

FREE

Gaze

News of the Lesbian And Gay Community

FREE

Volume 4, Number 3

Memphis, Tennessee

March, 1983

Hemophilia Foundation Calls for Gay Ban ; Blood Banks and NGTF say 'NO'

By Allen Cook

Top officials from a number of federal health agencies and representatives from blood banks across the country met recently to debate the issue of banning blood from male homosexuals, based on reports that male homosexuals are at high risk for contracting Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and that the causative agent may be carried in the blood.

The officials, however, decided that such a broad ban would be ineffective, unenforceable and would unfairly discriminate and stigmatize 20 million Gay citizens throughout the country. Instead they called for a voluntary refraining of all groups at high risk for AIDS in giving blood. Other such groups include Haitians, people who have recently traveled in Haiti and intravenous drug users.

The decision to delay recommending that Gays be barred from blood dona-

tions followed presentations at special meetings at the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta and the American Association of Blood Banks in Arlington, VA by two Gay professionals who argued against it.

The meetings were originally called to discuss gathering evidence that AIDS may be caused by an infectious agent which may be transmitted through the blood of infected persons.

According to the professionals, Dr. Roger Enlow, a New York City immunologist conducting research on AIDS and Bruce Voeller, a biochemist and former professor at New York's Rockefeller University--- a flat ban on Gay Blood might result in more rather than less donations by persons at risk of contracting AIDS. They fear that some closeted Gays might participate in blood drives rather than refuse and possibly risk exposing

their sexual orientation.

Enlow and Voeller urged blood banks to use already available tests from collected blood to screen out potentially harmful donors rather than the questionable practice of screening donors.

Apparently, at least one group does not go along with the consensus...the National Hemophilia Foundation. According to the *Bay Area Reporter* (San Francisco), Alan Brownstein, Executive Director of the National Hemophilia Foundation said, "Serious efforts should be made to exclude any donors that might transmit AIDS. These should include identification by direct questioning of individuals who belong to groups at high risk of transmitting AIDS---specifically male homosexuals, intravenous drug users, and those who have resided in Haiti."

Brownstein said he had been in contact with Dr. Enlow and the National Gay Task Force before that statement was released. Enlow believes the statement stigmatizes the entire Gay male community when it could have zeroed in more closely on high risk health conditions instead. Brownstein admitted that there was a need for refining of the foundation's analysis.

Eight patients with hemophilia were recently discovered to have contracted AIDS-type infections and half of them have died. The chair of the Hemophilia Council indicated that only a fraction of 1% of the nation's hemophiliacs have been diagnosed or suspected of having AIDS.

According to the press release that went out to blood and blood product manufacturers, blood bank associations and government agencies, "Manufacturers should cease using plasma from donor centers that draw from population groups in which there is a significant AIDS incidence. It is clear from the epidemiologic data that the pool of individuals at risk for AIDS transmission is not uniform throughout the country and that a great deal could be achieved by excluding donors from the 'hot spots.'" When Brownstein was asked if blood from San Francisco, for example, should be banned, he said, "The geographical boundaries are not defined. You are right; it needs further definition. I do not know what the 'hot spots' are at this time."

Dr. Enlow told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "A sex club per se might be a high risk group to draw blood from

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Challenge to Arkansas Sodomy Law Fails

By Jill Clark, Gay Community News

ST. LOUIS, MO-- A federal appeals court had upheld the conviction of an Arkansas Gay man for having oral sex in a public lavatory and has avoided ruling on the constitutionality of the Arkansas sodomy statute under which he was convicted.

Charles Lloyd Lemons, sentenced to 90 days imprisonment for having sex with another man in Hot Springs National Park last February, argued before the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals here that his constitutional rights to privacy, equal protection of the law and protection from cruel and unusual punishment have been violated.

The sodomy statute, which applies only to Lesbians, Gay men and persons who have sex with animals, was passed in 1977, two years after legislators repealed an older law which also prohibited the practice of sodomy between heterosexuals.

Two out of the three judges who heard the appeal declined to consider the constitutionality of the sodomy statute in this particular case because the case involves public sex, an activity proscribed by another Arkansas law.

However, Judge Gerald Heaney, in writing the majority opinion, strongly hinted that the court might strike down the law if it were presented with litigation involving private Lesbian or Gay sexual activity.

Judge J. Smith Henley, a semi-retired judge known for his conservatism, wrote a lengthy dissent in which he sharply criticized the majority's logic in denying Lemons the opportunity to challenge the sodomy statute.

Henley stated that the sodomy law

exists only to discriminate against a class of people and, therefore, "cannot constitute a legitimate governmental interest."

Heaney based the majority opinion largely on the assumption that another state law, the Public Sexual Indecency Act, is constitutional. According to the court, because Lemons' actions were also a violation of another section of the Arkansas Criminal Code, the courts have not wronged him by convicting him and therefore Lemons may not challenge his conviction under the sodomy law.

Heaney wrote that the court need only rule on the sodomy law as applied in the Lemons case, which involved sex in a public place and not as it could be applied in cases of consenting adults of the same gender engaging in sex in private. "Because we only examine the constitutionality of the sodomy statute as the court applied it to Lemons, we do not reach the question of whether the statute is constitutional under all hypothetical situations," Heaney wrote.

The court also ruled that since the Public Sexual Indecency Act applies to heterosexuals as well as to homosexuals, Lemons' right to equal protection of the law had not been abridged.

Lemons' attorney, Paul Gordon of the American Civil Liberties Union in Little Rock, called the court's reasoning "outrageous." Charles Lemons was not convicted under the Public Sexual Indecency Act," Gordon said, "but without ever hearing a constitutional challenge to that statute, the court is saying from their own mythology that the statute is constitutional. Charles Lemons never had an

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CRISISLINE Report: AIDS Calls Predominate

In the first three months of operation since opening on October 6, 1982, the NGTF Crisisline received 791 calls from 43 states. Although there were only three calls in October, by the end of November 258 calls had been received, and by mid-December that figure had more than doubled. By far the largest number of calls concerned the spread of AIDS. AIDS callers requested and received basic information on the symptoms, possible causes, and recommended preventive measures. Those wanting medical attention were referred to AIDS hotlines/services or given general advice on how to find informed health care providers. Crisisline volunteers took reports from victims of anti-Gay violence and, whenever possible, referred them to support services in their communities. In order to better accommodate callers from the West and Mid-West, Crisisline hours have been changed from noon-6 pm to 3-9 pm.

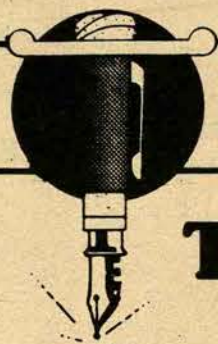
In the first three months, twenty-two violence reports were received, involving thirty-three victims. The incidents included verbal harassment, male rape, attempted murder and police harassment and brutality. Hundreds of such reports are needed before NGTF's Violence Project will have enough data to produce any meaningful analysis of the scope and nature of anti-Gay violence nationally. According to Jay Watkins, Director of

the New York City Gay/Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, "Any group which documents violence and assists victims must do a great deal of outreach into the Gay community before victims will identify themselves. Once victims know that the community is behind them and will provide support, more and more will step forward and be counted."

All those who have been victims of physical, sexual or verbal assault, vandalism, robbery, arson, police entrapment/brutality because they are Lesbian/Gay are urged to call the NGTF Crisisline. Those who have witnessed any such incidents are urged to call and make a report as well. All reports are confidential, and will enable NGTF to document, publicize and combat anti-Gay violence nationwide.

The growing threat of AIDS--with nearly a thousand confirmed cases in the United States-- and the increased attention to it in the Gay and Non-Gay media are responsible for the volume of calls to the Crisisline from individuals wanting to know more about the illness. During a program on AIDS that first aired in mid-November, Phil Donahue announced the Crisisline number to his national television audience. For the next six weeks there was a sharp increase in the number of AIDS-related calls, and

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Gazing

That's the Hand that Works

By John Stillwell

"Gay activists are a pain in the ass." "Every time activists march or make demands there is a backlash aimed at the entire Gay community."

"We'd all be better off if they'd just go away and let things be."

How many times have you heard that? Or thought it? Or believed it?

Part of the statements are true. Gay activists and their actions often cause a backlash against Gays in general. But would things really be better if the Gay activists just went away?

Gays have been sold a bill of goods with a set of unspoken rules which they bought and agreed to abide by. Gays bought the premise that their position was sub-human. Somewhere lower than domesticated animals. Gays agreed to only skulk around after dark and on weekends and only at "Gay places." The rest of the time, Gays agreed to simulate acceptable human behavior.

But straight authorities weren't content with that and went too far when they started attacking and abusing Gays in "their places." Gays finally stood up on two legs and said "enough is enough!" Activism and pride were born. The activist was born because things appeared to be all right but things weren't. The circumstances under which Gays were allowed to exist were bad and a bad situation can only get worse. And that is what happened.

If a person allows himself to be pushed around, his only options are to allow himself to be crushed and destroyed or to turn around and push back.

The activists' goal is not to get laws passed, to make open sex in the parks permissible. Their goal is to educate the Gay and straight public and make them realize that Gays are human beings and to ensure that Gays get the same rights guaranteed to all.

At the turn of the century, there was a prejudice against left-handed people. Through ignorance and prejudice, left-handed people were treated unfairly. They were the victims of unfounded rumors and prejudice. Their physical and mental capacities were reputed to be less than "normal" people. Authorities tried to force them to be right-handed.

No one, however, would deny a left-handed person his or her basic human rights. Or treat them like they were less than human. Or make sweeping generalizations about them based on the actions of a few left-handed people. Or assume that their whole life is consumed in being left-handed. Or that their left-handedness was the sum total of their personality and there is nothing to them beyond that.

But society is selfish. Only a recognized majority can afford the luxury of being selfish. It may be forced to make some small concessions to a minority but those concessions will only be made if they don't deprive the majority of anything important. The world and society is and will continue to be designed to accommodate the majority.

The plight of Gays and Lesbians is similar to the plight of left-handed

people. Gays and Lesbians are the victims of ignorance, rumor and prejudice. Straight authorities try to force us to function as straight individuals. Sweeping generalizations are made about us based on the actions of a few. It is assumed that we are all consumed in "homosexing" and that sex is the sum total of our personality and there is nothing to us beyond that. But unlike left handed people, Gays and Lesbians ARE denied basic human rights.

Long the victims of prejudice, Blacks can be singled out. They can't conceal their difference. Blacks were forced to either accept mistreatment or organize and fight it. Like being left-handed, being Gay is not always detectable. It's easier for a south-paw to force himself to use his right hand or for a Gay person to act straight.

In recent years, through study and research, it was learned that there was nothing wrong with left-handed people. They were born that way and could live healthy, happy, productive lives if they were allowed to function as left-handed people. Research showed that trying to force a leftie to be right-handed caused all sorts of mental, physical, and emotional problems for them.

Through education, left-handed people learned they were not alone and although they were in a minority, there is nothing wrong with being left-handed. They pointed out that society had short changed them in many respects and society made some minor concessions to them. But the world remains primarily designed for the right-handed person.

The purpose of the activist is three-fold.

First and most important, to let Gays and Lesbians know that they are not alone and to offer comfort and support.

Second, to educate the straight and Gay community. People are born Gay. They can lead healthy, happy, productive lives. And it is harmful to try to force Gays to act in a manner that is unnatural for them.

Third, activists become the voice of a mostly silent community, in demanding the minor concessions that will make life better for Gays and Lesbians. The demands are not for special privileges or special considerations but for the basic human rights.

In the past, bar owners had to be activists to get certain concessions for their patrons and performers. The ability to put on drag shows and to have same sex dancing were achieved as the result of hard work and many arrests and protests. So the bar owners attained "Gay places" for their clientele but the Stonewall riots made it apparent that that just isn't enough.

Some Gays believe that activism is not necessary. They believe the best course is to work on an individual basis with family, friends and associates. While that is a valid approach and should be pursued, it is slow and doesn't serve the purpose of letting Gays know that there is a large community of Gays here. It doesn't help other Gays proceed with the business of living without worrying about things that can't be changed. And it doesn't provide an out-front person who can be contacted and offer comfort and support.

Editorials appearing in Gaze represent only the opinions of the authors unless otherwise indicated.

The educational process begun by activists has already had some positive results. The attitudes of some segments of society have changed to a degree. These changes have made it possible for some of us to come out to friends and associates and to be accepted by them.

The older people who call the Gay Switchboard are still concerned about being Gay and being discovered. But young callers have a much healthier attitude. They've been educated enough to recognize their sexual identities and accept it as natural.

Their attitude is, "I'm Gay. That's fine. Let's get on with the business of living. How do I meet other Gay people?"

I'm not foolish enough to believe that Gays will ever be embraced enthusiastically by society. Gays, Blacks, left-handed people and other

minorities will always be different from the majority of society. Society

will make minor concessions to them but the world will always be designed to accommodate the majority. As long as people are different from one another and as long as the competitive spirit that directs our society driving the individual to be "better than" someone else and creating a need for some sort of superiority, there will be prejudice.

As an activist and a realist, I have to work for and believe in the day when a parent's reaction to a Gay child is, "The world is not designed for you but with our help and support everything will be fine." Or the day when society says, "Oh, you're Gay?.. That's interesting." In the same tone of voice and with the same attitudes that they say, "Oh, you're left-handed? That's interesting." The day when society treats a Gay couple with the same respect and politeness with which they treat straight couples. The day a Gay person realizes that he or she is Gay and the reaction is "I'm Gay because that's the way it works for me," in the same tone of voice and with the same attitude that the left-handed person says, "I use my left hand because that's the hand that works."

Black Death

The epidemic appeared unannounced and the effects were devastating. Victims developed tumors near their lymph nodes under the arm, livid splotches on the skin, high fever, and lung problems. Death came mercifully quick once the disease had full control of its host. Its progress across the continent was slow, but unstoppable. It first appeared in large cities, then it spread to small towns and struck at unsuspecting targets. In the beginning the disease was considered an isolated occurrence. But soon the entire population knew of the danger. And in a few years no area of the continent was safe and no individual was immune.

The people looked to their doctors to tell them the cause, but medical science had no answers. So the people developed their own theories. Some thought the disease was divine retribution for sinful living. Others thought its roots lay in black magic or voodoo. But most people looked for scapegoats. One particular group—outside the mainstream of the population was singled out and subjected to great discrimination. They were isolated to protect society. And in some cases they were subjected to violence and even death at the hands of the more paranoid members of society.

Because the disease was incurable, the people became hopeless and irrational. They changed their lifestyles in a desperate attempt to avoid whatever was killing their neighbors. They avoided the crowded gathering places they formerly frequented. They fled the cities where the disease first appeared. Eventually, utter despair prevailed and the people were convinced that they had only weeks or months before the symptoms appeared. They responded by debauchery and riotous activity in one last attempt to live.

The world was thrown into turmoil. The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) or the "Gay Plague" of the '80's? No, this was what happened during the bubonic plague or "black death" in Europe during the 14th century. But this could be the history of AIDS. Many of the points are similar; the mysterious disease that came

from nowhere, the folklore "causes," and to some extent the paranoid attitudes toward the supposed carriers. In Europe it was the Jews; here it is Gay males.

There are signs that in the past 600 years the human race has become a bit more sophisticated when dealing with mysterious diseases. What we haven't seen (and we hope we never will) is the medieval notion of isolating Gays from the rest of society because of AIDS. A few weeks ago in Atlanta blood bank officials, AIDS researchers and representatives of the Gay community met to discuss the threat AIDS poses to the nation's blood supplies. We feared that the conference would recommend that Gays be immediately prohibited from donating blood. But instead the attendees resisted this simplistic "solution." We regret that they were unable to come up with a specific recommendation, but we are greatly pleased that the Gay community was not further stigmatized.

Later, slander against us was once again averted when the American Association of Blood Banks, the American Red Cross and the Council for Community Blood Centers — organizations that together speak for almost all major blood banks in the country—met in Washington to further discuss the problem. Although official proceedings of that meeting were not immediately released. We have learned that the organizations agreed that while "there is considerable pressure on the blood bank community to restrict blood donations from homosexual males, direct or indirect questions about a donor's sexual preference are inappropriate."

We congratulate the nation's blood bank officials for their responsible and enlightened attitude. The fact that AIDS poses a danger to many thousands of Americans should not be an excuse to single out Gays as some sort of culprits. And we agree with officials in urging all individuals who show AIDS symptoms or who are considered at high risk not to donate blood until a better solution is found.

Reprinted from The Gay News

An open letter to the gay community on hepatitis B

Hepatitis B, a serious disease, may be sexually transmitted

Sexually transmitted diseases among the gay community are epidemic. Herpes has recently received a lot of attention; gonorrhea and syphilis are well known; but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently issued a major recommendation for the prevention of another sexually transmitted disease: Hepatitis B. In their *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC stated: "Susceptible homosexually active males should be vaccinated [against hepatitis B] regardless of their age or duration of their homosexual practices."

Gay men are at a high risk of contracting hepatitis B

In one study, from 51% to 76% of 3,816 gay men seen in five sexually transmitted disease clinics had evidence of past or present hepatitis B infection. Once infected, there's a 6% to 10% chance of becoming a carrier—capable of passing on the virus. The CDC estimated there are nearly 1 million carriers in the United States and that 100,000 of these carriers are gay men.

The hepatitis B virus can be passed on by contact with contaminated body fluids

such as saliva, urine, semen, and blood. The hepatitis B virus can be transmitted through tiny breaks in the skin or contact with mucous membranes. This can occur during intimate sexual contact and can lead to hepatitis B for the partner of an infected person. Although most patients recover and over half contracting hepatitis B do not get symptoms, there is no specific treatment and no known cure for hepatitis B infections.

Hepatitis B may lead to even more serious complications

For those who do get symptoms of hepatitis B, a mild or severe "flu-like" sickness may continue for weeks or months. Ten percent of all infections become long lasting (chronic) with potential complications that are sometimes more serious than those of other sexually transmitted diseases. The serious complications include the chronic carrier state, chronic active hepatitis, chronic persistent hepatitis, cirrhosis, and even cancer of the liver. Every year almost 4,000 carriers die of cirrhosis. In addition, carriers have a risk 273 times greater than that of the general population of contracting a usually fatal form of liver cancer.

Now this serious sexually transmitted disease is usually preventable by vaccination with the new hepatitis B vaccine

After more than a decade of research and development, a new vaccine is available for prevention, *not treatment*, of hepatitis B. In clinical studies, the vaccine was highly effective in preventing hepatitis B infection and was generally well tolerated. No serious adverse reactions occurred in these studies.

The vaccination regimen consists of a series of three injections, the first two a month apart and the third, six months after the first. To be effective, the vaccine must be given before a person gets hepatitis B. The vaccine helps prevent the disease: It is *not effective as a treatment*. We suggest that you consult your doctor to determine if you should be vaccinated.

**For more information
about hepatitis B and the
vaccine to prevent it, contact
your doctor, clinic, or the
American Liver Founda-
tion. 998 Pompton Avenue,
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
(201) 857-2626.**

This message is brought to you as a public service by
The American Liver Foundation

Why you should consult your doctor or clinic

The vaccine helps protect against infection caused by hepatitis B virus. This virus is an important cause of viral hepatitis, a disease mainly of the liver. Even mild forms of this disease may lead to serious complications and aftereffects, including liver cancer. There is no specific treatment for viral hepatitis.

Vaccination is recommended for persons who have a higher risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B virus because of frequent, close contact with infected people or exposure to body fluids from such people. It will not

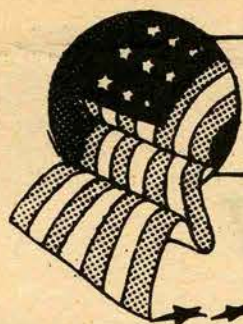
protect against hepatitis caused by viruses other than hepatitis B virus.

No serious adverse reactions were reported in over 6,000 individuals receiving the vaccine in clinical trials. The most frequent reaction was soreness at the point of injection; less common local reactions included redness, swelling, warmth, or formation of a hard, lumplike spot. The local effects were usually mild and lasted no more than 2 days after vaccination. Occasionally, low-grade fever (less than 101 °F) occurred. When it did, it usually lasted no longer than 48 hours following vaccination. In

rare cases, fever over 102 °F was reported.

More generalized complaints including malaise, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, muscle pain, and joint pain were reported infrequently. Rash was reported rarely. As with any vaccine, broad use may reveal additional adverse reactions.

Your doctor or clinic knows what special care must be taken when administering the vaccine and in determining who should receive the vaccine. The vaccine is not intended for persons who are allergic to any of its components.



National

Milwaukee Raids Net Arrests at Club Baths

MILWAUKEE(*The Weekly News*)— Milwaukee Police raided the Club Baths two times in 36 hours, arresting 10 men on charges of sexual perversion and lewd and lascivious conduct, Chicago's *GayLife* reported.

Six men were arrested on Jan. 5, and another four were arrested Jan. 7 after undercover men entered the baths. Those arrested reportedly were involved in sex outside private rooms.

An offer has been made by the Milwaukee district attorney's office to change the charges to disorderly conduct—with no record of sexual arrest if the men plead guilty—and many are expected to do so.

"We felt the sexual perversion charges would be dropped, because in this day and age, there would be an outrage that police resources are being wasted like this," said Club Baths Manager Paul De Marco.

"This is a slap in the face to the taxpayer," De Marco continued. "at least 20 cops were involved in each raid. (Milwaukee Police Chief Harold) Breier is using the power of his office to feed his own prejudice."

Family Law

(*The Weekly News*)—The fight of Gays to adopt one another in order to ensure certain property inheritance rights was enhanced recently when a New York court in *Matter Anonymous II* allowed the adoption of a Gay man by his lover to proceed. The ruling was made by a state appellate court, but not the state's highest court, so an avenue of appeal is still open. The court's opinion was very supportive of families, stating that the traditional nuclear family is no longer the only model that must be emulated.

While many states have declared that homosexuality in and of itself is no bar to custody or visitation rights of Lesbian and Gay parents, courts still continue to seriously and severely limit and restrict the terms of custody and visitation.



MGC MARCH PROGRAM

*"Sexually Transmitted Diseases:
Causes and Treatments"*

featuring a Memphis Physician

March 21, 7:30 P.M.
Public Library (Peabody & McLean)
Meeting Room B



Presented by the Memphis Gay Coalition

3-Year Old Beaten to Death for Gay Tendencies

GAYLIFE— The alleged leader of an 8 member religious cult has been convicted in involuntary manslaughter in the beating death of a 3-year old child. Steven Jackson was found guilty after 4½ hours of jury deliberation after the child's parents said that Jackson told them to beat the boy because he was "rebellious and had homosexual tendencies." The boy's parents, Larry and Lucille Lonadier, both pleaded guilty to charges of manslaughter, child, neglect and battery. They both agreed to testify against Jackson in exchange for lenient sentences. Jackson faces up to 40 years in prison.

Church Seeks to Censure Bishop Who Appointed Gay

DENVER(*The Weekly News*)— Appointment of an openly Gay minister to a Methodist church in Denver may still get the Bishop Melvin Wheatley in trouble, *Out Front* reports.

The First Methodist Church of Colorado Springs is asking the church to publicly censure Wheatley unless he changes his opinion on homosexuality.

A Los Angeles investigating committee last year found that Wheatley violated no church rules in appointing openly Gay Rev. Julian Rush to the Denver post.

The Colorado Springs church was not satisfied with the ruling, however, and now say they have been brought to the position of "losing faith in the episcopal leadership and into a morass of doubts concerning the Biblical heritage undergirding our faith."

Gays Gassed In Alaska

Gays in Anchorage, Alaska are facing a new kind of queer bashing. Five teargas attacks occurred in the city in one week, and the perpetrators are still at large. Four Gay bars featuring nude entertainment, all along Fourth Avenue, were gassed, and a tear gas canister was tossed onto a crowded dance floor at the Sheraton Hotel, where 1000 Gays and Lesbians were attending the annual Coronation Ball. The coronation attack, perpetrated by two unknown men, caused a mad rush for the door by party-goers in formal attire. No serious injuries were reported.

Florida Educators Reject Essay

The Florida State Board of Education has rejected an introductory sociology textbook for advanced high school students that includes an essay on homosexuality by Dr. Thomas Fitzgerald of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro Department of Anthropology. The action was taken after a complaint by Shirley Correll of the Pro-Family Forum. The complaint asserted that the text attacked religion and encouraged drug use, prostitution and homosexuality.

A spokesperson for the Sociological Gay Caucus said the book, *SOCIOLOGY*, by Ron Federico, "treats religion, drug use, and prostitution in the manner of most commonly used sociology texts... It has considerably more content on homosexuality, and this may very well have been a significant fact in the attack."

The rejection overrode the recommendations by high school teachers in Florida to use the book, the third edition of which is forthcoming this month. It includes an essay titled, "Homosexuality: The Myth of the Composite Portrait." In addition to providing a basic sociological overview of homosexuality, it reports on Dr. Fitzgerald's recent research in Sweden and Finland. Homosexuality is used throughout the book to illustrate topics including socialization, social movements, social research, and social change and presents a table about homosexuality on college campuses.



Oh, What a Day...

HOUSTON, TX (GCN)— A police vice squad officer interrupted an attempted armed robbery of a Houston adult bookstore on January 18, reported the *Montrose Voice*.

The officer was pursuing a sex-related victimless "crime" when he happened upon a real live robbery complete with a gunman. The gunman held the bookstore clerk hostage for a short time and engaged the Houston SWAT team in a 16-hour standoff.

When the teargas had settled and the gunman was booked for attempted capital murder of the police officer (he fired at one of the cops), the hapless clerk was served with a warrant for "promoting of obscene materials."

Lame Duck Congress Passes AIDS Funds

The final days of the lame duck Congress saw a victory for Gays— \$2 million for AIDS research. The money, appropriated for the rest of the fiscal year, will be spent by the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. Last fiscal year only half a million dollars in Federal monies was spent on research on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) claims success in their efforts to increase the level of spending for the disease. According to the organization, only two other health related programs were funded during the entire 97th Congress.



Democratic Party Establishes Gay/Lesbian Caucus

WASHINGTON— The Democratic Party has officially established a Lesbian and Gay caucus within the Democratic National Committee. The action was taken without dissent at the DNC's Executive Committee meeting February 4. Democratic National Chairman Charles Manatt, who supported the formation of the caucus, congratulated its members on their victory.

Over 20% of the members of the Democratic National Committee—twice the number required—signed the petition urging creation of the caucus. The petition signatures came from 23 states including New Hampshire and New Mexico, South Carolina and Kansas. No signatures were obtained from members from Tennessee, Arkansas or Mississippi.

The signatures were collected at the state level by Lesbian and Gay Democratic Clubs and political organizations. The effort was coordinated by the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs, a new national network of groups throughout the country.

Peter Vogel of New York, Co-Chair of the National Association, praised the work of the state organizations and states that "through this process we have again demonstrated that the Gay political movement is indeed nationwide." Vogel also stressed that this level of public support from over a fifth of the DNC membership in all regions of the country "clearly establishes Gay Rights as part of the mainstream of the Democratic Party's historic commitment to social justice for all Americans."

Dick Hanson of Minnesota was selected as Chair of the new caucus. Stephen Smith of California will serve as secretary-treasurer. Both are openly Gay members of the DNC. Women, Blacks and Hispanics also hold official caucus status within the DNC.

LLDEF and ACLU Submit Brief in Carl Hill Immigration Case.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund researched and wrote an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief in the Carl Hill v. Immigration and Naturalization Service case. The brief was submitted under the name of the ACLU National Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

Lambda Managing Attorney Abby Rubenfeld said: "We are pleased to have been able to participate in a cooperative effort with another Lesbian and Gay civil rights organization. Given the ramifications of the case and its effect on foreign Gay visitors to the United States, we think it is important that all relevant and persuasive information be presented to the court in as concise a manner as possible. Combining resources is extremely effective in legal cases." Mary Dunlap is counsel for Mr. Hill; National Gay Rights Advocates is also submitting an *amicus* brief in the case.

Fern Schwaber was the cooperating attorney who wrote the brief for LLDEF. The trial court held that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) cannot exclude homosexual aliens from entry into the United States without certification from the Public Health Service that they are "afflicted with a mental defect or disease." Given that the P.H.S. will no longer give such certification on homosexuality alone, the INS could not exclude Hill. The Lambda brief argues that the exclusion of homosexual aliens has been based on a premise that homosexuality is a medical, mental disease, and that because modern medical science no longer classifies homosexuality that way, the PHS decision not to certify was correct and furthermore, that there is no rational medical basis for exclusion.

Gay Man Wins Custody of Foster Son in Landmark Decision

RIVERSIDE, CA (Gaylife)--An openly Gay man won permanent custody of his foster son in a landmark decision. David Frater, 29, has been trying to adopt Non-Gay Kevin Dorman Frater, 17, since he first took custody of him in July 1980. The Riverside County Social Services Department, however, "put them through two years of investigations by social workers and psychologists," said Frater's attorney Gloria Allred. "After that, in October they said they would not consent, but would not oppose the adoption either. That made David angry. Me too. We thought they were stonewalling," said Allred, explaining that they thought the department was trying to wait until Kevin turned 18 so they would not have to make a decision. In late November, Allred filed for a court hearing to ask a judge to order the department to either consent or give reasons why they would not. Twenty minutes before the December 9 hearing, the department announced it would consent. There still must be one more court appearance for a formal adoption decree, but Allred said that was just a formality. "This is a great victory for the Gay Community," said Allred. "This will open up a whole new resource in the community of homes for children who need to be adopted."

Gay TV Spot Rescued

SAN FRANCISCO (Bay Area Reporter)--Assemblyman Art Agnos announced good news about the controversial "mental wellness" spot to the first 1983 meeting of the Alice B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club.

In an eleventh hour CIA-type action ("I met someone in a garage.") Agnos was able to salvage one of the TV commercials promoting positive Gay images before Governor Jerry Brown left office. The films were produced by the state Health and Welfare Dept. Agency last year as an effort to promote mental wellness by depicting positive images of various segments of the population. The ones dealing with Lesbians and Gays were held back after production because Agency Director Mario Obledo claimed they constituted advocacy.

"In the spot that will be released, Abigail Van Buren talks in a positive way about a letter from a woman with a Lesbian daughter," Agnos explained. "Pat Norman did a great job of developing these messages, and it's too bad we couldn't save the others."

Gay-Transsexual Police Team

WASHINGTON, D.C. (GCN)--A Gay man and a transsexual on the DC police squad work together to cover a beat specializing in family disputes, reports the Washington Post.

The first acknowledged homosexual officer and the first transsexual officer on the District force were assigned to work together.

Bobby Armstead and Bonnie Davenport are described as being "more patient, more understanding and more thorough" than their co-workers, according to their supervising sergeant, Frank Weinsheimer. "They were assigned together because they are an effective team," the sergeant said.

Not so, said another officer, "The other officers...will not work in the same car with them. It's personal, not professional."

Regardless of why they work together, Weinsheimer is very pleased with the job they do. "They bring a special quality to the job. Bobby is Spanish speaking and Gay and has the eagerness of a rookie. Bonnie is a veteran and has a double perspective."

CRISISLINE Report

Continued from page 1

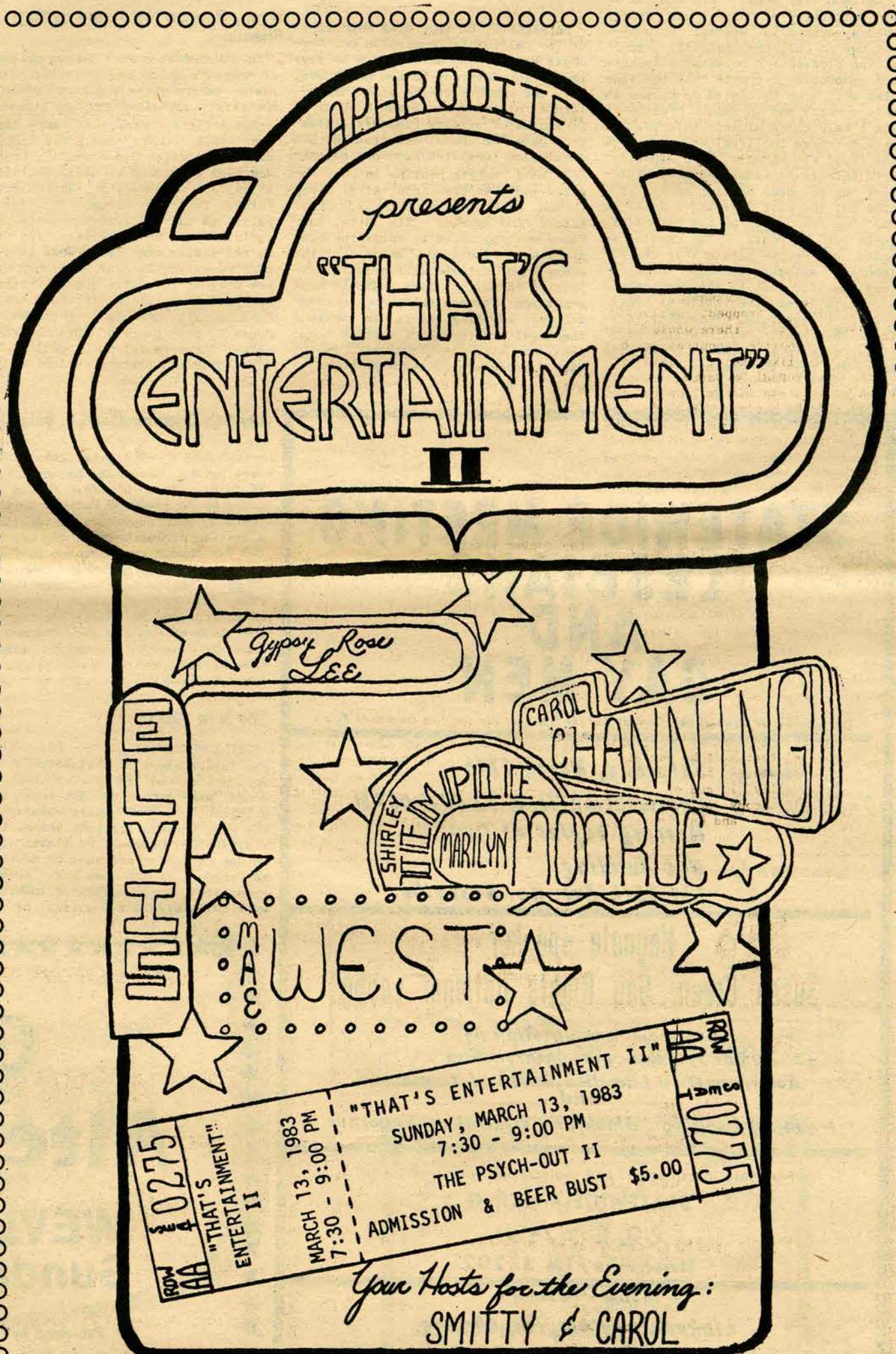
volunteers from the New York City Gay Men's Health Crisis joined NGTF phone staffers on busiest days.

After taking calls for more than three months, Crisisline volunteers are very concerned about the considerable mis-information about AIDS among both Gays and non-Gays. One staffer recently heard about a mother who denied her Lesbian daughter

the right to visit her father in the hospital because she feared that she might give him AIDS. (There is not yet a single confirmed case of a Lesbian with AIDS.) Several parents of AIDS patients who moved back home have called to ask if they were at risk of developing AIDS if they shared towels, utensils or bathroom facilities with their son. Reports that AIDS has been found among Haitian immigrants prompted one man to call and

ask if he should dismiss a Haitian nurse he recently hired to attend his ailing father. More than a few heterosexual callers wanted to know if they or their children could get AIDS simply from being near Gay people.

Clearly the AIDS crisis can provide an excuse to stigmatize Gay people further and deny us jobs, housing and other civil rights. Through the Crisisline and other means, NGTF is continuing to work to educate the public about AIDS and to reduce irrational fears about it that feed homophobia.





News, Information, Coming Events...

Herpes Preventive Discovered

CHICAGO (Gay News)-- A scientist at the University of Chicago has developed a vaccine to prevent herpes--- but not to cure the sexually transmitted disease. A university spokesman announced recently that the vaccine will soon be tested in humans in this country and in France. "While it won't help those already infected, it will increase the level of protection for those who haven't been exposed," said Bernard Roizman, the microbiologist who has been working on the vaccine for the past year and a half. He has also been studying the herpes viruses for 28 years. The vaccine is based on a herpes strain that creates immunity without causing the symptoms. He said that if the vaccine is effective it may eventually be administered to everyone, preferably during high school. Public Health officials estimate that about 20 million Americans have the disease.

California Commission Urges Privacy Reform

SACRAMENTO, CA (Bay Area Reporter) -- The California Commission on Personal Privacy has submitted a 500page report to Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., and members of the state legislature following an 18-month study of invasions of privacy and discrimination based on sexual orientation. The commission consulted numerous experts and held public hearing in Los Angeles and San Francisco after being formed by Brown in October, 1980. Former Los Angeles City Atty. Burt Pines was appointed to chair the commission. Included among the study's 80 recommendations were: expansion of current laws against tape recording private telephone conversations; adopting reforms to improve the legal treatment of married couples and "alternate families," including a procedure for such persons to

declare themselves as a family unit; adopting statewide standards governing police surveillance; amending the state penal code to prohibit video monitoring and clandestine surveillance of restrooms; and protection of privacy and personal right of Gay men and Lesbians through a wide range of legislative and administrative actions. According to Thomas F. Coleman, Executive Director of the Commission and author of the report, "A number of the commission's recommendations go a long way toward ending discrimination against a significant number of persons living in such relationships." prominently Lesbians and Gay men.

Nancy Reagan Not Fazed by Gay Friends

In a Washington Post report on Nancy Reagan's White House first two years, we are given a glimpse of how the First Lady views the Gay life.

The article quotes that Nancy Reagan "still counts among her confidantes decorator Ted Graber." Graber has been described by administration aides as a powerful White House force. Powerful enough to "remove paintings and decorative objects from various White House offices for use in the family quarters." What is even more revealing is that Nancy had Graber stay at the White House. "Graber brought his live-in friend, Archie Case, to stay overnight at the White House" for Nancy's 60th birthday party. "Live-in friend" sounds a lot like "domestic partner" which sounds a lot like "Gay lover."

that he is "wiser" on the issue of Gay police officers and that he would have "no problem whatsoever" with Gays serving in that department. Rizzo is being opposed by at least one candidate popular with the Gay and Lesbian community-- former city manager Wilson Goode.

Heckler Will Answer for Herself

WASHINGTON, D.C. (GCN)--Former Rep. Margaret Heckler of Newton, Massachusetts, will be questioned on her anti-Gay congressional voting record and her attitude toward Gay related issues should she become the Secretary of Health and Human Services, according to sources quoted in the Washington Blade.

Heckler has been nominated to assume the HHS post and will appear before the Senate Finance Committee during her confirmation hearings.

A supporter of the cutoff of funds for Legal Services Corporation for cases involving homosexuality, Heckler was defeated this fall by Rep. Barney Frank in a race that attracted strong Gay interest. The Human Rights Campaign Fund donated \$10,000 to Franks re-election campaign.

Christian Science Monitor Sued

BOSTON (Gay Community News)-----A prize-winning reporter fired from the Christian Science Monitor in 1981 is suing the paper's publisher for \$1 million and for reinstatement to her job.

Chris Masden, dismissed after refusing to change her views on homosexuality, charges several officials of the world headquarters of the Church of Christ Scientist with violating privacy, defamation of character, bad faith, termination of employment and failure to follow its own personnel procedures.

Gay March Called Off

The second "March on Washington" has been postponed indefinitely. The planning for a specific march has diminished and instead has been geared for an April conference to be held in the Russian River area of California. This meeting, called a "National Strategy Conference," will include speakers and forums on a variety of health and labor issues of importance to Gay men and women.

Organizing this conference is the National Activists' Union of Gays and Lesbians (NAUGL).

The first March on Washington happened in 1979 and had a crowd estimated at 100,000.

STATEWIDE MEETING LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

Sponsored by the Memphis Gay Coalition and the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights

Date **▷ Saturday, March 12th**
Time **▷ Registration from 12:00-1:00PM**
Meeting begins at 1:00PM
Location **▷ MCC Building**
131 15th Ave. No. Nashville

Keynote speaker -
Susan Green, Gay Rights National Lobby

Special presentation by
Bill Johnson and Kathryn Hearne,
American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee
and

Irwin Rothenburg, Black and White Men Together

For more information and registration forms, write to:

STATEWIDE MEETING

P.O. Box 24181

Nashville, TN 37202

the theme of the meeting is

Linked Together For Change.

Gay Sex Decriminalized In Ireland

(OUT FRONT)--The International Gay News Agency reported that more than 15 years after similar action was taken by England and Wales, Northern Ireland, too, has approved decriminalization of sex between Gay men over 21. The change was approved following an appeal to the European Commission on Human Rights by a Gay man in Belfast. Similar legislation was approved in Scotland in 1980, leaving only the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands in Great Britain with Criminal laws still on the books regarding adult Gay sex.

The New Rizzo?

PHILADELPHIA (GayLife)-- Frank Rizzo, the former mayor of Philadelphia, who was once quoted as saying that he would "make Attila the Hun look like a faggot," is once again running for the seat he held for many years. This time around, however, he claims that he has changed-- and that he deserves the support of the Gay and Lesbian community. In an exclusive interview with Philadelphia's Gay News, he said

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Gay Leaders Watching NAMBLA Case

by LOU CHIBBARO, JR. AND STEVE MARTZ-
THE WASHINGTON BLADE

A national Gay rights spokeswoman has accused the press of presenting "inflammatory" and "misleading" reports on investigations by local and federal law enforcement agencies of the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA).

Virginia Apuzzo, executive director of the New York based National Gay Task Force, said press accounts of claims by New York police that NAMBLA "kidnaps" young boys and is part of a "sex ring" for homosexuals presented a false impression to the public that Gays are involved in the exploitation of children.

Apuzzo said NAMBLA is a controversial group advocating "transgenerational sex," which she said is not a Gay issue, but rather an issue involving men and women, straights and Gays.

Apuzzo noted that while she is "appalled" by incidents where it is proven that adults have sexually exploited children, she is frustrated by what she claims to be a "double standard" over the handling of such cases between Gay-related incidents and heterosexual incidents.

"Have you ever seen such hysteria reported, or such dramatic announcements by police, when a case of abuse is uncovered within the heterosexual family, where an uncle or father molests a little girl?" Apuzzo asks.

She also accused the press of failing to explore the background of adolescent boys or teenagers who are involved in legal problems stemming from interaction with older men. According to Apuzzo, the youths often have been rejected by parents because they are Gay, forcing them to fend for themselves on the street.

Jeff Levi, president of the D.C. Gay Activists Alliance, said he, too, is concerned with the way the media has covered the NAMBLA issue.

Levi added, however, that "Any responsible Gay organization will oppose the exploitation of anyone."

"I personally have real problems when there is a large age differential between sex partners when one of the partners is a minor," Levi said.

Those remarks come in the wake of a month of police and federal law enforcement actions directed against the group in New York City and Massachusetts, and a small wave of press accounts about the group that Gay ac-

tivists have called sensational.

The latest chain of events began on December 3, when Wareham, Massachusetts police raided a cottage, arrested three members of NAMBLA, and seized a quantity of material. The men, ranging in age from 17 to 28, were booked on sex with minors charges and on a charge of possession of obscene material with the intent to distribute it. Wareham police were acting on a tip provided by New Jersey police.

Among the material seized in that raid was a photograph of a youth resembling Etan Patz a New York City boy who disappeared several years ago at the age of six. When police informed media in that city two weeks later that the photo might be Patz whose disappearance was widely publicized in New York, the ensuing publicity prompted a retired New York cab driver to walk into the offices of the *New York Daily News* on December 22 and say that he had picked up a child he believed to be Patz on the morning that the youth disappeared. According to the cab driver, Chester Jones, the child was in the company of a yellow-haired man in his thirties and was complaining loudly that they were not going the right way to his school.

The photo and the cabbie's statements caused a flurry of publicity with NAMBLA described variously as a "sex ring," "porno club," and "homosexual organization." In some press accounts the group was said to distribute a catalogue of adolescent boys, who could be ordered by phone and paid for with a credit card. Police now say the photo was not of Patz and was from a calendar published before he was born.

Three days before Jones came forward, FBI agents raided the apartments of at least two Gay men who have been active in NAMBLA. On the same day, agents also visited the homes of nearly a dozen New York members of the group, seeking their voluntary cooperation in providing information about the group.

The raid of the lower Manhattan apartment of Bob Rhodes, a group spokesman, resulted in the seizure of the groups archives by the FBI. According to the *NEW YORK NATIVE*, the affidavits filed for the search warrant in those raids, which would detail what law enforcement officials expected to find on the premises, and inventory property seized during the

raids, were sealed shortly after they were issued.

That development recalled a July 8 ruling by a federal judge in New York who not only denied a Freedom of Information Act petition by NAMBLA for access to the files authorities had compiled about them on the grounds that such a disclosure would jeopardize an ongoing investigation, but refused to discuss the reasons for his decision.

NAMBLA members have maintained that their organization is "An unpopular but legal civil rights group" and have accused "the FBI, various police forces, and the media" of "Launching a vicious and unjustified attack" on the group.

NAMBLA was founded in December, 1978 following a controversy the previous year in Revere, Massachusetts, where a crusading district attorney had indicted more than half a dozen Gay men on child sex-related charges. Nearly every one of the men was acquitted and their defenders charged that the indictment has been a witch hunt and a politically motivated attack against homosexuals.

In the years since its founding, NAMBLA has been the object of controversy, coming under frequent attack

from Lesbian-feminist groups who say that the abolition of age of consent laws, which NAMBLA advocates, would make young women especially vulnerable to sexual assaults by family members, who experts say commit the vast majority of sexual assaults against children. It has also been attacked by more conservative Gay groups, who consider it a radical "fringe" group. At the same time, NAMBLA has been defended by some in the Gay movement, who claim "boy-lovers" are a legitimate minority within the movement and agree with NAMBLA's contentions that the overwhelming majority of man-boy relationships are mutually beneficial.

The controversy over NAMBLA's status in the Gay movement erupted again this past October when a coalition of Philadelphia Gay Groups vigorously protested the decision of the Lesbian and Gay Community Center to allow NAMBLA to hold its annual convention at the center. The coalition charged NAMBLA was "anti-woman, anti-child, and anti-Gay" in a letter to the center's board of directors.

Ark. Sodomy Law

Continued from page 1

opportunity to challenge that statute. There's no way for Charles to be heard on whether or not a statute that he was not charged with is constitutional."

Henley sharply criticized his colleagues for considering the sodomy law in the narrowest possible context. He also assailed Justices Healey and George Fagg for "Concluding that because the appellant could have been similarly punished under the Public Sexual Indecency statute, he suffered no discrimination. Justification in law or judicial policy for such an unprecedented departure from traditional equal protection analysis is not readily discoverable."

The majority opinion also reads: "Lemons contends that public sexuality is not the issue here. To the contrary, we find that Lemons' public sexual conduct, is the sole issue here. We remain unconvinced that the constitutional right to privacy extends to Lemons' conduct, much less than that the state of Arkansas does not have a compelling interest in limiting public sexuality, even if arguably given some constitutional protection, to prohibit oral sex in public restrooms within the confines of a national park."

In contrast, Henley states in his dissenting opinion clearly the sodomy law is aimed at private acts as well as public and that the court's interpretation "limiting the sodomy statute's scope to public acts plainly ignores the explicit, unambiguous language of the statute..."

If the sole purpose of the sodomy law is to prohibit homosexuals from having sex in public places, the law should not exist because the Public Sexual Indecency Act already prohibits this, writes Henley. He concludes that "the sodomy statute serves no other purpose than the imposition of a 'concept of private morality chosen by the state.'" Henley cited *People v. Onofre*, in which a New York court struck down that state's sodomy law in 1980.

Henley also quotes a U.S. Supreme Court decision which reads, "If the constitutional conception of 'equal protection of the laws' means anything, it must at the very least mean that a bare (legislative) desire to harm a politically unpopular group cannot constitute a legitimate governmental interest."

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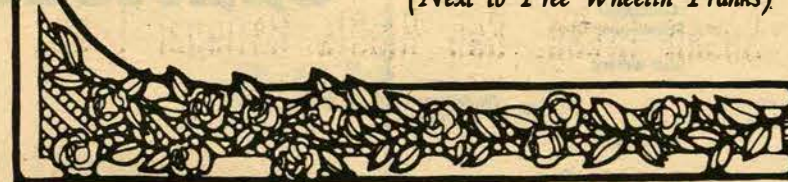
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Short Mountain Sanctuary

By Milo Guthrie

What is Short Mountain? Short Mountain is a unique geological feature, an outlier of the Cumberland Plateau, and is the highest point west of the plateau itself, in middle Tennessee. Located in Northern Canon County, sixty miles southeast of Nashville, it is capped by sandstone rock and is the origin of parts of three river systems. Numerous caves are located at various elevations on the mountain and according to local legend, it is hollow inside. The summit of Short Mountain is at 2100 feet, 630 meters.

"Short Mountain" is also the Short Mountain Sanctuary, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation chartered in the State of Tennessee to hold land in common, thereby removing it from sale and speculation. We have created this "land trust" in order to experiment with new forms of land tenure and communal life. By sharing this land and acting as its stewards, we preserve and enhance the importance of the natural world in our lives.

The Short Mountain Sanctuary is also specifically, a Lesbian and Gay Sanctuary. A home and refuge for those of us who periodically need to escape the cultural pressures, social prejudice and intense technological abuse of the "strait" society.

It is of course, a wildlife sanctuary where we can become aware of, and live in harmony with, the plants and animals with whom we share the planet. Out here on the land, under the stars, we are free to share each others' lives and develop a spirituality which is linked to the ancient cycles of the earth. We circle and spiral under the moon in constant awareness of the weather and the changes in the seasons.

Our land consists of two hundred acres, mostly woods, old fields, steep hollows and narrow ridges. Right in the middle of the tract is

an antebellum log cabin and a huge barn. Nearby is the spring from which we carry our drinking water. At dusk, as one walks through the barn, the goats sigh and murmur; the chickens cluck and rustle their feathers. When you're in the outhouse past the barn, you can see the flickers of light in the cabin's living room as the kerosene lamps are lit for the evening. Walking back to the cabin, you can smell the smoke of the wood fires in the stoves. We live with some of the gentler technology of the nineteenth century as our culture and awareness move into the twenty-first century.

Our herd of sixteen goats produces copious quantities of milk which we process daily into cheese and yogurt for our own use as well as for sale and trade. Each year we struggle with the groundhogs and weeds for the abundant produce of a quarter acre garden and a similarly sized corn field behind it.

We have been reluctant to use heavy machinery to clear the overgrown fields so the work of reclaiming the upper land goes slowly. Most of our garden work is done with hand tools as well as a small roto-tiller.

We are turning to French intensive bed gardening as a better method of organic food production. Some years, our old apple trees crank out bushels of apples for sauce and pies. Other years our garden has produced large quantities of tomatoes for canning and preserves. Last year forty-two sweet pepper plants turned out to be hot jalapenos so we made lots of hot sauce. Every year the strawberry bed gets bigger. Our garden is a harmonious blend of herbs, vegetables, flowers, small fruits and edible "weeds" which we blend into salads in the winter and spring.

While we are by no means self-sufficient in food production, we grow and gather a lot of our own produce. We purchase the bulk of our grains and other staple foods from the local buying club. We are overwhelmingly



vegetarian in diet, exceptions being the occasional groundhog caught in the act of raiding the garden or the excess rooster who winds up in the stew pot. On special occasions, we sacrifice a billy goat and throw a party for our neighbors.

One of the main purposes of the Short Mountain Sanctuary is to host semi-annual gatherings which coincide with our corporate meetings around Belpine, "May Day," and Halloween. Spring and fall are excellent times of the year to visit and experience the forest floor carpeted with wild flowers or the trees ablaze with colors. Preceding or following the weekend corporate meetings, we have week or month long gatherings which are a time of fun, collective work and sharing of culture and development of healing skills. We are a diverse and talented people and have a lot to offer each other.

Sanctuary has also hosted and sponsored several other events including: a picnic for men and children, a Lesbian Power Conference, (Fall 1980), a concert by Charlie Murphy in Murfree-

shoro, a film showing numerous workshops in wild plant identification, a permaculture workshop and a campaign rally for one of our members who ran for the state legislature.

This year our corporate meeting will be the weekend of April 23-24, followed by a week-long gathering. The following weekend of May first is the Southeast Lesbian and Gay Conference in Atlanta. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone traveling through to Atlanta, to stop by and visit with us. The place can be hard to find, especially at night. Please write first and get a map and directions. The address is: Short Mountain Sanctuary, Route 1, Box 98A, Liberty, TN 37095.

Our next major event of the year will be a Summer Camp for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents. It will be held for nine days in June. Please write the above address for more information.

We are interested in developing contacts with our friends throughout the region. Please feel free to get in touch.

Gaze

Box 3038, Memphis, Tennessee 38173-0038. Phone (901) 454-1411 (irregular hours).

Gaze is nonprofit and produced by volunteers. We assume no liability for claims made by advertisers. Appearance in this publication is no indication of sexual orientation or identity. We welcome materials submitted by readers but reserve the right to edit or reject such materials. Subscriptions are \$8 per year to cover mailing costs. Gaze is published on the last Friday of every month by the Memphis Gay Coalition.

Co-Editors:
John Stillwell-Alan Cook

Staff Writers:

Marty Katz
Thomas Smith
David Alexander

Joe Calhoun
Ric Sullivan
Joel Tate

Collin Lane

Production and Graphics:
Allen Cook Ric Sullivan

Circulation:
Cecil McLeod
Ric Sullivan
Marty Martin

Advertising Information:
(901) 454-1411

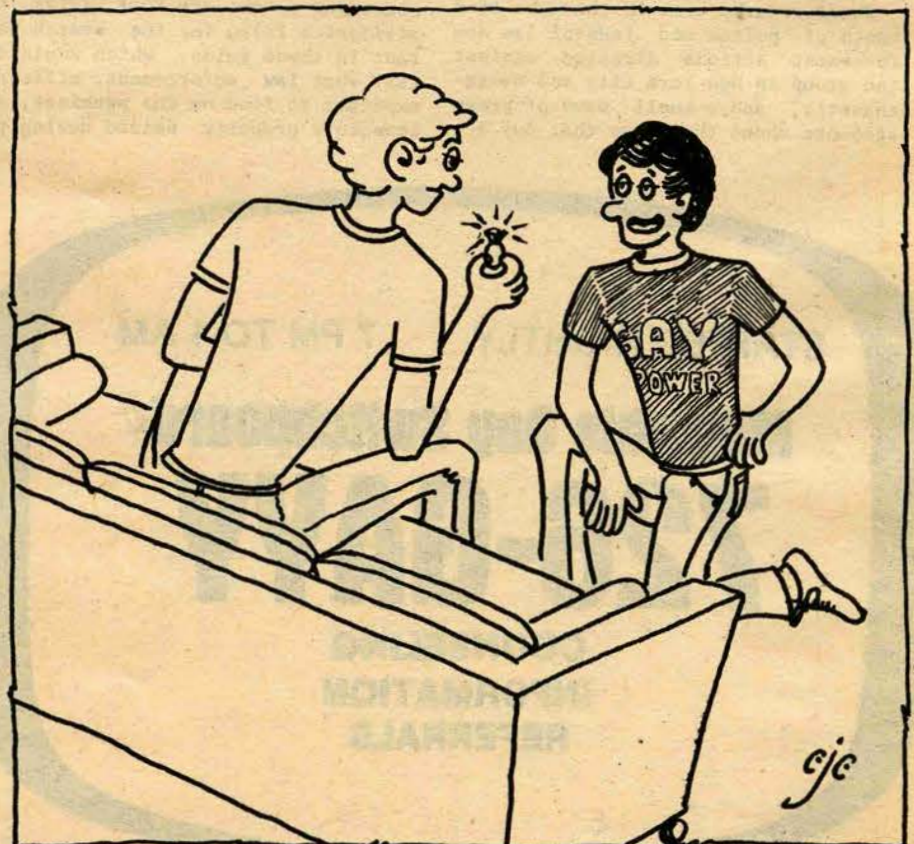
National Advertising:
Joe DiSabato
Rivendell Marketing
666 Sixth Avenue
New York, NY 10010 (212) 242-6863

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Editors Attempt to Educate, Politicize As They Inform

In August of '82, Allen Cook began working in the graphics department of GAZE and took over the department in September of '82. John Stilwell and Allen Cook officially took charge as co-editors in November of '82 with the December issue being their first combined effort. Recently GAZE staff writer, Ric Sullivan, had an opportunity to interview the new co-editors.

GAZE: How did you first get involved with Gaze?

ALLEN: I got involved in it from a production standpoint initially. I realized that Ken Hagenback was doing the newspaper essentially by himself as far as production, with a few people helping him. I had had some paste-up experience about 10 years ago, so I offered to help... John actually volunteered to edit the paper. I was still working with production;

ALLEN: Seems like it's been longer than that. I remember when the first issue came out. I picked it up at... the Front Page. I was very impressed that there was such a thing. And I think there are people coming out today, and the first time or the second time or the third time they go into a Gay bar and see a Gay publication that is well put together, I think they are impressed and feel part of something bigger.

JOHN: Strange as it may seem, there are people I talk to and say, "I work on the paper," or "We have this paper," and they'll still say "Why I had no idea that Memphis had anything like that." As many papers as we're putting out and as many papers as we're sending out, to believe that there's somebody out there in the city who doesn't know that there is a Gay paper is phenomenal.

you've had time to get an idea of what the paper means to you and to other people. What do you feel the main thrust of the paper should be?

JOHN: I think the main purpose of the paper is educational. In some very subtle ways, I think that Allen and I will inflict our political opinions. But we're also inviting guest editorials because I feel there are people out there who may disagree with what we have to say or have something we haven't thought about saying. But that should be a minor thing. The big thrust is education -- letting people know what's going on medically, what's going on as far as news, politics, what's being done to us and what progress we're making. And also in a broader sense, education as far as what's available to Gay people. We got two books in the mail today. The only vehicle we have to get that information out to the Gay community is the newspaper....

GAZE: You mentioned the Coalition. We've heard throughout the three year history of the paper a lot about the old Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights and now the Memphis Gay Coalition. Exactly what is the relationship between the Coalition and the newspaper?

JOHN: I think a lot of people think or have thought in the past that the paper is one entity and the Coalition is another entity, when in fact, the Coalition is the main body that's working to supply all of these things. The newspaper is a direct service of the Coalition. The Switchboard is a direct service of the Coalition. The Gay Alternative Radio program and the TV program, VIEWS from 10Z... these are all direct services.

A Gay Pride march doesn't happen because a bunch of people get together and say "Hey, it'd be fun to have a march in June." It's something that the Coalition plans for from the end

JOHN: I think if you're trying to make all the decisions yourself, there's a chance of losing perspective. You may get zeroed in on an idea or an opinion or something that's particularly bothering you and everything that reinforces it, you grab up and cram into the paper. It's a lot better to have somebody else to talk to and say, "Well, you know we treated that last month and it's really just repeating the same thing. We need to go to something else..." I think it helps us to keep perspective and not become too narrowly focused...

GAZE: In the past there have been complaints that the paper was too "political." Sometimes there's a fine line between political and educational, especially when you're talking about a medium of communication like a newspaper. Please touch on this distinction between the paper being educational and the paper being political. What kind of balance are you seeking to achieve and how can you try to balance the two?

JOHN: If either one of us or the combined force of us try to change or form political opinion, I think people who already agree with us will back us 100%; people who disagree with us will tell us to go to hell, and ignore the paper or ignore whatever's going on. If we try to form policy or try to form political opinion, we're not going to get anywhere. The only thing that we can do is tell people what's going on and they have to make their own decisions. We can make them aware that this bar was raided, or the women at Millington have been unfairly ousted from the service. And then we can make known the fact that the ACLU is backing the women and they need money. And the people who believe in what the women are doing by fighting the case will support it. The people who think they should just shut up...will let it go. We can't change minds that easily....

"The only thing that we can do is tell people what's going on and they have to make their own decisions."

I was thinking about this the other day...how did that happen? Somebody said we need a new editor and you said "I'll do it."

JOHN: In the October '82 issue of Gaze, it was indicated that Bill Johnson wanted some assistance and was hoping that someone would be interested in taking over the paper. In the November issue, Bill closed his editorial by saying, "We still don't have a new editor." In reality, the November issue was the last issue he was going to do and we were faced with the possibility of having no one in charge and no paper. I was interested at that point in helping...I was writing a letter to the editor which evolved into my first editorial. I felt that the paper was important enough and the job necessary enough that even if I couldn't do as good a job as Bill was doing that it was still a job that needed to be done and that's how I got involved.

ALLEN: There was some talk about whether or not the paper would survive. There were rumors going around. Bill essentially founded the paper and when he decided to back out of it we thought "Well, that's it. It's gone." I personally felt enough about the paper... it's been around as long as I've been out, it seems...

GAZE: It's been out for three years.

GAZE: Why do you think that is? Why do you think there are people who still don't know the paper exists?

JOHN: ...The major distribution points have got to be the bars. And there are people who are not involved in going to the bars, there are people who are not involved in Coalition activities and who are essentially either completely isolated or they're isolated in small groups that only socialize with each other... The point is that we haven't reached everyone yet. That's the big thing--- I don't know how we can.

ALLEN: The bars don't have the idea that it's important enough to display (the paper) prominently or we haven't approached them properly. The papers are generally left on a bar or in a corner somewhere or on top of the cigarette machine. If you wander around you can stumble onto a stack, pick one up and take it home. But there's never any kind of display where you can immediately know everybody's going to see that the current issue of Gaze is out. I know there were some display things tried, but for some reason they've all disappeared.

GAZE: Except at the Barracks. The display box is still there, or was several months ago. As a new co-editor going into your fourth paper,

"Next to moving people to action, changing people's attitudes is probably the most difficult thing."

of one Gay March to the beginning of the next. I think that's something that people haven't understood... A thing that I think we're having a lot of trouble with is that people still think of us--the whole shmeat--as a pain-in-the-ass. They feel activists are causing more trouble than any possible good... The reason activists became active was because Gays were being persecuted and Gays were being discriminated against and police were going into bars and beating up the patrons. And that's why we have activists. We certainly do create a backlash because we come out and let people know we're here. And people for the most part are just as happy not to know we're here.

GAZE: Why are you co-editors?

ALLEN: For one thing, we live together, and share a lot of things. It's a lot of responsibility for just one person. I bounce ideas off of him; he bounces ideas off of me. It's a collective judgement, with more than one person having input on the final look of the paper. I basically handle the production aspect while John handles selection and writing of the stories, although I get involved with that as well. But it's a collective effort. With as much material as we have to go through, we each sort it out and decide "this ought to go, this ought to stay..."

ALLEN: Next to moving people to action, changing people's attitudes is probably the most difficult thing. My personal opinion is that the newspaper should be a reflection of Gay society and that reflection would include those people who are very politically oriented as well as those who are socially oriented. What we try to do-- well, for example, our local writers-- we don't do anything to their opinions. Whatever they write is their opinion, or news facts-- whatever it is. But it's based on where they're coming from. We try to select items from other newspapers that may reflect other opinions so that someone reading our paper over a period of time can take all of these things and form their own opinions. I don't think we've formed any kind of editorial policy. Of course, we're political people. Let's face it, a lot of people find politics very boring.. or, for some reason, discrimination has not touched their lives, as they perceive it--they haven't been busted in the park, or they haven't been thrown out of an apartment, or they haven't been thrown out of a job because they're openly Gay. They're perfectly content in their closets... They don't perceive that they have a problem. We're trying to expose them to the fact that there is a problem, so they should get involved. How they get involved is entirely up to them.. Some people go out and march in the streets, march in Gay Pride. There

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are other people who do just as much work and never show their faces in public and still are very influential...

GAZE: How can you, in a community as diverse as the Gay community, cover all aspects -- how can you present things that will be of interest to everyone?

JOHN: Get as many people involved as possible. For instance, we have a couple of young men who are writing for the paper who are involved with the Metropolitan Community Church. We've got a couple of men who are involved with Black and White Men Together. We always have Bill Johnson as a source for ACLU news. Unfortunately, we don't have anybody actively working on the Lesbian angle. We do get press releases from the local National Organization for Women chapter and we have reached out to several women. Two local Lesbians have agreed to review a series of Lesbian books. But we are seriously lacking in that area. The fact that

items, especially local news items, are very hard to come up with...

JOHN: The regular staff, those who write on a regular basis, is still very small. We've got maybe 5 or 6 people that are involved in writing things for every paper. We've got an additional 5 or 6 people that have indicated they are willing to write something if we can give them an assignment or they become aware of something that they're interested in. ...We could use a lot more people involved in gathering news.

GAZE: Are any of the staff members paid?

(COMBINED LAUGHTER)

JOHN: No. In fact a lot of the expenses of the paper -- the actual expense of typesetting, printing is paid for through the ads. We seem to be having a better collection rate than in the past. But money for supplies and things like that are still coming out of private pockets.

"...we can't be everywhere and we can't know everything—we have to rely on having as many people involved as possible."

we can't be everywhere and we can't know everything -- we have to rely on having as many people involved as possible. It doesn't have to be anybody on a regular basis. If somebody happens to be where something is happening... and would like to write an article on what's going on...

ALLEN: Or at least give us the facts so that we can write the article... That's a big problem -- we get criticized for not having enough local news and I think it's a valid complaint. But the point is-- how are we to know what's happening at a particular bar...for example. We get criticism because we didn't publicize an event that was coming up for a local club. Well, if nobody from (that club) tells us about it, how are we supposed to know? Those kinds of things slip by -- we haven't established contacts and that, of course, takes time.

GAZE: Don't you have enough reporters on call to cover events that you learn about?

ALLEN: Yes, but you can't make assignments about events that you don't know about...That's the biggest problem. We hear about things after the fact...Ideally, a newspaper should be getting information before the fact so we can have someone there to cover the event, write a story ... News

ALLEN: John and I both agree the paper should be only as large as it can afford to be. It shouldn't be a deficit... It shouldn't take money away from anything else. It should contribute to the overall budget of the Coalition. The Switchboard, for example, doesn't generate funds on its own...WEVL radio has requested that the Gay Alternative be underwritten by the Coalition. It's only \$10 a month, but the point is the show doesn't generate its own income ...If advertising can support the newspaper and we collect enough to help these other services, I think that's right and that's proper... We've done better collecting and we've done better selling... When you have more people involved, rather than just one person doing it all, it becomes easier...

GAZE: The Gay bars in Memphis seem to be the most available social outlet. Given that fact, does the paper have a policy pertaining to coverage of what goes on in the bars?

JOHN: With the bar situation our position is the same---education. Let the people know what bars are in town, what's available at the bars, when it's available, and let them make their own conclusions. We are not trying to direct people to one bar over another...

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER BWMT/MEMPHIS

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General Meetings: March 28

Consciousness Raising/Support Groups: March 8 & 24

ALLEN: I hope that the bar owners would come to realize that *Gaze* is an effective advertising medium. That they can use the newspaper to advertise their specials... Most people probably don't realize the number of non-Gay places the paper is distributed. We need to increase the number of those places to make the paper available to people who don't go to the bars at all.

JOHN: Realizing the problems we have had in the past, we've toyed with the idea of having a bars' corner, a special section in the paper where it would be the responsibility of the bar owners to feed us information as to special events they're having. No cost...

GAZE: It's easy to see how that would be very helpful. The bars seem to change their special activities often. The Switchboard has a hard time keeping up with bar hours, bar activities, bar specials, bar covers.

ALLEN: It would be a service.

GAZE: How do you think the bar owners will respond?

JOHN: I'm hoping that the bar owners will become aware. I think through our new open policy that people involved with the Coalition have become aware of just what the situation is-- that we are not being funded by 2 or 3 godfathers in Germantown who pay for everything. I'm hoping that the bar owners will know first of all that we need their support. Second, that we don't dislike them, and are not against them. And third, that we would like to have a spirit of cooperation between us and the bar owners. With cooperation, the Bar Corner could be a service. Without that cooperation, it becomes a blank space in every paper.

ALLEN: We realize that we are cutting our own necks if we antagonize bars because they can reciprocate by not distributing the paper.

GAZE: That has happened in the past.

ALLEN: Yes, it has. Hopefully, it won't happen again in the future. It has happened in the recent past... It's a very strange attitude, where it seems to be an "us" or "them" situation.

GAZE: If people can't get out to get a paper, either at a bar or one of the non-Gay places, is there a way to obtain the paper?

ALLEN: Subscriptions. If you join the Coalition, you get a subscription free with your \$20 membership. Otherwise, you can pay \$8 to have it delivered to your home in a plain white envelope.

GAZE: Is there Gay news in Memphis?

JOHN: I would say yes. As a prime example, we've got a military base just outside of town that has sparked a lot of controversy. There are things happening in the Metropolitan Community Church that need to be covered. There are local custody cases that need to be covered. And given the fact that this is a normal large city, there are discrimination cases that need to be covered. We recently were made aware of a case where a Gay man and his lover were thrown out of an apartment complex. We don't know how that has proceeded but it's something that needs to be covered...There's a lot more than any one of us can know about.

ALLEN: Our goal is to have local news on the front page...That's what we want people to see first, that it is an active Gay Community, there are things happening in Memphis.

GAZE: What kind of features are in store for *Gaze*?

JOHN: We'd like to introduce a regular health column...We'd like to make it a broader, regular health column dealing with both Lesbian and Gay male health issues.

ALLEN: I'd like to see an advice column, perhaps done by a psychologist...

GAZE: How does a new column get started?

ALLEN: All someone has to do is express an interest and we'll give them a shot at it.

GAZE: And in conclusion...?

JOHN: The paper involves a lot of work, a lot of personal effort, and lots of frustrations. But if we can feel that it's serving a purpose, helping half-a-dozen people out there, then all the work, all the time, all the frustrations are worth it.

ALLEN: I'm real proud of it... and it's a lot of fun.

JOHN: We may not be the greatest, but it's better than no paper at all.

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A Tale of Woe

The Eyes Have It

By Rick Reed

You never know when you're going to end up face to face with someone. Sounds like a commercial, doesn't it?

Just yesterday, I ended up face to face with well over a dozen drunken bums in a deteriorating section of New York City.

You've perhaps seen a similar group. They hang around on the steps of an abandoned building together. Usually the bulk of their belongings are scattered on the ground or thereabouts. They sweat, stink, all over each other and somehow make it day after day.

I know there were more than a dozen of them because I counted at least that many before one tall, skinny, younger member of the group approached me as I came upon them. "You wanna drink of wine, man?"

I thought it'd be interesting to communicate with them since one of them had made an initial effort. The bottle he raised sloppily into my vision was full. Looking around at the others, their eyes all on me, I answered, "Sure, why not?"

The young man smiled, "It's 50¢." I thought about it. It was cheaper than a drink in some bar, so I gave him a full pack of cigarettes, "How about these instead? I don't have any money."

He took the cigarettes and held them up in the air waving them about as if they were first prize.

One member of the group, looking a bit troubled got up and left the scene. As he passed me he said, "You shouldn't have done that, man." And he was gone.

An older man rose off the step of the tenement with no difficulty, although his eyes were bloodshot and yellow. You would have thought he was the pits. "Check his pockets."

All of a sudden I was surrounded by them. A good number remained on the step unmoved, others standing around watching the show. I wasn't frightened until I saw the knife. Then it was mostly confusion. Stupidly, I said, "I haven't got anything." All this time there was a different hand in each pocket of my coat, shirt and pants. I was overwhelmed by the stench of the vomit they must have been wearing. "Did I ask you to speak? Boy, next time I'll kill you" he spat at me with real hatred. All I

could do was stare into his eyes. I needed to fix my eyes on something in order to discipline my own actions.

To keep from freaking out. Every pocket was checked and rechecked. Then checked again. They finally found 40¢ in change. The leader took it from the guy who found it and he pushed it into his own pocket. He'd taken the cigarettes, too.

There was some difficulty getting my wallet. My pants were tight and the wallet, full of business cards, was stuffed into my pocket with no room to spare. Again, stupidly, I said, "Let me help you with that." This time I saw fireworks and white light before I felt the sting on my face as my teeth sank into my bottom lip. He was stronger than he looked.

I hadn't cried since I was a child. I'd never cried as an adult, no matter how many times I wanted to --- always taking the tension in the throat, feeling the muscles stiffen and soon becoming sore. I wanted to cry then--- not so much out of pain but because no one ever hit me like that when I was trying to be helpful.

I hoped for a passing squad car. The passersby on the street seemed most entertained and disgusted, but isolated. The bums on the steps probably had seen it too many times to care.

"This is what prison must be like," I thought to myself.

My wallet, finally relieved and passed to the leader, was rummaged through thoroughly, the contents spilled to the ground as they were discarded as being of no value to him.

He reached my money clip, which was a gift I received but never used. There never were any bills in it because I just hadn't made a habit of using it. Still on the inside was a fake \$1000 bill---and as he studied it, I saw first excitement, then disgust, then hatred as he raised his eyes to me and punched me with it still in his hands. He just wasn't satisfied with a pack of cigarettes and 40¢.

After all, I was dressed like Zeus and there had to be money somewhere.

"Let's have his shoes." His flunkies tried to remove my shoes. The buckles were complicated and none of them was able to succeed "Let's

have his fucking shoes," he screamed.

The knife wasn't too big, looked dull, but I didn't want blood, especially my own, spilling for any reason. And I wasn't into playing Chuck Norris.

I knew I didn't have any money to lose. I'd found the pack of cigarettes so that was no loss. I privately prayed they were laced with cyanide.

"Take off those fucking shoes, asshole." I replied with "Certainly" and began the process. As I unbuckled them, I was sure I would lose them. They were \$250 imports from Europe, my first nice shoes.

I couldn't stand watching the boss anymore so I watched the knife, the shoes, the knife, the shoes.

They tore the odor-eaters out of the shoes, finding nothing. Bossman just got madder and madder. He threw the shoes to the others. They began passing them around like a bunch of monkeys. They were pretty fucked up, but they did have a weapon and that was their strength. There was nothing I could do but wait and stall and experience this scene. Knowing the alcoholic mind, the hostility, the anger, the madness, I knew better than to provoke them.

Apparently no one could wear these shoes. My size 12 swallowed each and every one of them.

I asked the man who finally held them, "May I please have my shoes?" Bossman sprang after them and shoved them into my arms. "Did I tell you to speak, you son of a bitch?" I stood there quietly, amazed that I had them again, hoping the moment would pass without any of them realizing they could sell them later.

Bossman got up into my face. Just about as close as he could get. He stank badly. He was horrible looking---what alcohol and depravity had done to him. This wasn't a horror film---it was real---and it was happening to me.

The tall skinny one broke through the others and put his arm around me on the shoulders. "Man, this guy is my friend. Don't hurt him, he's my friend." Bossman tilted his head from left to right. "He's a pussy. Won't even fight." He slapped me hard.

I wanted to mock him by tilting my head from left to right also, but just didn't. On a playground at Volentine Elementary years ago, I would



have done it. But I didn't know what the whole scene was about. All they'd have to do is get me down on the ground and anything could have happened. There's no telling what they might have done, if provoked.

I kept stalling, standing there looking ignorant and dumb.

Bossman's flunkies hadn't found a thing of value (and they knew it) and he'd groped all over me himself, cursing with the disappointment that each venture into every possibility failed.

The skinny one kept hugging me moaning, "He's my friend, man---I know this guy."

Bossman looked lost for thought. I took a chance and stepped into my shoes. It was funny how he didn't react, though he kept studying me, still up in my face, as I fumbled my way into my shoe not able to see what I was doing.

Then I could see he had come up with an idea. I didn't know what it was at the moment but he was thinking about a watch---if I had a watch.

The one I was wearing, very tightly, was a very expensive Quartz watch---a birthday present from my lover. Perhaps it's my most prized possession because it's a constant reminder to me of Stan.

Bossman said, "See if he's got a watch. You got a watch, shitface?"

All I could see was the face of the watch from the hundreds of times I'd looked at it, then my lover's face, the day he bought it, back and forth. It seemed like a long time but it couldn't have been.

I don't know why, but none of the monkeys approached me about the watch. They'd been all over me easily when they were in my pockets. Perhaps

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they picked up on something in the air. Perhaps something on my face, in my eyes---as the eyes always have it.

Bossman grabbed my wrist quickly and I jerked it away high above my head. And then he was on me. I don't know where the knife was, didn't care, never thought about it again right then.

The big boss man was pulling on my arm--"give me that watch"--and I was falling backwards against those behind me. They held me up as we all kept going backwards. It all happened too fast. I'm sure they'd forgotten the knife too. All I could see was Stan's face--and I punched that son-of-a-bitching turkey reject as hard as I could away from me, off of me, and with the one push knocked down those guys behind him as well. I just kept going forward and got away. I recall stepping on someone or perhaps it was more than one. All of a sudden it was like they were all pillows. I was moving too fast and they were thinking too slow--so I did manage to get away, barely keeping my unbuckled shoes on. I wondered what I'd do if I lost a shoe. Somehow I didn't. I was several blocks away before I bothered to stop and turn to look behind. What I saw was a very calm street with normal activity--as though I'd never raced through at 5,000 mph, freaked out, seconds earlier.

I'd kept my cool and done the right thing in this situation. I still had my watch, which immediately became almost priceless to me. I rubbed it, then buckled my shoes, trying to walk as I did, managing somehow to do both.

I began running again and didn't stop till I had to. It was obvious that group had no way of catching up

with me. I suppose I ran through the people on the streets so I could avoid any more contact with anyone. I wanted to cry when I realized that much of the truth.

Finally, I called the police from a phone booth. The "911" number was free and didn't require a cent.

They wanted to come out for a report, but I declined. It wasn't worth the 40¢. I had called them so I would have someone to talk to, to explain my feelings, to release the poison.

It's funny what a weapon can do for a person. A knife, a gun, a sling shot. Whatever it takes, I was aware that my weapon had been my mind. Soon the numbness began to disappear and the tingling of pain took a hold. I tasted blood for the first time and freaked out when I spit and realized just how bad it was.

But I had survived. I looked up at the clear sky, slowed down my step into a half run and grunted an especially emotional "Wow" that felt very good to get out. I wasn't angry or mad--just too relieved to feel anything emotionally negative about my assailants. I couldn't hate them because I didn't know them that well.

When I came upon a small park, I found a bench and rested. Reaching to my waist, I unbuckled my belt and reached down into the smoothness of my underwear and removed the few joints I'd rolled up in the elastic, earlier.

Lighting one, relaxation finally set in as the taste of Sincimillion crept into my lungs. Another "Wow" as I exhaled, and it was as if it never happened. I'd been humiliated, insulted, slapped around and to a good degree scared, yet I was alive wondering as my heart slowed, "What next?"

rector of the National Gay Task Force. In it, she expressed the concern that a national blood program be formulated which safeguards the health of all Americans. "The concern of the National Hemophilia Foundation has been the safety of the blood product upon which the survival of hemophiliacs is based. But to single out any segment of our society as the source for unsafe blood is divisive and dangerous. Unfortunately, as it exists today, we are ALL potential victims of our present national blood program," she said.

The statement urged the blood industry to test blood and blood products for agents which indicate a current or past infection and that funds be made available immediately to governmental agencies, medical institutions and voluntary community groups to research the cause(s), effects and cure of AIDS. It also urged all blood donors to voluntarily screen themselves "recognizing that in giving the 'gift of life,' there is the responsibility to give the safest gift possible."

Above all, the statement urged restraint on the part of the blood industry and government agencies from suggesting or implementing a blood donor screening program which "by whatever means or under whatever name, amounts to a political solution to a medical problem."

See related editorial on page 2.

Blood

Continued from page 1

but a Gay Political club would not. We should be talking about high risk groups who are defined medically -- not sociologically."

On January 26, a group of representatives of local blood banks (including Lifeblood as well as the blood banks of major hospitals in the area) met to discuss the directive issued by NHF. According to sources close to the discussion, a consensus was reached at that meeting that questions regarding a person's sexual orientation or habits would not only be ineffective and inappropriate but "unrealistic." Instead, it was suggested that additional screening questions be included with particular emphasis placed on "lymphathy" (swollen lymph glands indicating a possible infection. No effort is being made at this time to determine the sexual orientation of potential donors.

On January 27, the National Gay Task Force and more than 50 other organizations and representatives from the Gay community nationwide held a press conference to issue a statement on a national blood donor policy. The statement was delivered by Virginia M. Apuzzo, Executive Di-

STATEWIDE MEETING LESBIANS and GAY MEN

sponsored by the
Memphis Gay Coalition and
Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights

Dear Friend:

This letter is to advise you of and to invite you to attend the second STATEWIDE MEETING OF LESBIANS AND GAY MEN. This year the meeting will be cosponsored by the Memphis Gay Coalition and the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights. The meeting is set for Saturday, March 12, 1983. The meeting is intended to present an opportunity for Tennessee Lesbians and Gay Men and organizations to gather together to share information as to present status of efforts and events in the various parts of our state, and to discuss coalition building, statewide strategies, and political actions. This year there will be three special presentations. The first will be by our keynote speaker, Susan Green of the Gay Rights National Lobby in Washington, D.C. The second presentation will be from Kathryn Hearne and Bill Johnson of the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee. The third presentation will be from Irvin Rothenburg of Black and White Men Together. The purpose of these presentations will be to lead us into discussions of national, state and local issues and events. The format will also include time for broad participation by both men and women.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM on March 12th, at the MCC Building in Nashville (131 Fifteenth Ave. North), and will run to late afternoon. Housing for Friday and/or Saturday night is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participants should plan to arrive and register at the MCC Building either Friday evening between 7:00 and 10:00 PM, or Saturday morning between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM. There will be no registration fee, but for planning purposes, participants are requested to fill out and mail in the form below. Please do this as soon as possible, especially if you need housing, to assist us in planning the meeting.

Send your registration form or requests for information to: Tommy Powell, STATEWIDE MEETING, P.O. Box 24181, Nashville, TN 37202. We certainly look forward to seeing you at the meeting and to strengthen our Tennessee connections. Please let others in your area know of this event and invite them to attend.

The theme for this year's meeting is: Linked Together For Change.

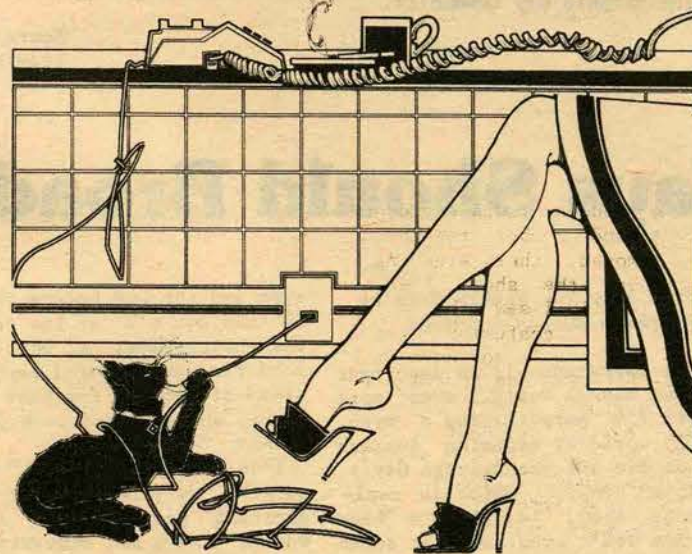
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(zip)
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I plan to arrive in Nashville at _____

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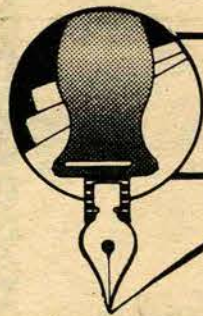
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Vote of Confidence

Hi Friends,

I address you as my friends because after reading *GAZE* for the past months, I feel as though I know you pretty well. Your paper is a great source of communication and support to the Gay community. I noticed your ad in the recent issue for assistance with the paper. With the way my home and work life is, I trust that I might be of help; possibly on some of my off days.

Consider the enclosed money a contribution towards the efforts of *GAZE*.

As ever, Bob

Thanks to the Switchboard

Dear Sisters:

The enclosed eleven dollars are the stage tips I received in the Thursday night show at George's. This was the first show I had done since November, 1980, as well as the fourth anniversary of the first time (January 27, 1979) I ever ventured out in female clothes.

In the past I gave stage tips to Gay Switchboard, and that still seems appropriate for the present money. Probably the Switchboard is the most generally accepted and admired service and activity that has grown up around the Memphis Gay Community.

Teresa A. Hart

Gay Alternative Part of WEVL Family

I'd like to correct a small error made in your February issue. WEVL recently began to insist that ALL of its programming be underwritten---not just special interest shows, as you incorrectly stated.

Actually, "special interest" shows are what make FM 90 WEVL what it is: radio by and for the community, in all its diversities. We would never ask any more of one show than we do of all the shows.

We're glad that Pat and Ric and the other Gay Alternative folks are part of the WEVL family; thank you for your support of them.

Sincerely,
Al Teter
Southern
Communications
Volunteers

Thank you for pointing out this error to us and thank you for your positive and supportive attitude.

The Editors.

Correspondence: An Alternative

I am submitting a page and a half of writing that I hope you will consider favorably enough to have it published in your paper.

If you do not write this work in your paper, take it as my personal way of saying "Thank You" for the good work you have done with *Gaze* and continue to do and in helping me to find a pen-pal.

Yours Sincerely,
Travis Sowell

On the Necessity of Being a Homosexual Correspondent

Often times living in a rural situation will qualify a homosexual who is lonely for input and output, to become a corresponding entity. Such was my case when two months ago I adopted a pen-pal from the pages of *Gaze's* section of classifieds.

Over this short period of time I have shared with a very wonderful and beautiful man---Christmas cards and my 28th birthday. Christmas 1982 came and when it did so did a gorgeous bouquet of flowers. On my birthday I received a nice card and a monetary gift. (I had given so small in return.)

It's called "homosexuality by correspondence." It is satisfying and rewarding. Three hundred miles separate me from the man I write. Letters are like bridges constructed between us and the letters seem to make the miles insignificant.

Writing is for lonely persons and for people intellectually inclined. I find in writing that giving of self is far more important than receiving materially. Or so I am told by the man who writes to me.

Writing is not for everyone. Certainly writing is not for the physical seeking homosexual. Writing is not essential to the bar frequenters and homosexual roustabouts.

Writing at present is my only form of homosexual contact and encouragement. It is like "gold" and very precious to me.

Writing causes one to pause, self-reflect, and come to terms with his chosen life-style. Homosexual minds captive in homosexual bodies are crying out for more than the physical union of homosexual enterprise.

Writing is like calming the libido

down. It is deep searching into the depths of the homosexual psyche.

Letters written to me are like blood filtering and fibering me. Butterflies are made when cocoons are left behind. So I do not endorse closet writing as a new and fashionable homosexual art. I do say writing helps and cleanses the spirit---after years and years of my biological urges holding the sway.

I am glad I found him---this man of Three Hundred Miles that I write and who writes to me. I've never met him yet, but I can say I love him. Sometimes I think he might even love me a little. This is more than I can say was evident in the past twelve physical and sexual affairs that have made up my personal homosexual history.

Writing takes you into a realm the physical seekers will never attain. Emily Dickinson said and wrote---"The prism never held the hues; it only heard them play." Homosexuality is not a commodity owned or dished out by persons within the community of ours who practice tricky sexual encounters. Through effective and strong relationships our brand of love must become more and more pure and refined.

I have found a place of rest in my writing. A place of peace and contentment. Where I am is a place where divergent lines of love and happiness run true and free.

Homosexuality is a responsibility of love and in love. Our American form is much adapted from the ancient Greek and far more antiquated Celtic form.

Homosexuality is wasted and poorly spent in loose living. I do not praise the proud and haughty "trick."

Physical quantity is in contrast to writing quality. I have met my medium; it is writing.

Gays Should Broaden Their Types

(An article from The Weekly News by former Memphian Martin Goodkin)

Physical appearance is an important part of the sexual world, even more so, unless I'm perpetrating a myth, in the Gay world of cruising (unless my friends are not the average Gay.)

Bob likes "hunky," which in reality, to be nice, is with a "beer belly." Sam won't even look at someone unless they have black skin, with Frank they have to be under 21 and Rich goes one step further, adding that they have to be blond. Chuck likes them over 40, Tommie wants them tall, thin and "youngish looking," whatever that means.

Glance over the classifieds and you'll see 'no' fats, feds, dopers, smokers, bar goers, over thirty-five, uncut, cut, j/o's, hustlers, S&M, B.D., preppies, small endowed, etc., etc., wanted. Then add "He's too hot, he won't be interested in me" or "I can't handle rejection" or "He's too smart" and any other reason you will give to reject someone else. When you get down to all you don't want you'll be left with two guys in the world who have the "look" you want and one will be married, living in Australia and the other will probably believe in sexual abstinence. Should you be lucky to find the physical look you want don't be surprised if that's all they have.

Okay, so the one you tricked with last night had brown, instead of blue

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eyes and the one before that was 5' 10" and not 6'2" or the one last week was thirty-five, so what? You had a good time and enjoyed each other. Instead of looking for that Knight On A Horse, why not just look for a human being?

I've never had a "type" and, consequently, my life has been filled with exciting people that I probably wouldn't have met otherwise. It's not that I have been indiscriminate, as I am selective to the point that they be male and breathing. It used to be just male, until I wasn't sure if a few were alive. Obviously, I too, eliminate a huge amount of people with that male criterion but I don't extend it to my social life. "Some of my best friends are women." I've never been a clique or a group joiner, which I believe is responsible for my having so many close friends, and I mean CLOSE in the sense of family.

From Bob who looks like he just stepped off a semi, but in reality is a teacher, to Miguel who is a teacher and would "pass" as one, to Albyn who will shortly be seventy, on to Chuck, who is thirty-two and looks twenty-seven, from Tommie who is the original "redneck" to Michael who is as liberal as a person can be, you couldn't find a group who were more diversified in physical appearances than these guys. I met them all in different cruising circumstances and if I had just gone by a "type" my

family would be smaller.

"Tis said that a man marries a woman who resembles his mother. Do Gay men pursue men who look like their father? (Their Mother?!) Physically my lovers had only one thing in common and that was they were male. Pepe, my first, was/is a Latin, 5'9", dark, weighed 150 pounds and was my age. The second, Bernie, five years older than me, 6'3", blond, 220 pounds, a New York sophisticate, looked completely different from the next, Johnny, who was eleven years younger than me, a curly haired, 5' 11", 160 pounds of solid muscle who just stepped off a farm in Tennessee and looked it. Now, and forever(!), it is Bill who is four years older than I am, 6'1", 172 pound, bald, from the mid-west and has three guys trying to get me out of the picture.

There is no pattern, no "type," that attracted me to all these friends and lovers, nor is there one to the people I "trick" with. What was their attraction to me? I went to bed with all of them before I "knew" them with the exception of Bill, and that's another column. I prefer talking afterwards when we are lying back and having a cigarette. Our deeper relationship developed from getting to know each other after we had met and we would never have met if I wasn't open, no pun intended, to all of them.

In Mart Crowley's *The Boys in the Band* Harold and Michael have an ex-

change about beauty, bringing out such cliches as "Physical beauty is not that God-damned important," "It's only in the eyes of the beholder," "It's only skin deep" and "It's transitory." I am not a Pollyanna but I do believe that all people are beautiful and are a work of art some on the outside, and some on the inside and, some very lucky ones, beautiful inside and out. My friends and lovers are both.

For one week forget that "type" you may be looking for and, instead, talk to the "fem," the "fatty," the "troll," the one who isn't a "blond blue-eyed, twenty-five-year-old hunk" and as Auntie Mame said, "Open a new window, open a new door" and you might find a lot of people are your "type." Don't be surprised if that Knight comes to you!

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Information and Services

Memphis

Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): general movement; 81 Madison Bldg., Suite 1501, Memphis 38103, 521-9875.

Black & White Men Together: support/movement; 276-4160 or 274-0532.

Gay Advocacy Project: movement, ACLU & MGC; 521-9875 or 726-4299.

Gay Catholics: Recommended Sunday Mass 11:00 AM—St. Peters Village.

GOPS: social, private membership; no address listing.

Lesbian Mothers Support Group: NOW, 458-1661.

Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: non-sexist, non-heterosexist; 1462 Poplar Ave., Memphis 38104, 274-3550.

Memphis Gay Activists: movement, private membership; 274-0431.

Memphis Gay Coalition: movement, public; Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

Memphis Gay Speakers Bureau: movement, general education; Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

Memphis State University Gay Student Union: movement/student support; Room 416, University Center, MSU, Memphis 38152.

Metropolitan Community Church: religious, general Christian; 2224 Central Ave., 278-1091.

Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite: social/movement, women; P.O. Box 41822, Memphis 38104.

Mystic Krewe of Apollo: social, private membership, men only; no address listing.

National Organization for Women (NOW): movement, feminist; P.O. Box 40982, Memphis 38104, 458-1661.

Phoenix: Gay alcoholics anonymous; meets Weds., 8 pm in Clark Tower, 5050 Poplar, Room 3102; 365-7153.

Queen's Men: social, private membership; no address listing.

Tsarus: social, levi-leather/motorcycle, private membership, P.O. Box 11831, Memphis 38111.

Hotlines

Gay Switchboard: information, crisis, referrals, counseling; 726-GAYY.

Rape Crisis: 528-2161.

Suicide and Crisis Intervention: 274-7477.

Media

"Gay Alternative": radio, weekly, Sundays 3 p.m. WEVL-FM 90.3, P.O. Box 41773, Memphis 38104.

GAZE: newspaper, monthly; Box 3038, Memphis 38173-0038 (901) 454-1411

Lambda Televideo: television, monthly program *Views from 10%*, cable channel 7; P.O. Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

Restaurants & Bars

The Barracks: bar, large disco, patio. Late hours; 616 Marshall Ave., 527-6348

Family Affair Club: bar, Gay crowd Sunday nights only; 873 Vance Ave., 527-0672.

The French Connection: restaurant, piano bar, dining menu; 598 Marshall Ave., 526-1038.

George's: bar, shows, large disco; 600 Marshall Ave., 526-1038.

J-Wag's: bar, serves food, moderate menu; patio, late hours; 1268 Madison Ave., 725-4670.

Loretta & Juicy's: bar, late hours; 76 N. Cleveland. Juicy's.

The Other Side: bar, 12 N. Cleveland, late hours, 726-9245

The Pendulum: bar, large disco, serves food, limited menu; 92 N. Avalon St., 725-1530.

P.W. Bumps Disco: bar, serves food, limited menu; 238 N. Cleveland St., 726-9953.

Psych-Out II: bar, shows on weekends; 571 Marshall Ave., 523-1940.

Sharon's: bar; 1474 Madison Ave., 278-9021.

Little Rock

Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): general movement; Box 2832, Little Rock, AR. 72203.

Arkansas Gay Rights, Inc. (AGR): movement, P.O. Box 3115, Little Rock 72203.

Arkansas Women's Network: movement, feminist; Box 1787, Little Rock, 72203.

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous (Gay-AA): meets every Tues. & Sun., 8 p.m., 7509 Cantrel, Suite 102, Tanglewood Shopping Center.

Gay Counseling Service: 409 Walnut, Little Rock 72205, (501) 663-6455.

Grassroots Women's House: 1524 S. Summit, Little Rock, (501) 378-7851.

Metropolitan Community Church: religious, general Christian; Box 1964, Little Rock 72203. (501) 664-3749.

National Organization for Women (NOW): movement, feminist; P.O. Box 662, Little Rock, 72203.

Parents & Friends of Gays: movement/support; P.O. Box 1839, Batesville, AR 72501.

Hotlines

Crisis Center: 664-8834 (toll free, 1-800-482-8886.)

Media

Arkansas Gay Writes: AGR, Inc., newsletter; P.O. Box 3115, Little Rock 72203.

Ours: newspaper, 5 times/yr., feminist; P.O. Box 2352, Little Rock 72203.

Restaurants & Bars

Chaps: 1701 S. University, 663-8682.

Silver Dollar: 2710 Asher Ave., 663-9886.

Discovery II: 1021 Jessie Rd., 664-4784.

Variations: 113½ E. Main, 371-9919; Disco nights, piano bar days, restaurant 24 hours.

Nashville

Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): general movement, Box 3167, Nashville 27219.

Conductors: Levi-Leather Club; P.O. Box 40261, Nashville 37204.

Justice for Parents Defense Fund: legal child custody; 43 Music Square West, Nashville 37203.

Lifestyle Health Services: confidential clinic specializing in STDs, 1727 Church Street, Nashville 37203 (615) 329-1478.

Metropolitan Community Church: religious, general Christian; 131 15th Ave. N., Nashville, (615) 320-0288.

Nashville Committee: social/movement, P.O. Box 23321, Nashville, TN 37202.

Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights (TGCHR): movement, Box 24181 Nashville 37202.

Womankind Health Service: confidential clinic, feminist, 1727 Church Street, Nashville, 37203 (615) 329-1478.

Womankind Books: 2006 20th Ave. S. Nashville, 27212 Open Saturdays Noon-6 p.m. (615) 297-3450

Women's Resources Center: general services for women; 1608 Woodmont-YWCA, Nashville, (615) 385-3952.

Restaurants & Bars

Cabaret: 1711 Hayes St., 320-7082.

Crazy Cowboy: 2311 Franklin Rd., 383-9493.

Warehouse 28: 2529 Franklin Rd., 297-0992.

The Women's Rm: 2110 8th Ave. S., 292-9177.

Gaze

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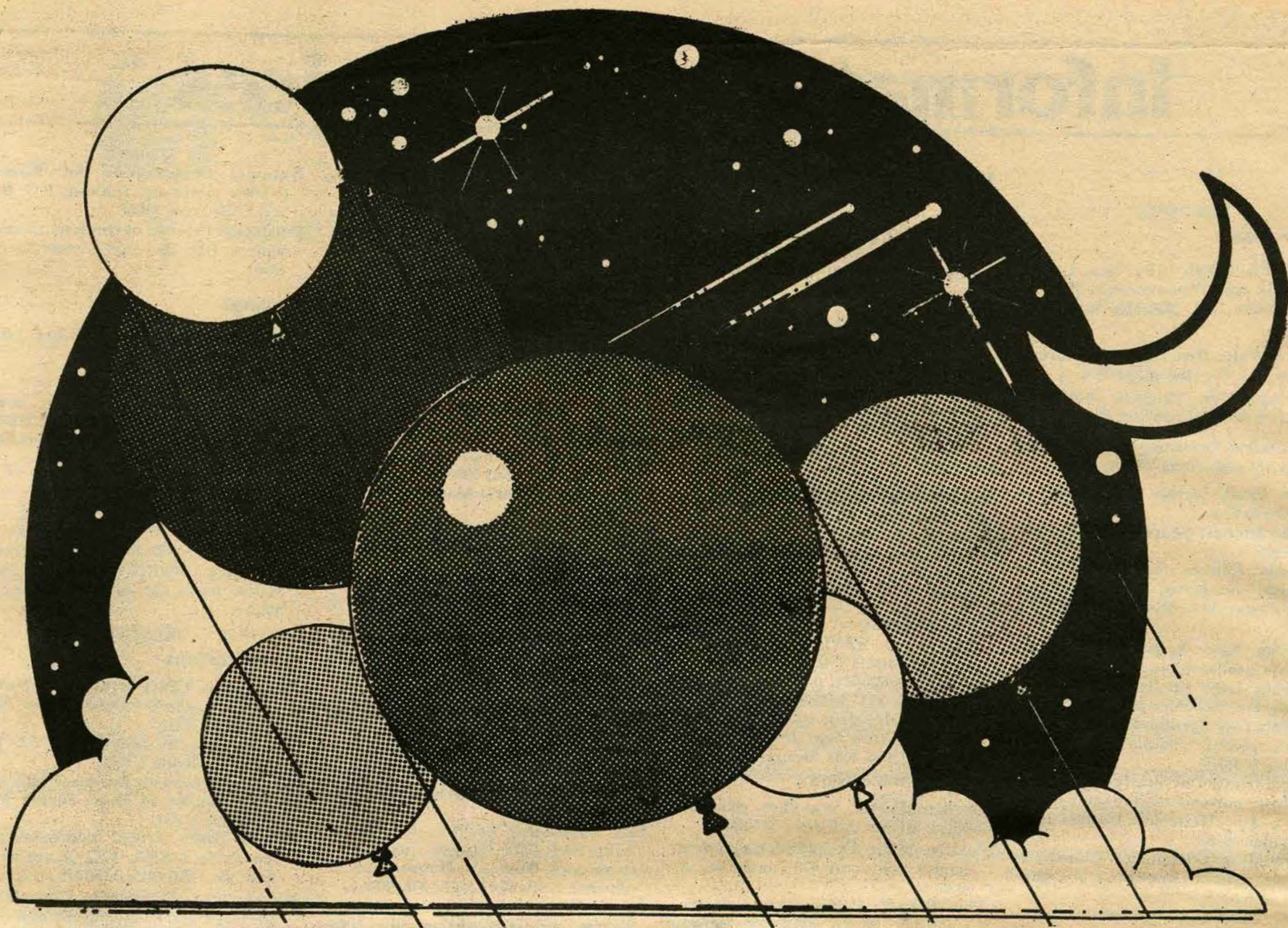
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