

Gaze



Auctioneer Mark Davis and volunteer Vincent Astor ATEAC Auction, March Fundraisers Net \$19,000 for PWA's

The Third Annual ATEAC Auction for AIDS proved to be the most successful Memphis AIDS fundraising event ever held in Memphis. Held at the Memphis Airport Hilton March 25, the auction raised just over \$14,000 from the 314 people attending. An anonymous J-Wag's patron has announced he will raise the total to the nearest thousand dollars which will be \$15,000.

According to Tommy Stewart, President of ATEAC, the money is earmarked for direct patient assistance and will be used to help clients with rent, utility, transportation, food, and medical expenses.

Celebrity auctioneers included WMC NewsTalk 79's Mark Davis, Channel 5 News' Nancy Hart and Joe Birch, WEGR's Bev Hart, and musician Joyce Cobb. Over 200 items were auctioned from the stage with another 50 or so items bid on in a silent auction.

Among the highlights:

- A \$2000 trip to Paris France donated by Pegasus Travel
- A painting by Larry Beghtol
- A leaded beveled glass panel donated by Gayoso Glass

- Trips to Key West and Las Vegas

Sharon Wray, owner of WKRB, was again this year's top bidder, catching the trip to Paris, Beghtol's painting, and other items.

This year's auction was produced by Mark Whitehead with assistance from about 45 ATEAC volunteers.

The event capped a month of ATEAC events designed to increase the PWA Relief Fund.

March 18th's AIDS Awareness Night brought about \$1300 in for the PWA Fund. The AIDS Awareness Nights will be held monthly and will include street outreach, safe sex education, free condom distribution, as well as fundraising.

On March 19, GDI on the River held a benefit which raised about \$3,000 including a \$2,400 pledge by owner Frank Cooper. Performers included GDI's regular cast members Summer Holiday, Sofonda Peters, & Leslie Cartier as well as Lady Astor and Kirby Kincaid among others.

The April 3 performance of "Boys in the Band" at WKRB will also benefit PWA's.

Helms Kills Federal AZT Subsidy Bill As States Run Out of Funds

Washington, D.C. - Senator Jesse Helms (R - NC) has killed legislation that would have extended by six months the federal government's funding program for AZT (Retrovir) for low-income individuals. The move comes as two states - Georgia and Kansas - have exhausted their AZT grants, with funding in several more states expected to expire in the upcoming weeks.

Approximately 7,000 people in the U.S. are receiving government assistance under the AZT subsidy program. AZT - which costs about \$8,000 a year at full dose - is the only government-approved drug for directly fighting AIDS.

Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) lobbyists said the bill would not have allocated additional funds for AZT, but would have given the government time to reprogram already existing funds into federal AZT subsidies. For example, funds from states with surplus money could be moved into states whose funds have expired, or additional monies could be located within the Public Health Service to subsidize AZT.

Majority Leader George Mitchell (D - ME), who schedules legislation in the Senate, had stipulated the bill would be brought onto the floor only if Senators could agree not to add amendments or to set a time limit for debate of amendments.

Legislative insiders on Capitol Hill said Helms, along with Senators William Armstrong (R - CO) and Don Nickles (R - OK), refused to agree to the stipulations, thus preventing the bill from being considered by the Senate.

"When we say Jesse Helms is 'King of Killer Amendments,' we really mean killer," said Robert Bray, HRCF Communications Director. "More people are going to get sick and die

faster because they cannot afford life-prolonging drug treatments. It was not a good day in Washington for affordable health care."

Last September, Congress authorized \$15 million to continue the program until March 31, 1989. The new bill would have extended the subsidy program through September 30, 1989. The program was originally created in spring of 1987 when AZT was first licensed. Congress has adjourned for two weeks and will not reconvene until April 4, after the program has ended.

The legislation was introduced into the Senate by Ted Kennedy (D - MA), who rallied wide-spread, bi-partisan support for the bill. Reports indicated the Department of Health and Human Services had endorsed continuation of the program.

The AZT subsidy bill and other health care financing legislation have been identified as top legislative priorities by the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the largest AIDS and Gay and Lesbian civil rights political

organization in the country.

HRCF furiously lobbied for passage of the bill before the current program expired. Among other actions, HRCF sent 3,300 mailgrams to Capitol Hill, urging virtually every Senator to vote for the legislation.

"The subsidy bill was the best short-term solution," said Steve Smith, HRCF lobbyist. "It would have bought more time for patients to continue getting AZT without spending themselves into poverty."

HRCF lobbyists remain optimistic that some form of government subsidy can be worked out in the near future, despite interference from Helms.

"We will look for alternative opportunities to help low-income individuals pay for AZT," said Smith. "The objective for us is affordable health care for all Americans, including people with AIDS."

HRCF suggests people contact their senators and representatives and urge their support of future federal AZT subsidies.

Newsnotes

Guns N' Roses, a heavy metal rock band scheduled to headline a June 8 AIDS Fundraiser at Radio City Music Hall, was dropped from the lineup, but organizers still believe the concert will happen. The group was dismissed after a number of people objected to their song "One In A Million."

The song implied that Gay men are responsible for spreading AIDS and "that's not an acceptable viewpoint," said Gay Men's Health Crisis executive director Richard Dunne.

Gay consumers are a desirable demographic to advertisers says a report released

by Rivendell Marketing. According to the report, U.S. homosexuals have average incomes of \$36,800 compared to the \$12,287 average per capita income earned by the general population.

Poppers (Isobutyl nitrites) were made illegal as of Feb. 15 as part of a federal Omnibus Drug Law prohibits sales of all isobutyl nitrites. However, Western Int'l Distributors has sued to block the ban. WID's products, which include Bullet, Thrust, and ten other brand names, are the only one's affected by the court order. Use of isobutyl nitrites has been linked to development of full blown AIDS and Kaposi's sarcoma.

Gazing

Beware of the Trickle

by John Stilwell

I remember when the "trickle down" theory was first proposed. For those of you who don't remember, the theory was proposed by the Reagan administration. The basic idea is that the government gives big business all these tax advantages and all these breaks. As a result, big business prospers; and as big business profits, the wealth "trickles down" to every level of the economic chain.

Well, we've had 8 years of

the Reagan administration and we're going into at least 4 years of the Bush administration, and I'm still waiting for the prosperity to "trickle down." The problem with this theory is that a little bit of wealth only whets the appetite for more wealth and the wealthy don't seem to care about "sharing" it.

So while the rich are getting richer, the poor and middle class citizens find it harder and harder to make ends meet. Social services and "buffers" that help these people are whittled away because they have to be paid for by the people who have the wealth. The wealthy object to spending money where there is no profit or return on their investment.

As things get worse, people need someone to blame. Politicians and big business owners are too far away - too nebulous. The blame has to be placed on someone close. Someone who can be seen every day. Someone you can strike out at on a daily basis. In fact, the only thing that flourishes is hate.

I think this was made very apparent when David Duke, a former Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, was elected to public office. I have no idea what issues he was running on, but the fact that he was able to be elected to public office indicates that the public felt his stand on these issues outweighed what he stood for as a man. It became unimportant that his prejudice, bigotry, and hate represents the antithesis of everything the Democratic process stands for. The public showed a willingness to overlook these personal politics in favor of the greater benefit to the public.

Fortunately, people were still outraged by his brazenness in running for election. People still campaigned against him because it is inappropriate for him to hold public office. And people were still outraged because he was elected to public office. Other elected officials refused to work with him and refused to accept him because they were appalled by what the man stands for.

But this acceptance of hate and prejudice is an unhealthy

trend. Blacks, who have achieved so much since the beginning of the civil rights movement, are seeing what they have achieved, being slowly whittled away. Laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunities, laws requiring that a certain number of public contracts go to minority businesses, and other laws guaranteeing opportunities to break the poverty cycle are coming under fire. All of this is possible because in spite of the laws and the safeguards designed to protect and

assist Blacks, no one has ever been able to legislate an end to prejudice, bigotry, and hate.

The public is generous with less fortunate people during good times. But, as the economy grows worse, everyone looks out for themselves. They will take back those things they so generously gave, during good times.

As Gays and Lesbians, what all this means to us is that, as the clock is turned back, our hope for legislation guaranteeing our civil rights moves farther away

from reality. But what is of greater concern, is that homophobia, AfrAIDS, and the hate that these generate, become more acceptable. Gay bashing becomes less offensive. And typically, our reaction to this kind of adversity is to disappear into the background and hope that nobody bothers us.

What we need to do is band together to protect ourselves and our interests. We need to present a united front. Even if we can't be unified, we have to present the appearance of unity.

Box 3038

Gaze encourages letters from its readers on any topic. Please limit your letters to approximately 500 words in length. Longer letters may be edited for space. Gaze requires that all letters be signed, however, names will be withheld if requested. Anonymous letters may be published at the discretion of the editors.

tantly homophobic. The Gay community doesn't need anymore hate mongers. We hope that all of you will join us in boycotting Hank Williams Jr. by not buying his albums and T-shirts and not attending his concerts. We'd also like to see his songs removed from the juke boxes in the bars.

Memphis, TN

Director, American Gay Atheists.

They have a right to their opinion, but that does not mean it will be believed.

Webster's new collegiate dictionary defines atheist as one who denies the existence of God.

I am one of the Gay Christians Mark mentions. I do not believe we are in the minority in this community or any other community in the U.S.A.

The GayRap group reaches out on many subjects. If someone is offended by a subject, they do not have to attend that meeting.

To criticize us Gay Christians is offensive to me, and I am sure I am not alone.

May God bless them.

Don Miller
Memphis, TN

Call for Hank Williams, Jr Boycott

Tonight, my lover and I went out for a long anticipated evening together. We had gotten our concert tickets as soon as they went on sale, and tucked them safely away, anxiously awaiting tonight's show. Rodney Crowell was good. Tanya Tucker was as hot as ever, and Hank Williams Jr was superb. (At least he started out that way.) We have been Bocephus fans for years, have attended his concerts, bought his albums and souvenirs, and my lover has even performed his numbers in fundraising events for the Gay community. Tonight the crowd was on its feet, dancing, singing, and clapping. It was great! For those of you who are fans, you know how he often changes the words to his songs in concert, usually resulting in a good laugh for all. Well, tonight he threw in some very derogatory and anti-Gay lines including, "I don't like Gay guitar pickers," and the crowd went wild with enthusiastic approval. Needless to say, my lover and I walked out. We left feeling hurt, disappointed, and infuriated all at the same time. We will no longer support someone who is so bla-

Response to Gay Atheists

This letter is my personal response to Mark F. and Don S. from Houston, Texas.

First, Mark's comments about our GayRap group sounded as though he was coming from an atheistic viewpoint. Then it was followed by Don's who signed as National

Gaze

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

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WRITE TO US!
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TUNE In!

George's
GDI
presents

Direct from Britain
Performing Hot New
Billboard Dance Chart Hit
"The Love I Lost"

Seventh Avenue



One Show Only!
Wednesday, April 12 - 11:00 PM
\$5 Advance Tickets—\$6 At the Door
Half Price Well Drinks Til 10:00 PM

George's
GDI

on the river

287 S. Front St.



Hate Crimes Stats Act Back in Congress

Amid unprecedented fanfare and broad bi-partisan support, the Hate Crimes Statistics Act was introduced in the U.S. Congress on Feb. 22. The bill mandates data collection by the federal government of crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. The bill's chief sponsors are Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Congressman John Conyers (D-MI). The chief sponsors of the bill were

joined by 86 original co-sponsors, 55 members of the House and 31 Senators.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act has contained sexual orientation in its provisions since 1987. During the last Congressional session, the bill passed the House of representatives overwhelmingly (383-29). The bill was stalled in the Senate by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) who wanted to add anti-Gay amendments.

Momentum for the Hate

Crimes Act has built steadily over the last two years. A coalition of groups lobbying for the bill now totals over 60 groups. At the press conference held Feb. 22 announcing the bill's introduction, five members of Congress and five representatives of organizations pledged their support to the bill's passage.

New York Times Errs on Lesbian Parenting; Retraction Made

A *New York Times* story on Lesbian childbearing, which appeared on Jan. 30, 1989 and was the first story by a national newspaper on the subject, contained grave inaccuracies and bias. As a result of immediate protest by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the Lesbian Rights Project, the American Civil Liberties Union's Gay & Lesbian Rights Project, and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the offensive paragraphs were retracted by the *Times* in an unprecedented "Editor's Note" which appeared on Feb. 3, 1989.

The article in the *Times* entitled "Lesbians Find The Means To Be Parents" grew out of a Jan. 9th meeting between NGLTF Media Director Urvashi Vaid and *Times* reporter Gina Kolata. Kolata has written extensively on AIDS and is one of the most respected national print reporters covering AIDS issues. Kolata wrote a story over the next few weeks, after contacting dozens of parents, legal advocates, and experts.

The story Kolata submitted to her editors was not the story that finally appeared. Without notifying Kolata or securing her approval, editors at the *Times* wrote an entire paragraph which contained negative and biased statements about Lesbians and children raised by Lesbian families. The story was also rearranged to give prominence to the anti-Gay views of a sociologist at a Catholic college and also misquoted another prominent psychiatrist. No quotes

were contained in the story from psychologists whose research shows that there is no harm to children raised in Gay and Lesbian households.

The most offensive paragraph in the story, a paragraph not written by Kolata, read: "Some clinicians, however, speculate that in the long term, girls might have difficulty in intimate relationships with men, and boys might be uncomfortable with their roles as males. If Lesbian parents are openly hostile toward men, these difficulties could be worsened."

From the date the article was published (Jan. 30), NGLTF's Vaid began an organizing process aimed at registering the strongest protest with the senior editorial staff of the *Times*. I contacted everyone who had been quoted in the piece, as well as fellow groups like GLAAD, ACT UP, ACLU, and others to urge them to call and write the paper," Vaid explained.

The Editor's Note which appeared on Feb. 3, acknowledged that the comments cited above were "added in the editing process." The Note continued: "[The comments] did not fairly reflect a spectrum of opinion among behavioral scientists and ethicists about possible effects of being reared by Lesbian parents. In the absence of evidence that hostility toward men is common among Lesbian parents, the reference to such hostility was unwarranted. The article should have given Lesbian parents a chance to respond to concerns raised by others." The Note also addressed the misquotation attributed to the psychiatrist.

Tennessee Reps Rank 13th

The Tennessee congressional delegation ranks thirteenth of all fifty state delegations on votes supporting Gay interests. Tennessee senators and representatives voted with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force position 74.07% of the time. Mississippi ranked 12th with a 74.12% rating; Arkansas ranked 23rd (67.86%).

These figures appear in the

forthcoming *Alyson Almanac*, a reference book for the Gay and Lesbian community, which will include a complete breakdown for all 50 states and all 535 U.S. senators and representatives. The ratings are based on tallies by the NGLTF for the 1987-88 session.

The top-ranked state was Massachusetts, whose delegation included the country's only two openly gay congressmen, with a 94% rating. Washington state, at 91%, was second. The worst ratings went to New Hampshire (33%), Idaho (31%), and Wyoming (23%).

Gay Campus Project Releases 'How To' Booklet

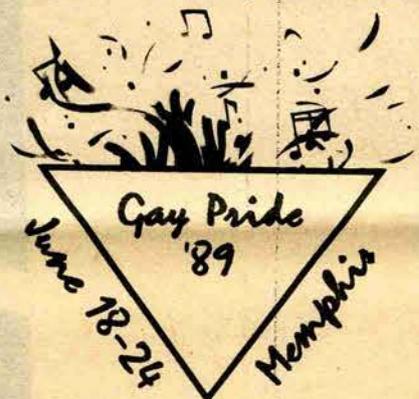
The Campus Project of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has released a publication outlining strategies for Gay activists to organize for non-discrimination policies on campuses. Authored by Campus Project Director Kevin Berill and former NGLTF volunteer Sam Paul, the publication is entitled "Making It Official: Organizing for a Policy to End Discrimination," and is contained in *Organizing for Equality*, the newsletter of the NGLTF Campus Project.

The NGLTF Campus Project was launched in 1987 to assist Gay and Lesbian students, administrators, faculty, and alumni in organizing to advance equal rights in the college setting. Earlier issues of the Campus Project newsletter covered how activists can secure fair AIDS policies on campus, and detailed Gay and Lesbian film resources available for screening on campuses.

The new NGLTF publication lists colleges and universities that have non-discrimination policies covering sexual orientation discrimination. It highlights successful organizing efforts on several campuses and outlines for activists the mechanics of changing campus policies.

Copies of "Making It Official" may be ordered by sending \$1.00 to NGLTF Campus Project, 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. The two earlier issues of the Campus Project newsletter may also be ordered for \$1.00 each.

Gay Pride '89 Help Us Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Stonewall



Find Out Why We Celebrate and How You Can Help

Come to *GayRap*
Monday, April 17th 7:30 PM
Main Library - Peabody & McLean
Meeting Room A

Gay Ho '89

We Need A Few Good Men & Women

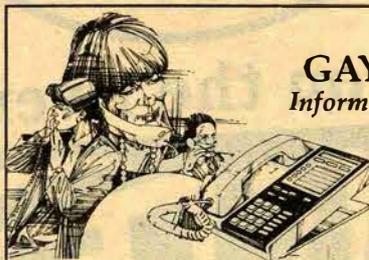
(at Least 10)

Cast Members
Stage Managers,
& Volunteers

to work on
Lighting,
Music, &
Choreography



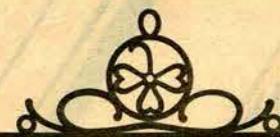
Call
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GAY SWITCHBOARD
Information • Counseling • Referral
7:30 - 11 pm Nightly

324-GAYS

The Gay Switchboard is not a phonestex or dating service.
A Public Service of the Memphis Gay Coalition



Give Me Your Gays, Your Lesbians... Yearning To Breathe Free

Immigration Reform Bill Introduced

Washington, D.C. — The Immigration Exclusion and Deportation Amendments Act of 1989, which would end discrimination against Gays and Lesbians seeking to immigrate into or visit the U.S., was introduced into the House of Representatives March 7 by Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA).

The bill, designated H.R. 1280, would remove the current "sexual deviation" exclusion used to block Gays and Lesbians, from entering the U.S. The bill affects tourists, resident aliens or immigrants who wish to become citizens.

"It's time the Statue of Liberty started openly greeting more of those wearing the pink triangle," said Robert Bray, Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) Communications Director. "For too long many Gays and Lesbians have been denied entry into our country, while America has been denied the skills, talents, and energies of Gays and Lesbians from around the world."

Under current immigration law, the "sexual deviation" exclusion may be used to deny visas or deport any foreign Gay man or Lesbian. However, in 1979, the Public Health Service (PHS) declined to certify visa applicants as homosexual on medical grounds.

Nonetheless, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled the "sexual deviant" exclusion is meant for Lesbians and Gays. Under former President Reagan, the Justice Department instructed the PHS to enforce the "sexual deviant" exclusion.

Although the exclusion of Gays is rarely enforced — many prominent, open homosexuals have been allowed into the country — the law is still on the books and is used to reject, unfairly question, or deport some individuals.

"Customs officials can and have made inappropriate and intrusive inquiries of tourists and immigrants," explains Steve Smith, HRCF lobbyist. "More seriously, the law has resulted in separated families, ruined careers, and political persecution."

The bill also repeals or revises many other grounds for exclusion. Most of these, dating to the McCarthy era, bar immigrants — including communists and anarchists — on political and ideological grounds. The current law, for example, excludes anyone whom the State Department



believes is "prejudicial to the public interest."

The bill would not change the current exclusion of people
continued on page 14

NUMBERS

600 MARSHALL STREET • 526-5553

Monday

Hottest Male Review in Memphis
\$2 Beer Bust & 25¢ Schnapps 8-12

Tuesday

Talent Night II
Hosted by Dee Dee Whittaker
\$20 Bar Tab to Winner
\$1 Beer Bust & 25¢ Schnapps 8-12
Pool Tournament - 8 PM - Cash Prizes

Wednesday

Modern Music Night - Sounds by Nu-Groove
\$3 Beer Bust 8-12

Thursday

Talent Night I
Hosted by Dee Dee Whittaker
\$50 to Winner
\$1 Beer Bust, \$1.25 Well Drinks & 25¢ Schnapps 8-12

Friday & Saturday

\$4 Beer Bust 8-12
Showtime - 11:30 PM
Starring Billie Jo Casino, Roxie Bleu, Crystal Jo
& Special Guest

Sunday

Bar & Patio Open 4 PM
Free Beer Bust & Free Buffet
\$2.75 Long Island Tea, \$2 Strawberry Daiquiris
& 75¢ Schnapps
Showtime - 8 PM
Starring Dee Dee Whittaker, Roxie Bleu
& Special Guest

Memphis

Gay & Lesbian Community Center Moving Forward

by Ken Horton

Your Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center committee is working fast and furiously on the realization of our goals. We are now an incorporated body, have our papers filed with the proper authorities, and have a constitution. We were even "congratulated" by the state of Tennessee.

The support we have gotten has been gratifying, especially in the areas of fund-raising, planning, and administration. This is a great opportunity for you to get in on the first stages of something that will prove to be a big boost for Gay and Les-

bian Memphis. The next committee meeting will be at the Agape New Life Church, Saturday, April 1, at 10:00 AM. At this meeting we will finalize our by-laws, review our fundraising, discuss public relations, and prepare an agenda for our big meeting planned on May 6. All meetings are, of course, open. You are more than welcome to drop by and show your support. We are looking for just a little work from a lot of people. If you have questions, please call the Gay Switchboard at 324-GAYS or the Agape New Life Church at 276-1872.

GayRap = Gay Pride

by Ken Horton

The Gay Coalition's March GayRap on cross-dressing was a big success. Our hats (and bonnets) off to the lovely Leslie Cartier, Summer Holiday, and Sofonda Peters for their sharing with us some enlightening and hilarious tidbits. For over an hour, we were treated to laughter, a little bit of gossip, and some dismay at a world which is perhaps the most visible part of our subculture and yet the least understood.

Countless hours have been spent by these lovely people raising money for every Gay cause in the city. The one subject that would cause dismay, however, was an underlying discrimination and rejection by the Gay community as a group. When asked what they would like to broadcast to us, their answer was to be respected and treated like everyone else. Come on everyone! If any group knows how people feel who are discriminated against, it should be us. Let's be on guard to celebrate our differences, instead of making them causes to divide

us.

Our thanks again. Our April and May GayRaps will get us in the swing for the twentieth anniversary of the Stonewall riots, the beginning of our modern Gay movement. We will be showing some videos, and sharing some interesting history of how things were and how things became the way they are.

GayRap can be a fun time, but it needs you to come and contribute. You can just sit and listen or speak up and tell all, but no one can go away not feeling just a little bit enriched. See you there.

We will be meeting in Meeting Room A, in the basement of the Main Library at the corner of Peabody and McLean on the third Monday of every month. Any changes in this routine will be given advance notice in this column. Also, anyone who might have a topic or session they would like to lead in Rap, please call the Gay Switchboard (324-GAYS) on Wednesday nights.

**Remember What Grandma
Used to say:
Don't Forget Your
Rubbers!**

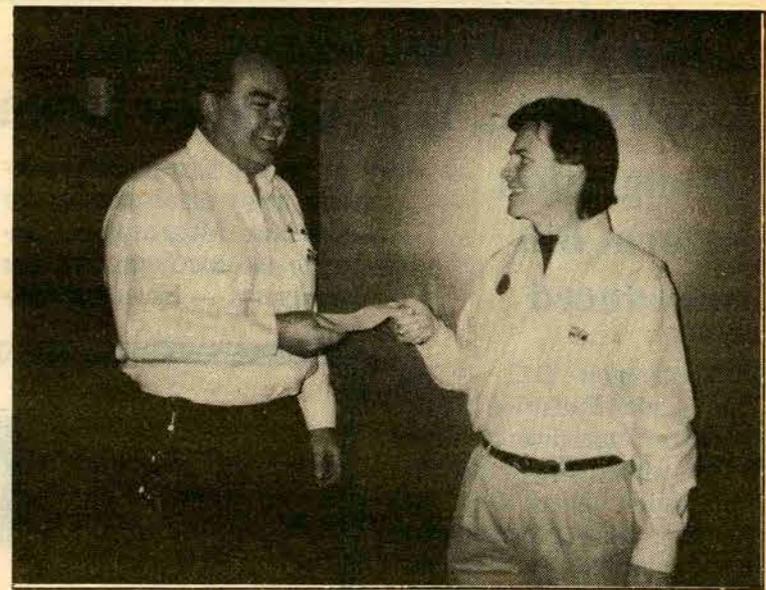
Prison Projects Need Donations

The Minority Prison Project needs the use or donation of a two or four-drawer filing cabinet as well as some pen-pals for Gay and Lesbian prisoners.

According to John Prowett, "To obtain a list of prisoners that want correspondence and a caring hello, drop a line stating whether you want a Gay or Lesbian pen-pal along with a contribution to cover the cost of photocopying and mailing." He says that more people are also needed to help expand the program and to file for tax-exemption and non-profit status.

A related organization, Transsexuals in Prison, has come out with a newsletter (from the Canadian Office). For a copy of the TIP newsletter or to place an article, you can contact TIP at the address listed in the Gaze Information and Services Directory. Prowett says, "We are in need of emotionally supportive Transpersons on the outside to correspond with your sisters on the inside." He requests donations to cover the costs of copying and mailing of the pen-pal list. Prowett says that funds also could be used to buy books dealing with transexualism and transvestitism to send to prisoners.

For further information on the Minority Prison Project or the Transsexuals in Prison organization, write to MPP or TIP, c/o John Prowett, 1973 Sipes, Memphis, TN 38127.



Tommy Stewart (left), President of ATEAC accepts a check for the proceeds of a benefit held at GDI on the River March 19.



Cast members of ATEAC Benefit held at GDI March 19. Left to Right: Lady Astor, Kirby Kincaid, Leslie Cartier, Billie Jo Casino, Summer Holiday, Hetti McDaniels, and Sofonda Peters.

BWMT *memphis*

**BLACK & WHITE
MEN TOGETHER**

An Interracial Gay Organization for All People

Statement of Purpose

Black and White Men Together of Memphis, Inc. is a Gay interracial organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. To these ends, we engage in educational, political, cultural, and social activities as means of dealing with racism, sexism, homophobia, and other inequities in our community and in our lives.

BWMT APRIL CALENDAR

April 2nd	Board Meeting, 1 PM, Chuck's
April 3rd	CR Discussion Group, 7:30 PM, Irwin's
April 10th	Planning Meeting, 7:30 PM, Ed's
April 15th	Hot, Horny & Healthy Workshop, 7:30 PM, Tony's
April 16th	Dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse, 7 PM
April 17th	CR Discussion Group, 7:30 PM, Irwin's
April 22nd	Spring Fling Party, 8 PM, Ed & Mike's
April 24th	Video Night, 7:30 PM, Peabody & McLean

For details: Call Nick (327-3753), Ed (452-5894), Irwin (726-1461) or write BWMT/Memphis, P.O. Box 41772, Memphis, TN 38174-1773

Burnout - Part 2

by Becky Caperton

Last time, we talked about burnout and its many characteristics. Let's talk about some more traits that influence the occurrence of burnout.

• Personality traits set in childhood can be a crucial factor in determining burnout potential. It is these attitudes and behaviors that therapists help their burned-out clients change.

• Lack of flexibility - Rigid thinking, such as the belief that there is only one "right way" to do things, or persistence in the face of repeated failure to produce results causes burnout.

• The over-investment of identity and self-worth in one area of life, such as career or a relationship, means that success or failure in that arena determines your success or failure as a person.

• Striving for goals that aren't yours. A childhood spent being exactly the child your parents wanted saps the enthusiasm and commitment necessary to persist during difficult times.

• Fear of failure - success becomes a "gilded cage" when the

ity to take creative risks or be innovative; without some challenge, burnout sets in.

• The Imposter Trap - Insecurity and lack of confidence encourages clinging to a "successful formula" rather than taking on new challenges that would be more stimulating. The resulting monotony soon becomes burnout.

Let's look for a moment at what causes burnout at the workplace and in relationships. Organizations can burn out just like people. When unrealistically high expectations become integrated into the corporate culture, or when high stress levels are chronic, the company begins to show signs of burning out. Warning signs include:

- high personnel turnover
 - increased absenteeism
 - reduced productivity
 - late completion of assignments
 - anger at superiors, along with expressions of powerlessness
 - criticism, jealousy, and lack of cooperation among personnel
 - increased lack of initiative
 - expressions of job dissatisfaction
 - negative attitudes.
- Causes of Company burnout

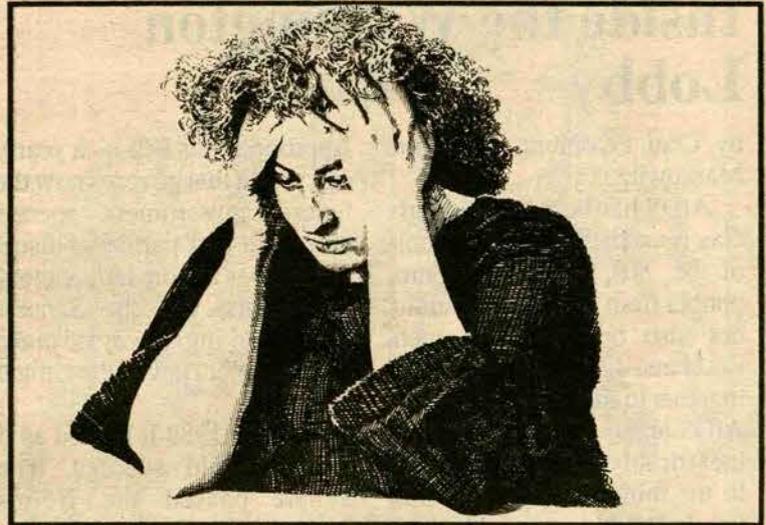
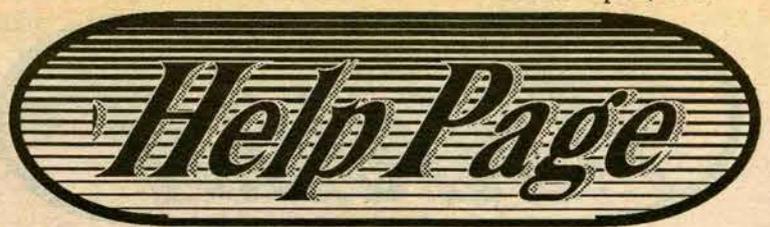
include:

- chronically heavy workload
- employees feeling underutilized or unchallenged by their work
- frequent interruptions or changes in work priorities
- lack of recognition for work
- unclear job descriptions
- limited upward mobility
- inadequate rewards or incentive for above-range performance
- lack of structured career ladders
- poor organizational structure that leaves employees in the dark about organizational hierarchy and criteria for acceptable job performance.

Relationship burnout occurs when the relationship is too intense. The excitement of the

initial "honeymoon" period can't be sustained indefinitely; nor can most of us live up to the idealized view that our partner forms of us during this romantic time. Relationship burnout also occurs when you live with a burned-out person. Without realizing it, you eventually become as apathetic, pessimistic, and depressed as your partner. Burnout also happens when you are so burned out by other areas of your life that a relationship becomes just another drain on your already low energy. One client told me that his relationship "went flat and I didn't even care."

In the next issue, we will learn to recognize the various stages of burnout, and there will be some questions for you to answer to discover whether you are burned out, or just starting to become that way.





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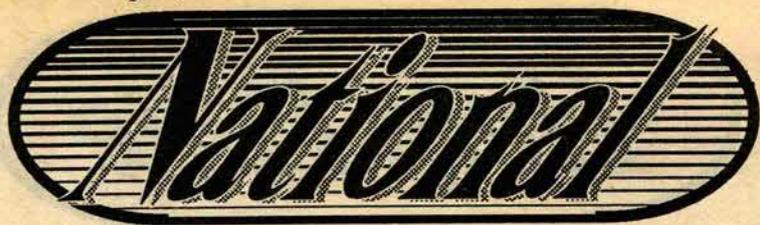
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Inside the Washington Lobby

by Chai Feldblum and Laura Markowitz

AIDS has been the spotlight Gay issue in the media for most of the '80s, provoking homophobia from the general public, but also bringing Gay men, Lesbians, and straight people together in shared pain and loss. AIDS and Gay rights are often inextricably linked, especially in the mind of Congress. Last year's Congress passed legislation that not only limited the type of language used in AIDS educational materials, but that was based on blatantly homophobic attitudes. At the same time, during this past Congress, lobbyists have sometimes been able to convince the Members to pass some AIDS legislation that is unencumbered by anti-homosexual provisions.

Lesbians and Gays need to stay informed. But keeping track of different bills and amendments as they bounce back and forth in committees, the House, and the Senate can be dry reading. We are going to take you inside the Washington lobby and introduce you to the AIDS and Gay rights legislation that will be voted on in 1989, tell you who the key players are — our allies and our obstacles to freedom and security under the law. For instance, few realize that many of the AIDS lobbyists are Lesbians or that the watchdog of our civil rights protection has been the disability community. Our first column will give a brief recap of the 100th Congress and a preview of the upcoming one. Subsequent columns will have the insiders' report on the status of the AIDS and Gay rights legislation — the ins and outs not covered by the mainstream press.

AIDS Education and the Helms Amendment

No funds may be used to provide AIDS educational materials that "promote or encourage homosexual sexual activities and all such materials must emphasize abstinence from homosexual sexual activities," read the infamous Helms Amendment that became law under the Fiscal Year (FY88)

Appropriations Bill — a yearly enactment that governs how the federal government spends money in that particular fiscal year. It was a short-term victory for Helms, and the Senator began working on ways to make it a permanent law of the United States.

In April 1988 it looked as if Helms would succeed. The Senate passed the Helms Amendment as part of S.1220, the AIDS Research and Education bill championed by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA). Although Kennedy succeeded in getting an additional provision added that somewhat reduced the impact of the Helms amendment, the entire Helms language was in the legislation — a three year authorization bill.

But then the tides turned. Debate on the FY89 Appropriations Bill came around in the Senate while the counterpart of S.1220 was still being argued in a House committee (bills must be approved in committee before they go "to the floor" for a general vote). Helms was poised on the Senate floor, ready to offer the same amendment that the Senate had now passed for him twice before. But something was different. During the previous week, lobbyists had been talking to Kennedy and Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA), urging them to make a 'pre-emptive strike' and offer a non-homophobic amendment before Helms could offer his.

"AIDS educational programs... shall not be designed to promote or encourage, directly, sexual activity, homosexual or heterosexual... but shall be designed to reduce transmission of [HIV]," read the alternate amendment, drafted by lobbyists from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), AIDS Action Council, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), and the Human Rights Campaign Fund. It was hoped that once this amendment was passed, the original Helms amendment could actually be defeated, even if it were offered once again.

Negotiations for this strategy

were completed moments before the FY89 Appropriations Bill came to the floor. Then, for the first order of business when the bill was called up, Cranston and Kennedy offered the amendment. Helms sputtered about their use of procedure to defeat him, but there was nothing he could do. The amendment passed — after extensive discussion on the need for effective AIDS education materials.

And the second part of the strategy worked too. Three times that afternoon Helms tried to strike the Cranston-Kennedy language and insert his own language. Each time he failed. Those who were observing Helms that day report that he was so furious he seemed to turn lavender.

AIDS Treatment and Research

The federal government has been appropriating money for AIDS treatment, research, and education since the AIDS epidemic came to the attention of Congress in 1981. This is somewhat unusual since ordinarily money is appropriated to a program after a bill to create the program has been passed. While general institutions, such as the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control have been authorized for years, specific AIDS programs within those institutions had never received separate authorizations. Although money for treatment and research has not been challenged because of that lack of authorization, lobbyists did not want to count on Congressional or Administration good will in the future. Senate Bill 2889 was passed and authorized a series of AIDS research and education programs, through the leadership of Sen. Kennedy and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA). It is a major victory that the bill includes the non-homophobic wording of the Cranston-Kennedy provision of the FY89 Appropriations Bill, and offers some assurance of future funding.

Each year Congress increases the spending budget for AIDS treatment and research. This year it stands at nearly \$1.6 billion, but in the forecast Bush administration budget cuts, there may be a fight to maintain that budget.

Civil Rights

There are currently two federal laws in effect that protect the rights of people with AIDS and HIV infection. The major one is Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Section

504 only covers entities ("programs and activities") that receive federal funds, and offers no protection in the private sector for people with disabilities or AIDS. Last year Congress was considering the Civil Rights Restoration Act — a bill to overturn the Supreme Court decision that gave a restrictive definition to the term "program" or "activity" — and Section 504 was brought out into the open. Homophobic members of Congress like Senators Gordon Humphrey (R-NH) and William Armstrong (R-CO) proposed a provision to exclude people with AIDS and HIV infection from Section 504. Fortunately, the disability community was monitoring civil rights legislation.

With the help of the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) and a coalition of disability rights groups called the Consortium of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, a counter-provision that affirmed protection for people who posed no health threat to others was drafted. People with AIDS or HIV infection pose no health threat to others, according to current medical evidence, and therefore remain included under the provision. The amendment passed as part of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, and even served as a basis for a memo from the Dept. of Justice asserting that people with AIDS and HIV infection are protected under Section 504.

But Section 504 only protects AIDS and HIV carriers and people with disabilities in the public sector. The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 was the first bill that extended non-discrimination protection to these groups in the private sector — prohibiting discrimination on the part of those that rent or sell private dwellings. This bill also protects those who associate with people with AIDS, HIV infection, or other disabilities. As a result, landlords and owners also cannot discriminate against a person because her or his lover, family member, or friends have AIDS or HIV infection. Passage of this bill was a considerable victory in the last Congress.

When the bill was being considered by the House Judiciary Committee last April, Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-CA) tried to get in an amendment that would exclude people with AIDS and HIV infection. Again,

a counter-amendment was formulated which Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) offered. It passed in committee by a vote of 22 to 13 and then served as the basis for defeating similar efforts on the House floor. No AIDS amendment was even offered in the Senate.

The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 became effective March 12, 1989. While this is a major victory for people with AIDS, HIV infection, and their loved ones, we still face opposition in Gay and Lesbian civil rights protection.

Legislation for 1989

We have been most effective in advocating civil rights protections for people with AIDS and HIV infection when we work in coalition with the disability community. Then the opposition is forced to take an affirmative step to exclude people with AIDS-related conditions from other people with disabilities, and such attempts are easier to defeat. A top priority for the AIDS civil rights agenda this year will be the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). ADA calls for protection of people with disabilities, including people with AIDS and HIV infection in employment, transportation, communication, local and state government activities, and public accommodations.

Confidentiality is another vital issue that Congress will decide policy on this year. Advocates are once again developing a bill providing that HIV test results may not be disclosed to outsiders by those who administer the test or by health care providers who are informed by the infected person. A major concern is that such a bill should add to, and not supplant, the protections that currently exist in some states.

A financing package that will finally address private insurance coverage and government programs, and that will create a system to provide treatment and health care to people with AIDS and HIV infections is another priority for civil rights advocates.

Chai Feldblum is an attorney and lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union AIDS Project.

Laura Markowitz is an editor of a national magazine and a Lesbian activist.



NOW Organizing Washington Demonstration for Women's Rights

NOW President Molly Yard is predicting that the anger and fear generated by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to hear a major case challenging legalized abortion will result in the April 9 March of Women's Equality/Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. being the largest march for women's rights in U.S. history.

"The surge in organizing for this march is unprecedented in our experience," Yard said, "and NOW has a long history of organizing marches and other street actions. Clearly, people from every part of the country have finally realized just how real this threat is to a fundamental right of privacy — the right to decide to terminate an unwanted pregnancy — and they are responding to the March call in larger than ever numbers."

On January 9, the Court announced it would hear *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, an appeal to uphold the constitutionality of Missouri's abortion law which also seeks to challenge the constitutionality of *Roe v. Wade*. Missouri's law has been declared unconstitutional by both a federal district court and a federal circuit court of appeals. On Nov. 10, 1988, two days after Pres. Bush's election, the U.S. Dept. of Justice sent a message to the High Court asking it to hear the *Webster* appeal and to use the Missouri case as a vehicle for reviewing the *Roe* decision to overturn it.

In addition to the general march call, the NOW president has issued a special call to the nation's Lesbian and Gay communities to join the march on

April 9.

"This call to the Lesbian and Gay communities goes beyond NOW's longstanding support and advocacy for Lesbian and Gay rights," she explained. "We have long recognized the connection between reproductive rights and the Lesbian and Gay rights as basic issues of privacy. The enemy is the same — a fanatical, organized Right Wing that seeks to control others through government intrusion in very private, very personal decisions and lifestyles."

Groups and individuals interested in organizing a delegation or simply participating in the April 9 march should contact their local or state NOW chapters or the National NOW Action Center. The telephone number is (202) 331-0066.

Health Conference To Examine Gay & Lesbian Issues

Washington, DC—Over 200 attendees are expected to participate in the national largest annual meeting concerning Lesbian and Gay health issues when the 11th National Lesbian and Gay Conference and the 7th National AIDS Forum convene in San Francisco, April 5-9. Workshops and presentations will be facilitated by health care professionals and Gay and Lesbian community leaders from across the country, including many in the forefront of the AIDS pandemic. The conference is sponsored by the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation and George Washington University Medical Center.

Dr. Mervyn Silverman of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) will deliver the Conference keynote address.

Other guests will include Dr. James Curran, director of CDC's AIDS Program; JoAnn Loulan, author of *Lesbian Passion: Loving Ourselves and Each Other*; Caitlin Ryan, NASW Social Worker of the Year (1988); Dr. David Smith, founder and Medical Director of Haight Ashbury Free Clinics; Laura Davis, co-author of *The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse*; California Senator Milton Marks; San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos; and Harry Britt, Chair of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

The over 400 presentations given concerning Lesbian and Gay Health issues will be divided into tracks dealing with Lesbian health care, substance abuse/codependency/recovery, mental health, people of color

issues, holistic health care, and youth issues. A complete track of technical workshops will provide organizational assistance for Lesbian and Gay health and AIDS service organizations. The AIDS forum will present the most up-to-date medical information concerning HIV infection as well as related psychosocial issues.

According to Tommy Stewart, president of the Aid to End AIDS Committee, two staff members of ATEAC will be attending. Martin Katz, ATEAC's Operations Manager, and Rita Underhill, Education Coordinator, will represent the organization.

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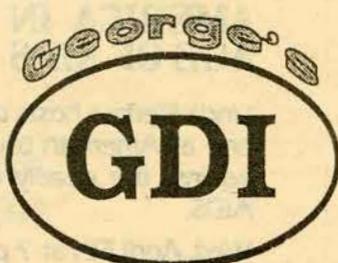
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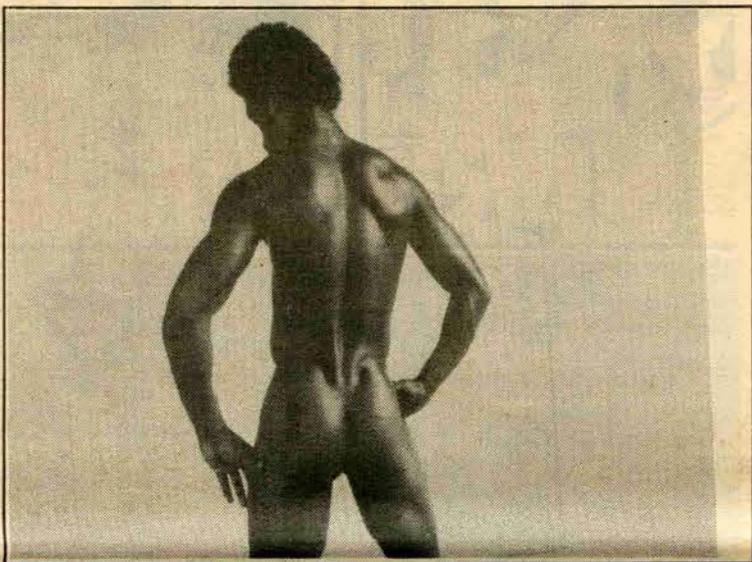
Spectrum

Brooks Exhibition Holds Interest For Gays

The current exhibitions at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art contain several pieces of interest. The touring exhibition *Looking South* includes four photographs by New Orleans artist George Dureau.

"Alienation is the subject of George Dureau's portraits. Heir

to the photographer George Platt Lynes, Dureau's homoerotic, psychologically-charged photographs challenge genteel sensibilities. As in the portrait *Wilbert Hines*, 1983, his models are painfully aware of their physical deformities and their imminent recording, yet they are



George Dureau, Dwayne Robinson, 1985. Silver Print 30x30.

Colors: Men and Women, the Alternative

by William M. Tracer

On Sunday, March 12 at 5:30 PM a group of eight men and women of our community gathered on the patio of WKRB for the formation meeting of a new Gay & Lesbian Organization in Memphis, Colors. From the very onset, those of us involved would like it known that our intentions are not to build any competition with any other Gay organization with goals of a similar nature to ours. We wish nothing but the best cooperative spirit between ours and all other Gay and Lesbian organizations in Memphis.

The goals and purposes of this new organization are stated as follows:

1. To encourage the choices of Gays and Lesbians to be the people they elect to be, regardless of cultural variance.
2. To show love to our fellow brothers and sisters without stigmas of race or color.

3. To put trust in the future for a better tomorrow and to do what we can to insure this positive future.

4. To encourage and enjoy our liberty.

5. To always hold the highest respect for life.

6. To allot time for a better community as a whole.

7. To have triumph over racism, sexism, and homophobia
8. To become involved in areas of educational, social, and political responsibility

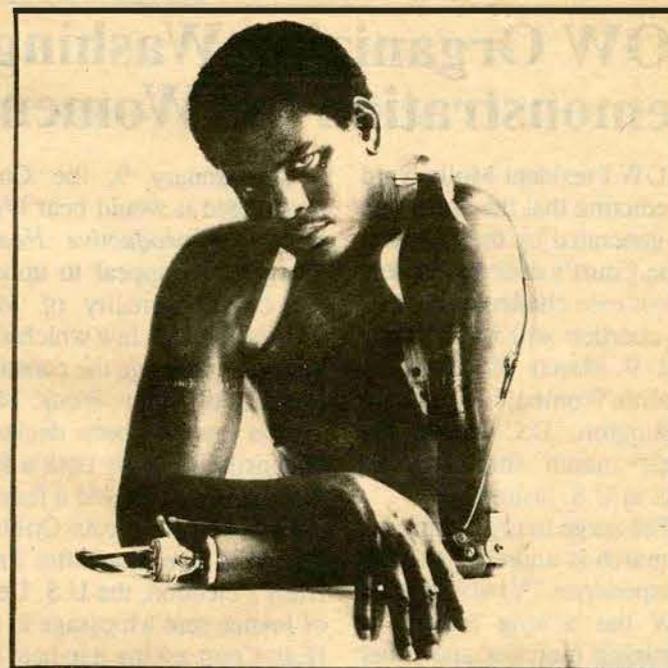
9. Through having versatility, visibility, and accepting the value of all people no matter what their backgrounds, we dedicate ourselves to the greater humanity that we can help bring about.

If these goals and purposes sound good to you, we encourage your participation and would like to invite you to our next meeting Sunday, April 9 at 3:00 PM at WKRB.

depicted without sentimentality, as total human beings. It is to Dureau's credit that his subjects can be experienced on both levels—as objects of sexual desire and as idealized, classical male forms." (from the exhibition catalogue)

Also currently on display is the beautiful seated portrait of *Susan B. Anthony* by artist Carl Guthertz (1844-1907). This full-length portrait was painted after a photograph in 1900, six years before the subject's death. A similar head-and-shoulders portrait by the same artist hangs in the Corcoran Gallery. The artist's family (their name anglicized to Goodheart) presented numerous paintings to Brooks Museum in 1968, among which was this portrait. With other articles belonging to Guthertz in the Museum's collection was discovered the photograph from which the painting was done. The oil portrait was conserved in 1986 and in its renewed state was selected for inclusion in the World Book Encyclopedia Yearbook for 1987.

Susan B. Anthony is displayed in the exhibition *Your Point of View* with other various portraits from the Museum's permanent collection.



George Dureau, Wilbert Hines, 1983. Silver Print 30x30.



Melissa Miller, Flood, 1983. Oil on Linen 59x95.

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National Hotline

458-AIDS

Local Help

AMERICA IN THE AGE OF AIDS

Linda Elerbee hosts this look at one all-American town's work against the deadly disease of AIDS.

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THE AIDS QUARTERLY

This episode focuses on the medical aspects of the AIDS epidemic, from federal research money to new procedures for doctors to follow.

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Continuous Dance Night

50¢ Schnapps

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Wednesday, April 12

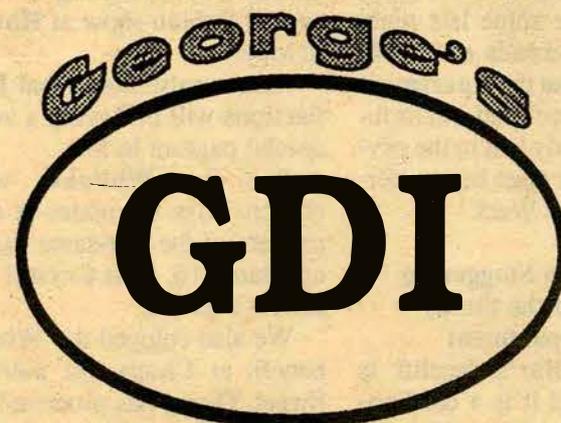
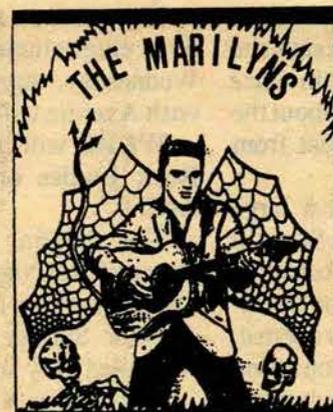
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Quick Clips

by Lady A

Oh, Mary, what a social whirl. All the benefits, openings, and goings-on are quickly becoming a hot pink blur, but we will attempt to give each and every one its due. Oh, mah po' achin' feet!

Grand Openings Department

It was most refreshing to attend the grand opening of **Chaps** which featured live entertainment. We did not make the actual performance by Milt Krueger's talented daughter Lia, but she was persuaded to sing a live cameo in that evening's show next door at **Numbers**. We were delighted to witness the large amount of tips she received, which goes to show that talent is noticed in Memphis, Josephine.

We flitted in briefly to the grand opening of **Hours** to find Mary Pierce at the door, wearing that same beautiful smile we saw on so many nights at the old Pendulum. Gee Gee Parola is enjoying the return of many of her old patrons, and she says she credits her advertising in *Gaze* to getting the word out about the opening. A compliment from an advertiser, gee!

Though it was not a large scale celebration, **Last Stop** (in the old Barracks, Rumor's, Trapper John's, Inferno) location on Marshall St. has opened. It is Black owned and operated and promises lots of dancing now and shows to come later. There will be some late night hours on weekends also. We understand that the **Apartment Club** has been closed, but its future is presently lost in the psychic mists. It must be interference from Star Wars.

Woman Staggering Onto the Street Department

Another **Bar's** facelift is complete; and it is a comfortable, intimate space, although, Danny Ray has not told us what the former disco side will become.

We happened to be at the **Pipeline** when Dennis walked in with the armload of trophies which **Tsar** brought home from the **Conductor's** run in Nashvegas. The club took first

place in club participation out of 38 clubs (and 241 participants) present. Sharon Wray won the Enduro, with her sidekick Don (different, but none the less a 'Don'), and Dennis himself won the long-distance trophy. The **Tsar** Anniversary gathering will take place the weekend of April 14, 15, and 16.

The **Lambda Center** is planning another benefit for April; call for details.

GDI hosted its first benefit in the Front St. location which raised a total of \$3,022.82 for **ATEAC**. Frank himself pledged \$2,400, and the performer turnout was excellent. Along with **Summer Holiday**, **Sofonda Peters**, and **Leslie Cartier** (see these names in the **GayRap** article) were **Hetti McDaniel** from **Reflections**, **Kirby Kincade** from **J-Wag's**, and **Billie Jo Casino** who works, ahem, appears at **WKR**, **Chaps** and **Numbers**. Several other guests and cast members from **GDI** were present, as was yours truly.

We will soon see a lot more live entertainment at **GDI**: **Wednesday**, April 12th, **Seventh Avenue** will perform live.

WKR will host the **Little Rock Ladies** once again on April 9.

The **Pipeline** will host a **Tsar** Club Night on April 1, that is if they are not fooling us. Another **Sunday Breakfast** is scheduled very soon.

Rumour has it that **Gee Gee Parola** will be having a very special fashion show at **Hours** in May.

Rumour also has it that **Reflections** will be having a very special pageant in May.

Dee Dee Whitaker was chosen **Miss Numbers** at the pageant of the self-same name on March 10, with **Crystal Jo** as first alternate.

We also enjoyed the **Wings** benefit at **Chaps** last month. **Sweet Thang** has promised to retire this time; and, once again, a live vocal was featured by one of the members. **Bill**, where have you been hiding?

Chaps is also beginning a 6 PM to 6 AM opening with a very early morning show entitled the **Cheyenne Social Club** and breakfast buffet.

Yes, yes, we remember that

Leslie Cartier has a title but we can't for the life of us remember what she told us it was. As we have often said, we are *Lady Astor*, we do not require to be *Miss* anything.

Kirby Kincade, we understand, is having a lot of success on the regular show nights and at the **Breakfast Club** at **J-Wag's**.

Linda Vickery was a contender in the **Ms. International**

Leather contest in **San Francisco**. And has she got some tales!

Last But Not Least Department

You've heard the lines since you came out. You've seen the movie in any number of places. You've been to bitchy parties. Have another!

The Boys in the Band comes to **WKR** for 3 performances

only on April 2, 3 and 4. The Monday performance will be an **AIDS** benefit. Tickets are \$4 for Sunday and Tuesday, \$5 for Monday, available at **WKR**, **Reflections**, and from cast members. What's-going-on-in-here-oh-Mary-don't-ask!

The cast will also tour to **Nashville** for one performance only April 22.

Ta, ta.
Lady A.

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GEORGE'S—Twenty Years Young

by Vincent Astor

"Twilight Kiss Closes Twilight Lounge" - "The men were arrested recently at The Door..." - "George's - the queen mother of Memphis Gay bars..." - "GDI On the River opens..." — these phrases all speak of the oldest, still viable Gay institution in Memphis—George's. It is 20 years, in this year of grace 1989, since George Wilson took over the little saloon at 1786 Madison and at least 25 since the Twilight Lounge made the papers because one man kissed another. Hundreds of people, Gay and non-Gay, have come out, gone out, grown up, passed by, knowing the name George's and knowing full well what that name stood for. And it's high time its history was written.

It was 'way back in 1960, a long time before Gay acceptance by society was even a dream, that a woman remembered only as Lou opened a little, dumpy beer bar at 1786 Madison. In those days, the term 'closet' meant dungeon. Sharon Wray used the phrase, "Gays were *allowed* to come in." Gathering places were rare, and usually far from town, such as Ben's, near Lehigh, Arkansas, and the Raven, across the Tip-ton county line. Lou discovered that the Gay crowd was a well-behaved crowd and that they spent money and kept coming. Thus was the location established.

The name changed for the first time to Cookie and Blanche's in a year or two, no one remembers whether these two women were actually Lesbian or not, but the crowd was still encouraged to come. Mike Rollins took over the ownership in 1965, took back the original name, and it was a bartender who leaned over the bar to kiss a sailor which caused the bar to be busted and closed. The newspaper story read "Twilight Kiss Closes Twilight Lounge." In order to smooth things over, a Lesbian was produced, and the two people involved swore that they were a couple. The ruse worked, and a much more discreet Twilight Lounge reopened.

The ownership passed to two women named Kay and Sarah in 1969, and the name changed to The Famous Door. Several times that year, the small establishment changed hands, even once belonging to Sharon Wray and her partner Carolyn. In those days, beer and setups were

sold. The laws were very exacting: a bar could be cited for allowing a patron to stand up to drink; they had to be seated. Beer could be sold until 12 AM, then later up until 1 AM. Sharon remembers that water setups had to be poured from a pitcher, as there was no sink behind the bar.

George Wilson, who also had an antique business, was persuaded to become involved with the long-time Gay hangout at the end of that year. He finally obtained and kept it at the end of 1969 and called it merely The Door. After the new year, an old acquaintance named Dennis Belski moved back to town and was hired to tend bar. George had also just acquired a new lover from Canada, Don Rossignol by name. The sun was about to rise in an explosion of glitter and sequins.

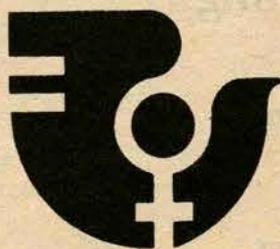
Dennis remembers deciding to have a drag show one evening. Just like that. "It wasn't as if we never had heard of it. We had had shows at The Hunt [on Jackson] and Dixie had done shows at the Aristocrat [in Tip-ton county]." "There was a piano, a Hammond organ, and a palm tree, painted in Day-Glo colors with a black light," Sharon said. Drag was done live with piano accompaniment. Much of it was camp and comedy. Don Rossignol was an accomplished singer and George credits much of the first successes of The Door to the talent of the performers. The attempt to keep the shows new and different saw the beginnings of lip-synch pantomime, more performers (although in the beginning each drag queen had to put on and take off her own record), the addition of Don as MC (and DJ), and finally group and production numbers. George Wilson became even better

known to the community, and though he owned a bar named The Door, everyone was soon saying, "Let's go on down to George's." in 1971, he changed the name to George's Theatre Lounge, henceforward known as George's.

In 1971, George's was raided by the police department for cross-dressing (a strange ordinance on the city books) and lewd behavior (a performer kissing another man who had just tipped her). The queens were photographed in drag for mug shots. "I kept asking them to let me change. I was in a green Afro wig about 3 feet wide. But they wouldn't," said Dennis. This was September 15. "They told us at first that we could never, ever do it again, that we'd get closed every time. Well, you know what a bitch I am, I said they're not gonna do this to me." Business was extremely bad, and everyone was afraid to go there. Dennis and Don decided to throw caution to the winds and do a show. That show was Don's first appearance in drag, doing an Edith Piaf impression. They were not raided again. John T. "Buddy" Dwyer represented the men; and on October 9, all charges were dismissed by Judge Ray Churchill. Then, Melina (Dennis), Danielle (Don), Heather, Blair, and Loretta became heroes (heroines?), just as the drag queens at Stonewall in New York had been. Business boomed, and Gay pride became a real concept in Memphis.

The first major expansion of the bar came in 1972-73. Disco lights and liquor were added, the first in a Memphis Gay bar. Dancing was done with one eye on the front door for police and a complex code system for changing the dance floor to a dining area like lightning. It

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GEORGE'S



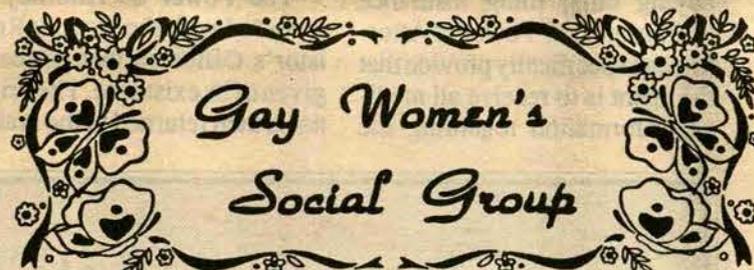
THEATRE LOUNGE

was again Buddy Dwyer who acquired the dance permit for George's. He personally railroaded it through all the necessary approvals. "Nowhere on the permit did it say who would be dancing with whom," recalls Sharon. Charges had been dismissed against The Closet after a raid resulting in the arrest of four couples, and the disco era had begun.

In 1976 and '77 another passing remark resulted in the well-known title "George's Truck Stop and Drag Bar" which came complete with t-shirts and promotional photos of the cast atop the hood of a large truck. In 1978, the final expansion was accomplished. George had

bought the Procape coffee shop to the left of the bar and named it Le Cafe. The bar took up the rest of the building from the Procape to the Mercury Valet Cleaners. Improvements to plumbing and parking had been added, the lighting was improving and video games had taken their places next to the pinball machines. The seating capacity had risen from 39 to 600, without counting the restaurant. Many non-Gay people were coming by to dance and see the show. To many, George's was the Gay bar in Memphis, though there were a number of others.

Continued on page 19



♥ Spring Dance ♥

Saturday, April 22, 1989

8:00 pm - 12:00 pm

Donation: \$5.00 couple
3.00 single

BYOB



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Lee at 327-6165

Legal Briefs

Protecting the Rights of Relationships — Legally

Last month Attorney Susan Mackenzie explored some ways Gay people can protect their rights in a relationship. This month's column explores some additional avenues of protection.

Powers of Attorney

A Power of Attorney is a written authorization to an agent (called "Attorney in Fact") to perform specified acts on behalf of the principal (the maker). It is the Durable Power of Attorney that is of the best assistance for Lesbian and Gay couples. A Durable Power of Attorney continues to be in effect after the principal becomes disabled or incompetent. In addition to allowing the agent to carry on the principal's affairs such as paying bills, filing insurance claims, etc., the Power of Attorney can specifically provide that the agent is to receive all medical information regarding the

principal, is to make all treatment and care decisions, and that they are to be given the first priority before family members in vesting the maker during hospitalization.

A Power of Attorney can also address whether the principal's life is to be sustained on life support systems, if such support would only prolong the dying process, and whether any body organs are to be donated for transplant. The Power of Attorney can be made effective immediately upon signing or upon the occurrence of a triggering mechanism such as a disability in the opinion of a physician. The instrument may negate the need for a formal conservatorship and provides a nomination that the agent be made conservator if one is needed.

The Power of Attorney is recorded with the County Register's Office so that notice is given of its existence. The original is then returned to the maker

with a notation as to where the document is recorded. It is advisable to send a copy of the instrument to the principal's primary physician for insertion in the patient's file. The Power of Attorney must be formally revoked and the revocation filed in the Register's Office.

Conservatorships

A conservatorship is a legal mechanism in which someone is appointed (the "conservator") to assist another (the "conservatee") who has become incapacitated and needs assistance in managing their person and/or assets. The effect of a conservatorship is the same as a Power of Attorney, but it involves a petition in Probate Court and is supervised by the court. Since actual court involvement is necessary, there are court costs as well as the cost of the bond required for the conservator. Tennessee also requires affidavits by two physicians stating that the individual is incompetent to handle their own affairs. The conservatorship proceedings, as well as all field documents, become a part of the public record and this are open to the public.

These are the legal documents and legal mechanisms that can be used by Lesbian and Gay couples to give their relationship some of the protections that exist automatically in heterosexual marriages. With the will

and Power of Attorney we can protect ourselves, our loved one, and the relationship should a serious injury or death occur. It is also possible to name our partner as the beneficiary on a life insurance policy. Often, if Powers of Attorney have been executed, identifying your lover as "Attorney in Fact" eliminates further questions. Sometimes it may be necessary to initially name a blood relative or your estate as the beneficiary, and then once the policy is in effect, change the beneficiary to your lover. This may be especially

necessary for Gay men since AIDS has made life insurance policies harder to obtain.

None of these mechanisms can provide the opportunity for the joint filing of federal income tax or joint medical or rental insurance. Until the laws or corporate policy changes, these benefits of heterosexual marriages are beyond our grasp. However, protecting ourselves and loved ones from the fate that befell Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski is well worth the effort and expense.

Bar Association Backs Gay Rights

The American Bar Association (ABA), the largest lawyer's group in the country, voted Feb. 6 to support a resolution calling for the elimination of discrimination laws against Gay men and Lesbians.

Meeting in Denver, the ABA's House of Delegates approved the measure by a 2-1 margin. The House of delegates had twice refused to adopt the resolution which calls for federal, state, and local laws "pro-

hibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodation."

The issue had come up in 1983 and lost by 24 votes. In 1985, the resolution was reintroduced and lost by 9 votes.

Proponents of the measure argue that its adoption by the ABA will add weight to arguments for civil rights protections for Gay men and women.

Immigration Reform

Continued from page 5

with AIDS and HIV infection, but it would grant the Department of Health and Human Services authority to waive the exclusion of persons with communicable diseases. HRCF lobbyists said they would seek to broaden the waiver provision.

"At a minimum, persons with communicable diseases should be admitted on the same terms as people with other disorders," said HRCF's Smith.

"If you can show that you are not 'dangerous,' you should be able to come into the country. There certainly is no basis to think that immigrants are bringing AIDS to the U.S., which still has the world's highest number of reported cases."

Congressman Frank has been joined by 45 original bill cosponsors. The bill has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee, where it is expected to be referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration — chaired by Rep. Bruce Morrison (D-Conn.). Morrison is an original cosponsor of the Immigration Bill.

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**1989 AUCTION FOR AIDS
SUCH A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS.
YOU RAISED ALMOST
\$14,000 FOR PWA'S.**

GayRap: A Place for "All" Gay & Lesbian Concerns (Including Those of Gay & Lesbian Christians)

by William M. Tracer
Associate Pastor, Agape New
Life Church

The following text is in response to two letters in the March 1989 issue of *Gaze*. These letters were entitled "GayRap No Place for Religion" and "The Bible... The Source of Gay Problems," written by Mark Franceschini, and Don Sanders respectively.

Mr. Franceschini and Mr. Sanders, rather than talk about you, I will address this article directly to both of you from this point on.

Before getting into those areas where we disagree, I would like first to focus on those goals we appear to share in common.

First and foremost, we both know that the Fundamentalist view of homosexuality is an incorrect perspective. We both see homosexuality as an acceptable alternative life style, no less natural than heterosexuality. We agree that it is not wrong for a person to be homosexual, and we must do all that we can to help society at large to see this truth.

Considering these points of commonality, one cannot help but wonder: Why do you seek to provoke a confrontation between us when we should be working together on these common goals?

I imagine that part of the answer is that you haven't been aware of the fact that we might have something in common aside from our sexual preference.

Another part of the answer might be revealed in your reference, "Many still feel some masochistic need to continue to apologize for the Christian Bible's anti-Gay stance..." From this I can easily see that you clearly do not understand what motivated my study of this topic. There are no apologetic aspects to it; and, ironically Mr. Sanders, it is your own words, in a different context, which sum up my reason for devoting years of research to prove my stand.

Referring to the Bible you said, "Hasn't its 'misinterpretations' caused us enough misery." To that question I say, absolutely you're right. However, what you lay stress upon with sarcasm, I emphasize with conviction.

It is precisely because these incorrect homophobic interpretations and mistranslations caused me so much emotional

distress, that I took it upon myself to find as much of the truth as I could. My quest for the truth led me to see how every one of the five scriptural passages which conservatives use to condemn us, do not apply to persons of a homosexual orientation at all! Also from this study I was able to learn that there are, in fact, two Old Testament stories which reveal a positive light on the love between two different same sex couples. Additionally, Jesus never said a word against homosexuals, and did say a few things which many feel implies an acceptance of homosexuals. There is not enough space here for me to go into details, but if you really want to know them, send your address to *Gaze* for

me, and I'll send you a great deal of my research material.

When I first read your letter, Mr. Franceschini, there was an immediate characteristic I noticed in one of your arguments. It invalidates itself. You say the Coalition "was intended to represent ALL Gay and Lesbian people of Memphis." Considering the fact that Gay and Lesbian Christians are encompassed within the "ALL," the topic is therefore completely valid as the topic of one GayRap meeting. Just as a topic presented by those of your beliefs would be valid for one GayRap meeting. This is true because Gay and Lesbian atheists are also encompassed within the "ALL," as well. I am a true advocate of free speech. However, the tone of

both of your letters indicates to me that you obviously are not. From what I read, you believe in your own freedom to speak your views, but feel this right should not be afforded to any who oppose your views. In the disguise of open mindedness, it seems you reveal how close minded you really are.

Mr. Franceschini, you say that my "course," (as you call it) "is a sermon whose purpose is to present a slanted view of a clearly homophobic Bible." It is fairly easy to understand why you are so completely mistaken in this statement. Neither you nor Mr. Sanders attended the GayRap meeting in question, nor have you ever come to any of the church discussion groups on the topic of "The Bible and

Homosexuality." Therefore, the point is well made that you simply do not know what you are talking about. There is no authority by which you speak, because you have never heard one of these supposedly "slanted sermons." If you had, you would know that "Bible and Homosexuality," is oriented in a discussion group setting, not a sermon. Perhaps you need to familiarize yourselves with my study in order that you might be able to know what you are talking about. Until such time as you acquire this knowledge, you are most definitely speaking out of turn.

In addition to your "sermon" misnomer, you also make an inaccurate assumption, Mr.

Continued on page 16



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2 Shows: 11:15 & 1:15**

Coming May 17...

Miss River City Pageant

Addenda

Michael J. Fortner

The following letter, along with several thousands of dollars worth of medical supplies, was sent to the Aid to End AIDS Committee with a request that the letter be printed in Gaze.

Please accept these supplies and medications in memory of my lover — Michael Joseph Fortner, who left this world at 11:00 AM. Friday, March 3, 1989. He fought AIDS for two years, being diagnosed in 1987. Michael and I had 3 1/2 wonderful years of life together. However the past two years of fighting, treating, and surviving bouts of PCP, ongoing KS, and then last April CMV Retinitis, for which we have been using experimental ???cyclivir until Michael's death to prevent complete blindness, has been a unified effort of love, compassion, and learning.

A part of me has been ripped away by Michael's death, but I am thankful for the life we shared. He was aware of everything until maybe an hour before he took his last breath. We had a talk Thursday night about the wonderful times we had together — the trips, friends, and enjoyable existence we had. I told Michael I would always love him and he would always be in my heart. He told me his spirit would be with me too, always. We hugged each other, and I told Michael that I knew he was tired of fighting and that he had my understanding and permission to be at peace. He said he hurt in his throat, chest, and liver, and that he could not keep fighting. He was just tired of being tired all the time. I told him I would see him on Friday if God willed, and I kissed him goodnight and told him to sleep in peace.

Dr. Land called me at 11:00 PM Friday at work to tell me Michael had died. His mother was with him at the time.

Please accept the approximately \$15,000 worth of infusion supplies and Retrovir (AZT) and bottles of Pentamidine to give to other PWA's who cannot afford these expensive medicines, etc. for their continued survival and treatments in Michael's memory.

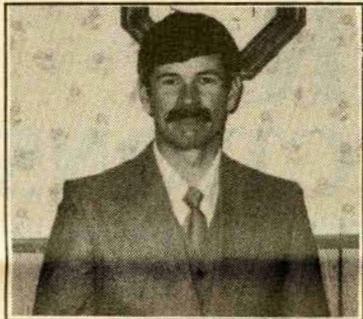
Please print a memorial in

Michael's Memory, or this letter, because I don't want his passing to be in vain. Love will conquer pain and death, I know, but I must let others know the fight to live and survive is worth the time I had with my beloved Michael.

ATEAC — Thanks for being there when we needed you!

I would like any memorials for Michael sent in the form of a contribution to ATEAC (P.O. Box 40389, Memphis, TN 38174-0389) or AmFAR (Attn: Dr. Silverman, 5900 Wilshire Blvd, 2nd Floor E. Satellite, Los Angeles, CA 90036-5032.)

Steven C. Soloman



Michael Joseph Fortner

GayRap continued from page 15

Franceschini, when you describe my motivations as "an attempt to attract more converts." When I look at the many sad "Gay" faces in this city; when I see so many who have come to believe the lies fed to them by the homophobes; when I see both young and old on paths of self-destruction, led by the social pressures of homophobia; when I know the emotional torment they are going through, because I went through it myself; then I have no choice but to show these hurting brothers and sisters that there is an alternative way of looking at these disputed scriptures. This alternative is not made up, but discovered; and sharing it is the best thing I or any other in the Gay community can do, in order to begin the healing of those still hurting from the wounds of homophobia.

It is not converts I am concerned with in this study. "The Bible and Homosexuality" was written to bring an emotional healing experience to all homosexuals who have subconsciously internalized the homophobic misuse of God's word. This was my motivation from Day One, and continues to be as

I share and discuss this topic with all I encounter.

Helping to soothe these wounds is not an easy task, but fortunately we have some scripture on our side, which the homophobes can't misinterpret. I John 4:7-8 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

Rather than standing opposed to each other, we should be

showing love to each other. Love is the most powerful force in the universe and is the greatest concept described in the Bible. With love we can accomplish our common goals, and truly have a positive impact on healing the wounds of our sexual oppression.

If there is anything that I would wish that you could learn from my words, it would be this: Is is not the Bible itself which is harmful to us, but the homophobic misuse of it that has done us harm.

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Clip and mail to: MGC, P.O. Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038

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Name _____

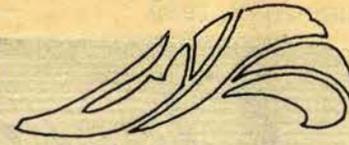
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Information & Services



The Information and Services directory is printed as a public service and its listings are free. Agencies and businesses listed herein have requested to be listed but have not been charged.

RESTAURANTS & BARS

Another Bar: 1351 Autumn - 278-5348.
Apartment: 343 Madison - 525-9491.
Barbara's: 1474 Madison - 278-4313.
Chaps: 598 Marshall - 523-9950.
GDI on the River: 287 S. Front Street - 526-1038.
Hours: 92 N. Avalon (upstairs) - 725-9400.
J-Wags: 1268 Madison - 725-1909.
Numbers: 600 Marshall - 526-5553.
Pipeline: 1382 Poplar - 726-5263.
Reflections: 92 North Avalon - 272-1525.
WKRB in Memphis: 1528 Madison - 278-9321.

ORGANIZATIONS

Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC): Box 40389, Memphis 38174-0389 - 762-8401, 458-AIDS.

Agape New Life Church:

Worship Sundays at 11:00 AM and Wednesdays at 7:30 PM - 327-4145.

American Gay Atheists Memphis: Box 41371, Memphis, 38174-1371.

Black & White Men Together: Box 41773, Memphis 38174 - 327-3753, 452-5894, or 726-1461.

Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition, Inc. of Memphis: P.O. Box 40982, Memphis 38174-0982.

Gay Athletic Association: Bowling, volleyball, camping, and more. Box 22914, Memphis 38122.

Gay Women's Social Group: 324-6949.

Human Response Council: PWA services. 275-3536.

Kinship: Seventh Day Adventist Gay religious group. P.O. Box 171135, Memphis, 38187-1135 - 754-6160.

Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: 1462 Poplar Ave, Memphis, 38104 - 274-3550.

Memphis Gay Coalition: Box 3038, Memphis, 38173-0038 - 324-GAYS.

Memphis Lambda Center: Meeting place for 12-step recovery programs. 241 N. Cleveland (above United Paint Store), Memphis - 276-7379.

Minority Prison Project (MPP): For information: John Prowett, 1973 Sipes, Memphis, 38127.

Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite: Box 41822, Memphis, 38174-1822.

National Organization for Women (NOW): Box 40982, Memphis, 38104.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (P-FLAG): P.O. Box 172031, Memphis, 38187-2031 - 761-1444.

Phoenix (Gay AA): 272-9549, 276-7379, or 454-1414.

Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Task Force: P.O. Box 24446, Nashville, TN 37202-4446. Memphis contact: Rick Bray - 274-0454.

Transsexuals in Prison (TIP): For information: John Prowett, 1973 Sipes, Memphis, 38127.

Tsarus: (Leather-Levi club) Box 41082, Memphis, 38174-1082.

Wings: (Leather-Levi club) Box 41784, Memphis, 38174-1784.

Women of Leather: 181 N. Willett, Memphis, 38104 - 278-9321

HELPLINES

AIDS Switchboard: 458-AIDS. 3:30-11pm

Gay Switchboard: 324-GAYS. 7:30-11pm

LINC: 725-8895.

Narcotics Anonymous: 276-LIVE.

Rape Crisis: 528-2161.

Suicide & Crisis Intervention: 274-7477.

COUNSELING & LEGAL SERVICES

Becky Caperton, MS: Counseling - 327-9758

Susan Mackenzie, Attorney At Law: 100N. Main, Suite 3310, Memphis, 38103 - (901) 525-0417.

Carole Taylor, MS: Counseling 458-7098.

Northeast Mental Health Center: 382-3880.

MISCELLANEOUS

Airport Adult Theatre: 2214 Brooks Rd E. - 345-0657.

The Book Mart: 852 S. Cooper - 278-9546.

Cherokee Adult Book Store: 2947 Lamar - 744-7494.

Fantasy World: 1814 Winchester - 346-2086.

Economy Interiors: Antiques 1466 Madison - 725-9222.

Getwell Book Mart: 1275 Getwell - 454-7765.

Getwell Adult Book Store: 1617 Getwell - 745-9054.

Men of Leather: Leather shop - 1266 Madison - 722-8963.

Paris Adult Entertainment Center: 2432 Summer - 323-2665.

Star Search Video: 1264 Madison - 272-STAR.

Tobacco Corner Newsroom: 669 Mendenhall Rd S. - 682-3326 & 1803 Union - 726-1622.

MEDIA

AIDS Update: newspaper published by the Aid to End AIDS Committee - 458-AIDS.

Gay Alternative: radio program, Mon. 6:00-7:00 PM, WEVL: FM 90 - Box 41773, Memphis, 38174.

Gaze: monthly newspaper: published by the Memphis Gay Coalition - Box 3038, Memphis, 38173-0038 - 454-1411.

The Personals: Gay Computer Bulletin Board - 300 or 1200 baud 274-6713.



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GBM, 37 (look younger), 5'7", 138#, with trim beard and moustache. Would like to meet GWM's for friendship/companionship, and possible lover. I am honest, sincere, private, fun-loving, and trustworthy. My interests include movies, music, theatre, travel, nature, and spending time with a special someone. I am sexually versatile and into safe sex. Free to travel. Will exchange photos. Only serious replies please. Write in detail to: Jesse Pippins, Box 1388, Tupelo, MS 38802.

Unique Gifts for Unique People. Contact C&J Gifts, 1973 Sipes, Memphis, TN 38127.

Minority Prison Project desperately needs at least two four-drawer filing cabinets. If you can donate these items, please call 353-1092.

LOOKING FOR A BETTER LIFE? GWM needs honest, sincere, loving protege who likes travel, fits into a straight crowd, and wants a secure and prosperous future. I am early 50's but look younger, have a masculine, muscular, healthy body, am clean-cut, slim, and handsome. If you are over 21, clean-cut, masculine, muscular, healthy, and have the personality, intelligence, and ambition to be a success if given proper support and guidance, send photo and brief resume (please don't waste your time if it won't check out. Your phone number with address will be discreetly called immediately. I need a partner, friend, and lover, not a possession, and have a lot to offer - if you do too, let's explore the possibilities, travel expenses on me. Reply to Minton, Apt. 150, 10710 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242.

Dear M, Remember: Logan Michael, Duffy, Little Bit, and a pair of grey Reeboks from J.C. Penney? Please call me at 725-5399. (If a machine answers, leave a message as to how I can reach you.) Love, Yours Truly.

Silk Floral Designs for established Germantown Business. Experience necessary. Some travel involved. 1-800-624-5858. In Memphis - 755-0021. Ask for Marcie.

Tired of high rent? Tired of living alone? Come share my 2 bedroom apt. \$175/month. All answered. I'm 70, GWM, retired, AIDS free. Box 20538, Montgomery, AL 36120.

GWM, 5'9", 175#, Br/Bl, sincere, caring, responsible. Seeks GWM, 21-35 for movies, dinner, travel, friendship, possible relationship. Reply to: Box 38185, Memphis, TN 38183.

BI/WM, 40, 5'10", 220#, married. Seeking straight-acting and discreet man 25-50 for friendship and occasional good times. Prefer intelligent, sincere guys who don't smoke, drink, or do drugs. Write to Box 648, Adamsville, TN 38130.

A STITCH IN TIME offers complete clothing care. NO job is too small. Alterations, repairs, and custom work provided at 829 South Cooper. Open Tuesday - Saturday 8 AM - 6 PM - Closed 2:30 - 3:30 for lunch. 725-5336 Womyn owned and operated.

GWM, 32, 5'11", 180#, seeks feminine pre-op male-to-female transsexual taking female hormones. Discreet. Want to swap transsexual films, magazines. Send photo! Stan, Box 751151, Memphis, TN 38175-1151.

GWM, 48, 5'9", 155#, Southerner seeks younger GWM to live in California. Support, direction, and possible relationship. Honesty, dependability, and trust a must. Sincere Call (916) 923-9441. No Drugs.

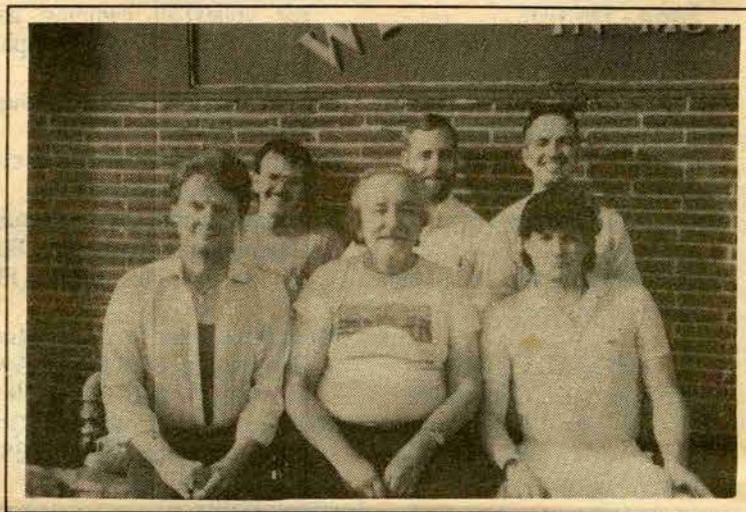
GWM seeks same, 22-35, for friendship/possible relationship. If you're masculine and dominant, this attractive young man just might be yours. Dept J4, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

Where are all the Real Gay people? Gay, platonic friends recently moved to Memphis. We are early twenties, college grads, love music, cooking, movies, reading, black comedy, and arguing about religion, politics, and life. If you are intelligent, witty, artsy, cynical, and want to function with Gay people outside of the strobe-light, smoke-filled,

vodka sucking bar scene, write Dept H4, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

GWM, 26, 5'11", BL/HZL, healthy, intense, straight-appearing, personable, new to TN. Looking for penpals/friends for fun. Enjoys Sci-Fi, weight-training, film production. Mike, Box 3391, Jackson, TN 38303.

GWM, 26 seeks roommate close to same age to share 2 bdrm midtown apt. Completely furnished, washer/dryer. Rent plus deposit. 726-1139 between 5 - 9 PM.



Cast members of *The Boys in the Band* at WKRB Apr. 2,3,4.

April Gay Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						GDI: B'Day Party Community Ctr Mtg. 11am, Agape Church Pipeline: Tsarus Club Nite
Boys In The Band WKRB, 8 PM	Gay Coalition Meeting, 7:00 Meeting Room A, Main Library Boys In The Band WKRB, 8 PM	Boys In The Band WKRB, 8 PM				
Colors Meeting Agape Church, 3 PM Little Rock Ladies, WKRB, 8pm						April AIDS Awareness Night. Help PWA's - Buy a Sticker or a Button! - All Bars
Hours: Summer Fasion Show with very little to wear. 8pm April Gaze Deadline	GayRap 7:30 Main Library Meeting Room A					
	ATEAC Board Meeting, 7:30 - 689 Melrose. All interested welcome			Memphis Gay Coalition Steering Committee 8 PM, Bryton Tower Party Room	May Gaze Due Out	Hours: GeeGee's Birthday Party

GEORGE'S --- The Years of Controversy

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Dennis states that, "George wanted to own his own bar. The rent on Madison was terrible." George said, "Well, there was the Front Page on South Cleveland, the Psych-Out on North Cleveland, and the Rain Check 2 on Jackson downtown. I wanted a place where people would pass by on their way to and from." That spot was the old Alexander Tile Company building at 600 Marshall and a large automotive building next door. The year was 1979. There were many problems. The building was gigantic, with two main floors and a small split-level upper floor. George and Don even moved in upstairs for a while. The dance floor was downstairs, the stage and DJ booth were upstairs. They had acoustical problems, visibility problems (a DJ needs to watch his dancers) and the closing of the Rain Check about one week after George's moved nixed the notion of passers-by. The adjoining building was furnished as a restaurant, and the cavernous garage became a disco. Success finally arrived as the Barracks Disco, the French Connection restaurant and George's became a triumvirate. Turnabout Night, Miss Memphis, Miss Mess Memphis, Miss Mod and a host of other entertainments found a home at Marshall St. The aim was: Something For Everyone.

Between the years 1979 and 1984 many ventures came and went that were associated with "Georgetown" (as some referred to the area). The Coach House on Monroe (later known as Terry's Townhouse) had a "cell block" motif in the basement and a leather dress code. The Psych-Out 2 on Marshall was a spacious women's bar. Club Peaches, on Jackson in the old Rain Check building, was financed by George and Don and operated by the well known female impersonator of the same name. Sam's was a quiet small bar in the next block on Marshall. None of these lasted long. "Everyone who didn't like me stayed away and everyone who didn't like George stayed away," says Sharon Wray, who operated the PO II. "We both lost at that location." The Memphis Leather community was not strong enough to support its own bar. Conflicts of interest closed Club Peaches. Sam's just fizzled.

The Marshall St. George's had problems of its own. The newest name "George's Krisco Disco" didn't catch on. Complaints of discrimination against blacks, the removal of *Gaze* from the three bars (linked to disagreements be-

tween editor Bill Johnson and the owners) and many malicious rumors and accusations arose. Competition between bars had its fierce moments. George did remember 1981 as the banner year. "We had that Halloween 1300 people in George's and 1000 people in the Barracks," he says. The Barracks was leased out as Trapper John's for a short while, closed for a few months and renamed Rumors when it reopened, "...because of all the rumors about it flying around," says George. The lower floor of George's went from peep shows to pool tables to video games to a gift shop and boutique to just being boarded up.

In 1984, the partnership of George Wilson and Don Rossignol was dissolved. Don retained the bar operations and George retained the Club South Baths and the Georgetown Inn (another story in itself). Steve Cooper purchased the bar complex with all its memories, rumors, foibles, and legends the weekend before Thanksgiving that year.

Steve Cooper is not Gay. His brother Frank is. Steve and Frank went into partnership to revamp and operate George's. Frank remarked, "I had never even been to George's. It was so dirty and run down, I wondered why people would come to such a place." He began a long process of remodeling and cleaning up.

Many non-Gay people still came to George's to dance and to watch the shows. David DaPonte recalls how their philosophy about Gays and non-Gays evolved. For a while, Sunday night at TGI Friday's was known as Rave Night, new music and dancing, a different format than normal. "It was Gay night at Friday's," David remembers, "guys danced with guys and girls with girls. Then, suddenly one weekend they would not let anyone in who was Gay. We didn't understand why because it didn't

seem to bother the straight people who had been there." (Rave night died a slow death after Gays were not allowed.) "The average straight person is afraid of Gays, especially since AIDS. They think of a Gay bar looking like *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*." "I have always hated stereotypes," says Frank. Their idea was to have a Gay bar that was every bit as nice as any other bar. "George had done so much to make Gay people comfortable with being Gay, now we wanted to bring people together and make everyone comfortable with one another."

The new management had its



little while the crowds returned. David's New Year's resolution for 1988 was "We will not try to pack 500 queens into 3000 square feet again." Frank had purchased the Delta Casket company building at Front and Huling. Much conflict arose with Henry Turley, developer of the residential building across the street, which forced the casket company spot to be abandoned because of lack of parking.

shows and a state-of-the-art sound system.

Rumors continued. GDI has been trashed by many Gay people for one reason or another. The non-Gay presence both in ownership and personnel has been criticized over and over again. A feature article in *Memphis* magazine in 1988 put GDI on the map like never before and aroused a lot of strong comments. George's has always been listed in *Memphis* magazine's *City Guide*. It appeared in a former series, *Name Withheld*, in that magazine in 19—. "Gay people go to Night Moves [also owned by Steve Cooper] and don't think anything about it. Why should they be mad at us for letting straight people in 'George's'?" says David. "How many bars pay for taxi rides for patrons who can't get home on their own?" says Frank.

They believe their philosophy is working. "People come in to see the oddity; they stay because they're having a good time. We've had people demand their money back because they didn't know it was a Gay bar. I tell them to stick around and dance for a while. Most of those who do have a good time, many of them say so. Almost none leave and a lot come back," says David.

Gay people have fought a long time for their own 'space'. We are very jealous of it. We are always outnumbered by non-Gays and we like to be surrounded by our own brothers and sisters sometimes, without fear. Maybe that's why there is such controversy about GDI's policy. Time will tell. The owners are aware of these feelings, and there is a subtle difference at GDI these days.

"Lord, girl, the queens I've seen come through these doors," says Melina (Dennis Belski).

"I enjoyed every minute of it," says Marilyn (George Wilson).

"George's is first and always a Gay bar," says Frank Cooper.

This writer supposes, strangely enough, that the best comment came from a non-Gay woman as she was leaving the queen mother of all Memphis Gay bars: "This really is Fantasyland, isn't it."

Twenty years since Stonewall.
Twenty years at George's.

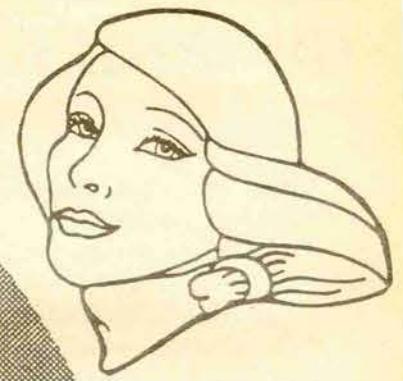
researched and written by
Vincent Astor. (Lady A.)

own set of problems, not the least of which was the raising of the drinking age from 18 to 21 in the mid-eighties. Business fell off considerably. There was the recurring problem of putting large spaces to use. Rumors was attached to George's, then separated again, painted red, and named Inferno. Many different types of entertainment were tried at George's. In 1987, now more experienced in the bar business, Frank decided to move from what he felt to be a poor location. On Halloween weekend, a very sentimental closing saw the end of another era in the life of George's, many employees were in tears and the patrons refused to leave until Frank himself came down to turn on the lights for the last time.

Six days later, Temporary Quarters opened on Avalon in the former location of the Pendulum. The shows continued and after a

floor (for cotton bales in the old days). Several plans were proposed and altered and many snags had to be overcome with the Fire Inspector, Building Inspector, Health Department, Liquor Board, and various permit offices. The DJ booth was still being constructed, and the lights being hung just before opening. The liquor stock arrived around 5 PM on opening day.

In April of 1988, a grand opening was held of GDI on the River—George's Disco Incorporated. "It was a different image but really the same bar. Some people asked if I would call it Frank's. I said, 'But this is George's!'" Glittering production numbers had returned from a long absence, much more Las Vegas than camp. A regular was Australian Holly Brown who added a dimension of live performance and production quality which had not been seen in a long time. Disco dancing was promoted through light



WKRB



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MONDAY

\$\$ Pool Tournament \$\$

TUESDAY

Country & Western Juke Box Nite

(Wear C/W attire and get a \$1 Beer Bust)

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

"SHOWCASE '89" featuring

Billie Jo Casino & Cast

NO COVER!!

\$2 OPTIONAL BEER BUST

FRIDAY

\$2 Beer Bust

SATURDAY

\$3 Beer Bust

Hottest Dancing

with D.J. LEE HILL

SUNDAY

\$2 Beer Bust

3pm - 6 pm

Plus

ENTERTAINMENT

(To be announced each week in the bar)

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO

GAY PAREE

(Paris, France)

DRAWINGS

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

**"Boys In
The Band"
April 2, 3 & 4**

**Sunday, April 9th
Connie & The
Little Rock Ladies
Don't Miss It!**