

# LINGAG—to show gay people are people

by DAVE BRINK  
Nebraskan Staff Writer

The basic idea is to make people realize that gay people are just that people.

Joe Creason, the temporary chairman of the newly-formed Lincoln Gay Action Group (LINGAG), also compared gay experience with the struggle of blacks. He said being gay correlates closely with the black movement and the concept of black pride.

According to Creason LINGAG is following a national trend toward gay organization. He said the movement has grown from less than 30 gay groups to over 200 in just a few years. Although there is no strong national gay organization, Creason claimed that six to ten new local groups are formed each week.

Another LINGAG member, Dave McIntosh, noted that the theme of the groups is "coming

out" in the public view. He said one of the most "distinct and oppressive" things about being gay up to now has been "our silence."

"Coming out in Nebraska at this time is real scary," he added.

LINGAG's first news release this weekend stated a threefold purpose for the organization:

—To study the problems of human sexuality as they relate to both women and men.

—To provide education and information about these problems for the Lincoln community.

—To work to provide social, cultural and legal solutions to problems of sexual oppression.

Creason said the group has set up an office at U.M.H.E., 333 N. 14 St. Regular meetings are held each Monday. Work has been done toward contacting gay organizations in other parts of the country.

Three gay coffeehouses have been held and more are planned. The informal coffeehouses include musical entertainment, free food and dancing. Each coffeehouse has been attended by about 75 people.

Creason said the coffeehouses made people aware that gays were organizing. Before that, he noted, the only communication had been by word of mouth.

LINGAG members said they intend to pursue an active pro-

gram of education in the Lincoln community. They have already talked with a group of ministers, psychologists, lawyers, a sorority, the University Counselling Center staff and representatives of Campus and Lincoln Police.

LINGAG has received good reactions from these groups, according to Creason. Plans call for a permanent LINGAG speaker's bureau and special programs for organizations in Lincoln. The real importance of the meetings, in Creason's opinion, is to let people in the community see "real, healthy, proud gay people" who openly expose the fact that they are gay.

McIntosh said the group is interested in gathering information about cases of "harassment" and instances where constitutional rights are violated.

LINGAG also includes gay women and, as the news release insisted, the women will be equal. It noted that women in many gay groups are victims of male chauvinism but hopefully not in LINGAG.

The release argues that gay people and women are both viewed in sexual terms, "not as human beings."

LINGAG members said future plans may include a regular newsletter, a bake sale, art show, or gay theatre group, a gay rap line and referral

service for gay people desiring counselling.

Work on legal services, law reform and political education will also be attempted. The release concluded that an important part of the overall effort will be a "full scale media assault" with newspapers, radio and television.

## Movement library

The Military-black history and culture — the Chicano movement — the ecology and women's lib are all current topics of conversation.

The Undergraduate Library at Nebraska Hall (second floor) has recent reading material on all of these subjects.

Undergraduate librarian Dixie Talbot said there are now about 500 books (mainly paperback) uncataloged and available to students.

Some of the books include: "The Soledad Brothers", "The Marijuana Papers", "Chicano", "Up Against the Brass", "The SST Handbook", "Poems from Black Africa" and "The Bust Book."

Talbot said that the Undergraduate Library will also soon begin a collection of several underground newspapers.

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