Oops! We're Busted!

On July 6, police raided Oops at 1349 Autumn, arrested the bartenders and confiscated an undetermined amount of cocaine, reportedly from behind the bar.

Danny Ray, manager of Oops, was apparently arrested at his home and brought to the bar by police.

Patrons of the bar said that the police swooped in about 10:30 pm and turned on all the lights. Patrons where then told to line up facing the wall and empty their pockets. Each person with cigarettes apparently had to empty the entire pack to prove they were not holding marijuana. While the police used rough language and intimidating tactics, as is common in drug-related operations, no specifically homophobic remarks were reported.

According to anonymous sources, drug-related raids had been scheduled for Pipeline, J-Wag's, and Chaps as well, but as of press time these had not occurred.

Several callers to *Gaze* were upset about the incident and were concerned about what to do if that situation ever came up again. The American Civil Liberties Union advises everyone to obey all police orders at the time and then pursue action later. Protesting at the time of arrest may lead to excessive force by police, they say.

Tennessee requires that a valid ID be in your possession at all times when in a place that serves alcoholic beverages.

Anti-Gay Violence Still Pervasive

Washington, D.C. — Violence, harassment and attacks against Gay men and Lesbians are "widespread" and continue to "plague the nation," says a national report on anti-Gay crimes released June 7 by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF)

The fifth annual NGLTF "Anti-Gay Violence, Victimization and Defamation" survey reports 7,031 incidents — ranging from harassment to homicide — against Gay men and Lesbians in 1989. The incidents were documented by 119 organizations and individuals in 40 states and the District of Columbia.

Of the incidents, 2,322 were acts of vandalism, intimidation and physical violence and 4,709 were verbal harassment.

"Last year the nation's Lesbian and Gay community celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall riots which sparked the modern Gay rights movement," said Kevin Berrill, Director of NGLTF's Anti-Violence Project and author of the report. "Although we have made remarkable strides towards freedom since Stonewall, we remain a community under siege, battling an epidemic of bigotry and violence."

The report was presented at a press conference June 7 in a House of Representatives office building. Berrill, joined by other civil rights, law enforcement, and Congressional leaders, including Sen. Alan Cranston, called for a "major battle on the state level against bashers and bigots" to end homophobic, racist, anti-Semitic and other hate crimes.

In addition to Berrill and Sen. Cranston, speaking at the conference were John H. Buchanan, Jr., chairman of People For the American Way; Arlene Williams, director of communications and development for the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; Michael Lieberman, associate director and counsel of the Anti-Defamation League, and Rod Johnson, a Gay man and hate crime survivor.

For the first time, the NGLTF report included a breakdown of state hate crime laws passed or pending. Although a 1987 U.S. Dept. of Justice report noted that "homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims" of hate violence in America, only a handful of states have hate crime laws that include crimes based on sexual orientation.

The report was released on the heels of the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act, signed into law by Pres. Bush last April. NGLTF played a key lobbying role on the bill and engineered a broad coalition that helped secure its passage.

1989 Statistics

Of the 7,031 incidents reported last year, approximately two-thirds were acts of verbal harassment. Of the remaining, 34% were physical assaults, 31% were threats of violence, 17% were acts of vandalism, 14% were police abuse, 3% were homicides, and 1% acts of arson and other victimization.

Almost 20% of the total incidents reported occurred on college and university campuses, revealing, says Berrill, "dangerous intolerance and prejudice that threatens an academic environment of enlightenment."

Overall, 1989's total of 7,031 incidents is slightly lower than the total of 1988. "Given the many factors that affect annual totals and the relatively small differences between the figures, it is not possible to accurately gauge how the scope of the problem changed last year," explained Berrill.

"Not does this report measure the full extent of anti-Gay violence and victimization that occurred last year. Because of under-reporting by victims and a lack of systematic data collection throughout most of the U.S., we estimate that the vast majority of anti-Gay episodes in 1989 were not documented."

Examples of Anti-Gay Hate Crimes

A wide variety of anti-Gay incidents were reported to NGLTF in 1989 from urban and rural areas, including:

• On August 27 in Lincoln, Nebraska, five youths making anti-Gay remarks shot and killed a man they perceived to be Gay

• On November 15 in Springfield, Missouri, amid a controversy over the showing of a play about AIDS, the home of a local Gay activist was destroyed by arson

• On April 18 in Portland, Oregon, several skinheads dismembered a dog and placed its head on a Gay man's front porch

• In Greensboro, N.C., a high school student was beaten by his parents, who broke his arm and threw him out after discovering Gay literature and informational flyers in his bedroom

• On June 26 in Staten Island, N.Y., a band of youths shouting, "Are you a fag?" assaulted a man they perceived to be Gay on the seaside boardwalk. The victim received 25 stitches to his head after being beaten with a baseball bat.

• On May 5 at the University of Akron in Ohio, several male students smashed eggs in the face of a Lesbian activist.

Continued on page 12
The Case of the Closeted Chorus

by John Stilwell

Memphis celebrated Gay Pride Week this year during the week of June 17 through June 24. This year, the Gay Pride Week Committee planned events throughout the week mostly centered at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center. The Memphis Gay Coalition again sponsored the annual River Ride and GayFest Picnic on Mud Island. For the most part, things went very smoothly and I believe Gay Pride Week can be deemed a success.

There was, however, one episode that put a damper on things...

To put the rumors to rest and state the facts, the Lambda Men’s Chorus was invited to perform at GayFest on Mud Island. A week before the event, it was discovered that the tent had been moved from the fairly secluded north end of the island to a spot adjacent to Bud Boogie Beach and all the public concession stands. The chorus members were concerned about performing in such a public place.

Recently, at the AIDS Memorial Service, the Lambda Men’s Chorus performed several selections. At that event, a picture was taken of several members of the chorus. The picture was featured prominently on the front page of the Metro Section of the Commercial Appeal with an erroneous caption that identified the men as members of the Lambda Men’s Chorus “of the Memphis Gay Community Center.” As a result of that picture appearing, two members of the chorus who are teachers had problems at work. One member had problems with his family (his family being prominent in east Memphis politics).

Subsequently, a phone call was made to the chorus and a vote was taken. Sixteen of the twenty-five members voted to perform at Mud Island. When the announcement was made at the picnic that the Lambda Men’s Chorus would perform, the crowd booted and chicken noises were made. As Vincent Astor said at the time, and I will repeat here, it is a shame that the majority of the chorus kept those six who were willing to perform, from performing. What really bothers me is that after the announcement was made, a chorus member went to a Coalition member and told him that the real reason was that four members of the chorus who are flight attendants got called to perform at such a public place unless they could be billed simply as a Gay Men’s Chorus. So what’s the point?

Around Christmas of last year, the chorus bragged about its accomplishment of performing for Odell Horton and his guests. But again, they performed as a Men’s Chorus. So why didn’t they really accomplish anything?

The only thing that makes the chorus special or unique is the fact that they are a Gay Men’s Chorus. If they are afraid of letting that be known to the non-Gay public, then what is the point?

Neither I nor the Memphis Gay Coalition has any right to tell the chorus what it should or shouldn’t be, when or where it should perform, or how public it should be. In fact, as far as I’m concerned, the Memphis Gay Coalition should never have asked the chorus to perform. We formed an erroneous impression of what the chorus was all about. If we had known how frightened and paranoid the majority of the chorus were, we would never have invited them to perform at GayFest in the first place.

But in deciding its future, the chorus should take some things into consideration. By being so paranoid and closeted, they severely limit the occasions and locations where they can perform. There are few who are willing to perform for non-Gay audiences should understand that they will continue to be held back by the majority who are unwilling to do so. And if by chance they ever reach the point where the majority of the chorus is willing to perform in such public places, those people who are unwilling will not be ruled by the majority vote. They will still refuse to perform.

The Memphis Gay Coalition and the chorus are not enemies. The real enemy is fear. Fear feeds on itself and breeds more fear. As long as we let fear run our lives, we have no lives. We are going nowhere and doing nothing. If it causes problems at work, then it causes problems at work. It can’t be so difficult to be ourselves, even with so-called friends and loved ones, that can be dealt with. But we have to stop being afraid.

Gaze welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be as short as possible and may be edited for length. Address your correspondence to Gaze, P.O. Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

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Comments From Mississippi

I’m a Mississippian by birth—even though I don’t look a tad like Mary Anne Mobley. I write to express my thanks for your ongoing work. I’m a member of the Coalition, although physically removed, and have visited your new center. I secured my first-ever issue of Gaze about 18 months ago and look forward to each month’s issue.

John’s article on “Gay Pride” was well-written and stirred thoughts of my personal hike up “Coming Out” mountain. My best friend lately remarked he did not think of me as being in the closet but rather pictured me residing in a large, well-stocked pantry! That’s nice, however, I see myself seated at a well-rounded table in a country kitchen, the air laden with the aroma of bread, coffee, and tea. There, like Martin Luther, I’ve opened my door and invited my family, my coworkers, and my friends to sit with me and talk. About this communion table, we are equals; we share and celebrate one another’s gifts, slings stories of catastrophic irrelevance, and decry the life threatening insensitivity of Helmsian, as in Jesse, theosophy! This altar table’s burnished walnut grain, all too often fed with the oil of worried palms, may or may not be properly covered with a striking lavender cloth. Nor do we purposely select pink chalices to celebrate the time when I can live in my own skin without fear of oppression. As a matter of fact, there may be nothing at all on this altar, nor vestments on ourselves, to distinguish this occasion from any other. To me the importance, the significance of such a gathering lies within those gathered there—for whatever reason they have come to celebrate or confess. To borrow from Jung, my individualism goes beyond my Gayness, which may be archetypal, to embrace the whole of who I am.

But then, it’s precisely that, me being myself unashamedly, others being themselves, that frees me to take part in actions as those discussed in the “Gay Pride” article. I look forward to the time when I can live in a large city and attend political groups—honestly, I salivate like a Pavlovian pup when I think of being able just to meet with others in a community center for rap sessions, covered dish meals, and fellowship! The other side of my spent coin is that here, in the midst of a rural southern mindset, which tends to break out in a cold sweat like a gasoline container of milk left out on a June day when new ideas or different life styles are mentioned, I have exemplified low key, risqué Gay abandon. The time alluded to being the wearing of my Coalition tee shirt to do groceries at the local Jitney. Not only were my coupons doubted, bust so was my pleasure as I was stopped and complimented on my “new wave” taste! Please!

I’m a counselor by talent and hope soon to move to your city of intrigue and there absorb countless hours of dialogue on issues like this and much more. Gay is a wonderful source of encouragement to me. In your classifieds I’ve found a wonderful array of new friends, brigands, and correspondents. Too, I’ve got to confess I’ve also met the most wonderful free lance Bohemian lover yet to come south of the Mason-Dixon line! Keep up the positive effort!
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AIDS, Gay Rights, And Abortion Rights Activists Demo Against Cardinal Law

A massive protest targeting Boston’s Cardinal Law drew more than 700 activists to Holy Cross Cathedral on June 16. The protest was sponsored by the Massachusetts Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, Act Up/Boston, and the Reproductive Rights Network (R2N2). For more than three hours, beginning at 10:00 AM, angry demonstrators picketed outside the Cathedral, while inside Cardinal Law presided over the ceremony to ordain new priests. Chants, commentary, and air horns resounded around the Cathedral, as activists voiced their outrage at Law’s long-standing opposition to Gay civil rights, AIDS prevention education and women’s right to choose.

“Cardinal Law is the most powerful and the most dangerously manipulative enemy of Gay and Lesbian people in Massachusetts,” said David LaFontaine, lobbying director of the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. “Through his persistent interference in the business of the legislature, he succeeded in killing the Gay rights bill in three separate years. We have reached the boiling point—we will not stay silent. Law contributes to the AIDS death rate and seeks to perpetuate second class legal status for Gays and women.”

Gays Launch Drive to Pass Federal Civil Rights Bill

Gay and Lesbian civil rights activists and member of Congress gathered June 12 at a gala fundraiser, held at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill. About $20,000 was raised for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The action against Cardinal Law was inspired by the huge ACT UP/New York demonstration last year at St. Patricks Cathedral targeting Cardinal O’Connor. Boston’s Cardinal and New York’s Cardinal O’Connor are generally recognized to be the most powerful and most conservative members of the Catholic hierarchy in the United States. “Cardinal Law is adamantly opposed to AIDS education of any kind because he believes that total abstinence is a workable cure to the AIDS epidemic. It seems that saving people’s lives is not really his priority; imposing his religious views through the mechanism of the state, is,” said Michael Galvin of ACT-UP/Boston.

For three hours the crowd rolled around the citadel-like cathedral shouting their anger at the Cardinal. Twice protesters leaped the police barricade to get inside the church but were swiftly caught by converging leather-gloved police officers and deposited back over the fence.

This is the largest demonstration staged in Boston since the State House takeover on January 4, 1988 when over a thousand protesters stormed the Massachusetts Capitol building to protest the killing of the Gay rights bill that year.

The Senate Instructs Conference On Disability-Rights Bill

By Julie Rovner

House-Senate conference on landmark legislation to outlaw discrimination against the disabled face only one really difficult decision: what to do about a controversial House amendment that a majority of them oppose. The Senate on June 6 instructed its conference on the bill (S933) - the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to accept the House amendment, which would allow employers to transfer anyone with a contagious disease out of a food-handling job, even if the disease cannot be transmitted through food. The amendment, adopted 199-187 on May 17, is aimed at people with AIDS.

The motion to instruct, offered by Jesse Helms, R-N.C., was approved by voice vote after senators by 40-53 refused to table it. The conference was expected to begin the week of June 11. There are relatively few differences in the versions of the bill passed Sept. 7 by the Senate and May 22 by the House.

The legislation would prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, public services, public accommodations and transportation. It would require employers to make “reasonable accommodations” for disabled workers, and would require stores and other businesses to make “readily achievable” modifications to serve disabled customers.

Perception

In contrast to the House, which frequently goes on record urging conferences to take a particular position, the Senate rarely votes on such motions. And while no one would say the vote was without precedent, not even longtime Senate observers could remember a case in which the chamber’s conferences were instructed to accept a House-passed provision.

Helms’ motion is technically not binding on the Senate conference, but it puts them in an awkward position. While a majority of both House and Senate conferences voted against the language, both chambers have now gone on record in support of the provision. Conferees are faced with three options: accept the language, drop it or alter it.

Most of them find the first option exceedingly distasteful. “This goes right to the central thesis of the Americans with Disabilities Act,” said Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, sponsor of the Senate version. “To pass legislation or accept the motion in its form as written is to insist in spite of the clear and convincing, overwhelming medical evidence that AIDS cannot be transmitted through air or food is simply to codify ignorance.”

Opponents of Helms’ motion branded letters from a raft of experts, including Health and Human Services Secretary Louis W. Sullivan and Centers for Disease Control Director William L. Roper, saying that the language was unnecessary and unwise. The health authorities warned it could harm efforts to educate the public about how AIDS is spread. Conferences could simply drop the language, which would force supporters of the amendment to the conference report or remit a bill that both chambers passed overwhelmingly.

Or they could alter the language, which would return the issue to each chamber in “techni­cal disagreement” and require a separate vote in each.

“Every restaurant operator’s livelihood depends largely on public perception,” said Helms. “If the public is led to perceive that there will be a health risk to those coming into the restaurant and eating the food, rightly or wrongly, that business could be destroyed.”

Helms had letters from key backers of the language, including the National Restaurant Association and the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). “This amendment will be considered a key small-business vote,” wrote NFIB’s John Motley III. “Do not make your small businesses pay a price because of public perception.”

After the vote, an angry Harkin accused the NFIB, which has targeted him for defeat in November, of “playing politics” with the issue. “If you want to pander to perception,” he said, “why don’t we take everyone with AIDS and put them in a colony like you used to do with lepers?”

Pivotal

Representatives of AIDS and disability groups said a more important factor in their defeat was Minority Leader Bob Dole’s support of the Helms motion. Dole, R-Kan., is a key supporter not only of the ADA bill but also of various bills and amendments to boost federal support of AIDS research, prevention and treatment. Dole is one of several senators with a disability, having lost use of arm in World War II.

This time, after Dole voted with Helms, at least two Republicans who initially voted the other way switched, and several who had been expected to vote with Helms. They don’t understand,” said Dole when asked later why he didn’t support the position of disability-rights groups. “Just because you have a handicap doesn’t mean you have to be for every screwball thing.”

MGLCC Update

The annual meeting of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center was held June 16, 1990. At that time, board elections were held. Elected to the board were Debbie Ashby, Kristi Eldrid, Bill Huckabee, Dotie Jones, Damon Meeks, John Proven, Steve Solomon, Perry Stevens, and John Vergos. Elected to positions as officers were Bill Huckabee, president; Perry Stevens, vice president; Debbie Ashby, secretary; and Damon Meeks, treasurer.

The new board is discussing plans to provide more outreach and more services to the community. Beginning soon on Sundays, a support group dealing with personal growth will begin. The group will discuss M. Scott Peck’s The Road Less Traveled. Persons interested in the group will need to buy the book as well as the study guide available at most book stores.

According to the center, the MGLCC would like to draw together the various groups and organizations in town. Huckabee is excited about things that “T-GALA is doing in Nashville and would like to implement some of those ideas and services in Memphis.” The Community Center Board would also like to see one or two paid staff members at some time in the future. The goal is to try to extend the hours the Community Center is open.

Volunteers are needed for many programs and projects the Community Center has planned. The Community Center is there to serve the needs of the individuals. Those individuals who are being served need to “give something back” by volunteering their help.

The new board is “just getting its feet wet,” but a lot of good ideas are coming out and plans are being made. Funding is still an important concern of the center. To that end, plans are being made for a major annual fundraiser late in October. Watch Guze for information about the exact date, time, and place of the event.
Democrats Nominate Harvey Gantt to Challenge Helms

Washington, DC — Harvey Gantt, the former mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, has won the Democratic Senate nomination in North Carolina, defeating prosecutor Mike Easley 57 to 43 percent. Gantt received early financial support from the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the largest Lesbian and Gay political organization in the country. He will face Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) in the November general election.

The 14 percent margin of Gantt's victory in the Democratic run-off election surprised many observers. "Harvey Gantt's strong lead defies the conventional wisdom that North Carolina Democrats would not nominate a progressive African-American candidate for the Senate," said HRCF Executive Director Tim McFeeley.

"His victory is a clear sign that Gantt is in touch with the voters of North Carolina and that he has a compelling political message — Harvey Gantt can beat Jesse Helms," McFeeley stated. Although he trailed in early polls, a poll released in early June indicates that the race is now a dead heat between Helms and Gantt.

The Campaign Fund contributed $5,000 to Gantt's campaign in April, long before he appeared to be a viable candidate. The amount is the maximum contribution allowed by federal law in a primary. At that time, McFeeley stated that Gantt, an African American, "represents the best of what North Carolina can offer the nation, independence and vision, rather than the ignorance, bigotry and hate that Jesse Helms embodies," McFeeley stated.

"Jesse Helms is a disgrace. The more the voters of North Carolina learn about him, the more questions they have about whether he represents their interests," McFeeley noted. "Helms spends his time fighting needed AIDS resources, censoring art and opposing choice," McFeeley stated. "His bigotry against Lesbian and Gay Americans has no place in the U.S. Senate," he continued.

Helms is the author of notorious amendments which have weakened AIDS prevention materials aimed at Gay and bisexual men. He strongly opposed the Hate Crimes Statistics Act which overwhelmingly passed the Congress earlier this year and was signed into law by President Bush. Increasingly in recent years, the Senate has refused to side with Helms when his anti-Gay amendments have reached the floor.

"Helms has suffered a string of defeats at the hands of his colleagues," said McFeeley. "Most Democrats and an increasing number of Republicans are unwilling to put up with his bigoted tactics. We are hopeful that the voters of North Carolina have also concluded that his time is up."

Gantt has regularly attacked Helms on issues of concern to the Lesbian and Gay community. He accused Helms of appealing to people's emotions, rather than addressing the nation's real problems.

During the campaign, Gantt charged that Helms "is going to decide what art is good and what art is bad," referring to Helms' involvement in the controversy surrounding the Mapplethorpe exhibit and National Endowment for the Arts funding. He continued by saying Helms "is going to decide about people whose sexual orientation is different and set them against people whose sexual orientation is normal. He is going to get back on the issue of what is good and what is evil in society."

"Harvey Gantt is willing to fight for the basic civil rights of all Americans. We intend to do all we can to help him in the coming months," McFeeley said.

Phillip Morris, manufacturer of Marlboro cigarettes and other products is one of the major supporters of Sen. Jesse Helms re-election campaign. Need we say more?
Gay Pride Week—Not a Private Party but a Public Celebration

For the tenth time, the annual River Boat Ride was not bombed (although some passengers were). For the fifth time, there were no anti-Gay incidents at GayFest, although this year’s picnic was within spitting distance of Bud Boogie Beach. Gay Pride Week 1990, with its full week of activities, can only be considered one of the best ones yet.

The week kicked off on June 17 with a well attended cookout at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center—hamburgers galore with all the fixin’s. The Center provided everything and the new board members were on hand to greet guests.

All during the week, artwork by several local Gay bars in the MGLCC. Included were male and female artists using many different media with some erotic subject matter.

Gay Expo at the MGLCC on Wednesday was also considered a success. Several candidates in the upcoming election were represented at the pleasantly attended event. Criminal Court Judge candidates John P. Colton and Louis Montesi were in attendance and a representative of judicial candidates.

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Protesting for Gay Pride '90 Not Without Trials

by John Prowett

I just got done reading John Stilwell’s article in the June issue of Gaze called “Gay Pride and Gay Activism 1979-1990,” and I totally agree with him, especially after the last two months.

In February I went before the Memphis Gay/Lesbian Coalition to ask if I could co-chair the 1990 Gay/Lesbian Pride Week Committee. I had talked to quite a few people and came up with some ideas for a week of activities. The Coalition applauded my determination and ideas but felt that a Pride Week Committee would be better represented by the Community Center. The Coalition would endorse the Pride Week Committee and would participate by sponsoring the River Boat Ride and Mud Island Picnic to conclude Pride Week.

I went before the Community Center board and they applauded my efforts and gave the go-ahead to get things organized. I had a female co-chair for about a month and a half. She left out of disappointment, as there were no other women except her and her lover that showed any interest in the Pride Week functions. So for quite a few Saturday meetings I was the only person doing anything for Pride week. But six weeks before Pride Week arrived Bill Huckabee joined me as co-chair and together we produced what you enjoyed from the 17th through the 24th. Although several of the functions that we planned did not occur and a couple of functions were not as big as we wanted, it did happen. We only had one bar in town that did a fundraiser. I would like to thank WKRB and B.J. Hefner for the support and the money raised to keep the Pride Week Committee afloat. I would also like to thank my roommate and best friend Don for his help. Even though some of the words were misspelled, at least he made the signs and got involved doing something besides complaining.

With all the problems and situations at various locations, we have time to reflect on what needs to be done next year. Yes, there will be a next year Pride Week, and possibly even a parade. With the help of people like B.J. Hefner, the ladies of Aphrodite, WKRB, OOPS, J-Wags, Reflections, Pipeline, Chaps, the M & T Bakery, and you, we can make 1991 Pride Week much better. And we are going to start out much earlier. As a matter of fact, we will be holding our next meeting of the Pride Week Committee on July 21 at the Community Center at 2 PM.
M.O.M. Heads For The "Raft Races"

If you went to Pensacola for Memorial Day Weekend and you were unaware of the Men of Memphis, you know about them now! The group left an untouchable mark on everyone in the area. Countless comments were made on the unity and excitement generated by these guys. There were jealous remarks from the bigger cities that didn’t seem to have their act together.

The D.J. at the "Office" made countless references to M.O.M. throughout Friday and Saturday night but had to refrain from preferential treatment on Sunday because the boys of Atlanta were having a fit. The T-shirts they sported were a sensation and the envy of everyone. Countless offers to purchase the shirts were turned down. Their presentation on the beach was spectacular! They became the focal point of the beach and the main area for congregating. Men from the bigger Gay communities expressed sincere desire to visit Memphis to enjoy some of the fun.

In departing for home it was made clear that the M.O.M. would not be "Top Dog" on Labor Day weekend. The boys from Atlanta are attempting to organize and take over a position that was well-earned by M.O.M. That’s O.K. because the Men of Memphis are more than ready to accept the challenge, but have also decided to strike the B.O.A. (Boys of Atlanta) on their home turf before Labor Day can even be pondered.

The next big adventure for M.O.M. will be the annual Raft Races in Atlanta. This is a huge event held each August that attracts a crowd from all over the world. The B.O.A. won’t be expecting another united show by M.O.M. so the guys will catch them with their pants down. The major attractions of this weekend are "Mr. Hotlanta" on August 4 and then the actual "Raft Races" on Sunday, August 5.

The Raft Races are exactly what the name implies. Thousands of Gay Men in rafts floating down the Chattahoochee River. The real contest is not to get to the end first but to douse as many men as you can with huge buckets of water. It’s truly an extravaganza to behold.

M.O.M. will once again print T-shirts and unite for a fantastic weekend. The M.O.M. will be connecting their rafts into one huge float with the proud M.O.M. flag flying overhead. Other tactics are being planned for the B.O.A. but they will remain confidential at this time.

Once again the M.O.M. will leave a mark envied by all who attend. This trip will not be easy and a unified vessel will be inviting trouble. Good Luck Guys!

For information about the Raft Races call (404) 874-3976.

The Memphis Gay Coalition is offering these limited edition Gay Pride T-shirts for only $8 ($7 for members of MGC). Silk screened in purple with a pink triangle, these 100% cotton T-shirts will make the perfect gift — or buy several for yourself! They can be purchased at any MGC or GayRap meeting or by mail (add $2.00 to cover postage and handling). Sizes M, L & XL.

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BARTENDER CHOOSES HOUR. NO ADVANCE NOTICE
Sixth AIDS Conference Sees Hope for Vaccine

Researchers meeting at the Sixth International Conference on AIDS expressed confidence that efforts to find a vaccine will be successful in the 1990s. Although many obstacles remain— notably the extreme variability of the virus covering— researchers are encouraged by the results of recent phase I human trials of prototype vaccines. Wayne C. Koff of the Vaccine Research and Development branch of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease noted that there will be three basic applications for HIV vaccines: prevention of new infections, rejuvenating the immune system after infection, and preventing transmission from mothers to their infants.

Most researchers have sought to raise antibodies to HIV based on the theory that if the antibodies are present on infection, the body can mount a better defense. Most vaccines avoid using the whole virus for safety reasons.

Koff offered a brief summary of early findings of a study by MicroGeneSys, Inc. No significant adverse effects were seen and there was some evidence of an increase in HIV-killing antibodies.

Michael Murphy-Corb of Tulane University said that if the rhesus monkey is used as an animal model for vaccine development, a working vaccine will be available by 2000. He argued that with trials in humans, researchers must wait 3-5 years for results. Chimpanzee models are poor because few animals are available and they do not develop AIDS after infection with HIV. Although a vaccine developed to protect rhesus monkeys from SIV (simian immunodeficiency virus, a close relative of HIV) would only be a prototype vaccine, the research could progress more quickly with results available in about a year.

Alexandra M. Levine of the University of Southern California reported on the trials of the Salk vaccine. This vaccine is intended for immune system therapy for those already infected as well as for prevention of infection.

86 HIV-positive subjects have received the vaccine. All 86 are alive and clinically well. Only four of the subjects have developed opportunistic infections (one PCP pneumonia and three Kaposi's sarcoma). Some subjects in the study have been followed for as long as two and a half years. 13 of the subjects are also taking AZT and Levine suggests that combined therapy with both substances is feasible.

Jonas Salk, a surprise presenter at the symposium, said, "The virus has outwitted us so far, but we will not be outwitted for long." Salk stressed that any virus must protect against free virus (in the bloodstream) as well as cell associated virus (e.g. in the brain). Salk feels that antibody presence at the time of HIV infection, as would be provided with a vaccine, is crucial for protection. He noted that any eventual treatment would combine immune system restoration and antiviral agents.

Donald E. Mosier of the Medical Biology Institute of La Jolla, California discussed the use of the SCID (severe combined immune deficiency) mouse in vaccine research. These mice essentially have no immune system and can be implanted with human immune system components to see how they react. Mosier reports that the lab is still "fine tuning" chronic infections with HIV in the mice. Some vaccines have created partial protection in these mice. The advantage of using these specially bred mice, according to Mosier, is that it allows for "complete evaluation of immunity in an eight-week time span."

Stop AIDS Project Underway

If someone stops you at a bar and invites you to a Stop AIDS meeting, he is not asking for a light, a date or a trick. He's inviting you to engage in some communication with other Gay men.

The Stop AIDS Project is now in full swing in Memphis. Already over 150 people have been invited to several small group meetings to discuss AIDS and its impact on their lives and the community, and what they can do to stop the transmission of HIV.

The Project was begun in San Francisco at a time when the annual infection rate was 18% of Gay Men. Three years ago the program was discontinued there when the infection rate fell below 1%. It has recently been reinstated when it was discovered that many younger Gays are foregoing safer sex and that some older ones are going back to their old ways.

The Project uses focus groups, groups of 10-15 Gay men, meeting in the comfort of someone's living room. Meetings last about three and a half hours and cover such topics as how AIDS has affected our personal lives, our community, what we can do to stop the transmission of AIDS, and what we can do for the community.

During the weekend of June 10-12, eleven ATEAC volunteers received 30 hours of training in the procedures.

"It hasn't been what most people expected," said Allen Cook, ATEAC board member and Stop AIDS volunteer. "People came to expect to be sitting around being depressed all evening. What they found was a really positive experience— a place where you can get together and talk about things that concern them."

The program is definitely not prescriptive—that is, it doesn't try to tell people what they can or cannot do. "Our discussions enable people to make their own commitments," Cook said. "It's designed to support people in whatever decisions they may make regarding sex, volunteering, helping, or whatever."

A major component of the program is the invitation team. Volunteers will appear at local bars and invite people to a Stop AIDS meeting. Other volunteers will call to schedule a specific meeting date and time. Once scheduled, all that is left is for the invitee to show up.

"The public response has been great," Cook said. "We've only done the bar invitation twice and over 150 people have agreed to come to a meeting." The Project says it requires about 60 invitations to yield 15 people at a meeting. Cook says a lot of people get "cold feet." "I think they want to learn more about it, but they think the subject is too depressing. We really have a good time at the meetings and a lot of the stuff we talk about couldn't be printed here."

Each person attending a Stop AIDS meeting is required to sign a statement of confidentiality as a condition of attending.

The Stop AIDS program is being funded under an educational grant from the Tennessee Dept. of Health and Environment. The department has funded training of volunteers in Chattanooga, Knoxville, and as well as Memphis. Stop AIDS Projects are ongoing in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and San Diego as well.

So when someone invites you to a meeting, GO!
New York, NY—Move over Andy Rooney, Mel Gibson’s in the hot seat now. Actually, it’s everyone responsible for the beauty salon scene in the blockbuster movie, “Bird On A Wire.” The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is less than thrilled with Gibson’s characterization of Matty, a “swishy” homosexual hairdresser. Even more offensive, according to GLAAD, is the portrayal of Raun of Racine as the “bitchy and malicious” salon owner. This very outdated stereotype perpetuates the “freak show” representation of Gays that GLAAD is working to eliminate from modern media.

Says Steven Asher, spokesman for GLAAD: “If black people no longer accept black characters portrayed as Stepin Fetchit and Jews are no longer depicted as big-nosed money grubbers, then it is time for Gays to demand the same respect. Until Hollywood presents a full range of Lesbian and Gay characters, the use of demeaning stereotypes such as those in ‘Bird On A Wire’ is not funny.”

Founded in 1985, GLAAD is the only national organization devoted primarily to discouraging stereotypes and misinformation about Lesbians and Gay men. GLAAD pursues its goal by organizing grass-roots responses to public bigotry and working with the media to improve coverage of issues that concern Gay people.

GLAAD is encouraging conscientious movie goers to write letters of protest to John Badham (c/o Triad Artists, 10100 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90067), Director and co-producer of the Universal Studios hit and the movie’s costars, Mel Gibson (c/o ICM, 8899 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048) and Goldie Hawn (c/o Creative Artists, 9830 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90212).
Benefits Raise Thousands for Gays, AIDS, Quilt

Wagettes' Tribute to George Wilson
ATEAC was presented a donation of $675 from the June 2 benefit at Chaps honoring George Wilson. A huge crowd attended and most remained after being driven in once by a downpour. The show continued with several performers stopping by either to or from work at other locations. Though it rained again, closing the show, organizers considered it successful.

High Tea Benefits Quilt
Afternoon Nibbles and High Tea attracted over 50 people to the MGLCC on June 10. Lady Astor and Vance Reger served coffee and tea under an awning constructed behind the center with Miss Stewart and Peggy Presley serving from a selection of 10 different varieties of goodies complete with silver service, white gloves and homemade Divinity. Over $130 will be donated to the fund to bring the Names Project Quilt to Memphis in the near future.

Tenth Annual River Ride Sails at Last
Despite a long technical delay, the 10th annual Gay River Ride did sail the muddy Mississippi with attendance of 448. The event raised over $6600 which will go towards the Gay Switchboard, Gay Pride events, Gaze and other Memphis Gay Coalition services which include major sponsorship of the Community Center.

Planned 

Coming Together... Learning To Love Ourselves
by Martin Hurley
After about three months of coming together, talking, partying and just having a good time, a group of Black Lesbian and Gays is forming. There will be an organizational meeting on Sunday July 22, 1990. Committees will be formed, a name chosen, and plans made for upcoming events.

The spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood is overwhelming. Finally, brothers and sisters that have been here all along are coming together to form a community of African-Americans. In 1990 we face many challenges that directly effect our community. It is extremely important that we come together. As a result, we will all be more greatly empowered to meet the challenges we face.

We have kept busy over the past few months. On June 2 we hosted a party. We were uplifted by a motivational talk from Phil Wilson, a Black Gay activist from Los Angeles. We held rap sessions on "Being Gay—What Does It Mean To You" and "Racism In the Gay Community." Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. On July 9 we held a rap session to discuss "Racism In the Gay Community" to be prepared for the Gay Rap on the 16th. We hope to be able to discuss not only the problems but also possible solutions.

We extend a cordial invitation to everyone for all the functions. Everyone is encouraged to attend. For additional information on any upcoming events, please contact: Tony Home at 327-3943 or Anthony Reed at 327-0521. The invitation has been extended and the call has been made.

Sisters and Brothers Come To Gather.

Aphrodite presents
A Summer Variety Show
Sunday August 26th
WKRB in Memphis
1528 Madison
Doors Open at 7 PM
Show at 8 PM
$3 Donation
(Free with Lifeblood donation slip)
A donation will be made to ATEAC
Voice From The Past

While reading Gay newspapers at the MCC Gay and Lesbian Archives here in Houston in late May, I was interested to see that the "Memphis Memoirs" column in the May 1990 issue of Gaze reprinted part of a "Memphis Gay History" article that I wrote in late 1975 for the Memphis Gay newspaper, Gaiety. It is gratifying to me to learn that our efforts in Memphis have not been forgotten or lost and that material from Gaiety is being recycled and used to inform another generation of Gay Memphians.

Since moving from Memphis in 1976, I have become more involved in the Gay movement and am not as closety as I was in Memphis in the mid-70's, when I was a city employee. Accordingly, if you reprint any more of the articles that I wrote for Gaiety in the mid-70's, please feel free to note my real name, Fred Parris, as well as the "Fred Harris" pseudonym that I used then.

I enjoy reading your professional-looking publication and am glad that what was a dream back in Memphis of the mid-1970's—a Gay and Lesbian community center—is now a reality. Congratulations on your achievements.

Fred Parris
Houston, TX

Editor's note: Fred Parris is the author of All You Can Eat, a guide to more than 100 U.S. Smorgasbords, buffets, and restaurants offering unlimited servings for $7.95 or less. Fred was born in Manhattan, Kansas, the "Little Apple." A graduate of the University of Kansas in Lawrence, he has served as a reference librarian with the Memphis and Shelby County Public Library and as a librarian and information services manager with federally-sponsored clearinghouses in the Washington, D.C. area. He also commits occasional free-lance writing.

Admirer Not Responsive to Potential Customer

I am a Coalition member and appreciate those who advertise in Gaze and try to use them. I wanted to let you know of my experience with a firm listed in the "Professional Services" section in the back.

Three times I called Correct Cable Connection to see about having them wire my home for cable. It's something I've wanted done since moving here three years ago. I left both home and office phone numbers and they haven't returned my call. You should reconsider their being listed.

Thanks much and keep up the good work.

Thomas Kopriva
Memphis

Got a beef, bitch or comment? We'd like to hear it. Write us a letter and chances are we'll print it—whether we agree with it or not. Send your missives to Gaze, P.O. Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038. Keep your letters as short as possible to make your point and general tone. Give it a shot. If we like your writing we'll hire you and take you away from that hum drum job you've been wanting to quit. Of course, you'll have to get some money to live on from somewhere....
Survey Shows Hurt of Publishing Names

A survey conducted by the Tennessee Human Rights Committee (THRC) shows that most of the persons whose names appeared in the local papers following park arrests, suffered hardships due to the negative press coverage.

The survey was sent to all 68 persons whose names appeared in articles running in both The Tennessean and The Banner concerning arrests by Metro park rangers of homosexual and heterosexual suspects charged with solicitation of or engaging in "crimes against nature" in local parks.

They attempted to reach all 68 persons whose names were in the papers, by sending the survey to the addresses provided there. Of those mailed, nine were returned 'undeliverable' and they were unable to secure current addresses. This brought the actual mailing list down to 59.

To date, they have received 30 responses which is a very significant 51% return. The following is a tabulation of the information provided.**

**55% have received annoying telephone calls.

*18% have had to change their phone numbers.

*7% have been denied fellowship with their religious affiliation.

*20% have been dismissed from social organizations.

*24% have been dismissed from business organizations.

Anti-Gay Violence

Continued from page 1

Fifteen percent, or 1,078, of the incidents were classified by local groups as "AIDS-related," indicating that AIDS and its stigmatization continue to be a focus and justification for anti-Gay prejudice and violence.

Acts of terrorism against Lesbians and Gay men by organized hate groups were persistent last year. Harassment and violence by such groups—most of which involved neo-Nazi skinheads—were reported in 19 U.S. communities.

Victims of hate crimes are urged to report them to community-based organizations (this newspaper, for example), local law enforcement officials, and to the Dept. of Justice's national toll-free hate crime hotline, 1-800-347-HATE.

Conference For Catholic Lesbians Slated

The Conference for Catholic Lesbians (CCL) is an international organization for women who recognize the importance of the Catholic tradition in shaping their lives, and who seek to develop a spiritual life which enhances their Lesbian identity. The organization evolved from a national conference held in 1982.

The catalyst for the conference came from the fact that no women's or Catholic group spoke sensitively to the needs of Catholic Lesbians and encouraged activities relating to our own identity, social or spiritual. In many cases, our presence was not acknowledged at all. There was a need for Catholic Lesbians to come together publicly as Catholic Lesbians.

The heart of our purposes lies in the dual goal of promoting the visibility and community of Catholic Lesbians, and our connection to other women of faith around the world. Broadly based across North America, we are in Europe, Australia, Central and South America as well.

CCL publishes a quarterly newsletter, Images, which provides a substantive, thoughtful forum on current Catholic and Lesbian issues.

CCL maintains a Network of local groups and contacts. The Network lies at the heart of the founding of CCL itself—a deeply felt need for a way Catholic Lesbians could be in touch with one another. In past years hundreds of CCL members have used the Network as a way to reach out to new friends, find out about local Lesbian resources and activities, and connect with area members to start groups and participate in liturgies, discussions and social events. Members also get in touch with one another while traveling in other states on business or vacation.

CCL sponsors retreats, lectures, and biannual national conferences.

On the local level, members come together in small groups to socialize, to ritualize and worship, to exchange views and ideas in order to fill what has been for many of us a spiritual void, and to work together toward building a more just and inclusive world. The first meeting of the local group is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 6 at 6:30 pm. For more information, call Faith in Memphis at (901) 324-6949 or write us at: CCL Membership, P.O. Box 436, New York, NY 10024.

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Printers Ink

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Experts in Desktop Publishing

Typesetting and layout for newspapers, brochures, newsletters, product spec sheets, letterhead/envelope design, advertising design, fliers, theatre programs, tickets, business cards, resumes, menus, catalogs, bulk mail preparation, table tents, custom name tags, labels, church bulletins, logo design, short runs of multi-part forms, and much more.

If you need it quick, clean, and neat, call us for an estimate.

Printers Ink has typeset, designed, and produced Gaze for the last five years. We are proud to be known as a Gay owned and operated business.
Leather & Pride

Greetings to all from Mr. Leather Tennessee. I sincerely hope everyone’s been able to keep as cool as they can. This is in the nature of a report of my travels of late.

I went down to Atlanta to judge the Mr. Southeast Drummer contest and was given royal treatment by Les Robinson of Drum Productions and Wes Deckel, manager of the Atlanta Eagle. John Batoy of Jackson, Mississippi, will represent our region at the Mr. Drummer contest in September, during Leather Pride Week.

Speaking of pride, I hope all my sisters and brothers in leather had a good time during our week-long celebration of Gay Pride. I managed to attend a few events and was glad to see some of us out and about. The best thing we can do to let the Gay community know that there is leather in Memphis is to be seen—and be seen in your leather. I have been to several fundraisers lately and would like to see more of you there as well, in your leather.

We have a leather community, folks: clubs, individuals, bikers, S/M practitioners and fashion people. It’s time to get honest about ourselves and be visible.

To quote a prominent leatherwoman: “Until we can empower ourselves by validating each other whenever possible, we’re putting ourselves as individuals—and our entire community—at risk to be totally walked over by the larger community out there.” Memphis is really no different than the rest of the world, and, as leatherwomen and leathermen, I believe it’s time to join the larger community.

I’ll be going to Lockup 1—NLA in Little Rock the weekend of July 13-15 and to Fantasy ’90 in Omaha the following weekend (NLA = National Leather Association. I’m a member, see me about information). Hope to see some of you there. Until later, be strong, be safe, and be proud of your leather.

— Vance Reger
Mr. Tennessee Leather

Personal Ads Are FREE in Gaze. Try 'em!
See Page 18 for details
Quick Clips

To six who were willing, we can only sing back praises.

Quick Benefit Rundown Department

Wagette Benefit—Chaps $675 to ATEAC.
High Tea—MGLCC $130 to the Quit.
S & M Auction—Pipeline $1400 to Tsarus.
_names Project Benefit—
_reflections $976 to Names Project
Gay River Ride—Memphis Showboat $6600 to Memphis Gay Coalition.
_playhouse Cares—Playhouse on the Square $1400 to ATEAC.

Personal Best Department

Though not to be taken in lieu of individual notes, we wish to here thank everyone who participated in High Tea. Several organizations and numerous individuals made it an immense success. Thanks especially to Vince who sat in the sun with moi during the entire thing and ironed linens for hours the day before.

Thanks also to the wonderful folks at Playhouse on the Square for the show on July 2, it was one of the most fulfilling benefits we have ever had anything to do with.

Thanks in advance to the company of The Rocky Horror Show for the ATEAC benefit on July 14, at the late night, double feature, horror show (in the back row).

Thanks also to everyone on the Gay Pride Committee who filled this year's Pride Week with more events than even we could possibly attend. Isn't it amazing that there were political candidates at the Gay Expo? These things happen in other places, why not here? Memphis can change—ask Bill Johnson, ask Heart Strings, ask Allen Cook...ask George Wilson, may his memory be ever green.

Good Luck to Rev. John Prowett who was appointed Chaplain to the Gay tier at the Shelby County Jail. Gay inmates are segregated in the jail and, according to Rev. Prowett, not even permitted to go from the 6th floor to the 2nd floor chapel. He also has co-founded the new Holy Trinity Community church in the Gay community and continues to keep Minority Prison Project and Transsexuals in Prison going.

Pageant Recap Department

Tenisha Cassidy—Miss Black Gay Memphis 1990
Tammika St. John—Grand Empress of Tennessee 1990
Naomi Saxton—Miss Reflections 1990

We must interject that we enjoyed the Miss Reflections pageant more than we have enjoyed any show in a long time. The talent offerings were worthy of any show, anywhere. Congratulations also to Toni, 1st alternate; Tammika, 2nd alternate; and Della, Miss Congeniality.

Rumour Mill Department

Word is out, gentle readers, that Miss Police Department is having a serious mood. Be careful, always carry your ID, and don't foolishly carry illegal recreational materials even if you must partake. Beware of arcade tricks that are just too good to be true. This public service announcement comes to you as a service of Gaze, the Memphis Gay Coalition, the Tommy Stewart Rumours Alive Service and Omega, God loves 'em all. And, of course, your own Aunt Endora.

Whoops a Daisy Department

In our excessive zeal toward quality journalism and the working of our Muse overtime in our striving toward perfection and even working our editor overtime to hunt and place a graphic no one had thought of in years, we were guilty of a tiny error. In last month's Memphis Memoirs column, we waxed windy about a unique sister publication _RF_. We, however, neglected to mention that this worthy publication may be read at the Community Center and may be reached directly at this address:

R F D, PO Box 68, Liberty, TN, 37095.

Our meekest and most red faced apologies to our Faerie sisters who so gently chid us for this omission.

Woman on the Street

The Pipeline will host a Luau on August 11, it will become an all night celebration with suitable trimmings. We will refrain from any porn comments. Two wild queens also cornered us concerning a party on Tuesday, August 14, entitled Night of a Thousand Whores. We didn't make this up. Invitations to the affair will be doled out by the host/esses at the bar at some time or other. Start time is 9-ish, wouldn't you know. They promise no angry music, no depeche mode (whatever that is), and a sacrifice to be held on the pool table. No mention of virgins was made, however, probably just as well. All the beautiful people are supposed to be there (does Men O' Memphis know about this?) and they even invited moi.

Make your plans now to attend the Wings Flight 6 run over Labor Day weekend. Men of Leather has the information regarding hotels and whatnot. The centerpiece will be the Mr. Southern Leather Contest on Saturday, September 1st at Chaps. Women of Leather held a truly wild club night there on July 6, and Gary Gramlin of Little Rock became this year's Mr. Chaps on July 7.

WKRK will host three evenings of female performers in weeks to come; Exposed to Love on July 20, Connie and the Little Rock Ladies on August 5 and Aphrodite's next big show on August 26 (see their tribute in Memphis Memoirs). Tsarus will have a show of its own on August 19.

Witty Asides Department

Rumour has it that the Wagettes are planning a benefit at Barbara's in the near future. So who tells us?

Frank Cooper is still in the midst of preparations for one new saloon, all these rumours about some other one, flyers and all, are news to moi. We guess they don't realize that we print dirt for free.

And when are the Billie Jo Casino awards this year?

It's just ducky to have a contact number for the raft races in Atlanta but how in the world do you contact Men O' Memphis? No, dear, not for moi, but we are willing to bet that there is some lonely, gorgeous, rich sunburny languishing in a corner somewhere just dying to get in contact with this energetic group. He might even have a condo in Pensacola. Think about it, Dorabella.

Dear stocky, bearded teddy in Jackson. Wish I were there.
Lv, Ldy A.

Watch for the upcoming production of The Normal Heart in October at Theatre Works. Another Gay community entertainment with a hard hitting message.

Thought For the Month Department

Ta, ta.
Lady A.

LET'S DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN!

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

PLAYHOUSE ON THE SQUARE

Saturday Night, July 14, 11:30 P.M.
A Benefit for ATEAC
Call 726-4656 for Reservations

Gay Switchboard
324-GAYS
7:30 - 11 Nightly
Information
Referrals
Counseling

Volunteers are needed to staff the Gay Switchboard. Switchboard training is scheduled for Monday, April 16 at 7:00 at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center.

If you can spare one evening a month in the comfort of your own home - we can use your help. Call us at 454-1411 for more information.
(This is not a dating service or a phone sex line.)
The Memphis theatre community, most notably those who have performed at either Playhouse on the Square or Circuit Playhouse during the current season, mounted a moving musical revue July 2 to benefit the Aid to End AIDS Committee.

Featuring 28 acts, the revue showcased the comedic and musical talents of the wonderful people who populate the stages of Memphis. Performances ranged from the classical to the camp; from "Going Home" from Rocky Horror to Beethoven's Sonata in G.

The brainchild of Tamera Tweedy and Mark Chambers, the revue suffered only from lackluster pre-event publicity. A crowd of about 180 attended the performance and deemed it a rousing success.

It would be impossible to note all of the highlights of the evening, but some do stand out. Karin Hill's sign language interpretation of "The Rose," Charles Billings' "Bring Him Home" (Les Miserables), and Jim Ostrander's "If You Go Away" (Jacques Brel) touched even the most cynical. In the comedy vein, Dame Ethel Dupree's "And I'm Telling You" (Dreamgirls), Peter Coburn's "Buddy's Blues" (Follies), and Kate Davis' oral interpretation of "The Only Snake I Ever Loved" (from the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee) kept the night from becoming maudlin.

Vincent Astor, organizer of the city's first-ever AIDS benefit (Old Hash in 1983), remarked, "Here I am at an AIDS benefit and all I've got is my own voice." He sang a Very Unusual Way (Nine) dedicated to a friend lost on account of AIDS.

The evening closed with cast and audience singing "If We Only Have Love" (Heart Strings) which could almost become an anthem for Gay Pride. One of the verses reads: "If we only have love, we can heal all our wounds, we can use our own names."

Credit indeed should go to the Playhouse technical support staff, who volunteered their time and talents as well. With this many acts and what must have been minimal rehearsal time, the stage could have looked like a cattle call. Lois Mytas (Stage Manager) and John Rankin (Lighting Design) made the production flow smoothly.

A total of $1,429 was presented to ATEAC representatives on the night of the performance.

Playhouse on the Square and Circuit Playhouse have both been very supportive of AIDS causes over the years. Circuit was the site of Old Hash; Playhouse staged a benefit performance of Anything Goes for Heart Strings in September of 1989.

Mark Chambers indicated that Playhouse Cares may become an annual event. We hope it does; it has the potential of becoming a local Heart Strings.
New ATEAC Board Members Elected

The Aid to End AIDS Committee reelected two previous board members and added seven to its Annual Meeting July 9. The group has recently expanded its board of directors from 11 to fifteen.

Previous board members reelected were Rebecca Locke and Mark Whitehead.

Locke has served on the board for three years and was co-chair of the highly successful Heart Strings last year. Ms. Locke has been involved in AIDS education in Memphis for over five years and serves as the Assistant Chapter Manager of the Mid-South Chapter of the American Red Cross. She is also acting president of the Memphis AIDS Coalition.

Whitehead previously served as treasurer of ATEAC and has been on the board for three years. Whitehead established the ATEAC Auction for AIDS as one of the primary fundraisers for the organization. He was also instrumental in beginning "AIDS Awareness Nights" at local Gay nightclubs. He served as the chairman of the Ad Sales committee for Heart Strings.

Newly elected to the board are the following:

Carolyn Tisdale, director of the Refugee Resettlement Program of Catholic Charities. She works with Asian-American populations and with those for whom English is a second language. She is currently working with ATEAC to develop and distribute a brochure on AIDS prevention written for the Asian community. Ms. Tisdale has been involved with the social service community for many years and has functioned as an advocate for people not served by the traditional support systems.

Philip Gray is director of Employee Benefits and Compensation for LeBonheur Health Systems and was an active volunteer during Heart Strings. Currently Mr. Gray is a volunteer on the ATEAC Ad Hoc Financial Development Committee set up to develop a fund raising plan for ATEAC and to help secure community wide financial support to provide services and assistance to people with AIDS.

J J. Jones is employed by the Hotel Peabody and has been involved in Heart Strings and the ATEAC Auction.

Lisa Alex, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist who has been associated with the Northeast Mental Health Center for the past five years. She is currently one of the professional group facilitators for the PWA Support Group of ATEAC.

Executive director of Catholic Charities, Carolyn Tisdale, was also acting president of the board members and added seven new members to the board.

Ms. Locke has been involved in AIDS education in Memphis for over five years and serves as the Assistant Chapter Manager of the Mid-South Chapter of the American Red Cross. She is also acting president of the Memphis AIDS Coalition.

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J J. Jones is employed by the Hotel Peabody and has a longstanding involvement with ATEAC. His volunteer activities included Heart Strings and the ATEAC Auction.

Lisa Alex, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist who has been associated. with the Northeast Mental Health Center for the past five years. She is currently one of the professional group facilitators for the PWA Support Group of ATEAC.

Board members were elected for three year terms. Other ATEAC Board members whose terms did not expire this year are Rick Bray, Allen Cook, Tom Stewart, Jean Hofacket, John Heizer, Vicki-Ford Freeland, Betty Dawson, and Chris Miller.

Gay Vets Form Nat'l Organization

Gay, Lesbian, and bisexual veterans from throughout the country met in Washington recently and formed a national organization to continue their fight to end the military's policy of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

After unanimously electing former Staff Sergeant Miriam Ben Shalom, whose fifteen year legal challenge against the military policy was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court in February, to chair the organizations, the group set an ambitious action agenda.

First the group — Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America — will work to support student and faculty groups in university and college campuses in opposing the continuation of ROTC programs and military recruiting on campuses which have policies of non-discrimination. Ben Shalom called recent actions by the University of Wisconsin, MIT, over 20 California State University campuses, and four national associations representing the majority of colleges and universities in the U.S. questioning the military's policy "the most important thing happening on this issue today."

"At last people are recognizing the fight against discrimination in the military is everyone's fight," continued Shalom. "When we defeat the military's policy of discrimination, we will have a sword twisted in our heart, not only to pierce the heart itself."

Second the veterans will continue to work with the Military Freedom Project and Rep. Gerr Studds to lobby Congress and the Dept. of Defense to repeal DOD Instruction 1332.4, which contains the discriminatory policy, and amend sections of the Uniform Code of Military Justice which are discriminatorily enforced against Gays, Lesbians, and bisexuals.

Finally, they plan to organize "Witch Hunt Strike Teams" to organize resistance to the military "witch hunts" designed to identify and out homosexuals.

Black and White Men Together of Memphis, Inc. is a Gay Inter racial 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.

JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon. July 8th Board Meeting, 1:30 PM
Mon. July 9th C/R Discussion, 7:30 PM
Sat. July 21st C/R Discussion, Pot Luck, 6 PM
Mon. July 23rd Monthly Meeting, Main Library at Peabody and McLean, Meeting Room A, 7:30 PM
Sun. July 29th Dinner at Asian Palace, 861 South White Station Road, 1 PM

Mon. Aug. 6th C/R Discussion, 7:30 PM
Sun. Aug. 12th Board Meeting, 1:30 PM

For details and a copy of our newsletter: Call Ed (452-5894), Irwin (726-1461) or write BWMT/Memphis, P.O. Box 41773, Memphis, TN 38174-1773
Aphrodite — 11 Years of Community Service
by Vincent Astor

In May of 1979, in the back room of the Ohman Inn on Union, a group of 8 women decided to band together to form a women's club solely for the purpose of charitable pursuits. In those days, there were several social clubs in Memphis, one of which was a chapter of the Krewe of Apollo in New Orleans. A representative from that krewe approached B. J. Hefner and others about forming a similar organization for women. However, the amount of money which would be leaving Memphis for points south did not sit well with these folks. They decided to become a local sister club to Apollo, but to have different goals. At Grace Perry's suggestion, they became the Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite.

From the beginning the goals have been strength and service. "A woman in New Orleans told me recently that we are one of the few, if not only, women's clubs around that has lasted 11 years," says B. J. Through the years these women have raised money for AIDS (starting in 1983), participated in the short-lived Krewe of Lambdi so that patients from the Crippled Children's Hospital could be in the Children's Parade. They have done fundraisers for Muscular Distrophy and individuals in need, have participated in Heart Fund drives, and have been one of the most frequent and strongest supporters of ATEAC, filling a need for funds which go directly to ATEAC's clients.

For five years they had a program which would loan small sums of money to individuals but found this service unwieldy. "We discovered over the years that our support really has to go for groups of people, it is not up to us to decide which individual really needs the money or not," says Charlie. "We have been criticized for doing so many fundraisers for men's groups (though they have raised money for mainstream women's crisis centers). We cannot help every individual in trouble; we will donate to groups whose business is serving the individual." The members feel very strongly that the money Gay people donate must remain in the Gay community and for most of their history have financed and distributed food and necessary baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas to needy Gays and Lesbians.

Their hallmark has been the benefit show. Their production numbers were always in demand at other groups' fundraisers and they can be counted upon to participate in some manner wherever charity is concerned. "We're proud of Dolly, Sharon, all of our performers," says B. J. They have added the Community Center to their list of beneficiaries and use its facilities regularly for meetings. They also began an account at Life Blood using female donors which has served PWA's, Gay men and Lesbians.

Never a huge group, these tireless women have spent their decade thinking mostly about others and never seeking a lot of publicity or great recognition. They have won the respect and admiration of many, many of their Gay and Lesbian brothers and sisters. Hopefully, they will continue to be an example for ourselves, and particularly the next generation, of how we take care of our own, and even others.

NOTE: Please see Box 3038 for a letter from Fred Parris who wrote the articles I have quoted in past columns. Under the name Fred Harris he wrote the only history of the Memphis Gay Community to date and we are certainly grateful.

Next Month: George Wilson as remembered by his friends.

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- Commercial ads charged at the rate of 20¢ per word, $3.00 minimum. Phone numbers and zip codes are free. $2.00 additional charge for the use of our P.O. Box. Deadline for ads is the 15th of each month. Send to Gaze, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

**Beware of Inmate Scams** - It is unfortunate, but some prisoners will take advantage of Gay pen pals. Gaze does not make a judgement regarding inmate ads, but feels compelled to warn its readers of potential problems. Proceed with caution.

**GAY WRESTLING CONTACTS.** Fun/hot action! Nationwide adlistings. Infoopixpak $3.00: NYWC, 59 West 10th, NYC 10011.

**Hairy Men/Admirers.** Bears/Trappers! Nationwide uncensored adlistings. Infoopixpak $3.00: MANHAI., 59 West 10th, NYC 10011.


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Very cute and sexy GWM, 19, br/bl, 5'10", 135#, searching for the right boyfriend/lover. Contact: Boxholder, P.O. Box 411, Collierville, TN 38027-0411.

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**July/August 1990 Gay Community Calendar**

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<td>• Lockup 1/Little Rock</td>
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<td>• GayRap, 7pm, MGLCC, Topic: Racism in the Gay Community</td>
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<td>BWMT Monthly Meeting, Main Library, Mtg, Rm A, 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>BWMT Dinner, Asian Palace, See ad p. 16</td>
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<td>Little Rock Ladies, WKRB</td>
<td>• Memphis Gay Coalition, 4:30, Main Library, Room A</td>
<td>Video Night, MGLCC, 8 pm</td>
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<td>• GayRap, 7pm, MGLCC</td>
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<td>Atlanta Raft Races</td>
<td>Catholic Lesbians, call Faith at 324-6919 for info</td>
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<td>• BWMT CIR Discussion, 7:30, see ad p. 16</td>
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<td>• GayRap, 7pm, MGLCC</td>
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<td>BWMT Board Meeting, 1:30, see ad p. 16</td>
<td>Night of 1000 Whores, Pipeline, call for details</td>
<td>• Gaze Advertising and Copy Deadline</td>
<td>Video Night, MGLCC, 8 pm</td>
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<td>• Covered Bridge, 7pm, MGLCC</td>
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<td>• Aphrodite Variety Show Benefit for ATEAC, WKRB, 8 pm</td>
<td>• Video Night, MGLCC, 8 pm</td>
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<td>• September Gaze due out</td>
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<td>• Mr. Southern Leather, Creps, 10 pm</td>
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COUPON GOOD JULY '90 AND AUGUST '90