### Coalition offers alternative to gay bars

It's a safe place for people to come and be themselves

without pressure of bar scene where it may be real

#### Gathering attracts variety of people

By Alan Phelps Senior Editor

Gay and lesbian minors or those who are just tired of the bar scene can find a place to socialize the first Saturday of every month.

First Saturday is a monthly gathering at the Cornerstone church on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus that is sponsored by the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Givil Rights, a Lincoln organization.

Richard Nockai-Diaz, co-chairman of the coalition, said 50 to 75 people of all kinds usually show up for the various events the coalition plans for each month.

uncomfortable.

"We do get a pretty good mix of people," he said. All ages, parents and friends of gay people, and sometimes straight people show

what was best about the bar scene, Nockai-Diaz said, and remove all of the pressure, smoke and alco-

"It's a safe place for people to come and be themselves," he said,

Each month, a different event is planned for 7 to 10 p.m. Everything from dances and speakers to potluck suppers and poetry readings have been First Saturday fare in the past, Nockai-Diaz said.

The coalition also invites artists to bring their work or book dealers to stop by with gay and lesbian literature, Nockai-Diaz said.

"We encourage everyone to come," he said.

A film festival with movies dealing with gay issues is planned for May 2, he said.

mation and discuss issues important to the community was at gay bars. The coalition, hesaid, wanted to offer an alternative for those who didn't like bars.

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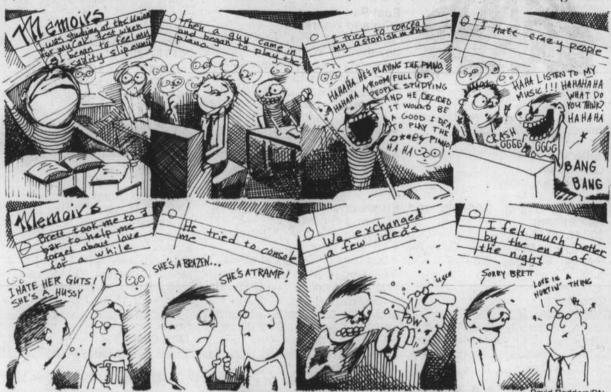
up, Nockai-Diazsaid, particularly if "without pressure of bar scene where the coalition has brought in an it may be real uncomfortable.

interesting speaker.

Nockai-Diaz

coalition co-chairman

Nockai-Diaz said that in many The coalition began planning areas, the only place where gays First Saturdays as a way to take and lesbians could exchange infor-





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