other said "Oh... My son went to that." The elderly ladies eyes met. A connection was made.

Minutes later I noticed a young man whom I had made conversation with at the local gay bar two nights earlier. Although I didn't recall his name, I reached out shake his hand and said a friendly hello. My gesture was ignored. I said hello again, and he recoiled and pointed to the woman in front of him at the polling table, mouthing the words "that's my mother." Now I was the one who was speechless. I realized that he was not "out" to his mother, and simply because I had a campaign button I was a threat. I was slapped back into the reality of Lewiston. There was no connection here.

Although it took only a moment, that incident told me a lot about why we lost in Lewiston. Our biggest enemy in this battle was not the extreme right and the hate-mongers. It was the closet. The fear tactics and stereotypes that our opponents use time and time again stuck like glue in Lewiston. Sure, there were some high profile lesbians and gays and gay friendly people there. But something was missing—the personal connection. Lewiston is a small place, and it is reasonable to assume that every voter knew someone who is lesbian or gay. Every voter has a link to a friend, a family member or a co-worker who happens to be lesbian or gay. Unfortunately, they didn't know it. All over the country, too few of us have come out, even when our civil rights are on the line. In 1994, anti-gay initiatives may be on the ballots of as many as twelve states. If we are ever to win these battles against bigotry and discrimination, we all need to make more connections.

VICTORY FUND SEEKS CANDIDATES

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund is seeking qualified openly gay and lesbian candidates who plan to run for public office in 1994 or 1995. The Victory Fund, which puts the power of its national donor network behind its recommended candidates, has contributed more than half a million dollars directly to campaigns since its inception in 1991. Sixty percent of Victory Fund recommended candidates have won their races, compared with less than one percent of all non-recommended candidates.

Members of the Victory Fund pay \$100 or more to join the network, and agree to support at least two recommended candidates over the next 12 months with direct contributions of \$100 or more. "The impact of Victory Fund combined contributions can really make a difference in a race," said William Waybourn, Victory Fund executive director. Citing Jackie Goldberg's 51 to 49 percent win in this year's heated race for the Los Angeles City Council, Waybourn noted that the more than \$18,000 contributed to the campaign by Victory Fund members was crucial to Jackie's victory.

The Victory Fund is currently supporting seven candidates, and its members have made more than \$200,000 in 1993 campaign contributions. Among the victorious 1993 candidates to receive financial support from Victory Fund members are Shelley Gaylord, Wisconsin's first openly lesbian judge; Craig McDaniel, Mike Nelson, Christine Kehoe and Tom Roberts, the first openly gay and lesbian city councilmembers in Dallas, Carboro (NC), San Diego, and Santa Barbara, respectively; and Manhattan Civil Court Judge Marilyn Shafter.

"Money is the key element in a winning campaign," Waybourn noted, "and we are actively seeking qualified candidates who can benefit from Victory Fund support to get an early start in their races." Candidates seeking information or applications should contact the Victory Fund by phone (202) 842-8679, Fax (202) 289-3863, or mail 1012 14th Street N.W., Suite 707, Washington, D.C. 20005.

JOINED BY LOVE BOOKS FOR FAMILIES

Joined by Love, a catalog of books for lesbian and gay families, will be published in January 1994. Featuring more than thirty books on a host of topics of interest to gay and lesbian parents and their children, *Joined by Love's* titles have been chosen to provide help and advice for many concerns of non-traditional families.

Another part of the catalog is devoted to books for children, including a selection of picture books for younger children which provide positive images for children with single and same sex parents. Also featured are books for children providing positive images of gay men and lesbians, helpful for the relatives and friends of same sex couples.

Joined by Love is published by Tapestry Books. Friendly, personal service and same day shipping allows customers to get the information they need, when they want it. Visa and MasterCard are accepted. The *Joined by Love* catalog is available for \$1.00 - call 800-765-2367 to order.

INTERNATIONAL SM/ LEATHER/FETISH CELEBRATION 1994

Over 2,000 participants of all genders, orientations and races from around the world are expected to converge on New York City in June of 1994, for the International SM/Leather/Fetish Celebration 1994. Leather Celebration '94 will be a four day affirmation of the role of safe, sane and consensual sadomasochism and power exchange in the promotion of the freedom of sexual expression, and of the loving nature of S/M relationships. The event is currently being organized by six of the New York's largest and most active leather organizations. Taking place at the lavish Grand Hyatt Hotel on 42nd Street and Park Avenue, June 23rd - 25th, the celebration promises to be a unique highlight among the myriad events and festivities surrounding the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. The month's activities also include the Gay Games IV - Unity '94 Lesbian and Gay Cultural Festival, and culminates with the International Stonewall 25 March and Rally on Sunday, June 26.

The International SM/Leather/Fetish Celebration 1994 has been priced modestly to allow everyone to participate. Special discount rates of \$130 per room (not per person) have been arranged, and many of the Hyatt's rooms can accommodate up to four people. A registration fee of only \$60 gets attendees into all workshops and seminars, Pride Night and the Dance, as well as into a tremendous Vendor Display and Art Exhibit.

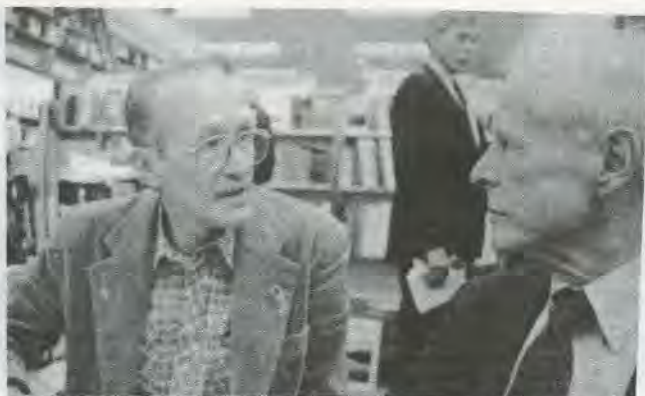
For brochures, rates, and further information on the International SM/Leather/Fetish Celebration 1994, you may write: Leather Celebration '94, 332 Bleecker Street, Suite 452, New York, NY 10014. You may also call the following sponsors: Gay Male S/M Activists 212-727-9878 (24 hrs. leave message); National Leather Association: Metro New York Chapter 718-597-0019 (fax during the day; direct line evenings); The Eulenspiegel Society 212-388-7022 (outing message only).

GAY DISCOTHEQUE BURNS--19 LIVES LOST

The gay discotheque "Divine" in the Chilean coastal city of Valparaiso burned to the ground in the early morning hours of September 4th. Nineteen persons died when the only entrance was blocked by the blaze, forcing patrons to squeeze out of the second floor club through a narrow fire escape in the back. Despite government claims that the fire was caused by an electrical malfunction, evidence exists to suggest that the blaze may have been intentionally set.

The blaze struck the popular night club during its peak operating hours and when more than 70 patrons were crowded into the small space. Gay activists point to several factors that undermine the government's claim that the blaze was electrical in nature. The owner of the bar has insisted that the electrical fixtures were recently renovated and were kept in good working order. Furthermore, eyewitnesses confirm having seen someone try to enter the building shortly before the blaze. They were expelled from the club, then seen throwing something into the doorway. An explosion was then heard. Especially alarming, is the fact that in the past the club had received several anonymous threats of violence. At least one newspaper cited fire officials speaking of the record and expressing serious skepticism over the government's account given the evidence cited above.

-Emergency Response Network IGLIIRC



Bill Coors, right, and Ace Landon talk about their longtime friendship at Landon's book signing at B. Dalton Bookseller in Denver, Colorado
Reprinted courtesy of *The Golden Transcript*. Photo by Tyson Anderson

COORS ATTENDS GAY AUTHOR'S SIGNING

Denver, CO "I'd have kicked his butt if he would have missed my national Motor Home book tour openings," stated author Ace Landon with a twinkle in his eye when commenting about Bill Coors attending his book signing tour debut. "The B. Dalton Booksellers 16th Street Mall is in his back yard in Denver!" exclaimed Landon. When asked why he would expect Coors to attend a gay author's book-signing Landon stated: "We've been friends ever since I researched the story I did 16 years ago when there was talk of a gay boycott of Coors Co. and I found out the gay community was being used as a whipping boy." Wm. K. "Bill" Coors, now 74 and Chairman of the Board, Adolph Coors Co. wrote the Foreword for Landon's autobiographical legacy titled *The Closets Are Empty...The Dining Room's Full*. Mrs. Richard (Jeramie) Dreyfuss wrote the

Preface. Ponderosa Publishing House publisher/lesbian/grandmother Anastasia Tosches, revealed that Coors purchased 100 copies of the book that day and stated "Mr. Coors was personally sending the books to friends as an educational gift."

The 340-page, hardcover book contains over 60 photos and is available now at many gay/lesbian bookstores nationally as well as the B. Dalton and Barnes and Noble chains. Retailing for \$24.95, it may also be phone ordered through Upper Access at 1-800-356-9315. Ace Landon is a Reno, Nevada resident having moved there in 1989 with his life-mate, Patrick John Algarin, who died December 10th that year from AIDS complications. Bill Coors traveled to Reno to visit Ace and Patrick during the time of Pat's illness. Coors also attended the Memorial Fund-raiser for the Nevada AIDS Foundation in 1990.

**COMING
SOON!!**

MATRICKULATION

**AT:
R.U.N.
1715 Leavenworth
449-8703**

AIDS/HIV RESOURCES AND NEWS

HIV TESTING*

*We urge you to inquire about anonymity & confidentiality before testing.

Charles Drew Health Center,
2201 N. 30, Omaha 68111 (402) 453-1433

Douglas County Health Department,
1201 S. 42, Omaha 68105 (402) 444-6875

Equilibria Medical Center, 544 S. 24,
Omaha, 68102 Call (402) 345-2252

Lincoln-Lancaster Health Dept, 2200 St
Marys Ave, Lincoln 68502 (402) 471-8065
Alt. test site at Panic, 200 S. 18, 2nd Tuesday

Grand Island-Hall Co Health Dept, 105 East
1st St, Grand Island, Mary (308) 385-5175

**Native American Community Development
Corp,** 2226 Leavenworth, Omaha, 341-8471

Nebraska AIDS Project, 3624 Leavenworth,
Omaha 342-4233 or (800) 782-AIDS [2437]

Nebraska Association of Farm Workers,
4939 S. 24, Omaha, 68107 (402) 734-4100

**Nebraska Department of Health, Norfolk
Regional Ctr,** Admin Bldg #16, (402) 370-3395

Nemaha County Health Department,
1824 N. Auburn, 68305 (402) 274-4549

COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS

AIDS CARE, The Mercy Center, 427 E.
Kanesville Blvd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503,
at: Colleen Kibbe-Vest (712) 328-2609

AIDS Support Group: Sponsored by Parents/
Friends of Lesbians & Gays-Lincoln (PFLAG),
Box 4374, Lincoln, 68504, 7pm, 475-2437

**Grand Island Area HIV/AIDS Support
Group,** Meets 3rd Tuesday, (308) 385-5175

Kearney Area HIV/AIDS Support Group,
Meets 1st Monday of each month, For more
info, phone Barb (308) 234-8183.

Lincoln Caseworker, (402) 474-4243

Nebraska AIDS Project, 3624 Leavenworth,
Omaha, Individual counseling, support
groups-confidential locations. (402) 342-4233

North Platte Area Support Group,
Call: (308) 535-8133

**Western Nebraska HIV/AIDS Support
Group,** Scottsbluff, Call (308) 635-3606

HOME HEALTH CARE

LINK-ON Home Health Care, 2118 South St.
#B, Lincoln, 68502 (402) 435-0574, Mon-Fri
8am-4:30pm, care, treatment, counseling,
teaching of HIV infected individuals, people
with AIDS, and others; Rick Swaink, Director.

AIDS ADVOCACY

AIDS Coalition for Empowerment (A.C.E.),
For anyone living with AIDS or HIV and those
interested in AIDS advocacy. Call Nebraska
AIDS Project, 342-4233, for details.

PASTORAL CARE

AIDS Interfaith Network, 100 N 62, Omaha
Br Wm Woeger 558-3100 (Chancery) 7pm.
Service: 2nd Mon, St Cecelias 40th & Webster

AIDS Interfaith Network, 215 Centennial
Mall So., Rm 411, Lincoln 68508, 474-3017,
Services: 7pm, 4th Mon, St Marks, 14th & R

INFORMATION & REFERRAL*

*More info call Neb AIDS Project 342-4233

AIDS Educ Project, UNL G/L Resource Cntr,
Rm 342, Neb Union, Lincoln 68588, 472-5644

American Red Cross,
1701 'E', Lincoln 68501 (402) 471-7997
3838 Dewey, Omaha 68131 (402) 341-2723

Community Prescription Service AIDS Info,
medicine, supplies by mail, 1-800-677-4323

Douglas County Health Department,
1201 S. 42, Omaha 68105 (402) 341-2723

Grand Island/Hall Co. Health Dept,
105 E. 1st, Grand Island (308) 385-5175

HIV Clinic, Univ of NE Medical Center, 600
S. 42nd, Omaha, (402) 559-6681

Lincoln Cancer Cntr, 4600 Valley, 483-1872

Lincoln-Lancaster Health Dept 2200
St Marys, Lincoln 68502, 471-8065 Testing,
counseling

Nebr AIDS Educ/Training Center, AIDS
education to health care professionals, UNMC,
600 S 42 Omaha 68198, (402) 559-6681

Nebraska AIDS Project
(statewide) (800) 782-AIDS [2437]
Omaha Office: 3624 Leavenworth, 68105
342-4233 AIDS Hotline, HIV testing, AIDS
awareness, practical support, counseling
Lincoln Office: (402) 474-4243
Central Nebraska Office: 3423 2nd Ave
Kearney, NE 68847, (308) 234-8183

Nebr Dept of Health, 3423 2nd Ave, Kearney
68847, Call Sharon (308) 234-8709

NE Dept of Health, Craft St. Office Bldg, 200
So. Silber, NorthPlatte 69101 (308) 535-8133

Nebr Regional Hemophilia Center, UNMC,
600 S. 42, Omaha (402) 559-4227.

People of Color Consortium Against AIDS
2226 Leavenworth, Omaha (402) 341-8471

Scottsbluff Co Health Dept, County Admin
Bldg, Gering, NE 69341 (308) 635-3866

Veterans Admin Medical Center, 42 & Wool-
worth, Omaha 346-8800; Dean Pierce, x 4119

LEGAL

Mowbray, Chapin, & Walker, P.C., 201 N.
8th, Ste 242, Lincoln 68508 476-3882; Jim

Nebr Bar Assoc, 635 S 14, Lincoln, 475-7091

Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, Box 81455,
Lincoln 68501, (402) 476-8091

LOCAL QUILT PANELS

Ron Wilson, New Panel Chair for the
December '92 Omaha Display of the Names
Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, recently visited
the Names Project in San Francisco and brought
by the Block Numbers for the 55 panels which
were presented during the December, 1992 Quilt
Display in Omaha. These Block numbers may be
used to request that a certain Block be included in
a display you plan to attend, or to help locate a
particular piece once you are at a display. For
further information, you may contact Ron Wilson
at 734-3421.

Bacon	Kevin	2715
Chapin	Gregory Arthur	2739
Cole	Darrel	2799
Constantino	James "Chip"	2830
Dunn	Tom	2717
Easterday	Keith L.	2799
Fergus	Jim	2715
For The	Unknown People	2715
French	James H.	?????
Gann	Keith	2718
Gass	Dave	2716
Gillenwater	Randy Dean	2718
Gordon	Douglas Alan	2717
Hart, Katie	Doug Potter	2804
Hipwell	James	2716
Hosek	Harry	2715
Howe	Jeff	2830
Jones, Cletus	Mason, Thomas G.	2718
Lechner	John	?????
Marsh	Steven Reed	2739
May	you soon Discover	2799
Meek	Rex R.	2834
Miller	Dwight	2716
Miller	Michael A.	2716
Milligan	Terry	2739
Milligan	Terry	2741
Murphy	Dennis Patrick	2828
Nameless	Faceless Children	2716
Nebraska	AIDS Project	2799
Pane	Sam	2716
Pettit	Bill	2827
Rhodes	Alfred D.	2799
Ryder	Bill	2717
Schultz	Cindy	2717
Sexton	Penny	2718
Sholtes	Jim	2772
Smith	Philip Justin	2715
Smith	Stuart Eddy	2715
Sometimes	when a light	2799
Sorrow	comes to all	2799
Stille	Scott Dean	2717
Stone	Wayne	2715
Stone	Wayne	2718
Story	David G.	2718
Stover	Gregory W.	2717
Tourville	R. Chris	2716
Tourville	R. Chris	2718
Wagner	Alan	2717
Walker	Daryl Eugene	2717
Walters	Kathy	2830
Weber	Ron	2799
Weber	Ron L.	2830
Wilkinson	Ronald "Ronnie"	2715
Youth for	souls, Ministry	2821
	Gene "Konnie"	2718

FEDERALLY FUNDED CONDOM ADVERTISEMENTS BREAK NEW GROUND

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched its series of new radio and television public service announcements (PSAs) targeting sexually active young people who are at increased risk for HIV infection. The PSAs are part of the revamped CDC HIV prevention program and mark the initiation of federally funded PSAs that explicitly discuss condom use on television and radio. The PSAs are the most visible component of the CDC's new Prevention Marketing Initiative to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among young people.

"The AIDS community has fought for years for wide distribution of explicit, targeted AIDS education," said Daniel T. Bross, AIDS Action Council executive director. "In the past, the CDC has told people that the way to prevent AIDS is to 'put your socks on'. Euphemisms such as these have limited value; the high rate of death among young adults due to AIDS tells us that we need a

far more sensible approach to public health."

AIDS is the leading cause of death among men, ages 25-44, and the fourth leading cause of death among women, ages 25-44. "The PSAs, along with the CDC's assertions that condoms are effective in preventing HIV infection, mark a significant break from the past," Bross added.

"The new CDC initiative is a long overdue first step in what the AIDS community hopes will be a fresh start for the CDC's HIV prevention program. At the same time, we believe that the networks and local affiliates and radio stations have an obligation to air these and other, more frank announcements."

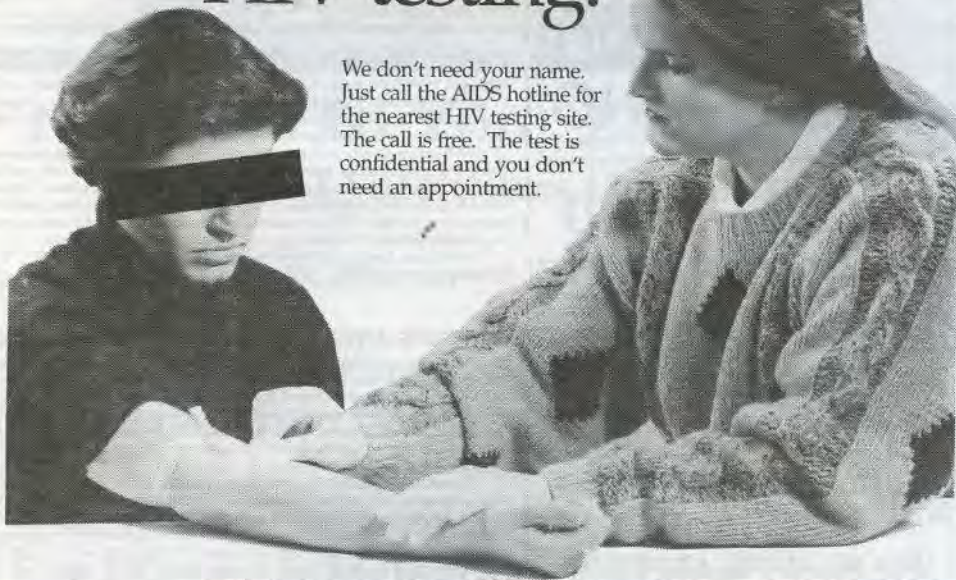
AIDS Action Council, founded in 1984, is the only national organization devoted solely to advocating for more effective AIDS policy, legislation and funding by the federal government. AIDS Action Council represents more than 1000 community-based AIDS service organizations throughout the United States.

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

More educational opportunities are needed in Nebraska. As of November 30, 1993, there are 486 persons with AIDS in Nebraska. This represents only those diagnosed here and does not reflect the persons who have moved near their families. It is estimated that there are approximately 4,000 HIV+ persons in Nebraska. It is estimated that one-half are not aware of their HIV+ status. This means they continue to partake in risky behaviors and could be spreading the disease to unsuspecting others. In Nebraska, the number of AIDS cases has tripled over the number of cases reported last year. Persons in Nebraska are not listening to the message that HIV/AIDS is here. Everyone needs to be aware so they can take precautions to protect themselves from infection. Don't be fooled by taking someone's word that they are not infected because they may be and just not know it. It is time now to take responsibility for ourselves. If you or persons you know have questions about HIV/AIDS, seek out someone with answers. No one else is going to protect you, you have to do it yourself. It's your life, protect yourself and share this message with your friends. Join the fight against AIDS because together we can make a difference!

-GLAGN NEWSLETTER


Anonymous HIV testing.



We don't need your name.
Just call the AIDS hotline for
the nearest HIV testing site.
The call is free. The test is
confidential and you don't
need an appointment.

Nebraska AIDS Project
Conquering AIDS through education.

3624 Leavenworth Street Omaha, Nebraska 68105 AIDS Hotline: 1-800-782-AIDS, in Omaha 342-4233

 A public service project of the Omaha Federation of Advertising

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

INDISPENSABLE GUIDE FOR GAY & LESBIAN COUPLES

A booklet from Partners Task Force for Gay and Lesbian Couples presents a rich array of information and advice for same-sex partners.

According to co-authors Steve Bryant and Demian, *An Indispensable Guide for Gay & Lesbian Couples* answers the most common among hundreds of questions addressed to the couple since they founded Partners in 1986.

Its chapters are devoted to validation, family life, getting support, legal precautions, marriage, sex, and domestic partnership. Sprinkled throughout are powerful quotations and images that affirm same-sex partners.

Bryant and his 11-year partner Demian founded Partners six years ago as a periodical. Partners Task Force continues to develop publications and videos that promote the rights of same-sex couples to full, legal equality, including marriage. The *Indispensable Guide* is available for \$10.50 by check, VISA or MasterCard from Partners, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109-0685; (206) 935-1206.

REUNION IN FLORENCE

Sonny Ford's *Reunion in Florence* (Badboy, December 1992; \$4.95 US/\$5.95 Canada) is a sexy, riotous historical tale quite unlike any yet told by a gay erotic writer. Set amidst the turmoil and intrigue of the Crusades, *Reunion in Florence* tells the story of two young soldiers and their amorous adventures. Captured by Turks, Adrian and Tristan go to some extraordinary extremes to save their own heads. And when Tristan becomes the object of a jealous Sultan's lust, Adrian's greatest adventure begins: the search for the mysterious Ali—the man who holds the key to Tristan's freedom. Carnal escapades abound on Adrian's quest, with no holds barred by the wicked and rambunctious imagination of Sonny Ford.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Lindsay Welsh, author *Bad Habits* and the bestselling *Provincetown Summer*, returns with her new novel — *Private Lessons* (Rosebud, September 1993; 1-56333-116-0; \$4.95 US/\$5.95 Canada). Once again, Welsh delivers a compelling detailed account of the passions that draw women together. *Private Lessons* tells the story of Elizabeth Dunn, a young woman who arrives at Devon Whitefield's exclusive academy — where lessons are of a decidedly non-scholarly nature.

NEW LESBIAN BOOK CATALOG AVAILABLE

Heartland Books, a company run by two Vermont women, has announced the arrival of the second Heartland Books catalog. Linda Weiss and Joyce McKeeman of East Corinth, VT are offering a wide variety of lesbian and feminist reading by mail. The new 16-page annotated and illustrated Heartland catalog contains approximately 125 book selections, covering such categories as fiction, biography, relationships, erotica and sexuality. In addition the new catalog will feature a fine selection of lesbian and feminist wall calendars and datebooks. Linda and Joyce are distributing the catalog free upon request. They can be reached at P.O. Box 1105F, East Corinth, VT, 05040.

The success of the first Heartland catalog has been a little surprising to the two women. "The gratification, enthusiasm and support we've received from so many corners has been terrific," says Linda. "It's really rewarding to know that we're providing a much needed service to many isolated and closeted lesbians."

The women live and work in an old farmhouse in rural Vermont. They share their home with an assortment of sweet-tempered dogs and eccentric cats. When they're not selling books, they can be found growing vegetables, building birdhouses, planning a new workshop, and, of course, reading.

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BLIND CLEANING
SYSTEM"**

**A FAST, EFFICIENT METHOD OF
REMOVING GREASE AND DIRT
FROM HARD TO CLEAN BLINDS**

**MINI OR VERTICAL BLINDS
SHOULD BE CLEANED, NOT JUST
DUSTED
GAY OWNED AND OPERATED
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**

CAPTAIN SWING

by Kevin M. Roddy, Univ. of Hawaii at Hilo Lib.

Larry Duplechan pens a touching, warm-hearted story of a man returning home to his father's deathbed. Hoping for a reconciliation, "Cap" Rousseau is not surprised when he is again rebuked by his father. Gay, talented, black, and trying to adjust to life after his lover is tragically killed in a car accident. Cap attempts to readjust to the humidity of Louisiana and the eccentricities of his extended family when a totally unexpected event happens.

While trying to sort out his feelings for an new love, Cap tries to understand his father's sorrow over the death of Cap's younger brother — the only son he truly loved — and his father's steadfast refusal to accept him, his gay son. Duplechan's novel is marvelous, sentimental but not sappy, pensive but upbeat, and told with a slow, sassy wit that will keep readers hooked. Essential for African -America and gay/lesbian fiction collections and highly recommended for others.

Duplechan, Larry, *Captain Swing*, Alyson Pubns. Oct., 1993. c. 194p. permanent paper. ISBN 1-55383-234-2. \$15.95

WRITERS AROUND WORLD GIVE INSIDE SCOOP

Award-winning Ferrari Publications, Inc. has pioneered an innovative approach to travel guides. Its 14th edition of the popular *Ferrari's Places of Interest*™ worldwide gay and lesbian travel guide is the first guide ever to feature insightful articles especially written and furnished by gay and lesbian publications from featured cities and regions. Ferrari Publications caters to the lucrative gay and lesbian travel market and has established a worldwide reputation for producing the most informative guides available.

The result is a giant leap forward in an industry that is currently exploding. Studies proving that gays and lesbians are four times more likely to travel overseas have lead to a tremendous increase in the number of entries in the past few years. Lesbian and gay travelers can now find worldwide, city by city, up-to-date information on local hotels, bars, restaurants, beaches, bookstores, hotlines and more. For travel planning, there are comprehensive lists of gay and gay-friendly travel agents, tours, resorts and cruises. Accompanying the list is a year-long worldwide calendar of specific gay and lesbian interest.

Ferrari's Places for Men™ and *Ferrari's Places for Women*™ are the pocket sized versions of the larger vacation planner. Minus the articles, they're very portable gender-specific versions of the larger book.

Travel guides from Ferrari Publications are available at Waldenbooks, B. Dalton, Tower Records, and thousands of independent bookstores worldwide, retailing from \$12.00 to \$14.95.

**NEW ANTHOLOGY
BOOK COLLECTS
CONTROVERSIAL WOMEN'S
EROTICA**

This collection was created with no restrictions on the content (save that everyone had to be over twenty-one and no one could die), no restrictions on the authors (any race, creed, color, gender or orientation was welcome), and no excuses from the editor. It is called Leatherwomen because the women who know of and use that name are not yet well represented on the shelves of our favorite bookstores. It's part of the act of throwing some doors open...

—from the Introduction by Laura Antoniou

The recent boom in women's erotica has done much to redress the lack of authentic women's voices in erotic publishing. But while major mainstream publishing houses have been (relatively) quick to pick up on this trend, the range of perspectives presented have been narrow. In *Leatherwomen* (Rosebud: 1-56333-095-4; \$4.95 US/\$5.95 Canada), editor Laura Antoniou focuses on a so-far neglected group—those women who occupy the "radical fringe": women involved in serious S/M exploration.

The fifteen stories in *Leatherwomen* challenge the stereotypical portrayal of women as being less interested in the physical than the emotional, less interested in the exploration of erotic power exchange than in the transcendence of such power. These images of powerful, frankly sexual women make this a collection unlike any ever published.

Uncompromising, uncensored, and decidedly unapologetic, *Leatherwomen* brings together some of the most promising voices in erotic writing today—the overwhelming majority of whom are appearing in print for the first time.

**A LEGAL GUIDE FOR GAY &
LESBIAN COUPLES**

There are over 20 million lesbian and gay men now living in the United States. To address the legal needs of this growing community, attorneys Hayden Curry, Denis Clifford, and Robin Leonard have written the new 7th edition of *A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples* (Nolo Press, 1993). This new edition helps lesbian and gay couples understand the laws that affect them and begin to take charge of their lives.

This timely book shows gay and lesbian partners, step-by-step, how to buy property together, plan for medical emergencies, and provide for each other in the case of death. New subjects covered in this edition are public and private domestic partners' benefits and the options available for starting a family—adoption, surrogacy, etc. Also included is a list of lesbian and gay legal organizations, national AIDS organizations, and power of attorney forms.

Here's what they say about *A Legal Guide For Lesbian and Gay Couples*...

"(This book) provides a thorough analysis of the options available to gay men and lesbians for creating and maintaining individual interests and relationships." —Cynthia Goldstein,

Nati'l Gay Rights Advocates

"Full of model contracts and agreements, yet fuller of clear language and concern for realistic legal expectations, this guide well serves and supports the spirit of the law."

—The Los Angeles Times

A Legal Guide for Lesbians and Gay Couples, 7th edition, (Nolo Press, 1993) by attorneys Hayden Curry, Denis Clifford & Robin Leonard is available for \$21.95 at bookstores or by calling Nolo Press at (800) 992-6656. 300 pages, 8 1/2 X 11 trade paperback, ISBN: 0-87337-199-2.

IN OUR OWN IMAGE:

The Art of Black Male Photography

Vegas Press of New Jersey, dedicated to the publication and promotion of African-American artists, announces the publication of *IN OUR OWN IMAGE: The Art of Black Male Photography*. "This book is a photographic journal of powerful visual images, as viewed through the lenses of seven emerging black male photographers. From Oakland to Atlanta, New York to London, *In Our Own Image* is a testament of empowerment as men of color use the art of photography to define black male images. Black images, neglected for so long because of fear and self-hatred, are once again brought to light so that the viewer can appreciate the grace, beauty, sensuality, power, and sensitivity of the black male, as we witness the emergence of positive male images. Self-imagery is the vehicle, and self-empowerment is the reward.

The new artists represented in this book were chosen from different parts of the country because they were in the process of establishing a body of work dealing with black male images. Although the artists represented here are from different backgrounds, and geographical locations, the emotions which drive their images are very similar, and fueled by cultural expressions. That the artists represented here have made a subconscious response to the legacy of their rich cultural African heritage is evident. This work represented here is thought provoking and borne out of the need for self-expression. The photographers represented in this book have achieved self-empowerment by taking control of the portrayal of these diverse images. Their images are their voices and *In Our Own Image*.

This new book is available through Vegas Press for \$20.00 (ISBN 1-880729-02-4).

**"The Way To Your Loves Heart"
A Special Valentines Day Dinner**

A Benefit For N.A.P. Sponsored By Mr. Max & Tim Pedersen

**Monday February 14 At THE MAX
Cocktails 6 to 7 Dinner 7 to 9 Dancing 9 to 1**

**Share A Special Night With Your Hearts Desire
For Dinner Information And Reservations
Please Call (402) 346-8330**



A POETRY SAMPLER

WHAT WOULD I DO

by **Leeander Scott**

If I could be with you
I'd force Father Time to hold back all eternity
I would give up however many days are left to me
And borrow love from lives that I have yet to see
Maybe then I could bear reality
If I could be with you

If I could be with you
I would sell my soul and swear upon the devil's
bone
I'd drink a witch's brew and offer gladly turn to
stone
Or beg Christ Almighty, please Lord, take me
home
But in heaven I'd be all alone
Unless I could be with you
If I could be with you
I would be with you

THE CLOUDS OFFER THEIR OPINION

by **Leeander Scott**

A mordant cause
The skies proclaim
My plea even the stars cannot abide
So I with feet upon this earth
Am left to wonder
How many graves I must prepare
If life untenured remains
As close to me as heaven is
The clouds offer their opinions too
They shed no light, only further confusion
That I like the earth inherit the dead

235B

by **Owen Keehnen**

I always pause outside 235B,
Light plays under the door
and I can hear
those cultured voices that never sound real.
Someone has hollowed a cave in the gray
buzzing snow.

Today I heard a shopping cart squeak
and the slow groan of the floor in the hall.
I cracked my door just a moment too late.
The door was closed
and the TV was on.
235B was safely inside.

Maybe tomorrow.

UNSAFE ASSUMPTIONS

by **De Moreland**

Passion fans the breath of evening
orgat candles set your shadow
dancing as you strip to kill.
Your body emerges
hard as blue-veined marble
straight out of fantasy
and Michelangelo's hands.
You toss your head and urge
me toward explicit kisses.
Desire implicit.
We are neither one immune.

DOGGIE STYLE

by **Mark Hallman**

My boyfriend takes me to see
dog breeders at least once a month
because of the sweet smell
of newborn puppies
makes me horny for days.

TUSIN

by **De Moreland**

Tusin swats men
like flies, they swarm
around her, make her
feel like garbage.
Tusin swats flies
like men.

THE READER

by **Owen Keehnen**

The palm of my hand
and a palm on a tarot card
and a spade on a card
and a spade in the hand
of a gravedigger
digging a hole
with raging fevers
and holes in his hands
and I don't know
if I can do it again,
ever.

ALIZERINE CRIMSON

by **Leeander Scott**

He's in every photograph
Saying cheese to break his laugh

Why did God let him die
Before the film got developed

In Kodachrome he stands alone
For all eternity

He holds his laugh on my behalf
And all I can hold's the photograph

SOUTH BEACH

by **Mark Hallman**

A fat old geezer in a Speedo,
his corpulent belly drooping so low
it rendered the image of a naked man,
was the first male figure I saw
when I set foot on Miami Beach,
a place which, I soon learned,
dealt more in graphic expressions
of unaware self-indulgence
than in the realization
of dreams of paradise.

ONE

by **De Moreland**

set of footprints in the sand
soon washed away as if
they never were
but I remember
not so long ago, two sets
we thought would stand
the tides of Time.

CONSENTING OUTCASTS

by **Richard D'Ambrosia**

Shunned as an orphan struggling for a family.

I was outcast before I kissed my first man,
I was sent away and holed away before I spoke
my heart of his love.

I built my prison one brick at a time
I clicked the lock on my cell
I tossed away the key.

Exiled and free to unveil my deviate lust from all
angles.

My breath on his neck
My hand on his shoulder
My mouth wrapped around his cock.

I could still ask for more.

I can ask you to keep your eyes out of my window
I can ask you to not scour at me in the street
I ask you not to hurt me or try to kill me
I wish you would look at me as I am.

Even tempered I take another swing.

My jaw rocks with mighty pain
Killing queers is in season again this year
I stand tall.

Freedom is spent in this small village.

I see boys and men flaunting infatuation in pairs
I see love in bloom and lust in every mans heart
Unable to run any further but having no place to
call home

My partner said he loved me this morning for the
first time

I know love and have no family who cares.

I tossed away the key.
My mouth wrapped around his cock.
I wish you would look at me as I am.
I stand tall.

I know love and have no family who cares.
I know love.

FARMER'S SON

by **Mark Hallman**

You shop for cilantro
the way a mother
trims her baby's nails,
gently inspecting them one by one,
taking care not to offend,
as if each leafy stalk
were our own

ANGEL

by **De Moreland**

dark and physical as hell
wrap me in your
leather-muscled wings.
Cast our shadow
sin full
against the mid night sky.
Throw your hair across
my face, smother me
inside your savage silk.
I'm captive by desire
reflected in your eyes
Luciferous.

GILLIGAN'S



WELCOME

ICE BOWL 1994

Invitational Tournament

Bowlers and Spectators
Complimentary Buffet
Saturday, February 19th 3:00 p.m.

GILLIGAN'S
OPEN 2 p.m. to 1 a.m.

HAPPY HOUR
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ALL NEW
SELECTIONS IN
PARKIES
KARAOKE

IN BACK BAR

Thursday Thru Sunday
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.



GILLIGAN'S PUB

1823 Leavenworth
Proper ID Required

DAILY DRINK SPECIALS

LOCAL NEWS

ANTI-GAY CRUSADER VISITS LINCOLN

The Rev. Lou Sheldon, founder of the ultra-conservative anti-gay California group, The Traditional Values Coalition, was at the State Capitol in Lincoln on Tuesday, January 11, to host a noontime rally against LB395. LB395, sponsored by Omaha Senators Tim Hall and Ernie Chambers, would amend the Nebraska Fair Employment Practices Act to prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. Sheldon, known for his ministry to promote the "heterosexual ethic", has turned his attention and substantial finances to Nebraska to try to persuade citizens to accept discrimination in employment against gays, lesbians and bisexuals. Rev. Sheldon has crusaded against gay rights for over a decade and is recognized for his especially angry response to the growing gay rights movement. In a 1988 interview with *Coming Out!* Sheldon said, "If two adults... can't resist their erotic sexual appetites enough to know that one of them is going... to end up killing the other one with anal intercourse then actually they ought to pay the penalty of death." (Media note: Quote can be verified with the original author, Tim Kingson, at 415-626-8121 (Fax 415-626-0629))

Supporters of LB395 are pleased to see Rev. Sheldon again visit the Heartland in opposition to this legislation. Jeff Wilson, spokesman for the Nebraska based Citizens for Equal Protection, says, "We simply couldn't ask for a better example of the discrimination gays and lesbians face than Lou Sheldon and his Traditional Values Coalition. There is irrational fear and misunderstanding out there about gays and about LB395. Sheldon and his followers capitalize on that fear and apparently assume they can sway voters in this state to adopt their virulent prejudices."

Wilson continues, "LB395 is a bill that would simply prohibit an employer from firing, or refusing to hire, someone on the basis of their sexual orientation. We feel that the vast majority of Nebraskans believe it is wrong to deny someone's right to employment because of something that has nothing to do with their ability to perform the job. Unfortunately, Sheldon and others like him believe that they should have the specific right to enforce their personal prejudices by denying gays and lesbians the right to earn an honest living. Sheldon calls it opposing 'special rights'; we call it discrimination. In Nebraska we believe the right to earn a living based on your abilities without fear from prejudice is not a special right. Sheldon likes to claim that

homosexuality is a behavior; a curable developmental disorder that does not deserve protection. The truth is that the American Psychiatric Association declassified homosexuality as an illness over two decades ago and in a 1990 press release stated, 'there is no published scientific evidence supporting the efficacy of 'reparative therapy' as a treatment to change one's own sexual orientation.'

It's really quite sad that Rev. Sheldon has devoted his career to punishing us. He claims that being anti-gay is pro family. I know that there are few things that trouble me more than what is happening to the American Family, but denying civil rights to gays, lesbians and bisexuals is not going to do anything to help. You can fire me, put me in prison, take away my home, or even kill me and you will be facing the same problems with the family that we are facing today. Sheldon is simply trying to cultivate an irrational fear of gays and lesbians as people by saying that LB395 is a threat to families. Even more troubling is the Traditional Values Coalition's attempt to inject race into the debate over gay and lesbian civil rights. The best example of this is their video, "Gay Rights, Special Rights" in which he exploits the differences in the struggles of the African-American community and the struggles of the gay and lesbian community. He claims that the gay and lesbian march on Washington was an attempt to take the civil rights movement away from people of color. Unfortunately, what he never bothers to mention is that the NAACP was one of the official sponsors of the march and that the speakers included such champions of civil rights as the Rev. Jesse Jackson. It is really sad that he is so willing to exploit differences in our society in order to gain political power." California Assembly member Marguerite Archi-Hudson, an African-American, says of Sheldon, "Rev. Sheldon's network represents the same network that used to, in previous times, wear white sheets. He has no record on civil rights as far as Afro-Americans are concerned. He opposed last year's civil rights bill. His only interest in Afro-Americans is to use us as his shock troops."

Scott Winkler, a member of Lutherans Concerned, expressed concern at Sheldon's claim that LB395 would interfere with an individual's religious freedom. According to Winkler, "I find it troubling that time and time again, Rev. Sheldon has made the claim that the only valid response

for Christians is to insist upon the right to fire gays and lesbians to preserve their religious beliefs. We have a strong tradition of religious freedom in this country and in fact it has been one of the major contributors to our success as a nation, but that has never meant individuals have the right to forcibly impose their belief upon others. Nebraskans have never said that an employer should be allowed to fire women who have had children out of wedlock, persons who are involved in an interracial marriage, atheists, or any number of other types of people that religious extremists like Sheldon would find offensive to their personal religious beliefs. Punishing someone because they do not agree with your religious beliefs is wrong and not a protected behavior in this state. Sheldon has completely ignored the fact that almost every mainstream religious denomination has adopted a position of protecting the civil rights of gays and lesbians. Extremely positive policy statements have been issued by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Roman Catholic Church, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Unitarian Church, the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the Disciples of Christ, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and many others. Lou Sheldon is definitely outside of the mainstream on the issue of religion and civil rights for gay and lesbian persons."

Among the most frequent of Rev. Sheldon's claims is that LB395 is the first step in a "hidden national gay agenda." Citizens for Equal Protection committee member, Michael Jones, responds, "The only agenda gays and lesbians have is equal rights for all Americans. CFEP is a local group with a very limited budget and is not receiving any financial support from outside of Nebraska. The only agenda I see at work here is the extremist agenda of the Traditional Values Coalition. What we have here is a group headquartered in California who, according to the Institute for First Amendment Studies, has fully staffed offices in three states and the District of Columbia as well as active chapters in about 20 states. Sheldon's coalition and three other affiliated nonprofit groups bring in more than \$1 million dollars annually and use those funds in an orchestrated campaign against gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans. Sheldon is using the debate over LB395 as a tool to push his national agenda. Frankly, I believe Nebraskans can decide for themselves whether LB395 is good for our state without interference from special interest groups like the Traditional Values Coalition."

For more information about LB395 contact CFEP at 402-389-3027.

VALENTINE'S DANCE SET FOR SAT., FEB. 19

MCC-Omaha invites all of you to join them in February for a Valentine's Day Dance, sponsored by the Deacons of Love for those who have found, those who are seeking, and those being sought.

Music for dancing and refreshments provided 8:00-11:00 p.m. Admission is \$1.00 or a canned item for the Food Pantry. Everyone is invited to participate. MCC-Omaha is located at 819 S. 22nd St. The dance will be in the Social Hall, which is located in the church basement!

Come fall in love for the first time, the last time, or all over again.

PRELUDE TO A KISS AT DUNDEE FUNDRAISER FOR ICON & ANGLE

Friday, April 22, ICON and ANGLE will be combining their efforts in a fundraising first for both! They will jointly sponsor an evening at the Dundee Dinner Theater. Showing that evening will be the enchanting fable of the immortality of true love. *Prelude to a Kiss* tells the tale of the whirlwind courtship of a young couple whose lives change when their wedding is disrupted by an uninvited guest. Call the Dundee Dinner Theater today at 558-8535 to reserve your tickets—but be sure to mention **ICON when you ask for the April 22 date!** More details will follow as the show gets closer. ANGLE's portion of the proceeds will go to benefit the gay and lesbian information and referral line (558-5303).

STONEWALL 25 REGIONAL MEETING SET FOR OMAHA

February 19, 1994 the Regional Committee for Stonewall 25 meets in Omaha. Approximately 20 area representatives will meet at Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 819 S. 22.

For more details or for information about the bus trip being planned to Stonewall 25, call the ANGLE Information and Referral Line 558-5303.

'94 PRIDE LOGO COMPETITION OPENS

Theme is "Stonewall 25: A Global Celebration"

Achieving New Gay and Lesbian Endeavors (ANGLE) announces the 1994 competition to choose a logo for Omaha's Gay, Lesbian, & BiSexual Pride Celebration to be held June 12, 1994.

All members of the community are encouraged to submit their ideas for a logo. The submissions must meet the following guidelines:

1. All designs must reflect the '94 theme "Stonewall 25: A Global Celebration".

2. Designs should include the location (Omaha, Nebraska) and the date of the Parade (June 12, 1994).

3. Designs must be suitable for both t-shirts and 1/2" buttons.

4. Designs must be received by March 15, 1994.

5. All designs become the property of ANGLE, Inc. and may be used in publications or other media.

6. Send your designs to:
Pride Committee
P.O. Box 31375
Omaha, NE 68131

The name of the person submitting the winning design will be published.

The winning design will be selected by the members of ANGLE. The decision of ANGLE is final.



COMMUNITY LOSES LEADER JO JO MORRISON

On January 10, 1994, Josephine "JoJo" Morrison died at Immanuel Hospital in Omaha. Jo Jo had been battling lymphoma for several years.

Jo Jo is best known for her work with the Imperial Court of Nebraska. In 1988 she was crowned Athena I. As the first Athena, Jo Jo was given the title of "Mother to All Athenas" and was recognized at all ICON functions along with the other founding monarchs of the Imperial Court. Jo Jo will be remembered for her dedication to the position of Athena, which represents the Women's community on the Imperial Court, and how she loved to wear a white tuxedo, although in the early days as Athena she was required to

wear a dress in public appearances.

Jo Jo marched in the first Pride Parade held in Omaha, and it was her picture which appeared in the *World Herald*. She marched in every Pride Parade after that until her health failed to the point she was unable to participate.

JoJo was a member of Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha and had contributed significantly to efforts to renovate the MCC building at 420 S. 24.

Jo Jo had also been an active bowler and had been Vice President of the River City Bowling League.

Jo Jo is survived by her son, Jay, and 6 grandchildren, as well as a host of friends.

NEW REALITIES

BOOKS • TAPES • GIFTS

OLD MARKET PASSAGEWAY
--DOWNSTAIRS

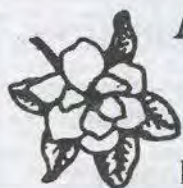
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Full Service Florist
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RIVER CITY MIXED BOWLING LEAGUE STANDINGS

At the end of 20 weeks of bowling, Ernie's Bookstore continues to hold first place, but City Lickers now holds second place, followed by third place 'Bout Average. Former second place team, R.U.N. Delta's, has dropped to 7th place.

Men's high scratch games is still held by Bob Andersen with a 299, but Joe Bloemer has taken over second high with a 278, dropping Ken Williams' 258 to third high. Bob Andersen still holds the high scratch men's series with a 722, but Joe Bloemer has also taken over second high series with a 676, dropping Ken Williams to third high in series as well. However, Ken Williams does hold the high men's average with a 182.5, followed by Joe Bloemer with a 180.8 and Greg Strickland with a 178.4.

The former holder of high scratch game for the women, Kerry Fleek with a 212, has dropped to third high, being surpassed by Norma Nelson with a 222 and Kellie Loveall with a 213. E. Mueller still holds the high scratch series (593) and the high average (163) for women. Second high women's series is held by Norma Nelson with a 560. Kellie Loveall holds third high series with a 542. The second high women's average is held by Norma Nelson with a 154.5, followed by Kellie Loveall with a 153.6.

The MAX still holds the high team game (804) but the high team series has been taken by City Lickers with a 2277, dropping The MAX to second place for series (2226). City Lickers now holds second high series with a 799, followed by Eight Balls with 789. Third high series is held by the Eight Balls with a 2170.

Outstanding performances for the week included Bob Andersen (245 game and 678 series, 153 pins over average), John Brummond (230 game), Dwight Wages (602 series, 101 pins over average), Pat Hines (182 game and 460 series), E. Mueller (191 games), Kellie Loveall (173 game and 490 series), Connie Parks (471 series, 63 pins over average), and Paula Wilderman (48 pins over average).

The complete standings are as follows:

	won	lost
1. Ernie's Bookstore	52	24
2. City Lickers	49	27
3. 'Bout Average	45.5	30.5
4. Gilligan's 2	45	31
5. R.U.N. Lambda's	44	32
6. Whippersnappers	43	33
7. R.U.N. Delta's	43	33
8. Eight Balls	40.5	35.5
9. Tops and Bottoms	40.5	35.5
10. Church Ladies	40	36
11. Wild Things	40	36
12. Delivery Boys	36	40
13. Fly Weights	35	41
14. DC's Tuna Melts	35	41
15. Gilligan's CCB's	35	41
16. DC's	34.5	41.5
17. The MAX	34	42
18. DC's 3 Steers & A Heifer	33	43
19. Gilligan's Four	31	45
20. Hetro Pet's Qurum	28.5	47.5
21. Stosh's Saloon	26	50
22. Gilligan's 3	25.5	50.5

"SECOND TUESDAY"

"Second Tuesday" will no longer be occurring as a separate event. Most of us are too busy for a separate meeting to write letters (attendance on the second Tuesday has been just short of dismal).

However, information about important issues that need your letters and phone calls will be distributed in the P-FLAG newsletter and at General Meetings. You can then write (or call) any day of the week at your convenience!

- Parents FLAG Cornhusker

PRIMITIMERS HOLD MONTHLY MEETING

Primitimers held their December meeting to discuss the usual business, future, social activities, and taking in new members. For just starting the group is doing well in taking in new members.

The night before, a number of members met at the house of one of the members. It was a well attended event, with three guests from out of town. A real good buffet of snacks was available for munching on. A lot of good visiting, followed by a tour of the local Christmas Tree Light sightseeing tour. There are many, many beautiful displays to be seen. This Christmas, Omaha is really alight.

Returning to the Host's home, more hot chocolate, eggnog, coffee, hot cider, and to watch the classical movie, *The Wizard of Oz*. A timeless classical movie, always enjoyable.

The Primitimers will have their usual meeting the third Sunday of February, time, 4:00, place, UNO Religious Center. Just call 402-895-9599. Some very important business will be discussed. So, all members, and interested members-to-be, are strongly urged to be there. Please be there if at all possible. This is a good, worthwhile, well needed, group. Let's really get in there and give them our support.

THRIFT CITY

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HOURS:

WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY 11 to 5:30pm

2425 Leavenworth 344-7867

Percentage of Proceeds donated to NAP

MCC NEWS

by Carla

What a month! And thank you all for helping to make our 20th Anniversary Celebration such fun! From the "Thank You" plates and baskets and certificates to the special services—dinners—show—January 1994 was a time for remembering and making new memories. And we did a bunch of both! We hope you enjoyed our celebration as much as we did!

February starts a little slower, but it's still packed with a little of something for everyone. The first Sunday of the month we'll have our regular 5:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner followed by the 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service. Featured at this service will be the River City Mixed Chorus. We invite all the community to join us for this special service. A time of fellowship and desserts will follow in the Social Hall.

Our Prayer Share Care Circles continue their meeting every other week. The Lincoln group and the Thursday group are growing by leaps and bounds, and the Monday circle continues at a steady pace. The PSC Circles give friends and members a chance to get together during the week for a time of learning and fellowship.

The Deacons continue their ministry with the Pantry and the Deacons' Coffeehouse in February. See a related article in this issue about the Deacons' Valentine's Day Dance set for Feb. 19.

Later in the month we'll have our traditional Ash Wednesday Service. Call the Church Office for details.

Please join us for worship. We meet every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at 819 S. 22nd St. Each Sunday we have children's and adult's Christian Education Classes at 9:00 a.m. as well. For now that's it from my pew! See you in church!

MR. MAX IV HOSTS SPECIAL VALENTINE DINNER

On Valentine's Day, February 14, Mr. MAX IV, Tim Pedersen, will sponsor a very special Valentine's Day event at The MAX, 1417 Jackson.

The evening features an intimate dinner and dancing. The evening will begin with cocktails from 6-7 p.m. Dinner will be served from 7-9 p.m. and there will be dancing (including special songs for lovers) from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

The entire event is a fundraiser for the Nebraska AIDS Project, so you can enjoy a little romance and benefit the community at the same time.

With the romantic atmosphere at The MAX, this is sure to be the way to your love's heart. For reservations or for more information call 346-8330.

R. M. TAX SERVICES

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Professional Tax Services in
the Privacy of Your Own Home
By Appointment Only

**SUZANNE
WESTENHOEFER
COMING TO OMAHA**

She's blond and bouncy. She placed in a beauty pageant. A decade ago she was a college graduate with a fine arts degree telling jokes from behind a straight bar. This is Suzanne Westenhofer, lesbian comedian coming to the Joslyn for a performance on March 5th.

This totally-out comedian has been packing both straight and gay houses over the last two years with her hilariously witty interpretations of what it's like to be gay in a straight community. But behind the humor, Suzanne is working quite seriously on achieving her goal to help change the world. She sees humor and her career as a stand-up comedian as her way to produce political change.

Westenhofer is an attractive blond with flowing hair, big blue eyes, and she wears make-up. Part of her goal is to let people know that the gay and lesbian community is not made up of the fringe always covered by the press. She says we have to let them know that gays can be moms, dads, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles...that there are millions of average, attractive gays leading productive lives.

Speaking on being an open lesbian comic, Suzanne admits that initially straight audiences are taken aback by admission of her sexuality, but she wins them over quickly. When she goes before a straight, mainstream audience and uses the "L" word and talks about her experiences as being a lesbian in a heterosexual world, she not only seeks to amuse, titillate, and entertain, but also as her way to help change the world. She is quite serious about her career and her goal to be the first mainstream gay talk show host.

Westenhofer has performed extensively on the east and west coasts and now looks forward to performing in the Midwest. Women of the Plains Inc. is proud to bring Suzanne Westenhofer and her show, "Nothing in My Closet But My Clothes" to the Joslyn at 8:05 PM on March 5th. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available by mail from Women of the Plains, P O Box 24355, Omaha, NE 68124-0355, at New Realities Bookstore, 1026 Howard or the Albino Rhino, 101 North 14th Street in Lincoln.

DADDY'S ROOMMATE CENSORED

Five library systems nationwide have censored a gay-themed children's book, says the publisher—but a far greater number have withstood challenges to the controversial *Daddy's Roommate*.

The most recent censorship came in Mercer County, N.J. In March, a patron asked the Lawrence library to move the book from their children's section. The library decided against such action. Opponents then took the unusual step of asking the County Library Commission to review the book's placement. At a summer meeting, the commission unanimously recommended that both *Daddy's Roommate* and *Heather Has Two Mommies* be removed from the children's section and put with adult non-fiction. It was the first time that library had ever taken such a step.

"[Reclassification] is a degree of censorship," emphasized Judith Krug of the American Library Association. "When a book is no longer easily available to constituents, it is a degree of censorship."

Four other libraries have engaged in similar censorship, according to Sasha Alyson, the book's publisher. In Bladen County, N.C., libraries carrying these two books or *The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans* (which also portrays gay parents) are required by the county to put them on the top shelf in the adult section. *Daddy's Roommate* was also reclassified as adult non-fiction at libraries in Moss Point, Miss. and Martinsville, Va.

In Gwinnett County, Ga., the library board took a different approach when *Daddy's Roommate* became the focus of protests. They voted to take the book off the open shelf and to make it available only by special request. It was the first time in anyone's memory that such an action had been taken.

"These reports are discouraging, but we know of 28 other libraries that came under heavy attack for carrying *Daddy's Roommate*, yet refused to censor it in any way," noted Alyson. "From New Mexico to Florida, from Vermont to Washington State, librarians have resisted political pressure, petitions, and even pickets, to defend the right of all children to see their families represented in books." He noted that his company, Alyson Wonderland, continues to publish new children's books that deal with gay issues. "In the worst-case scenarios, libraries censor individual books. There's no way the religious right can attack every book we publish. In the long run, they're losing this fight."

**WomenSpace
Productions**



Celebrate Valentine's Day with your sweetie and JoAnn Loulan, "stand-up therapist." What's So Funny About Lesbian Sex?

February 19, 8:00 pm
Witherspoon Auditorium

Watch us soar in '94!!

Singer, Comedian
Jamie Anderson
April 7, 8:00 pm
at Downtown Grounds
Non-smoking event



Margie Adam
returns to women's music
April 30, 8:00 pm
Witherspoon Auditorium



PrideFest II
Women's Music Festival
June 18
Noon to Midnight
at the Terra Jane



Featuring
Sue Fink, Susan Herrick
and local artists, plus
workshops, artisans, a dance,
volleyball, and
fun, fun, fun!



Watch for our fall lineup
to be announced soon!!

Tickets to these events available by mail,
from New Realities at 1026 Howard in the Old
Market, and in Lincoln at the Albino Rhino and
Arbor Moon Bookstore.

HEARTLAND GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

The Heartland Gay Rodeo Association held several meetings at the as yet to open D.C.'s on Saturday, 1/8, to gear up for 1994.

Thus far the '94 entertainment and fundraising schedule kicks off with a chili feed from 6-8 and a show at 9:00 to help beat those January blahs. Entertainers scheduled are Miss HGRA, Madame X, AKA Chris Alberico; Joan & Co. (a new ensemble to hit the scene); the Tomboys; Duane, Mr. HGRA 1st Runner-Up; myself, Mr. HGRA; and our very special guest star, direct from Kansas City, Kessie! Kessie is a former Miss Kansas Gay Rodeo Association and Miss Missouri Gay Rodeo Association 1st Runner up. Kessie, AKA Joe Hardy, currently serves as MGRA's dance and entertainment director, is a terrific person and dazzling entertainer. Please see the March New Voice for a review, as our first show of '94 will be history as you read this. We will also sash our new and 1st Ms. HGRA and Ms. HGRA 1st Runner-up (chosen by Presidential appointment) at this show. A surprise crowning for Madame X will also occur. Proceeds will go to HGRA, NAP, and CFEF.

Looking forward, HGRA plans to do its first road show in Kansas City on 2/26 as a benefit for MGRA. Saturday, 3/12, HGRA will host an indoor rodeo at 3:00 and a benefit auction at 9:00

at D.C.'s. We are asking all HGRA members to donate merchandise and/or services (legitimate services) to the auction, as well as area businesses' services, merchandise, or gift certificates. If you wish to donate and have not been contacted, please call Chris (558-0579) or myself (477-3899).

In April, HGRA plans to host MGRA doing a benefit show for us on the 9th. In conjunction with the show, we will have our first gymkhana, or rodeo training event, that same weekend. This will be a great time for those wishing to beef up or acquire new skills.

We are currently planning an event in Des Moines for May and one in Lincoln for June, plus Gay Pride events in Omaha the last part of June. As of our 1/8 meeting, we had almost 60 members. Quadruple in 9 months! That's incredible!

Hope to see you all at some of our upcoming events. Please remember that you are free to sit in on any meetings before you join and ask any questions you wish. If you want to support IGRA rodeos and gay oriented country activities, think about HGRA. We welcome one and all.

Best of '94 to you all.
Patrick Williams
Mr. HGRA

P-FLAG BRUNCH SUCCESSFUL

The P-FLAG - Omaha chapter is happy to report that the brunch held on January 9 was a huge success. Many parents and friends came to brunch both to work and to eat. It was good to see so many people turn out for the event. This fund raiser served nearly 100 people all the ham, scrambled eggs and pancakes one could eat. P-FLAG raised nearly \$500.00 on this event after donations that paid for all groceries and the advertising of the event. Look forward to more such fund raisers over the year. Thanks to all who participated and supported P-FLAG.

NORWEST BANK INCLUDES SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN ITS "VISION FOR DIVERSITY"

The New Voice has received a copy of the following memo which was circulated at Norwest Bank. It reflects the current vision and direction which the bank is taking in regards to diversity.

VISION FOR DIVERSITY

WE ARE COMMITTED TO FOSTERING AND BUILDING A CULTURE IN WHICH DIVERSITY IS VALUED. A CULTURE IN WHICH PEOPLE CARE, ARE ACCEPTED AND RESPECTED AMONG EMPLOYEES AND CUSTOMERS. WE STRIVE TO BE AN ORGANIZATION WHICH SUPPORTS TEAMWORK AND PRODUCTIVITY AMONG TALENTED PEOPLE WHO ARE DIVERSE IN GENDER, RACE, ETHNIC ORIGIN, PHYSICAL ABILITY, RELIGIOUS BELIEF, SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND LIFESTYLE, REFLECTING THE DIVERSITY OF THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

The New Voice salutes Norwest for its continuing efforts supporting diversity.

RCMC TO SING AT MCC-OMAHA

by Carla

Sunday evening Feb. 6 at 6:00, the River City Mixed Chorus will provide special music at the Evening Worship Service of Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha.

The 6:00 p.m. Worship Service is preceded by a 5:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner.

The community is invited to join in both activities.

Following the Worship Service, the MCC-O Deacons invite all the community to join them in the Social Hall of the church for a time of fellowship and dessert.

MCC-Omahaha is located at 819 S. 22nd St.

The
Imperial Court of Nebraska
presents

Sno-Balls on Broadway
and the
'Suicidal' Family Feud

Sunday, February 20th
9:30 pm at The Max

A benefit for ICON's general fund
to help better serve the community

WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT LESBIAN SEX?

That question will be answered when JoAnn Loulan appears in Omaha on February 19 for an evening of outrageous fun. Psychotherapist, speaker, and author JoAnn Loulan calls herself a stand-up psychotherapist because "I get my message across with humor. Sometimes people can take in things easier when they are funny."

Loulan's message is helping women feel better about themselves in a homophobic world, and particularly about their sexuality. An advocate of twelve step programs, she frequently speaks to groups of people in recovery about the impact recovery has on sex and intimacy. Tired of hearing lesbians considered a subculture, another of her messages is that we need to take our own culture seriously — "We are a culture. We're not a sub of anything." She also explores the "butch-femme" dynamic and issues related to coming out.

In addition to her "stand up therapy", JoAnn Loulan has written three books related to lesbians and sex. The first was *Lesbian Sex* published in 1984, then came *Lesbian Passion: Loving Ourselves and Each Other* in 1987, and most recently *The Lesbian Erotic Dance: Butch, Femme, Androgyny and Other Rhythms* in 1990. Her latest work, *Gender Jails*, will be released soon. According to *Lambda* magazine, "*Erotic Dance* is a sexy, brainy accessible look at what lesbians do and say and think they do." Although serious in nature, these books are sprinkled with the humor that has made her message unique and important to lesbians.

JoAnn Loulan is a licensed Marriage, Family and Child Counselor and sex therapist with a private practice which is 98% lesbian in Northern California. In addition to being a frequent speaker at professional conferences nationwide on lesbian sex attitudes and practices, she also has been a frequent guest on both the Phil Donahue and Oprah Winfrey shows.

Brought to Omaha by WomenSpace Productions, JoAnn Loulan will be at the Witherspoon Auditorium at 8:00 PM on February 19, close enough to Valentine's Day for a date with your "sweetie". Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. They are available by mail WomenSpace, P O Box 24712 Omaha, NE 68124-0712, or at New Realities at 1026 Howard in the Old Market, or in Lincoln at the Albino Rhino, 101 N. 14th and Arbor Moon Bookstore at 2017 O Street.

A NEW ANGLE IN NEWS

by Stan Brown

ANGLE would like to thank Greg L., Citizens For Equal Protection, and members of the River City Mixed Bowling League for their donations to the Gay/Lesbian/Bi Information and Referral Line. Again, donations of any amount are welcome and can be sent to ANGLE, P O Box 31375, Omaha, NE 68131.

ANGLE's first fundraising event for the new year will be our 4th Annual Chili Feed at the Diamond Bar, 712 S. 16th St., on Sunday, February 27, from 5 - 8 p.m. A \$5.00 donation will get you all the chili you can eat or \$3.00 a bowl. If you are interested in donating a pot of chili or volunteering to help with this event or any others in the future, please contact the phone line (558-5303) and ask for me (Stan) to return your call.

The Stonewall 25 Committee will be selling raffle tickets for \$1.00 each with the chance to win a space on the trip to New York City in June. Raffle tickets will be on sale from February 17-27 at various community events and bars. The drawing for the winner will be held at the conclusion of the Chili Feed. For more information about the raffle or the trip, call the phone line and leave a message for Sonia to return your call.

ANGLE and the Pride Committee chaired by Dave England are busy planning the Pride events for this June. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, June 12 for our Pride Parade and Picnic. We want this to be the biggest and best yet, so please plan to join us that day. Also check this issue for other information about our Pride logo contest.

Please join us at our monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m., the first Tuesday each month, the UNO Religious Center, 101 North Happy Hollow Blvd., as we plan for Pride Month in 1994!



The Judges Wait for the next contestant at the Miss R.U.N. contest. Miss Amber Knight was crowned Miss R.U.N. The judges are (right to left) Phillip M., Mae, Margo, Muffy, Ken T.

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NEWS FROM THE COURT: THE IMPERIAL COURT OF NEBRASKA

Monday's regular meeting was anything but ordinary. Carla Petersen started the evening off by making congratulatory remarks, advice, and thank yous to other members of ICON. Although no longer president, she will still be a very vocal and much needed member of our group.

Newly elected officers include President Duane Schomer, who owns St. Mary's Tan; Gary West, owner of Club 2001, was re-elected as Vice-President; and Eddie B., who will continue as ICON's Secretary as well as assuming the responsibilities of Treasurer.

Also approved to serve a two-year term with ICON is John — better known to many as Miranda Wrights. Members will be busy volunteering time and helping the gay and lesbian community in such programs as the Food for Thought and Toys for Tots shows as well as the upcoming Sno-Balls on Broadway.

Current Emperor, Connie Henke, knows all about donating, as she and her Prince Consort, P.J., are giving over three cases of much needed medicine to PWA's. The drugs being donated are Sustacal and Advera, which is made especially for those patients diagnosed with AIDS.

At the meeting, ICON also donated a few items to Gary George, a representative of Nebraska AIDS Project, who was at the meeting. Gary gratefully received an audio tape for AIDS awareness and cash in the amount of \$20.60. The money was left over from purchases made with the proceeds at the Toys for Tots show.

Sno-Ball, which will be held on February 20, 1994, is a benefit for ICON. Performers will

include Royal Family members of Reign XIII as well as other talented people from the community.

Hopefully, monies raised from this show will provide enough income to help us purchase a computer. However, if anyone has an extra one just collecting dust, ICON would gladly accept such a great gift. A computer would certainly help us continue to help others.

Two more must see events are Closetball on March 27, 1994, and Coronation XIV held the weekend of June 10-12. Closetball will be presented by ICON and Miss Closetball 1993, April Lane. Applications are due to be around town in February, and should be available at all the local bars.

Many decisions have been made already about Coronation XIV, but Emperor Connie and Empress Roxy are always willing to get help from those interested. This fun-filled weekend is an annual event always full of old friends and fresh faces. It is important to remember that this is everyone's chance to vote for the person(s) who will best represent the community in which we live.



CHORUS NOTES

by Stan Brown

As you read this article, another very special Winter Concert is now history, and our tenth season officially has begun. We are truly celebrating this year and we hope you will join us as we continue to celebrate with "A Singing Tribute to Pride" on Saturday, June 4.

The River City Mixed Chorus thanks the community for all its support by attending our "sold out" concerts, buying advertisement in our programs, and donating to our fund-raising events and letters. Thank you for letting us share our music with you for the past ten years and we have much more to come in 1994.

If you are interested in being a part of this musical celebration, please contact our director, John Bennett (551-6517) to set up an audition

time before February 7. We are auditioning all voices but are especially looking for sopranos and tenors. Also, if you're not a singer but would like to help at concerts or other Chorus events, please call our phone line, 341-SING (7464).

Do you remember our "Closet Clearing" garage sales? Well, Clearing IV will be held Saturday, June 18, so please keep us in mind when you are cleaning out those "closets". Let us know after May 1, if you have items to donate to our sale by calling 341-SING (7464).

Finally, join us at the Metropolitan Community Church as we sing at the evening service beginning at 6:00 P.M., Sunday, February 6. Happy 20th Anniversary, MCC!

We plan to be around in 10 more years, too!

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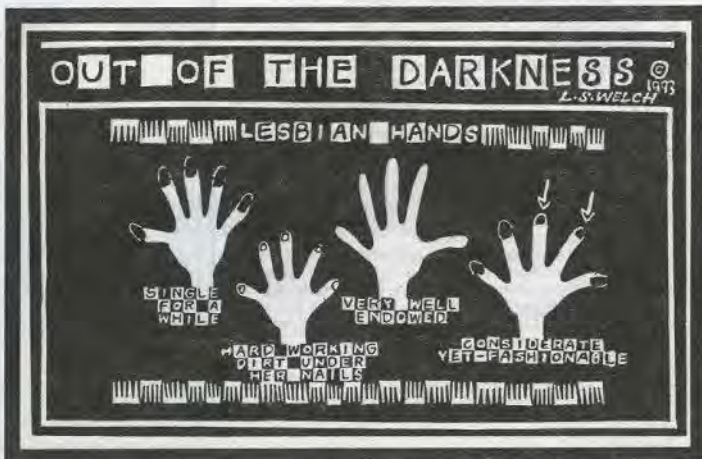
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RESOURCE DIRECTORY

*****Lincoln*****

Alcoholics Anonymous, Open Mtg Fri. 8pm, 1st Plymouth Church, 20 & D, Lincoln, 438-5214

Arbor Moon Alternative Bookstore, 2017 "O", Lincoln 68502, Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12-5pm, Wally 489-4634/477-5666

BIPALS (Bisexual People / Alternate LifeStyle) Box 80913, Lincoln, 68501, 1st Mon. 7:30pm, Cornerstone (upstrs) 640 N 16. All sexes welcome.

Gay Men's Support Group, c/o Counseling & Psych Services, Rm 213, Univ. Health Ctr, UNL, Lincoln, 68588-0618, 472-7430. Confidential

Information for Older Gay People (INFORMATION), Box 22043, Lincoln 68542-2043. Info, Conference Updates, and Education, Coffee House 2nd Saturday each month, 4-9pm, at 3319 S. 46th, Lincoln. Everyone welcome.

Lesbian Discussion Group, Womens Resource Ctr, Room 340 Neb Union, UNL, Lincoln, 68588, 472-2597, Meets Thursdays 6-7:30pm.

The Male Space, 1st Thursday (Discussion) 7-8:30pm, 2nd Sunday (Social) 2-6pm at 1448 "E" St., Lincoln. For Gay/Bisexual Men of all ages. Women may lend financial support. Membership \$10/quarter. Interested write or visit: Stan Balderson, 1534 "E" St., Apt. #26, Lincoln, 68508.

Nebraska Bookstore, 13th & Q Steets, Lincoln, Alternative Lifestyle Section carries The Advocate

National Organization for Women (NOW) — political and grassroots activist org. involved in every issue relating to full equality for women in our society — meets monthly, Lincoln NOW, P.O. Box 80172, Lincoln, NE 68501, 477-1226

Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Box 4374, Lincoln, NE 68504, 467-4599. 4th Tuesday, 7pm, Unitarian Church, 6300 'A' Group for family of people with HIV, and G/L Youth Group meet same time & place.

Star City Lines, Box 219XB, Lincoln, NE 68502, (402) 483-5251, Leather club, Educational

University of Nebr Bookstore, 14th & R, Lincoln, Gay Studies Section: Books on G/L Life.

UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Ctr, Rm 234 Nebr Union, UNL, Lincoln 68588-0455, 472-5644 Social, info, referral, library, Support grp Wed 7:30pm during school year

The Wiminin's Show, 12-3pm Sunday, KZUM, 89.3 FM stereo, Lincoln.

A Woman's Place, nonprofit org dedicated to empowering women. Write: A Woman's Place, 440 S. 44 St., Lincoln, 68510, 476-7692.

Youth Talkline 473-7932, Friday & Saturday 7pm-Midnite, Lincoln. Emotional support, referrals, AIDS info for callers. Age 23 and under. Project of Coalition for G/L Civil Rts

YWCA Counseling & Education Department, 476-2802, Lincoln. Information and Referral.

*****OMAHA*****

Adult Children Anonymous, Thursdays, 7-8pm, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563

Al-Anon, support group for those affected by a loved one's use of alcohol. Tuesdays, 7pm, 1st Unitarian, Side Door, 3114 Harney, Omaha

Alcoholics Anonymous, Info: 345-9916 "Stonewall" Group, Wed. 7:30pm, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563
Gay Mens Stag "An Alternative", Fri. 7pm, MCC-Omaha, 455-7916;
Live & Let Live Group, Pella Lutheran, 303 S. 41, Omaha Open Mtg Friday 8:15pm

A.N.G.L.E., Inc. (Achieving New Gay & Lesbian Endeavors), Box 31375, Omaha 68131. (402) 558-5303, Organization for Networking, consciousness raising, PRIDE activities.

Citizens For Equal Protection, Box 55548, Omaha, 68155. Legislative action to eliminate discrimination for gay/lesbian/bisexual employment, housing, education, public accommodations. 1st Thursday, 7:30pm, 1st Unitarian, 3114 Harney

EAGLE-Omaha, Employee Assoc. of Gays & Lesbians, US WEST Contact S. McCartney, 1314-Douglas on Mall, 8th Floor, Omaha 68102.

Frontrunners/walkers, Box 4583, Omaha 68104 Running/Walking Club (SASE for info)

Gay/Lesbian Information & Referral Line. A service of A.N.G.L.E., Inc., (402) 558-5303

Gay/Lesbian Support Group, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22nd, 345-2563. Tuesdays 7:30pm.

Lutherans Concerned, 1st Sun 7pm 1st Luth, 31 & Jackson, Omaha 345-4080/453-7137

Metropole Counseling Center, 2808 N. 75, Suite E, Omaha, 68134 (402) 398-1810 serving the G & L & Gender Community.

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 345-2563, Mail: Box 3173, Omaha, 68103, Services: 819 S. 22., Adult/Children Sunday School 9am, Sunday Worship 9 & 10:30am. Eye worship 1st Sunday, 6pm with potluck din. 6pm

OLIS (Our Love Is Special), Box 11335, Omaha 68111 Support/social grp for women of all colors

Omaha Meatpackers, Leather/Levi Club with focus on AIDS fundraising. Call: (712) 366-1791

Omaha Men OMEN, Box 3706 Omaha 68103 Men interested in masculinity/masculine image 3rd Sunday, 4pm, The Run, 1715 Leavenworth

Omaha Players Club (OPC), PO Box 34463 Omaha 68134, (402) 451-7987. Leather/SM education & play group. Men's & women's group

ONYX IMAGES, P.O. Box 31026, Omaha, NE 68132-9998. Support/Social Fraternity for African-American men. Age restriction for membership. Support for brothers of all ages.

Overeaters Anonymous Lambda Plush, Wed 7:30pm Family & Friends 3040 N 102, Omaha

Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gays PFLAG, 2912 Lynnwood Dr., Omaha, 68123, 291-6781. Meets 1st United Methodist, 7020 Cass, West Entrance, 2nd Thurs, 7pm, "Program & Time for Sharing", 4th Sunday, 2pm, "Sharing"

Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns, 733-1360. Cleve, Omaha. Generally meets last Sat. Jan-Oct, 2nd Sat. in December, No Nov mtg

Prime Timers, Social/support org. for older gay/bisexual men and younger admirers. Meet 3rd Sunday, 4pm, UNO Religious Center, 101 N. Happy Hollow, Info: (402) 895-9599 or write: 13908 "S" Plaza, Box 1088, Omaha, 68137

River City Mixed Bowling League, President - Scott Rezek, 346-4110, V.P. - JoJo Morrison, Secretary - Charley Wade, 597-1689. Sundays at 3pm at Skylanes, Center Mall, 42 & Center

River City Gender Alliance, Box 680, Council Bluffs, IA 51502 For all who enjoy cross-gender community. All orientations welcome. No sexual encounters. Meets monthly, Omaha

River City Mixed Chorus, Box 3267, Omaha, 68103-0267. 341-SING (341-7464). Volunteer chorus for Gay/Lesbian/Sensitive people.

Seventh Day Adventist Kinship Inc, Support Info for Les/Gay College Students 339-6682, Omaha or 800-4-GAY-SDA.

UNO Gay and Lesbian Student Org (GLSO) Membership open to UNO students, Students from all colleges invited to participate, contact president Suzette 558-8697 or the UNO Office of Student Activities 554-2717

Women of the Plains, Box 24355, Omaha, 68124-0355, Bring women's culture to Omaha

Women's Support Group, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22nd, 345-2563. Meets Saturdays 11am

WomenSpace, Box 24712, Omaha 68124-0712, Quarterly newsletter for lesbian voices & events to build Heartland lesbian community

Youth Support Group, sponsor: PFLAG. For gay, lesbian youth & those questioning sexuality, ages 13-21. Meets Sat., Omaha, Call 291-6781.

*****STATEWIDE*****

Alcoholics Anonymous, *Grand Island, Open Meeting 12noon, Sundays

Coalition for Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights, Box 94882, Lincoln 68509 Advocacy group lobbies for G/L civil rights, has newsletter, socials. Bus. Meeting, 3rd Tuesday, 7:30pm; 1st Saturday Social, 7-10pm, Both at Cornerstone, 640 N. 16

Gay & Lesbian Assoc. of Greater Nebr., For healthier environment in Nebr. Support meetings, social events, newsletter. Contact Dennis V., 4005 Rodeo Road, Lot #4, North Platte, 69101

Heartland Gay Rodeo Association (HGRA), Box 57441, Lincoln, 68505-9998. Info: call Dan 344-3103 (Omaha) or Patrick 477-3899 (Lincoln) All who enjoy/support rodeos & other country activities. Meets 1st Saturday DC's, Omaha

2nd Annual ICE BOWL Invitational Bowling Tournament, Box 3622, Omaha 68103-0622, Attn: Scott Hummel-sec. or Roger Klenke-direct

Imperial Court of Nebraska, Box 3772, Omaha 68102 Org for advancement of Gay/Lesbian society, Business Meeting 1st Monday each month

Lincoln/Lancaster Drug Projects, 610 "J", Lincoln, 475-5161, Dennis Hoffman, Case Mgr. Outpatient chemical dependency treatment while affirming sexuality. Sliding Fee

The New Voice of Nebraska, Box 3512, Omaha 68103. Subs. \$19/year. Deadline: 10th of month

Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gays *PFLAG, Kearney, NE: meets 3pm, 3rd Sunday at St. Luke's Episcopal. Call (308) 382-0752 or (308) 995-5490. Direct correspondence to: PFLAG, 1320 8th Ave., Holdrege, NE 68949

Times of the Heartland, 601 S. 16, Suite 710, Omaha 68102. Newsline: 341-6900, Advertising, 341-1667, weekly newspaper for 1 Heartland region

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Metropolitan Community Church—Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563, Adult & Children's Sunday School 9am, Worship 9 & 10:30am

MONDAY

River City Mixed Chorus Rehearsal 7-15pm First Methodist, (Northwest Door), Omaha
Alternate Test Site, Nebraska AIDS Project, 3624 Leavenworth St., Omaha, 7-9:30pm

TUESDAY

"Out In The 90's" Gay Broadcast News Service, Cable Channel 14, Lincoln, 7pm
Al-Anon Support Group, 1st Unitarian, 3114 Harney, Side Door, Omaha, 7pm
Gay/Lesbian Support Group, 7:30pm, MCC—Omaha, 819 S. 22 St., 345-2563

WEDNESDAY

Lesbian Discussion Group Lincoln 6pm, UNL, Nebr Union, Room 338
Omaha Frontrunner/Walkers, 6:30pm, Ford Birthsite, 32nd & Woolworth, Omaha
P-FLAG AIDS Support Group, Lincoln, 7pm Call AIDS Information Line: 475-2437
Alcoholics Anonymous, "Stonewall" Group, 7:30pm, MCC—Omaha, 819 S. 22
Lambda Plush Overeaters Anon, 7:30pm, Family & Friends, 3040 N. 102, Omaha
UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center Lincoln, 7:30pm, Nebr Union, Room 234

THURSDAY

Adult Children Anonymous, MCC—Omaha, 819 S. 22, 7-8pm
Alternate Test Site, Nebraska AIDS Project, 3624 Leavenworth St., Omaha, 7-9:30pm

FRIDAY

Youth Talkline, 7pm-12m, Support/Info for callers up to age 23, 473-7932, Lincoln
Lincoln G/L Alcoholics Anonymous, 8pm, Plymouth Congregat'l, 20 & D, 438-5214
Omaha Alcoholics Anonymous, ***"An Alternative" Gay Men's Stag Group, 7pm, MCC-O, 819 S. 22, 455-7916
***"Live & Let Live" G/L Group, 8:15pm, Pella Lutheran, 303 S. 41, 345-9916

Every Other Fri., Drop In Cntr, HIV Info/Tests, 1723 Leavenworth, Omaha, 10-2am

SATURDAY

Womens Support Group, 11am, MCC—Omaha, 819 S. 22nd St., 345-2563
P-FLAG Youth Group, ages 13-21, for gay, lesbian, and those questioning sexuality, Omaha, 291-6781
Youth Talkline, 7pm - 12m, Support/Info for callers up to age 23, 473-7932, Lincoln
After Hours Dancing, 1:35 - 4am Late Night, The New Run Bar, 1715 Leavenworth, Omaha

TUESDAY, February 1

1994 LOGO Contest opens, Theme is "Stonewall 25: A Global Celebration"

A.N.G.L.E. Meeting, 7pm, UNO Religious Center, 101 N. Happy Hollow, Omaha

THURSDAY, February 3

G/L Resource Ctr Business Mtg. Rm 342, Nebraska Union, UNL, Lincoln, 7pm.

The Male Space, Discussion Group 7-8:30pm, 1448 "E" St., Lincoln. For Gay/Bisexual Men of all ages. Write or visit: Stan Balderson, 1534 "E" St., Apt. #26, Lincoln, 68508.

Citizens for Equal Protection, 7:30pm, 1st Unitarian Church, 3114 Harney, Omaha

FRIDAY, February 4

"Taking Care of Each Other" Drop In Center, 1723 Leavenworth, Omaha, 10pm-2am, Information and Counseling about preventing spread of HIV

SATURDAY, February 5

Heartland Gay Rodeo Association DC's, Omaha,

Coalition 1st Sat. Event, 7-10pm "Coffee House-Game Nite" Cornerstone, 640 N. 16, Lincoln

SUNDAY, February 6

Evening Worship Service featuring the River City Mixed Chorus, 6pm, MCC—Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563. Preceded by Pot Luck Supper at 5pm

Lutherans Concerned, 1st Lutheran, 31 & Jackson, Omaha, 7pm, 345-4080 or 453-7137

MONDAY, February 7

Imperial Court of Nebraska Board of Governors, 6:30pm, The MAX, 1415 Jackson, Omaha

Bi-PALS, (BiSexual People, Alternate Life Styles), Open to all sexes, Meet at the Cornerstone, 640 N. 16, Lincoln, 7:30pm

Kearney HIV/AIDS Support Group, For more information call: Barb (308) 234-8183

TUESDAY, February 8

Free & Confidential HIV Testing by Lancaster County Public Health Department, 5 - 7 p.m. The Panic, 18th & N Streets, Lincoln

THURSDAY, February 10

Deadline for March Issue of *The New Voice*

Grand Island Support Group, Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Association of Greater Nebraska, Write: GLAGN, 4005 Rodeo Rd. #4, North Platte, NE 69101 or call (308) 384-7235

SATURDAY, February 12

River City Gender Alliance, For transgendered people including crossdressers, transsexuals, and those wishing to know more about transgenderism. For information, write: RCGA, P.O. Box 680, Council Bluffs 51502

Omaha Players Club 2-5pm Workshop "Role Playing/Dressing for Sex", 8pm Love Abounds Party-Valentine's Bondage Party, Info: call 451-7987

Intergenerational Coffee House sponsored by INFORMATION (programing for older gay people), safe, smoke-free, alcohol-free social event, open to everyone. 4pm-9pm, 3319 S. 46, Lincoln, (402) 488-4178

SUNDAY, February 13

New Voice Steering Committee, 1pm, MCC—Omaha, 819 S. 22

The Male Space. Social 2-6pm, 1448 "E" St., Lincoln. For Gay/Bisexual Men of all ages. Write or visit: Stan Balderson, 1534 "E" St., Apt. #26, Lincoln, 68508.

MONDAY, February 14

St. Valentine's Day

AIDS Interfaith Prayer/Healing Service, 7pm, St. Cecelias, Nebraska Chapel, 701 N. 40, Omaha

Mr. MAX hosts An Intimate Dinner for Two or More. The MAX, 1417 Jackson, Omaha, 7-9pm, Reservations Required. All proceeds benefit Nebraska AIDS Project, Call 346-8330 for more information

TUESDAY, February 15

Grand Island HIV/AIDS Support Group, Call for time, location: (308) 381-5175

Coalition for G/L Civil Rights — Board Meeting, CornerStone, 640 N 16, Lincoln, 7:30pm

THURSDAY, February 17

Brian Bengtson Reading Poetry, Downtown Grounds, 1117 Jackson, Omaha

FRIDAY, February 18

"Taking Care of Each Other" Drop In Center, 1723 Leavenworth, Omaha, 10pm-2am, Information and Counseling about preventing spread of HIV

SATURDAY, February 19

IT'S TIME FOR ICE BOWL '94!! GOOD BOWLING TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!!

Stonewall 25 Regional Meeting, MCC—Omaha, 819 S. 22. Call for more information. 558-5303

Raffle tickets go on sale for Bus Trip to Stonewall 25 in New York City, Drawing will be during ANGLE's Chill Feed on February 27.

Valentine's Dance, Sponsored by the Deacons of MCC—Omaha, 819 S. 22, 8 - 11 p.m., Admission \$1 or Can of food for pantry

WomenSpace Productions Presents JoAnn Lonlan, Lesbian Comedian, 8pm, Witherspoon Auditorium, Joselyn Art Gallery, Omaha

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, February 20

P-FLAG/Kearney, St Luke's Episcopal 2304 2nd Ave, (308) 382-0752 or (308) 995-5490, 3pm

North Platte Support Group, 7:30pm, Sponsor: Gay/Lesbian Association of Greater Nebr, Write: GLAGN, 4005 Rodeo Rd, #4, North Platte, NE 69101 or call (308) 534-7820

Prime Timers, 4pm, UNO Religious Center, 101 North Happy Hollow Blvd., Omaha

Omaha Men (OMEN), 4pm, The Run, 1715 Leavenworth, Write: OMEN, Box 3706, Omaha 68103

TUESDAY, February 22

Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Lincoln Unitarian Church, 6300 A Street, 7pm, Small group sharing time & program: "Legislative Update" Under 21 group meets in separate small group session, For more information call new PFLAG number 467-4599

THURSDAY, February 24

Grand Island Support Group, Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Association of Greater Nebraska, Write: GLAGN, 4005 Rodeo Rd, #4, North Platte, NE 69101 or call (308) 384-7235

SATURDAY, February 26

Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, Omaha, Call for information

SUNDAY, February 27

ANGLE's 4th Annual Chili Feed, Diamond Bar, 712 S. 16, Omaha, 5-8pm, \$3/bowl or \$5 all you can eat, proceeds benefit ANGLE

"FIG LEAF FOLLIES"

A DELIGHTFUL ROMP WITH A MESSAGE

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha hosted the premier performance of a series of vignettes entitled "The Fig Leaf Follies". Directed by Bill Bohannon, and featuring the talents of Ronnie Brown, Tim Renner, and Pat Phalen. Fig Leaf Follies takes a lighthearted look at that most serious of topics, preventing the spread of HIV. Bill Burch will join later productions.

The production opens with a reader's theater presentation which features a look at the inner voices that speak to each of us. It features two men who have just come together for wine and hors d'oeuvres and are "getting acquainted." We are reminded of how difficult it is to express what we are really feeling, especially when it relates to our fears about HIV and the embarrassment that still exists as we try to talk openly about safer sex.

Next comes a "live" cartoon that features Batman and Robin preparing to defend the city against the attack of "HIV Man". If only real life had heroes as dashing as these two.

The final vignette demonstrates safer sex techniques, including the proper application of a condom (sort of).

Wes Perry, AIDS educator, concludes the evening with a discussion of the play and how it applies to real life as he leads the participants through exercises which are designed to help reduce the anxiety we feel as we attempt to openly discuss safer sex.

All in all, the evening is great fun that includes good, basic education. While the evening does focus on sex between two males, I highly recommend this event to everyone, both male and female. Watch for announcements about future performances, scheduled for Lincoln, and for The MAX in Omaha during the last part of February.

Bars & Restaurants

Des Moines (A.C. 515)

Blazing Saddle 416 E 5th St., 246-1299
The Brass Garden 112 SE 4th St., 243-3965
Club 508 508 Clifton Ave., 288-8508
The D & M 424 E Locust St., 243-9629

Omaha (A.C. 402)

The Chesterfield 1951 St. Marys, 342-1244
DC's 610 S. 14th, 344-3103
The Diamond 712 S. 16th, 342-9595
Gilligan's 1823 Leavenworth, 449-9147
The Max 1417 Jackson, 346-4110
The New Run 1715 Leavenworth, 449-8703
Trick's Public House 1019 S. 10th, 345-1661

Lincoln (A.C. 402)

Panic 200 S. 18th St., 435-8764
Club 2001 500 Sun Valley Road, 476-2001
Red & Black Cafe 1819 "O" 438-2525

WHERE CAN I GET A COPY OF THE NEW VOICE?

We've listed many of the regular distribution points below. If your group or business would like to be included on our distribution list, please contact us.

Omaha:

The Chesterfield
D.C.'s
The Diamond
Downtown Grounds
Gilligan's Pub
The MAX
Metropolitan Community Church
Nebraska AIDS Project
New Realities
Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays
The Run
St. Mary's Tan
Trick's Public House

Council Bluffs:

Adult Emporium
Eric's Bookstore

Lincoln:

Arbor Moon
Club 2001
Nebraska Book Store
The Panic
Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays
Red & Black Cafe
UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center
Women's Resource Center

Kearney:

GLAGN
Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays

Des Moines:

Blazing Saddle
Brass Garden
Club 508
D & M's

Sioux City:

Metropolitan Community Church
Three Cheers

Of course, you can subscribe for only \$19 per year and have *The New Voice* delivered directly to your door (in a plain, brown envelope, of course).



Ron Brown, Bill Bohannon, and Pat Phalen in "Fig Leaf Follies"
Watch for future performances in Lincoln and Omaha

CLASSIFIEDS

Cruise Package, includes Orlando and cruise to Grand Bahama. We can't go, but maybe you can. Airfare is not included. 556-9907 (Fe94)

NOW HIRING!! MALE MODELS AND ESCORTS. Earn \$500 to \$2000 per week part time! Call 1-800-MALECALL. That's 1-800-625-3225. All Areas! (Mr94)

Get copies of rare Patti Smith articles from the late 70's. "The 27 year old poet says..." the infamous Newsweek "What's a PATTI SMITH," article...many more, with photos. Send \$6.00 to James M. Thompson, 46 East 3rd Street, NYC, NY 10003 (Fe94)

Aladdin Escort Services Expanding from South Padre Island to Omaha to serve you! NOW HIRING! 18-30 Years Old. Call 342-6831. (Fe93)

PROFESSIONAL BODY PIERCING. \$25 plus cost of jewelry. Many jewelry styles to choose from. Call Amy at 451-7987. (Mr94)

MASSAGE THERAPY: for a Full Body Swedish Massage call: Michael (402) 341-2683 — by Appointment only! (-94)

You work HARD and work-out even HARDER! *FULL-BODY MASSAGE will take the EDGE OFF and provide BALANCE* Serving Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Bi, & Hetero Communities. Gift Certificates Available. OM/LIN APPT./INFO 342-1935 (Ju94)

VIDEO CATALOGUE

MC Film Festival, Home Video Catalogue has just released its new gay and lesbian video catalogue. The new poster catalogue has over 200 gay and lesbian themed videos. The videos include: new gay/lesbian releases, old classics, gay religious topic, documentaries, travelogues, and award winning foreign films. None of the videos are XXX rated. The company is unique as it is gay owned, gay operated, and gay staffed. Mark Bias and Carrie West, partners and life mates for over 16 years, are the owners of 54561 Corporation. All videos are carefully packaged in a plain bubble lined pack or boxed.

Catalogues are free by writing P O Box 20071, Tampa, FL 33622-0071 or calling 800-445-7134 or FAX 813-251-2628. Thank You!

PERSONALS

BIBM, 30, Average looking wants to meet athletic GWM's, 18-30 for fitness, friendship and good times. Serious need only call: Joe G. 457-6003 (Fe94)

GWM, 55, handsome, 5'9", 180lbs, Romantic, Spiritual, Intelligent, Fun. Looking for friendship first, then possible relationship. If you are capable of moving beyond dysfunctional relationships, please respond! Chris, Box 31054, Omaha, NE 68131-0054 (Fe94)

Classy GWF, exotic looking, very femme, romantic, loving, fun, and only 21. Seeking another GF, for a monogamous relationship. Attraction: GF's with buzzed or short hair. Call Kim 347-6336 (Mr94)

GWF - 40 - Looking for friendship: possible Romance. Enjoys outdoors, pets, and football. Active & good sense of humor. Call 731-7238 (Fe94)

Recently Relocated to Omaha. GWM Couple, monogamous, Professional, 40ish, wish to meet other couples or singles for dining, theatre, cards. Non-Sexual Contact! Not into Bar Scene. Contact Boxholder, Box 8046, Omaha, NE 68108-8046 (Fe94)

Fun Loving G.ITM, 31, 150# HIV- seeks other GM's for friendship or possible relationship. Phone 346-9460 (Fe94)

Doctor from India/Pakistan in Boston seeks professionals between 25-35, South Asian or GWM, interested in the culture and lifestyle of the Subcontinent for a meaningful relationship of mutual growth, respect, love, and commitment based on friendship and human values. I am 38, 5' 10", 175 lbs, TOP. Write: Dr. Zaki Usman, P.O. Box 722 (#180), Boston, MA 02117 (Mr94)

GWM 38 seeks 25-40, Friends, Good time, Possible relationship. 455-5662. Work Swing Shift Sunday Thru Thursday (Fe94)

GWM Wanted, age open, 1'm 34, 6'2", Brn Hair, 192 lbs, Blue Eyes, wants relationship and lover outside of bars. Must be honest. 1601 Little John Circle, Apt. 10, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503. Married Men Welcome! (Fe94)

Safe, sane, consensual Bi/W/M, 43, wants to meet healthy thrill seekers 19-40. Experience bound captivity for an hour or a day without penetration or oral contact. GFLH, PO Box 3862, Omaha, NE 68103 (Fe94)

LONELY?

Need a friend/lover. Call Infinity, an inexpensive nationwide matching service for gay men. 602-848-6780. Free Limited Membership. (Mr94)

Got something special to say to your sweetheart? Why not say it in the classifieds?

SPIRIT MAPS: A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

What have you learned about life lately?

We are interested in knowing your responses to this question. You are welcome to answer as often as you like in any of the suggested ways.

All responses will be exhibited (anonymous, if you wish, and completely uncensored) as part of a major installation by artists Philip Blackburn and Donald Engstrom to be shown at Intermedia Arts Gallery, Minnesota, in April 1994.

Thank you for your time, wisdom, and spirit!

- 1) Choose some suitable material (paper, card, cloth, wood...), trace around your hand, cut out the shape, and inscribe your response. Then mail your hand by March 21, 1994 to: Spirit Maps, P. O. Box 80788, Mpls., MN 55408-8788, U.S.A.
- 2) Call (612) 825-5532 and leave your response as a voice message.
- 3) Send your response via E-Mail to: klin0051@student.tc.umn.edu or use GayNet.
- 4) You can also contribute by simply keeping the question in mind as you go about your daily life.

The New Voice of Nebraska Classified Ad

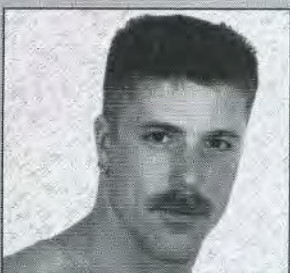
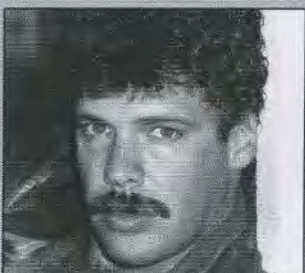
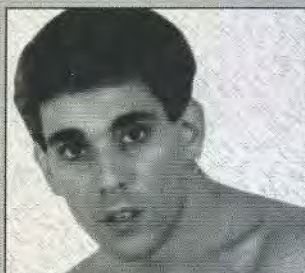
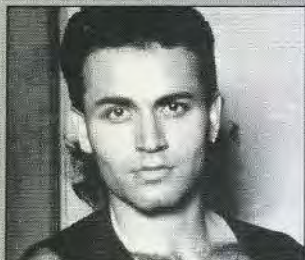
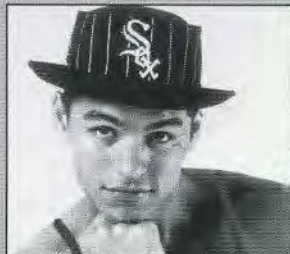
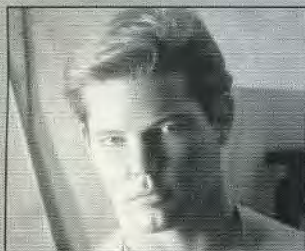
Write your ad here:

Classified ads in the *New Voice of Nebraska* are \$3.00 for 20 words or less. Each additional word is 20¢. Ads must be received by the 10th of the month preceding the month you wish your ad to appear.

Mail to:

**The New Voice of Nebraska
P.O. Box 3512
Omaha, NE 68103**

NEBRASKA'S GAY VOICE PERSONALS



**BI & GAY PERSONALS BY AREA CODE!
FAST • EASY • DISCREET HOME NUMBERS
1-900-737-GAYS**

MANFINDER: 415-281-3183. ONLY \$1.99/MIN. MUST BE 18+.

RECORD YOUR OWN PRIVATE MESSAGE FREE! 1-800-546-MEEM

THE MAX In February

Sunday, February 6

"The Out Of Towners" Featuring
Dina Cass, Kartier Kolby & Lauren White
With Special Guests
Dietra Snow & Laura Gray

Sunday, February 13

THE MAX Presents Sunday Night Live 4
A Night Of Live Performances
With The Brightest Talents In The Midwest

Monday, February 14

Mr. Max & Tim, Hosts
"The Way To Your Loves Heart"
A Valentines Dinner To Benefit N.A.P.

Sunday, February 20

I.C.O.N. Is Throwing A Snowball
Beat The Winter Blahs And Join Us For
Snowball 1994

Sunday, February 27

Dorian Drake Presents
Miss Gay Nebraska U.S.A. Regional
Featuring Miss Gay U.S.A., Sweet Savage

THE MAX 1417 Jackson St. Omaha

Happy Hour Monday through Friday & Now featuring Keno

FEBRUARY

Karaoke

Join us every Friday in February for Karaoke Night with your hosts Mike & Caroline. Over 300 selections, 6 video monitors, and 3 microphones (so you can coheres a couple of friends into singing backup for you.) The caterwauling begins at 9pm in our lower level.

Don't miss the 11th annual Miss City Sweetheart Pagaent. Watch along as contestants vie for one of Lincoln's most coveted crowns. Watch as the winning beauty has the stunning tiara affixed to her lovely do. Watch the other queens shoot her ugly glances and claim the contest was rigged. Fun for all.

Sunday, Feb. 13th, 10pm.

Miss City Sweetheart
1994

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
**CASINO
NIGHT**
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

All the Glitz and Glamour of Vegas. The only difference is we don't have legalized prostitution (sorry, Jack). Try your luck at the Blackjack table, Craps, Roulette, Poker, and more. Take in a floor show in our lower level, with Lounge Acts and Showgirls! Thursday, February 24th from 8pm - Close.

Panic!
200 S. 18th • Lincoln • 435-8764

Valentine's Day

Spend your Valentine's Day with us! Each time you buy a domestic beer or well drink, you can get another for your sweetie for only \$1! Plus, one lucky couple will receive a romantic evening for two at the Cornhusker Hotel.