

# Lawyer says DOMA denies gay's rights

BY CHARLIE KAUFFMAN

Nebraska's Defense of Marriage Amendment would deny basic family rights to gay and lesbian couples, a nationally recognized lawyer said Friday.

Harvard-educated lawyer Evan Wolfson said the initiative would deny counseling in a domestic abuse case to a gay or lesbian Nebraskan, or even the right to say goodbye to his or her partner in the hospital.

"It is intended only to attack the family relationships between lesbian and gay Nebraskans," Wolfson said.

Initiative 416 is a proposed constitutional amendment that would prohibit public officials from recognizing any type of family relationship between gay or lesbian partners, and would only recognize marriage between a man and a woman.

Wolfson is a member of

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, whose best known work is arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down the Boy Scouts' ban on gay members and leaders.

Wolfson blasted the initiative, which he said would exclude gay and lesbian Nebraskans from every measure of government protection afforded to families.

Wolfson said the language is intentionally vague, and is designed to cloud the public's perception of what he said was the real issue.

"They chose the words to use, and the words not to use," Wolfson said. "The language is both sweeping and vague, and it is intentionally so."

Wolfson said the meaning behind the initiative's vague wording is three-pronged.

First, he said, the amend-

ment would tie the state's hands in the worst possible way: A constitutional amendment, which is much harder to change than a law.

Secondly, he said, the amendment shoves gay and lesbian Nebraskans out of every form of family protection afforded by government.

Wolfson said the amendment could forbid a gay man or lesbian woman from seeing his or her partner in the hospital to make medical decisions, or even to say goodbye, because hospital administrators couldn't recognize any family relationship between partners.

Thirdly, Wolfson said, the amendment would drag the state backward, when the global and American economies are moving forward.

Corporations could hesitate, Wolfson said, before sending gay

or lesbian workers to Nebraska, because family status and related government protection would not be available to them and their partners.

Andy Schuerman, co-coordinator for the student group Huskers Against 416, said the amendment might encourage homosexuals in Nebraska to leave.

"It's already disconcerting enough to be gay in Nebraska, knowing the huge walls that have been placed all around," Schuerman said. "Leaving is going to be a pretty attractive option."

Wolfson said the amendment would also cause Nebraska to come under considerable national criticism.

"This will do for Nebraska what the evolution attack did for Kansas," Wolfson said. "The people of this state deserve better."

# Spade ticket prices set

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Student tickets for David Spade will go on sale Oct. 9 for \$12.50, organizers announced Friday.

Students must purchase their tickets from the Ticketmaster location in the Nebraska Union, and they must have their student identification cards.

Students can use the Express Charge on their student IDs to

pay for the tickets.

Public tickets go on sale Oct. 14 for \$16.75. If students do not get their tickets from the union, they will have to pay the public fee, said Jill Braband, an event organizer.

Spade, who has been in the movies "Tommy Boy" and "Black Sheep," will be at the Devaney Center on Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. He is part of "Tailgate 2: Party on the Paint," a Homecoming event.

# Innocents meet alumni

BY EMILY PEARSON

As members of the Class of 1950 Innocents Society Walked into the Wick Alumni Center on Friday to meet the society's current members, the 50-year age difference went almost unnoticed.

In fact, some of the alumni whistled and skipped as they entered the building for the reunion.

Current Innocents Society members welcomed the 11 living alumni out of the class of 13 with smiles and laughter.

Despite their different career paths and locations, the alumni have maintained a close connection and friendship after their time at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Not only have they maintained friendship, current Innocents member Katherine Brady said, they've maintained a positive attitude that was contagious.

"The alumni members were very inspirational for us students who are getting ready to start in the real world," Brady said.

The weekend celebration of

honor and tradition joined the former and current Innocents Society members.

Brady said the weekend helped her after learn about the contributions and experiences the alumni members had while at the university and how they've used those experiences in their life.

Since 1903, the UNL Innocents Society has sustained the reputation as the most elite and distinguished honorary in Nebraska. Thirteen new members are selected each year to represent Nebraska on the basis of leadership, scholarship and service.

Ted Randolph, the alumnus who was in charge of keeping the 1950 group together, praised his 2000 Innocents Society counterparts for their interesting lives and attitudes.

He encouraged them to "keep on pluggin', go after it and don't get discouraged," and advised them to consider communication the key to success.

"Don't be surprised if you hit some bumps on the way - there will be tragedies. Just keep smiling and trusting," Randolph said.



*Say Forever...*

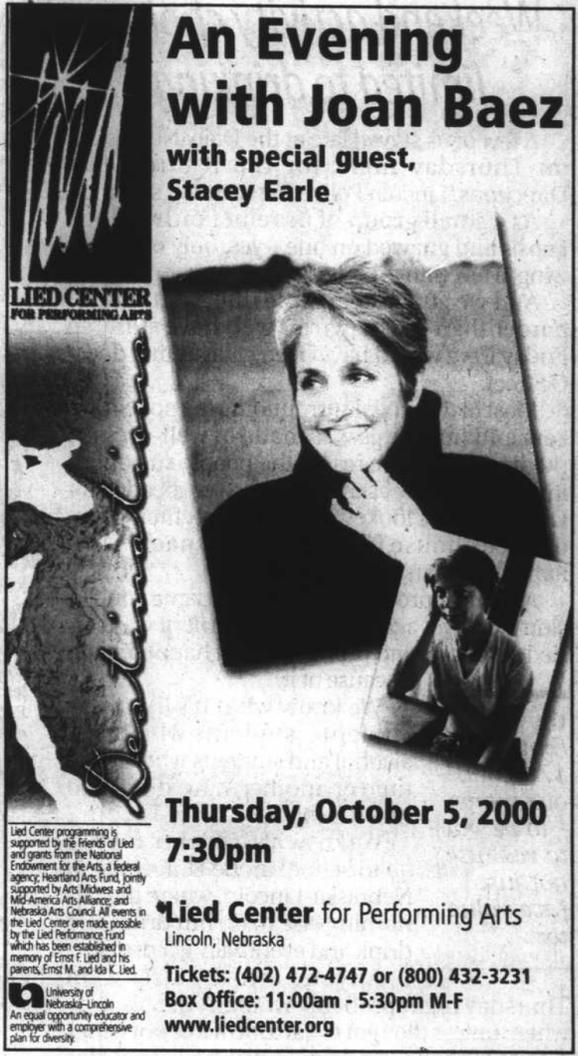
Why buy a smaller diamond somewhere else when you can buy a larger, better quality diamond at A.T. Thomas Jewelers.

**A.T. Thomas Jewelers**

Open 7 days a week

6420 "O" Street • 467-5402

Layaway • Financing • Student Accounts Available



## An Evening with Joan Baez

with special guest, Stacey Earle

Thursday, October 5, 2000  
7:30pm

Lied Center for Performing Arts  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Tickets: (402) 472-4747 or (800) 432-3231  
Box Office: 11:00am - 5:30pm M-F  
www.liedcenter.org

Lied Center programming is supported by the Friends of Lied and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; Heartland Arts Fund, partly supported by Arts Midwest and Mid-America Arts Alliance; and Nebraska Arts Council. All events in the Lied Center are made possible by the Lied Performance Fund which has been established in memory of Ernst F. Lied and his parents, Ernst M. and Ida K. Lied.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln An equal opportunity educator and employer with a comprehensive plan for diversity.

# THINK YOU KNOW MUSIC?

Play Rolling Stone's "What's That Track?" Music Competition On Your Campus This Fall at RSU.



BIG SCHOOLS. BIG CROWDS. BIG FUN.

Don't miss your chance to win GREAT PRIZES plus FREE STUFF and see just how much you really know about music.

CHECK OUT THESE OTHER COOL ACTIVITIES:

- SONY Sound Check Digital Studio
- RollingStone.com Magazine Cover Shoot
- Kick back in The Warehouse Music Lounge



Check out www.rollingstone.com for more information.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN • NEBRASKA UNION PLAZA • OCTOBER 9, 2000 • 11AM-4PM