My name is Ashley Dernovish and I’m a freshman Hospitality and Restaurant Management major with an emphasis on event planning. I did a majority of my growing up in a pretty large city of over 150,000 on the coast of Virginia. I was able to experience many different religions and cultures at a pretty large Unitarian Universalist church. In the church I grew up around Christians, Wiccans, Buddhists, and many other groups. Since I was surrounded by so many different kinds of people I was able to develop an open mind and learn to be compassionate of other’s belief systems at a very young age.

It wasn’t until I was 10 or 11 that I realized that my “uncles” couldn’t get married or even had the same rights that my parents had. It was the summer that my Uncle Brian had to get surgery and his partner Jay wasn’t able to have visitation rights at the hospital, since he wasn’t legally Brian’s family. It bothered and confused me that even though they had been together for 20 years (longer than my parents had stayed together and over 100 times longer than Kim Kardashian was married I might add) and my Uncle Jay couldn’t even see Brian at the hospital when he was sick.

Since then I have been very active in fighting for LGBT rights. When I moved to Nebraska my junior year of high school it was definitely shocking not to have that community in my life. The high school that I had transferred to after my move was not very LGBT friendly, which made my passion even stronger to help fight for equal rights. I was very happy to arrive at UNL to find the resource center. Becoming a volunteer has completely changed my whole college experience. I’m excited to be around so many amazing people while being a part of something so incredible.
Thanks to The Coffee House from the LGBTQA RC!

By Annie Pigaga

With only five more weeks left, finals are right around the corner! That means that is time to hit the books, find a quiet space and drink lots of coffee.

The Coffee House is a great place to study, or to just hang out. They’ve got tons of different types of coffee, tea, and on weekends there is even live entertainment.

The Coffee House was a donor for the LGBTQA Resource Center’s 9th Annual History Month Dinner and donated items to the raffle. The LGBTQA Resource Center encourages everyone to show support for a business that has supported the center in the past.

The Coffee House is even a great place for some late night studying: Monday – Saturday, they are open until midnight and Sunday, they are open until 10pm.

So go show your appreciation for The Coffee House and order one of their famous mochas as you start to study!

...don’t forget our other local supporters!

• A Novel Idea
• Maggie's Vegetarian Café
• Red Feather Photography
• Seven Seas Tattoo
• Kyle Pinneo - Stylist at Atlantis Salon and Spa
• Duo Shoes
• Lied Center for Performing Arts
• Cupcakes and More
• Ivanna Cone
• Chez Hay Catering
• Dance Arts
• Spaghetti Works
• Paint Yourself Silly
• Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center
• University Theater
• Burlington Antiques

• Ten Thousand Villages
• Indigo Bridge
• Planned Parenthood of the Heartland
• Theatrix
• Sheldon Museum of Arts
• Open Harvest
• Wealth for my Health

By Annie Pigaga
**Untitled**

By Amy Vanderpool

It seems more awake than yesterday and the sun's only been up fifteen minutes in my eyes, stretch and wonder what's for lunch today? anything new, anything scary, anything

Noises some off the street and me and we pause at the crosswalk not really for a second looking down the empty street or approaching cars with uncertain drivers who must be very intent on their destination or else just out for a drive, or not and happen to get somewhere everyday

We're here and not alone but disconnected and only we're together but we part and carry on, carrying ourselves miles away into a virtual reality of hills that perfectly alternate and end after perfectly so long.

I'm not even hungry but I have to wonder what is for lunch? anything tasty, anything tomorrow?

---

**Looking to Get Involved with the Resource Center?**

Our volunteer meetings are Mondays from 5:30-7pm in the Green Room in Student Involvement! (Second Floor, above the first floor Information Desk)

Otherwise, stop by the office in 345 Nebraska Union!

---

To submit an article to the InQueery! We're looking for LGBTQA-related Current events, book reviews, poetry, advertisements, artwork, and essays! You don't have to be a professional! If you'd like to see your work in print, send it to InQueery Editor Tony Moran at tony.lgbtqa@gmail.com
Book Review: *The Left Hand of Darkness*

By Stacey Cleveland

Tired of reading books for your classes and need a book to disappear in for a weekend? This science fiction novel takes place in the year 4870 and follows an envoy, Genly Ai, who is on a planet called Gethen, (also called “Winter” by people who do not live on the planet), to convince the citizens to join the Ekumen. Ekumen is an organization of more than eighty worlds, representing 3,000 countries whose purpose is to develop commerce, communications and, possibly, mystical unity.

Winter is a planet that is always cold, and its citizens are neither female nor male: they only have gender identities or sexual urges once a month, called Kemmer. These conditions have affected the ways that civilizations on Winter have developed; with the most obvious effect being that there has never been a war on the planet.

There are, however, mysterious rules of politics and diplomacy that the Genly must learn in order to survive. His fortune changes quickly, according to what political faction is in power at the time in the country he is living in.

Along the way, Genly meets Estraven, whose androgynous nature further obscures him to Genly Ai. Although all of Winter's androgynes are referred to as "he," the fact is they are neither "he" nor "she" until they enter kemmer, a state of estrus lasting a few days a month, analogous to a woman's cycle. Then, depending on the chemistry between partners, one will develop as a male, the other as a female. The same person can be a child-bearing mother to some children and a father to others. No wonder Ai is confused. However, the people of Winter are confused by Ai and can't believe everyone in the Ekumen is either a male, like Ai, or a female.

The struggle of Genly Ai as he tries to understand the ways of these people and survive on this hostile planet gives us the chance to explore what life would be like without the dualities, such as summer and winter or male and female, that form our way of thinking.

Reminder: Lavender Graduation!

Lavender Graduation is a special graduation ceremony offered to graduating students at UNL who affiliate with the LGBTQA community.

The ceremony includes positive statements that can come from faculty, staff, students, as well as alumni. Lavender graduates also have the ability to cross the stage to celebrate their achievements. They also will receive a certificate and a rainbow tassel for being participants in the ceremony. Any Lavender graduate also has the opportunity to nominate a faculty or staff member who has been an advocate: someone who has provided support for an LGBTQA student or have made a significant contribution to a student’s academic progress.

The sign-up date for Lavender Graduation was March 30th, and the program will take place on April 10th, at 3:30PM in the Nebraska Union, in the Heritage Room.