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The Queer Omaha Archives: The First 5 Years

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The Queer Omaha Archives: The First Five Years

Amy Schindler, she | her | hers
Director, Archives and Special Collections
UNO Libraries

NCompass Live
October 6, 2021



Land Acknowledgement

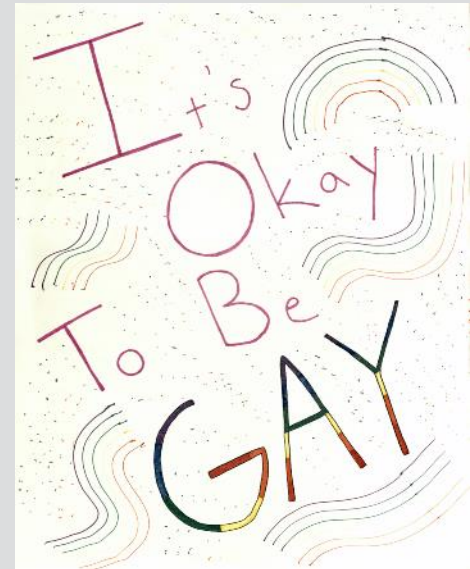
We would like to begin by acknowledging that the University of Nebraska at Omaha is a metropolitan university with campuses, programs, service learning, and community engagement spread across the past, present, and future homelands of the Pawnee, Ponca, Oto-Missouria, Omaha, Dakota, Lakota, Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Kaw Peoples, as well as the relocated Ho-Chunk, Iowa, and Sac and Fox Peoples. Please take a moment to consider the legacies of more than 100 years of displacement, violence, settlement, and survival that bring us together here today.

<https://native-land.ca/>



About the QOA

- LGBTQ+ collecting initiative began after community consultation
- Collect, preserve, & share LGBTQIA2S+ history
- Archival material includes:
 - Photos & scrapbooks
 - Fliers, posters, & signs
 - Video & audio recordings
 - Correspondence
 - Meeting minutes + more





UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA



Fourth Annual Heartland Rodeo

Admit One
"Rodeo Performance"
 June 24 & 25, 2000
 Gates Open - 8:30 am - Grand Entry - Noon
 Sarpy Co. Fairgrounds - Springfield, NE

GRA BUD LIGHT Rodeo
instinct
UNITED
 Official and Exclusive Airline Sponsor

\$10.00
 Proceeds to benefit the Nebraska AIDS Project and All-Iowa AIDS Benefit.

NO 0209



A complete list of Nebraskans at risk to the AIDS virus.

AIDS is blind to age, race, religion, sexual preference and state boundaries. All Nebraskans are at risk. Your tax-deductible donation to the Nebraska AIDS Project protects your loved ones by funding a statewide AIDS prevention through education effort. Please make your tax-deductible donation to the Nebraska AIDS Project today.

Nebraska AIDS Project
 Conquering AIDS through education.

3024 Lawrenceville Street Omaha, Nebraska 68106 AIDS Hotline: 1-800-762-AIDS, in Omaha 542-4233

A public service project of the Omaha Publication of Advertising



What is in the Archives?

- 40+ individual & organizational donors
- 80+ cubic feet & 3 GB of archival material
- 3,000+ book, magazine, and newspaper titles
 - Books: fiction and non-fiction, mostly U.S.
 - Local newspapers & magazines

OUT
AND
PROUD



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA



GAY FREEDOM

newsletter of the
Omaha Gay Freedom League

Issue # 1
August 19, 1972

WHY A GAY WOMEN'S CAUCUS? by b.j.

Gay women have many different problems than do gay men, and considerably different interests (frequently). Hopefully, a women's caucus will provide us a chance to get together with our interests, problems, and projects.

We can deal with things as a group that are not the province of men. Saturday, Aug. 26th, we will have a table at the Nebraska Women's Equality Conference. While there we will distribute literature, talk with people generally participate in the conference (for after all, we are women), and caucus. We might even get a few of the latents out of their closets. (cont. page 2, col. 2)

OGFL ARTICLE IN OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

On Saturday, August 12, The World-Herald published an editorial in its "Another Point of View" column on gay liberation. The article was written by myself and John and other OGFL members.

We were pleasantly surprised at how cooperative the Herald's editorial man was. He considered it time at last to react to the slurs on gay people that fill the newspapers and media generally. The letter in the Public Pulse to which we responded classified rapists, thieves, murderers, and homosexuals together. To quote from our response:

"If gay people, as Mr. P suggests, are criminals, it is because cruel and archaic laws define non-straight sexuality as perverted and criminal... We have realized that it is not enough for gay people to sit back and hope for better treatment. Rather, we must form some kind of gay community, using our mutual strength to work actively in our own behalf."

(cont. page 2, col. 2)

COFFEEHOUSE*GAY*COFFEEHOUSE*GAY*COFFEE

We have some leads on coffeehouse locations! We are presently negotiating with several churches on room for dances and office space. But we still need ideas. Anyone with suggestions on this project contact the OGFL, P.O. Box 3284, Downtown Station, 68108.

Once we have a location, our coffeehouse committees can go to work and we'll finally have our own gay coffeehouse!

—FREE: Wildebeast and kin — beautiful cats and kittens to good home only. Please call 346-8752.

FIGHTING POLICE HARASSMENT IN OMAHA

We are going to be talking to police officials about gay rights. Anyone who



feels he has been harassed by police, is being harassed, or is harassed in the future, please contact the OGFL — we want to know. We want to collect reports of affidavits of harassment by either police or "sissy beaters" to substantiate our case.

—We can rent city pools for a swim party if we want. If you're interested in a gay swim party followed by a poolside dance contact an OGFL chairperson or committee. SOON!

IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT GAINNESS OR PROBLEMS ABOUT BEING GAY, OR JUST HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, CONTACT THE OMAHA GAY FREEDOM LEAGUE.

WE DON'T HAVE A PHONE YET, BUT YOU CAN WRITE US AT THIS ADDRESS:
Omaha Gay Freedom League
P.O. Box #3284
Downtown Station
Omaha, NE 68108
WE'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU.



graffiti: "The army gave me a medal for killing a man and a dishonorable discharge for loving one."

GAIN GAY AWARENESS IOWA NEBRASKA

P.R. Box 215, Omaha, NE 68101 October 31, 1972 Volume 2, No. 4

Daub Campaign Sparks Anger in Gays

1972 started out as a hopeful, non-partisan election year. That changed suddenly when three weeks ago a television campaign ad began airing during coffee time each night. "John Daubman will help to spend Federal funds in order to bring out of obscurity over the issues of homosexuality or any rights, we don't think he has any priorities straight." The ad was sponsored by the Mr. Daub for Congress committee.

Angered by the exploitation of homosexuals for purposes of political gain, the Board of Directors of Gay Awareness Iowa Nebraska invited flyers to members residing in the second congressional district, urging people to call or write Daub's headquarters to complain about this campaign tactic. Although several hundred calls and letters were received, the ad continued. Letters were given various conflicting reports and content, including "the guy that was that called yesterday!"

DAUB, GAYS MAKE HISTORY
At the request of one of GAIN's members, the Board agreed to attend GAIN's first ever "Pride" party in conjunction with a gay organization. Flyers were again mailed, announcing the meeting on Monday. Approximately 100 mem-

bers attended. The meeting was reported in the World Herald on Tuesday (see insert). The agenda included a statement of support from the Board of Directors.

Daub, Gays Discuss Objections to TV Ad

Members of the Board of Directors met with John Daubman to discuss the television ad. The ad was shown to the group and the members expressed their objections. The ad was shown to the group and the members expressed their objections. The ad was shown to the group and the members expressed their objections.

Lincoln Gay News

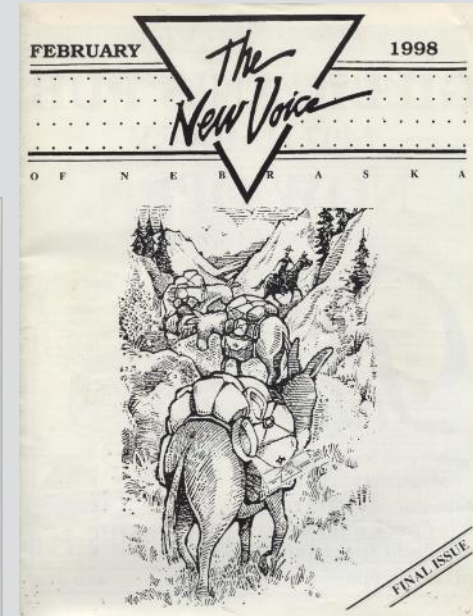
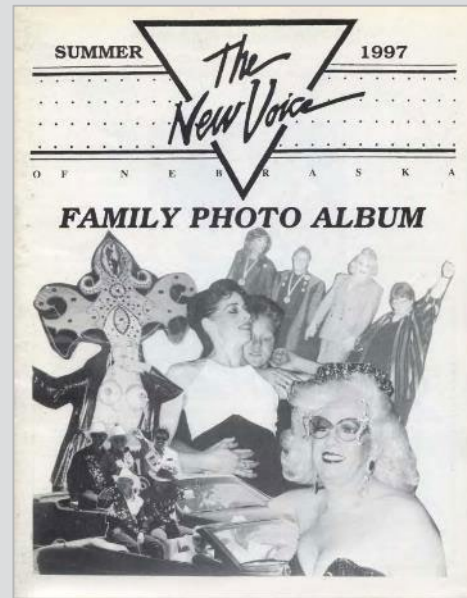
LINCOLN, NEBR. APRIL 1979

APRIL FOOL *

and May, June, July...



The New Voice of Nebraska, 1984-1998



All issues are available on the website.



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

River City Beat
Sept. 30 '98
Volume 1.12
Omaha, NE

Political Power?
Statewide conference to train Gay activists

National News
LIGHT JUSTICE: Twenty-year-old Raymond Long said two University of Florida students put off with "not even a slap on the wrist" for brutally beating him while calling him "baggies" last year, according to the *Independent Florida Alligator*. An Alachua County judge on August 21 sentenced Ali Kassar, 21, and his brother Brian, 20, to one-year probation with 50 community service hours each. They must also pay \$1,371 for Long's medical expenses.

LESBIAN BLAZE: A lesbian bar owner is awaiting trial after she was arrested June 12 on charges that she burned down her own business last October 28, according to the *Waynesville Ledger*, a City newspaper. Following the fire at Fannie's, the Milwaukee Police launched a seven and a half-month investigation that ended with the arrest of Fannie owner Sharon Dixon.

LEAKED MEMO: An angry and embarrassed Illinois Secretary of State George Ryan (R) has ordered aides to find the source of a leaked memo outlining how his gubernatorial campaign is attempting to recruit gays to attack the campaign of his opponent, U.S. Rep. Glenn Beckstead (D-IL), according to the *Chicago Tribune*. Beckstead has a history of anti-gay harassment. Ryan's aide says the memo was leaked to the press, and that Ryan would like to know who the confidant was to help people a better way to address the issue.

CRISIS BURNING: A lesbian bar owner last summer accused three of her patrons of being "warning shivers" after unknown persons burned a cross on her lawn and made threats against her. According to the *Salt Lake Tribune*, Jan Brings said she and her partner Sissy Hardy woke up just after midnight on July 27 to find a flaming cross in their yard and the words "Get Out" scrawled on their door. For the next several nights, Brings said, she found garbage into the ground behind going to sleep. After a neighbor complained about the shots, a county prosecutor filed felony firearm charges against the women.

Local News
SMASHED WINDOWS: Just eight days after the Century field 1991 Leavenworth St. became Langlois, the bar was broken into at approximately 4:00 AM. Police arrested the alleged perpetrator shortly after, said Kelly Thomas, one of the bar's new owners.

Queer Science
T.T. Well, you know, I gambled on myself like I often do. When I had the CD out it was well received. People enjoyed it. I said to Daryl, you know, I really want to sing this music with symphony orchestras because it's so nice to present it. So I put out the books - Daryl and I did - to have a symphony program put together for me. I had no idea if I'd ever get a gig. I just did it. And it was very expensive. It amounted to close to \$40,000.

calendar

Library Books Draw Fire Page A5

Florida Seniors Object To Play Page A8

Lesbians Under Seige Page A15

TIMES
January 11, 1994
50 cents

Of The Heartland

1993 The Year Of The Queer

For Many Gays & Lesbians It Was A Giant Coming Out Party

Good Fat Burns Calories Page A17

Mabon's Plans Dashed Page A11

NGLTF Activist Alert Page A14

The Heartland's Only Weekly Gay And Lesbian Newspaper

Tired Of Hiding? Come Out For This Year's National Coming Out Day!

Philadelphia Man Accuses Chicago's Archbishop Of Sexual Abuse

Radio Station Tries To Out Cincinnati Mayor Roxanne Qualls Page A3

For The Heartland It Was Another Chapter In The TIMES Of Our Lives

The archives is seeking more issues of these newspapers. These titles are not available online.

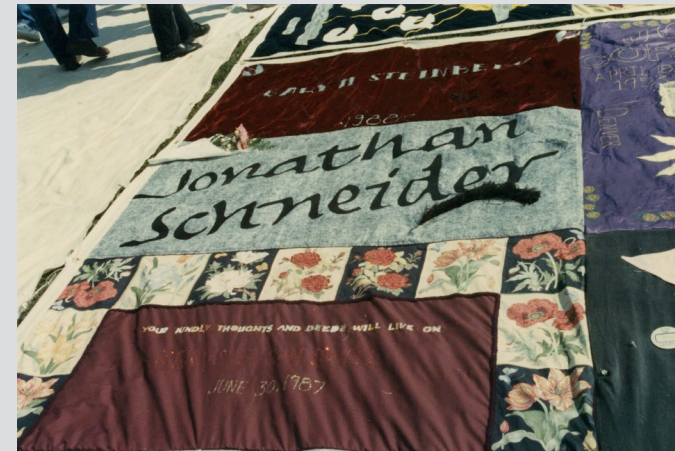


Terry Sweeney & Pat Phalen Papers





National Events, Local People





Dr. W. Meredith Bacon Papers



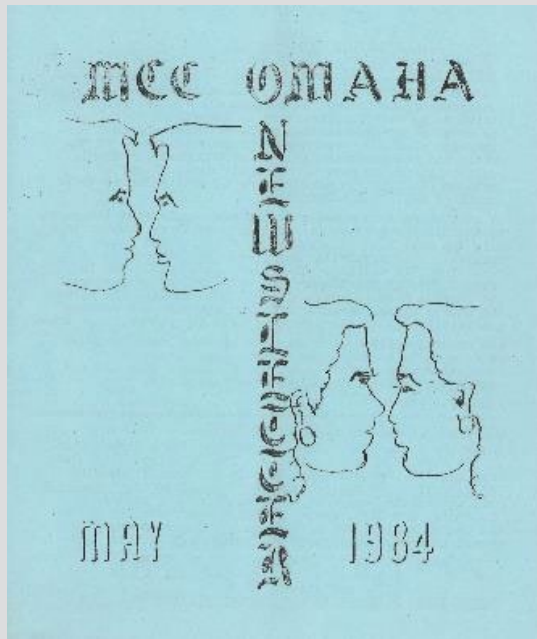
June 12, 2005

Dear Meredith & Suzanne
 Welcome home —
 Thank you so much for sending us
 your letter. You were correct in thinking
 that giving us some information in advance
 would be helpful to us.
 I don't admit that when I had read
 about this type of thing in the past, I had
 difficulty understanding how a person could
 feel so completely "other" than one's own gender.
 Now I know someone (a couple, actually)
 who is going through this —
 someone who seeks a deep intellectual
 and research-grounded understanding of
 things,
 someone who has a strong need for
 and commitment to his faith and his
 church,
 someone who constantly gives his love
 to those who need a safe place to live,
 someone who has reached out to us,
 invited us into his home, and extended to
 us his generous hospitality,
 someone who has been a life of good
 neighbor.



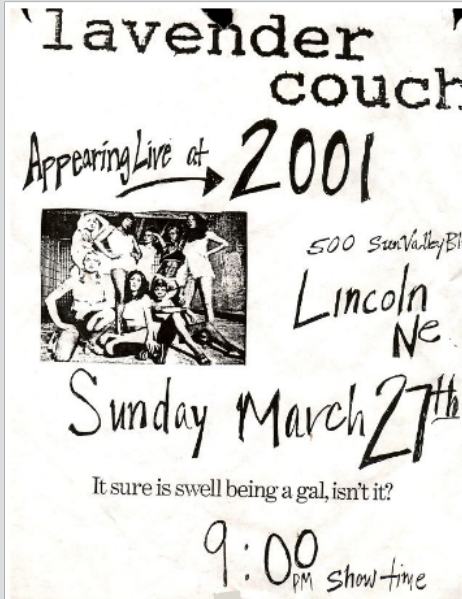


Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha

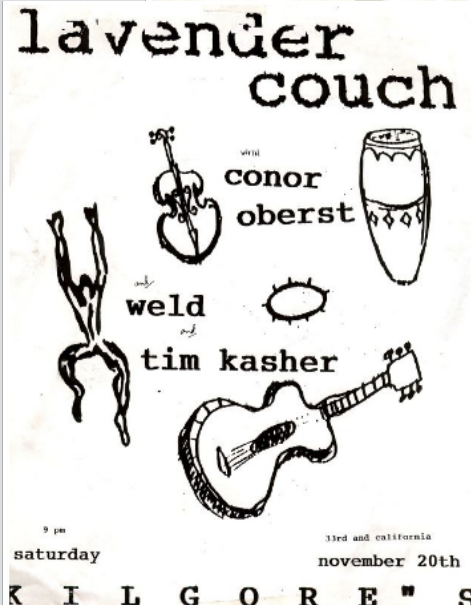




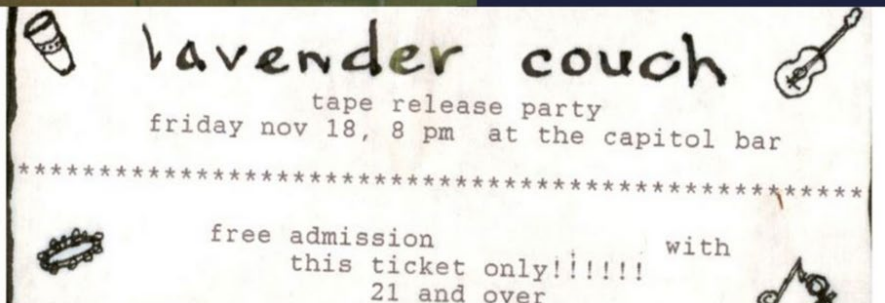
Lavender Couch



SITTING DOWN
 WITH
 LAVENDER
 COUCH, 30
 YEARS LATER



VIRTUAL
 EVENT
 JUNE 23, 2021
 6:00 P.M.





LGBTQ+ Voices:

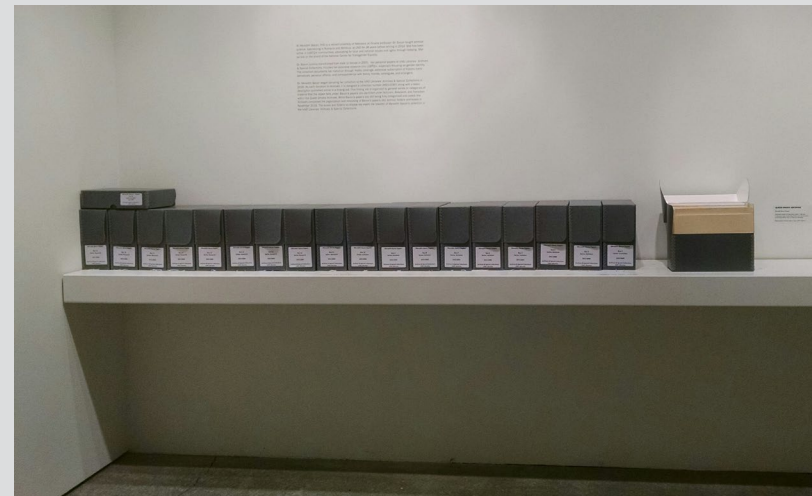
The Queer Omaha Oral History Project

- Sharing your story in audio form
- 50 interviews collected
- Past funding from individual donors, Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and matching awards from UNO Libraries' Eugene S. and Sunny M. Thomas Fund for Innovation





Outreach



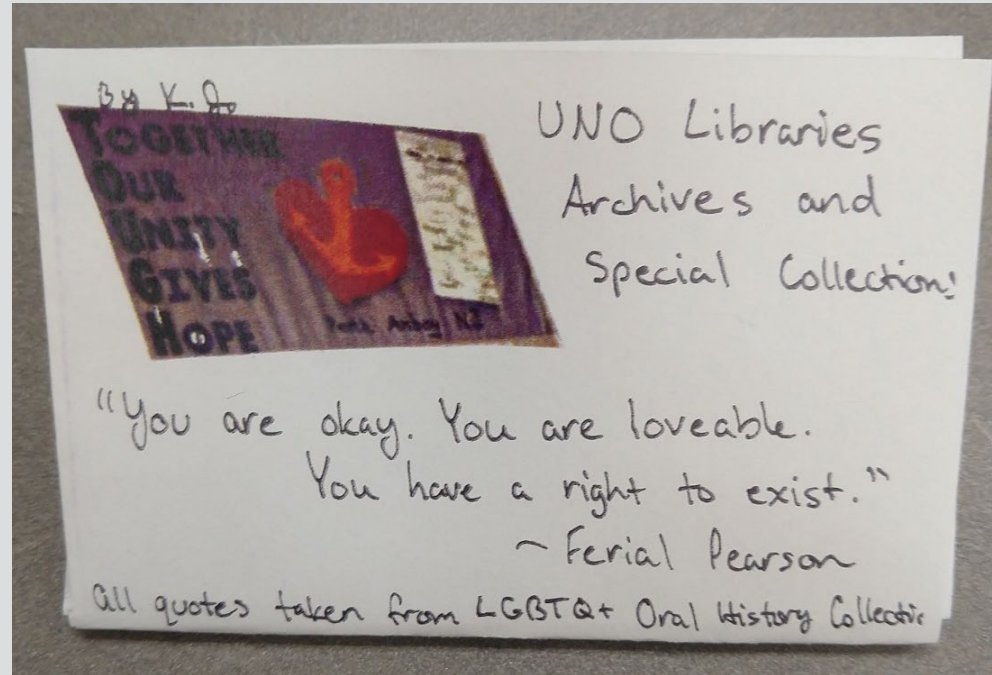


Exhibits: For Love and For Life: Nebraskans and the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights





UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA





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Supporting the Queer Omaha Archives

- Donate material to the archives
- Visit and share the collection
- Make a financial contribution
- Volunteer to be interviewed

Visit library.unomaha.edu

