

Equality Begins in Nashville: 300 Attend Rally

by Vincent Astor

More than 300 Gays, Lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders and supporters gathered at War Memorial Plaza on Sun., March 21. The participants covered most aspects of the rainbow which is our community. Conspicuous in the crowd were groups from One in Teen (Nashville) and MAGY (Memphis Area Gay Youth), perhaps the first time in Tennessee that these groups have come together at a political action.

Events will cover the entire week of March 21-27 in all 50 state capitals, San Juan, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Rallies, lobby days and other events are scheduled.

The purpose of this movement is to shift strategy from a nationally focused movement to a state-focused movement. "The battleground for equality is the states. The anti-Gay/Lesbian rhetoric that is spewed at the national level plays out at the state level," said Kerry Lobel, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director.

Speaking in Nashville were NGLGF field organizer Kelly Knochel and Rev. Dr. Joe Hough, dean of Vanderbilt's Divinity School. Representatives from numerous statewide organizations also spoke, and there was musical entertainment and a Gay juggler, Tom Foolery, from the Ida community in Middle Tennessee. Memphis was represented by Memphis NOW, MAGY, the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice, the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Religious Affairs, P-FLAG Memphis and BWMT Memphis. Longtime activist Joe Calhoun and new coalition co-chair Margaret Henkle were among the speakers.

One of the final events of Equality Begins at Home will be a worship service in Memphis with speakers called Focus on All Families. This event is scheduled to counter the Central Church Focus on the Family event. Central Church's event has the ex-Gay movement as its primary topic. The Coalition event, to be held at First Congregational UCC, will have speakers who have been through the ex-Gay movement and oppose its goals.

For more information, visit the LGCJ site of the world wide web at www.gaymemphis.com/lgcj or contact them by email at lgcj@gaymemphis.com



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About 300 people attended the Equality begins at Home Rally Mar. 21 at the War Memorial Plaza in Nashville. The rally was part of a national effort to bring Gay and Lesbian-rights issues down to the state level and was sponsored in Tennessee by the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice.

Two Men Plotted Slaying of Gay Man Following Sexual Advance

By Jay Reeves
Associated Press Writer

SYLACAUGA, Ala. (AP) — Two men who claimed to be angry over a sexual advance made by a Gay acquaintance plotted his murder for two weeks, then beat him to death with an ax handle and torched the body on old tires, police said.

While the suspects initially were charged with simple murder, which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, authorities said grand jurors could indict the men on capital charges, which carry a possible death sentence.

The murder of Billy Jack Gaither, 39, outraged his friends in this central Alabama town, along with civic leaders and Gay rights organizations, which kept the motive to the grisly slaying quiet for days to help police catch the killers.

Steven Eric Mullins, 25, and Charles Monroe Butler Jr., 21,

were held Mar. 4 at the Coosa County Jail on bonds of \$500,000 each in the slaying. Deputy Al Bradley said Butler confessed after saying he couldn't sleep, and Mullins admitted his involvement two days later while in jail on an unrelated charge.

"(Mullins) said God told him he needed to confess," Bradley said.

Bradley said Mullins and Butler, who apparently knew Gaither from going to the same bars around town, claimed to have been angered when he made a pass at them. The two laid out a plan that was carried out on Feb. 19, he said.

Mullins called Gaither, who then went to Mullins' home. The two then went to pick up Butler at a nightclub where he was participating in a pool tournament.

The three men went to a secluded boat ramp, where Gaither was beaten and thrown in the trunk of his own car. He was then taken to the trash-strewn banks of Peckerwood Creek, where area churches for decades baptized new

Christians.

Bradley said two tires were set on fire with kerosene atop a concrete platform overlooking the slow-moving, murky water. "They took him out of the trunk, took an ax handle and beat him to death. Then they put the body on the fire," he said.

Gaither's burned-out car was found the next day on a country road. Friends, most of whom knew Gaither was Gay, did not believe he would make a sexual advance on the men.

"He didn't ever put anybody in (an awkward) position," said Marian Hammonds, who owns The Tavern, a nightclub Gaither visited the night of his slaying. "A lot of people didn't know he was Gay. I danced with him all the time."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama learned of the killing through a contact in the area and notified authorities, complying with the request of police who

See **Murder** on page 32 and a related story on page 4

5th Annual McEntire Awards

by Vincent Astor

The 5th annual Misty McEntire awards were held on March 18 at Madison Flame. The buffet was catered by Arizona! restaurant. Many entree choices were followed by cake flavored with rum and covered in whipped cream, fresh fruit and strawberry glaze. Both Friends For Life and Loving Arms received donations from the ticket sales.

Misty McEntire and Hetti McDaniels co-hosted and performed. Shelby Lynn assisted and guest entertainers were Alexis von Furstenberg and Jo Anne Badey.

Highlights were: Promoter of the Year-Odie, Club 501; Golden Shovel Award-Jackee; Couple of the Year-Terry & Keith; Leather Club of the Year-Tsaros; Horizon Award for newer entertainers-Taylor Huntington; DJ of the Year-Gary Bodell; Most Supporting Entertainer-Shelby Lynn; Bartender of the Year-Odie, Club 501; Bar of the Year-The Jungle; Entertainer of the Year-Jackee; Hall of Fame-Friends For Life (organization), Hetti McDaniels (individual); Lifetime Achievement -Triangle Journal News (organization), Simply Vonna Valentino (individual).

Also performing were Wendi, Juwanna Cox, Miss Lutz, Christina Moore and members of the Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite.

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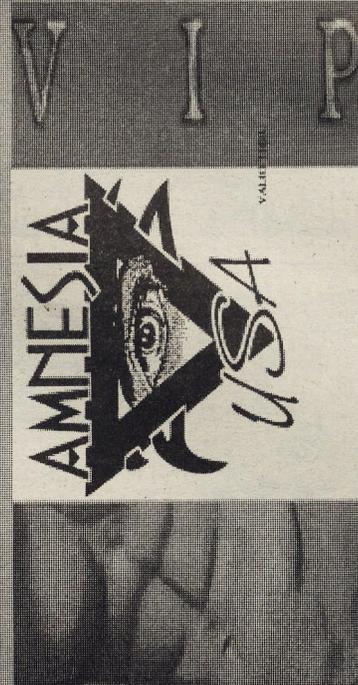
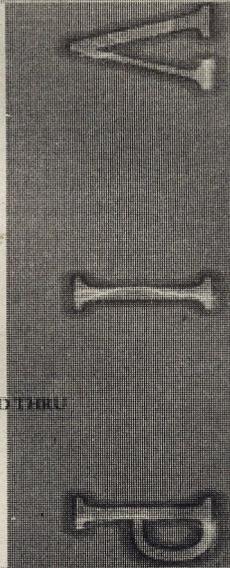
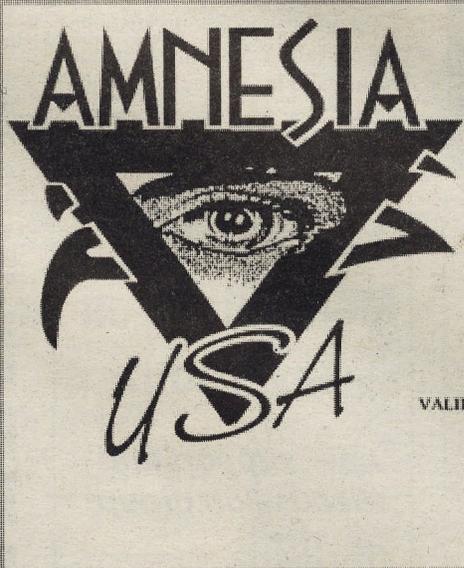
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Mourners, Anti-gay Protestors on Hand for Gaither Vigil

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — An overflow crowd of mourners filled Covenant Metropolitan Community Church Mar. 9, honoring the memory of Billy Jack Gaither while also calling for an end to hatred against gays.

There was no standing room at the 225-seat church as 17 speakers mostly clergy — decried Gaither's death. A handful of anti-Gay protesters picketed outside.

Steven Eric Mullins, 25, and Charles Monroe Butler, 21, confessed to beating the 39-year-old Sylacauga man to death with an ax handle last month and setting his body on fire atop kerosene-soaked tires because, they claimed, he made a pass at one of them.

The memorial service drew people of all races and ages, from all across the state. They filled the pews, stood against church walls and packed the steps leading to the altar.

"This is far beyond my wildest dreams," said the Rev. Marge

Ragona, Covenant's pastor. "We are amazed so many felt you needed to be here just as we felt we needed to be here."

Speakers called on the audience to speak out against hatred and chastised people who use the Bible to justify hate against homosexuals.

"We're here to celebrate this evening that God is not hate, but God is love," said the Rev. Lawton Higgs Sr. of United Methodist Church of the Reconciler.

Roger Lovette, pastor of the Baptist Church of the Covenant, encouraged people to remember Gaither as a person, not a symbol. "He was like the rest of us with hopes, dreams and needs," Lovette said.

Rodney Max, co-chairman of the Coalition Against Hate Crimes, urged legislators to pass a law including offenses motivated by homosexuality on the state's list of hate crimes. "That should never, ever happen again in this state,"

Max said.

Gaither's body was discovered by a passerby Feb. 20 in Coosa County, a day after he was beaten and burned.

Mullins and Butler remain in the Coosa County jail.

After Tuesday's two-hour memorial service inside the church, people lit small candles and stood outside singing "This Little Light of Mine."

Across the street, a small group of protesters from Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., held anti-Gay signs in protest.

"We are outraged at this violent crime, but the issue is the homosexuals are exploiting it," said Westboro's pastor, the Rev. Fred Phelps. "It is no longer merely an event for the family and friends to grieve."

Phelps, 69, and his church members have gained national notoriety for protesting at the funerals of homosexuals and AIDS victims. Phelps and his followers also picketed the funeral of Gay Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, who was beaten and lashed to a fence to die in October.

Protesters held signs Tuesday night saying "Billy Jack Gaither burns in hell."

Max Griffies, 9, stood near the church's step holding a sign declaring, "God loves all people." Max's mother, Leah Griffies, said she wanted her son "to know you don't kill people, regardless of who they are, and especially for what they believe in."

The message seemed to sink in as Max watched the protesters across the street.

"It makes me feel disgusted because everybody is created equal and all people are created by God," he said.

Irish Agency to Pay for Injured Philadelphia Man's Trip Home

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — An Irish health agency will send home a Gay Philadelphia author in critical condition after being beaten two months ago in Ireland, the agency's board chairman says.

Robert Drake, 36, an author of books and anthologies on Gay themes, was attacked Jan. 31 in his apartment in Sligo in northeastern Ireland, where he had gone to research and write a novel.

The beating left Drake near death, with serious head injuries. Airlifted to a hospital in Dublin after the beating, he remains in critical condition and on a ventilator.

The North Western Health Board is prepared to pay to fly Drake home, spokeswoman Ann McLoone said Mar. 9.

"We're very much aware of the tragic circumstance that brought him into our care. This is a humanitarian gesture," she said. "We

would like to see to it that he is received back to his country, his family and friends."

American and Irish Gay-rights groups raised about \$5,000 of the more than \$10,000 it would cost to fly him home. The fund-raisers hope to return Drake to Philadelphia for admission to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

According to McLoone, North Western Health Board Chairman Pat Harvey said the agency is prepared to cover the costs as soon as doctors at Beaumont Hospital in Dublin decide Drake is fit to travel, which would be weeks away.

Two unemployed Sligo residents, Ian Monaghan, 20, and Glen Mahon, 21, have been charged with intentionally or recklessly causing serious harm to Drake. They are free on bail pending a March 18 court appearance.

Evicted Congregation Prays on Sidewalk

BROCKTON, Mass. (AP) — A dispute over Gay rights has put a priest and his parishioners who oppose same-sex marriages on the street, so the evicted congregation held services right on the sidewalk.

The Rev. Thomas Morris and about a dozen members of his flock prayed outside Mar. 14, despite their eviction Mar. 12 by a judge in their ongoing dispute with the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

Morris and his congregation at St. Paul's Church opposed the diocese's 1994 decision to sanction same-sex unions and ordain noncelibate homosexuals as priests. In opposition, the congregation began withholding fees it was bound to pay the diocese.

"We may have lost access to our church building, but we have not lost faith," Morris said. "In the end,

Jesus wins."

Diocese officials maintained the dispute was not about beliefs or issues. "What this is about is this church needs a priest in good standing with the bishop and other churches in the diocese," said the Rev. Donald Parker, the diocese vicar. The diocese is overseen by Bishop Thomas Shaw.

In the Mar. 12 decision, Judge Charles J. Hely said his ruling settled a legal issue about property, not a religious issue.

In 1995, Morris' predecessor at St. Paul's, the Rev. James R. Hiles, was defrocked after the diocese found him guilty of sexual misconduct. But many members of the church stand by Hiles, and say the charges against him were concocted as punishment for his stance against homosexuality.

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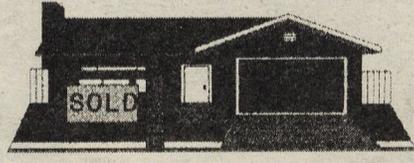
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Gay Military Veterans Hope to March in Memorial Day Parade

FERNDALE, Mich. (AP) — A group of Gay military veterans are taking steps to march in this Detroit suburb's Memorial Day parade.

A group of Ferndale's Gay veterans hope to join members of Friends and Neighbors of Ferndale (FANS), a Gay group that has received tentative approval to enter the parade, according to a parade organizer.

Ferndale's parade leaders have so far downplayed the significance of including Gays.

"As far as I know, they are planning to meet all our requirements," Barbara Earl, a secretary with the Ferndale Memorial Association, told the *Detroit Free Press* for a story Mar. 15.

The association puts on the annual parade, one of the region's biggest and oldest, dating to at least

1919.

Organizers say they will strictly enforce a requirement limiting any show of a group's identity to a display of its name.

If enforced, that would mean FANS will march with no explicit banner proclaiming it is an organization of Gays.

"It's not a day to promote your own agenda," Earl said. "This is a day for the veterans."

Gay group leaders in Ferndale said they are comfortable blending in with the parade's usual array of honor guards, scout troops, high school bands and politicians.

"We wouldn't want to do anything to incite controversy," said Chuck Simon, president of FANS, which has about 80 dues-paying members and a mailing list of several hundred.

Parade rules require participants

to refrain from displaying their own messages and instead stick to official slogans, which this year are "Lest we forget" and "For those who gave their all."

Navy veteran Ken Warnock, 32, who co-owns the Just 4 Us Gay bookstore in Ferndale, told the *Free Press* that he will march in Ferndale's parade with a mix of pride and bitterness.

In 1987, Warnock, then 20, was a hospital corpsman aboard a Navy ship when he was brought before his commanding officer, questioned about his sexual orientation and threatened with a perjury charge, he said.

He resisted the Navy's investigation for months, Warnock said. Ultimately, he received a less-than-honorable discharge — not quite as bad as a dishonorable discharge, he said.

On Memorial Day, Warnock probably won't wear his sailor's uniform — it's "getting a little tight" — but he plans to carry an American flag while keeping a watchful eye for anyone angry at Gay participants.

Despite his wariness, he said the inclusion of Gay marchers "speaks very well for Ferndale."

Ferndale Mayor Chuck Goedert

said he was unaware of the Memorial Day plans but supports the inclusion of FANS members and Gay veterans.

"There are a lot of groups that participate in our parade to honor those who served. I don't know why this would be any different," he said.

Settlement Clears the Way for Church's Program to be Televised

DALLAS (AP) — A federal court settlement announced Mar. 12 has cleared the way for Cathedral of Hope, the nation's largest homosexual church, to air a controversial infomercial on broadcast superstation WGN-TV.

Under the settlement, Cathedral of Hope will pay the Chicago-based cable station \$35,000 for showing the program five times.

The half-hour video includes testimonials by members, scenes of worship at the 3,000-member church and discussions with the families of church members.

Cathedral of Hope claimed the Chicago-based station reneged on a contract to air the church's program last August. Church officials said the station pulled the infomercial shortly before the air

date for unspecified reasons.

WGN officials argued that they weren't obligated to air the program because the station did not have a binding contract with the church.

The Dallas church filed a lawsuit in October, claiming that WGN accepted a \$13,000 check, made several suggestions that the church followed, and then broke its contract and returned the check after deciding the subject was too controversial.

The Rev. Michael Piazza said he was pleased with the settlement.

"Of course our desire was for it to have been aired last year," said

Piazza, senior pastor at Cathedral of Hope. "But we're very grateful to be able to resolve it."

Piazza told *The Dallas Morning News* that every other broadcast outlet approached by the church had refused to air the program.

"They don't have to give you reasons, but a couple of the media buyers told us that stations were afraid the conservative religious programming would be withdrawn if ours was shown," he said.

The minister said Cathedral of Hope was attracted to WGN because the station airs on cable outlets in the rural areas surrounding Dallas and Fort Worth.

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Deep Inside
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SEE PAGE 30

The Right to Family: A Lesbian Couple's 10-year Relationship

By Sally Pollak
The Burlington Free Press

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) — Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles were married by an assistant rabbi in a California redwood forest on March 22, 1992. They want to get married again, but there's a hitch.

The first ceremony was symbolic, a festive gathering before 50 friends and relatives to celebrate their lifelong commitment to each other. The second ceremony has yet to take place because the South Burlington couple is waiting for a decision from the Vermont Supreme Court about whether Lesbians and Gay men can marry under Vermont law.

The couple could hear in the next week, or they might have to wait six months or longer for a ruling in the case argued in November. Should the court allow same-sex marriage, Vermont will be the only state to sanction such unions.

"The desire to get married came from a very personal place of wanting to join our families, our resources and our lives in a way that any couple does," Beck said. "It turns into a political statement because it's not allowed."

If the court rules in their favor, Beck and Jolles, one of three same-sex couples to file suit against Vermont, will simply go to the city offices to formalize what they recognized together many years ago: That they want to share their lives forever. A second marriage — one recognized by the state — would confer upon them the rights and benefits, even the courtesies, they suspect, of a legal union.

Beck, 43, a physical therapist, and Jolles, 40, a psychologist with Spectrum Youth Services, are not particularly concerned about the timing of the decision. Their lives are and will be bound regardless of the constitutional issues raised by the case. "Marriage would be putting a legal acknowledgment on a way of life that is already in process," Beck said.

The couple seem like they're married. They're easily affectionate with one another. They tell the same stories and share jokes. They listen to each other talk, and add funny or revealing details to each other's recollections. And in their open home on an urban shore of Lake Champlain, together they wait.

Not so much for marriage. But for a baby.

The call the couple anticipate is not from their lawyer. The one they hope for everyday is from a Texas adoption agency telling them they are parents of a newborn baby.

"The right baby will come and until then we just have to hang on," Beck said. "The universe should send us a girl."

The couple imagine a baby girl

because when they think of a boy, they think of Noah.

Noah Shaya Beck Jolles was born to Beck in 1995 and adopted by Jolles in a Vermont court. He had sparkly eyes and curly hair and more friends than his parents do.

At birth, Noah was diagnosed with a severe cardiac disorder. He died at age 2 1/2. Noah would have turned 4 on Feb. 18, a day his parents just marked by baking a birthday cake.

"I cried today in yoga class," Jolles said last weekend. She was speaking of the mourning that goes on for the child she calls "a little Buddha" and "one awesome guy."

"It comes and goes, which is good," she said. "For the first year, it didn't go. It just came."

Their time with Noah, whose short, full life included trips to Europe and Hawaii, affirms their desire to marry.

Beck and Jolles recalled a trip with Noah to Amsterdam, where a Dutch customs official asked if they were a family. "Being seen for who you are was enormously gratifying," Beck said. "I really want this in my country."

The two women have known each other for a decade. They fell in love after meeting in a martial arts class in Oakland, Calif. Jolles, who owned Wing Tao Mobility Arts, taught Beck kung fu.

In 1991, Beck proposed to Jolles on a Ventura beach.

"Most of the reason why I asked Stacy to marry me was because we wanted to plan a family," Beck said. "I really wanted to have some right of passage symbolizing our commitment to each other. It was an important ritual to make before bringing more people into the family."

Noah was born in Asheville, N.C., on Feb. 18, 1995, almost three years after his parents' California wedding ceremony. The family had moved to the mountain town when Beck was seven months pregnant, seeking a safe and beautiful place to raise their child.

"We were looking for something when we left California," Beck said in the living room of her Queen City Park home. "We didn't find it till we got to Vermont."

They left Asheville when Noah was 1, deciding to move because they never found a community or a group of friends they felt at home with.

On a long weekend, they traveled to Burlington. Beck found a job as a physical therapist and the family, guided by a map, happened upon a bungalow home with a front yard on Lake Champlain.

They moved here in April, 1996, and three months later attended the annual Gay Pride rally. There, they saw a pamphlet about the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force. "We started talking to folks and

went from there," Beck said.

They settled into their neighborhood, their house and their new state. But Beck and Jolles were privately haunted by worries about Noah's health.

Though he was active and seemed to feel fine, they knew he would need a heart transplant to survive into boyhood. They knew that at any time his heart disease could make him sick. The doctors couldn't tell them when these things might happen, and couldn't say whether to restrict his activity.

"For 2 1/2 years, day or night, asleep or awake, Nina and I were both worried sick about him," Jolles said. "But we didn't want to reveal it. We didn't want our fears to get in his way."

Beck and Jolles decided that if Noah was to live a short life, it wasn't going to be short and cautious. Still, they were extremely careful about the water temperature when they took him in the lake. On one occasion, Beck asked a friend not to push him too high on a swing.

"We never stopped him from doing what he wanted to do," Beck recalled. "We just smiled and said, whatever."

And though they knew that it was likely he would die young, Beck and Jolles thought about his future. They imagined his bar mitzvah. They planned to have another child so Noah would have a sibling, but Noah got sick and died before Beck became pregnant.

Since Noah's death, both his parents have been trying to have a baby through pregnancy or adoption.

"Given what happened with Noah, we have a terrible mortal fear," Jolles said. "We want to be really, really careful about the health of the child. We don't care if it comes out with purple or green spots, as long as it's healthy as a horse."

They make predictions about when their baby will arrive. They wonder about a world where two people who so desperately want a child in their family, have to endure so much time without one. "Why is anybody waiting for any baby anywhere?" Beck said. "There are so many women having babies who don't want them."

Noah's life and death are, as Beck and Jolles see it, the most perfect argument for families, for children, for same-sex marriage.

"He was nuts about Nina and I being his parents," Jolles said. "We were his family. It would never have made sense to him that we weren't connected to each other the way he was connected to Nina and the way he was connected to me."

"The laws of Vermont are saying I'm good enough to be a parent but I'm not good enough to be a partner. I know they can't be saying that."

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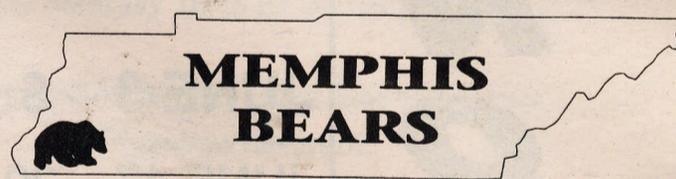
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Researchers Link Inherited Genes to Speed of AIDS Progression

By Paul Recer
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inherited genes may explain why some people infected with HIV quickly develop AIDS while others with the virus live for years in relatively good health, scientists report.

In a study published in the journal *Science*, researchers at the National Cancer Institute say differences in the inherited pattern of what are called HLA Class I genes appear to determine who gets sickest soonest after an HIV infection.

The discovery, based on a ge-

netic analysis of 500 HIV patients, has no immediate medical application, but it increases understanding of how the virus attacks the body, said Mary Carrington, lead author of the study. That knowledge could lead to better drugs or vaccines against the virus, she said.

Carrington said there are three different HLA Class I genes, identified as A, B and C. People inherit two copies of each of the genes. This means they can have as many as six unique combinations or as few as three.

"The more different forms of this gene a person has, the more resistant that individual is to progression of the disease," said

Carrington.

An HIV infection in people with non-matching HLA Class I gene pairs, for instance, may not progress to AIDS for six to 12 years, the researchers found. Those who inherited matched pairs of the genes tend to develop AIDS in three years or less.

HLA Class I genes are part of the immune system. Their job is to identify cells that are infected with virus and to leave a signal molecule on the surface of the infected cell. Another part of the immune system, the cytotoxic T-cell, will kill cells marked by the signal molecule, thereby blocking the spread of the virus.

The HIV virus is constantly changing and eventually will find a form that is not recognized by any of the HLA Class I genes, Carrington said. If an individual has a variety of HLA genes, it takes longer for the HIV to develop changes not recognized by the immune system. For this reason, she said, a person with a variety of gene forms will avoid AIDS longer.

Carrington said about 40 percent of the people examined in the study had a gene pattern that gave a slow disease progress, while about 45 percent had a gene combination that led to rapid progression.

Each of the three HLA genes has many alleles, or forms, that differ only slightly from each other. For instance, there are about 200 different forms of the HLA-B gene, Carrington said.

The researchers found that

people with paired copies of two of the gene forms, identified as B35 and Cw04, tended to progress to AIDS most rapidly.

Carrington said 8 percent to 9

percent of the tested patients had the B35 form. About 10 percent of the white patients had the Cw04 form, she said, but it was present in about 25 percent of the Black patients.

Author Defends Book Asserting Versace Had AIDS

By John Pacenti
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI (AP) — An author is defending her assertion that fashion mogul Gianni Versace had the AIDS virus when he died, a contention that has prompted outrage from his family.

Maureen Orth, a Washington journalist who wrote extensively on the Italian designer's killer for *Vanity Fair* magazine, said she learned Versace was HIV-positive from a detective who was involved in the manhunt for Andrew Cunanan.

The information is published in Orth's book, *Vulgar Favors: Andrew Cunanan, Gianni Versace and the Largest Failed Manhunt in U.S. History*, which was released Mar. 9 by Delacorte Press. She also alleges police bungled the search for Cunanan, who was implicated in five slayings.

On the eve of the book's release, the designer's family angrily denounced Orth's work.

"The Versace family deplores this mercenary invasion of their privacy and the scurrilous assault on the reputation of someone who was a victim of a horrible crime and is not here now to defend himself," the family said in a statement.

Orth said Versace's medical condition was relevant because he took his clothing empire public even though he knew he was ill.

"He was asking the American people or whomever to buy shares in the company that the entire creative impetus and really the money-making function came from him, and yet he had a terminal disease," Orth said.

Versace, 50, was gunned down by Cunanan in front of the designer's South Beach mansion on July 15, 1997. A nationwide manhunt for Cunanan ended eight days later when he fatally shot himself in an empty houseboat 2 1/2

miles away.

Orth says she learned of the designer's HIV status from detective Paul Scrimshaw.

Police chief Richard Barreto said he was shocked by Orth's assertion that Scrimshaw revealed confidential information protected by law. He would not say whether the police knew whether Versace had the AIDS virus.

Scrimshaw, 53, retired from the force soon after the case was closed. Orth and Barreto said they don't know his whereabouts.

Cunanan, 27, did not have the AIDS virus, according to police. He killed four other men in Minnesota, Chicago and New Jersey before Versace.

Cunanan began his spree in Minneapolis with the April 27, 1997, bludgeoning death Jeffrey Trail, a 27-year-old Bloomington, Minn., man who had known Cunanan in California. A few days later, he shot and killed David Madson, 33, of Minneapolis, whose body was found on the shores of East Rush Lake near the Twin Cities.

In the following days, the San Diego man also was suspected of killing wealthy Chicago developer Lee Miglin and William Reese, a caretaker of a federal cemetery in New Jersey.

The book claims investigators bungled the case and may have even contributed to the murder of Reese.

Cunanan is suspected of killing Reese for his car because Cunanan knew the stolen one he was driving was being tracked by cellular phone. And Cunanan's wanted posters, intended for distribution to members of the South Florida Gay community before Versace was killed, never were disseminated and instead were left on the back seat of an FBI agent's car, according to the book.

Powell Says Gays Have Additional Sacrifice in Military

By Dan Gallagher
Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The U.S. military is unique in society by throwing together people around the clock, and Gays and Lesbians who decide to serve face an added sacrifice for keeping their sexual orientation to themselves, retired Army Gen. Colin Powell said.

But the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Mar. 18 stressed the United States and the world are becoming an interwoven mosaic of people with different beliefs and backgrounds.

Powell spoke at a symposium sponsored by Hewlett-Packard and other large employers in the Boise valley intended to boost awareness of all forms of diversity, from race to religion and sexual orientation.

"The military is quite unique," said Powell, the son of Jamaican parents in Harlem. "We tell you who you're going to live with 24 hours a day. Gays and Lesbians have an added sacrifice not to disclose.

"I can think of no other part of society like it," he said. "But no one should get unique treatment or not be equal under the law."

In 1993, the Clinton administration adopted a "don't ask, don't tell" military policy toward homosexuals in which they can serve as long as they keep their sexual orientation to themselves and do not engage in overt acts.

"I think inclusiveness has to include Gays and Lesbians. You don't have to approve or disapprove of Gays or Lesbians. The fact of the matter is they are citizens and they are free," Powell said.

The Idaho Family Forum, a conservative advocate group, has protested the Inclusiveness Symposium, claiming Hewlett-Packard's national ads on its electronics products promote expanded rights for homosexuals.

The niece of Martin Luther King Jr., Alveda King, came to Boise on Mar. 17, at the request of the Family Forum. She said the Black civil-rights movement is different from the

Gay-rights movement, in that Gays have never been told, "Sit on the back of the bus, you can't vote, you can't buy property."

Idaho has suffered from the national perception it is a haven for racists because of incidents such as white separatist Randy Weaver's gun battle with federal agents in the Panhandle.

"I agree with your governor that Idaho shouldn't be dictated by the least tolerant parts of society," Powell said of Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's earlier comments.

A new survey conducted for the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment by Boise State University's Center for Public Policy Administration has been released.

It found prejudice remains in Idaho, but those polled are taking a more favorable view of minorities than they did in the 1980s.

Still, the survey found 21 percent of the people who responded to the survey say they are somewhat or very unfriendly toward minorities.

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Meeting Room B.

P.O. Box 241363, Memphis, TN 38124
Web page: www.gaymemphis.com/lgcj

Space donated as a public service of the Triangle Journal News

FFL:Hepcats and Chicks Salute Ol' Blue Eyes

by Ira L. King
Staff Writer

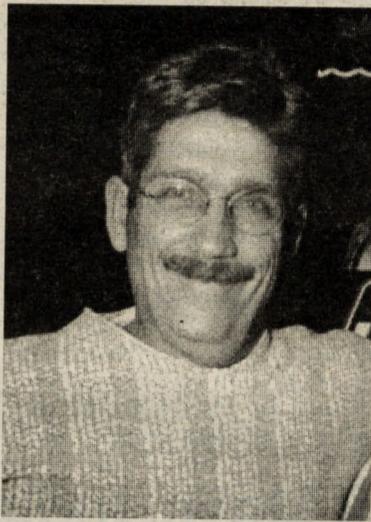
Frank did it his way. Butch did it his way. The end results were the same. Everybody loved it.

"Club Sinatra" (the Skyway of The Peabody) was the venue. Very tall palm trees and seductively low lighting took us all back to a simpler time and place, where guys were "cats" and gals were "chicks", and Mr. Francis Albert Sinatra was indeed the Chairman of the Board. The event was the Second Annual Fabulous February Concert, a fund-raising event for Friends For Life (FFL)

Cats in suits and ties and chicks in feather boas and lots of sparkle listened to the cool sounds of the very hot Memphis Jazz Orchestra. The vocal stylings of Teresa Pate (ain't she glamorous), Gary Johns, James Fox and Gary Lamb helped round out the tribute to Mr. "New

'York, New York."

While the men did a fine job of capturing the essence of Mr.



Butch Valentine

Sinatra's music, Miss Pate literally sang rings around them. The men

did everything technically correct, however they lacked the pizzazz, showmanship and stage presence that seemed to flow from Ms Pate. She literally lit up the room (maybe it was that flaming red hair and those great gams).

Michael Detroit was master of ceremonies for the evening.

Butch Valentine told the audience that after expenses, FFL, would net about \$41,000. This is amazing! Butch is undoubtedly one of the best fund-raisers in Memphis.

He notes further in the program that there are about 5,000 people living with either HIV or AIDS in Shelby County. He added that approximately 334 clients are receiving some kind of service from FFL.

Thirty percent of FFL clients are women who are heads of households for 276 children. A complicating factor is that sixty percent of FFL clients have a

monthly income less than \$500, while 65 percent have less than \$250. Only nine of FFL, clients are not within the poverty level.

FFL recently secured a new facility at 1384 Madison Avenue. This facility will help FFL to better serve its clients and the community.

The two-and-a-half hour salute to Sinatra was followed by a wonderful reception in the Peabody Place foyer. The Thomas White Combo provided dance music. The food was excellent and the champagne flowed nicely.

Several cats and chicks gave in to the urge to trip the light fantastic (dance). The combo played old favorites that anyone could dance to.

The fund-raiser was a true indication that Memphis has come a long way in embracing people living with HIV and AIDS. There was a healthy mixture of Gay and



straight people, young and old, Black and white, rich and not-so-rich. It was good to see so many Gay couples out to support the cause.

Ken Nelson and the Peabody staff did a fine job of making everyone feel welcome and at home.

Just when you think Butch has outdone himself (as with Last year's salute to Billy Holiday), he pulls another rabbit out of the hat. I think "It's witchcraft," Butch noted as he greeted the audience. "I have the best job. FFL has the very best friends!"

Friends for Life to Restage Sinatra Benefit for WKNO-TV Cameras

Submitted by Butch Valentine

This is an unbelievable opportunity that we at Friends for Life are so very excited about. WKNO-TV has asked us to restage our concert, *Doing It Our Way... a tribute to Francis Albert Sinatra*, for the purpose of recording the show for broadcast on or near the anniversary of Sinatra's death on May 14. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity.

The concert, originally held on Feb. 27 was very successful in many ways, having netted \$42,000 for the agency and a standing ovation for the 18-piece Memphis Jazz Orchestra, the performers and Michael Detroit, the master of ceremonies. The energy that night was electric, and the sound as big, as we honored The Man and his music in front of 400 friends and fans in attendance.

We are grateful to Craig Simrell, the concert's sponsor, to John and Debbie McNulty for sponsoring the huge party afterwards, and to The Garden District for adding their special touches to the evening.

WKNO wanted to tape the concert that night, but could not because of the low ceilings in the Skyway Ballroom of the Peabody Hotel, where the concert was held. They asked us to consider restaging the concert in a different venue so that they could record it for broadcast. Consider? Are you kidding? Something like this would be absolutely huge for Friends For Life. And more importantly, it would be huge for Memphis. We're talking about a local AIDS service organization getting much-needed positive exposure in front of tens of thousands of Mid-Southerners, a truly unbelievable opportunity. I mean, this is Big City stuff... this

is New York! This is Chicago! This is L.A.! And now it can be Memphis.

Well, pass the Tylenol... we're just going to have to do it. And we have to be quick. If you couldn't attend the "premier," please plan to groove with us at 7 p.m. on Wed., April 7 at Theatre Memphis. Joyce Cobb will be joining Gary Johns, Teresa Pate and the Memphis Jazz Orchestra in performing Sinatra's hits their way. The tickets are priced at \$30 (open seating) which includes complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres prepared by Glenn Jones, and served during intermission as well as before and after the show by the stellar volunteers of our Feast for Friends.

Tickets may be purchased through the Friends For Life office. We recommend you not wait to try

to purchase tickets at the door. Either call the office at 272-0855 or drop by our new facility at 1384 Madison (between Krosstown Cleaners and Papa John's) to get your tickets.

As for dancing, you can juke it up in the aisles when the spirit moves you, just as they did in the Skyway Ballroom.

This is a gargantuan effort with unexpected expenses requiring the financial support of many to help make this happen. I am very grateful to King Cotton and Rudy's Farm, Mid-South Vision Center, RP Tracks, the Memphis Redbirds and Merck Pharmaceuticals for understanding the importance of this opportunity and supporting it.

WKNO-TV will be taping the concert, which should prove to be

fascinating. Please help us jam this 424-seat theatre with a friendly and wildly enthusiastic audience. Memphis needs to hear and see what I have been saying all along... that Friends For Life has the best friends around.

I hope everyone realizes what a

milestone this is for the AIDS issue in Memphis and just how important it is to those of us living with HIV and to those who have been affected by the tragedy of AIDS. This is a golden opportunity that is knocking on our door... it needs to be answered.

Spiritual Resources in the Memphis Area

- Calvary Episcopal Church - 525-6602
- First Congregational Church - 278-6786
- First United Methodist Church - 527-8362
- Holy Trinity Community Church - 320-9376
- Idlewild Presbyterian Church - 726-4681
- Living Word Christian Church - 276-0577
- Memphis Friends Meeting - 323-3196
- Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church - 756-5433
- Prescott Memorial Baptist Church - 327-8479
- Safe Harbor MCC - 458-0501
- St. John's United Methodist Church - 276-4104
- St. Patrick Catholic Church - 527-2542
- St. Therese Catholic Church - 276-1312
- Unitarian Church of the River - 526-8631
- Unity Church (Kirby Rd.) - 754-4241

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Maryland Governor Testifies for First Time Endorsing Gay Rights

By Bart Jansen
Associated Press Writer

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Gov. Parris Glendening testified for the first time before a legislative committee, describing his late brother's hardship hiding his homosexuality and urging delegates to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Glendening's brother Bruce served 19 years in the Air Force, including three tours in Vietnam. But as the decorated veteran lay dying of AIDS — when the pain was so great that it hurt to touch his skin — Bruce Glendening said it was more painful to keep his sexual orientation hidden for so

long in order to keep his job, Glendening testified.

"He lived in fear..." the governor told the House Judiciary Committee. "This has weighed on me a long time...I'm here to ask if we could make this state a more fair and just society."

Afterward, the audience applauded his three-minute speech.

One of several people in the audience who shook Glendening's hand as he left was Silvia Rodriguez, chairwoman of the state Human Relations Commission, who said no other governor showed such courage in her 15 years with the group.

"He knows this is just and fair for all the people of Maryland," she

said.

Delegates Sheila Hixson and Leon Billings, both Montgomery County Democrats, have failed to get the bill approved for six years, but they have not had such a prominent supporter before. Onlookers packed the hearing room and one wall was lined with television cameras.

The bill would add sexual orientation to a law that bans discrimination in housing and employment because of a person's race, religion or gender.

"The issue is simply a matter of intolerance and bigotry," Hixson said.

Baltimore City and Montgomery, Prince George's and Howard

counties have similar laws governing 49 percent of the state's population. Glendening said Prince George's County hasn't suffered since it enacted the law in 1991 while he was chief executive.

"Western civilization hasn't collapsed because of the bill," he said.

Glendening left before delegates asked questions about the bill. Several delegates appeared critical of it.

Delegate Emmett Burns, a Baptist pastor, said complaints from homosexuals would flood the Human Relations Commission and create further delays for Blacks and women who suffer discrimination.

"There are jobs I will never be able to get because of this," said

the Black Baltimore County Democrat, pointing at his skin.

In the hearing's testiest exchange, Billings retorted that everyone can suffer discrimination.

"You ought to try to be a middle-aged white guy and try to be elected to the Democratic National Committee," Billings said.

Burns shot back: "If I was a white guy, I'd be president."

Commission officials said 1 to 3 percent of complaints in counties that have the law concern sexual orientation. Advocates argued that nobody should be discriminated against for any reason.

"We're trying to cast the net as broadly as possible," Billings said.

With One Quick Move, Indiana Senate Ditches Gay Adoption Bill

By Mike Smith
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Call it tricky. Call it manipulating the rules. Call it stifling true democracy, or pushing the button on a bill.

Whatever the tag, the Indiana Senate — in a move with obvious bipartisan blessings — used it to instantly and without debate or recorded votes get rid of controversial legislation.

The bill designed to ban Gay adoptions had taken on a life of its own and was drawing intense media coverage.

So much coverage, its initial consideration in committee threatened to overshadow a news conference in which majority Senate Republicans were to announce their big tax-cut proposal.

That committee meeting was hastily halted, on apparent orders from the third floor where legislative leaders reside, and rescheduled. But the bill still made news, and lived on.

No matter how proponents tried to dress it up, the bill was aimed at one thing — prohibiting homosexuals from adopting children. Conservative activist Eric Miller was leading the charge.

It resurfaced during a second committee meeting in late February with provisions that would make adoption extremely difficult

for anyone "not living with that person's spouse in an intact marriage recognized under Indiana law."

People not meeting that description — single people or Gay couples — would have to meet a much higher burden of proof that they are fit parents before a judge could let them adopt.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee by a 5-4 vote and was eligible for consideration by the full Senate. That consideration was short-lived.

Once recommended for passage, bills advance to the chamber floor, where they are eligible for amendments and final passage after they have been accepted by a majority of members.

It's a formality in which the presiding officer reads the bill number and gavels in its acceptance without waiting for members to cast a voice vote.

But Feb. 25, Democratic Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan asked for all those who wanted to accept the bill to say "aye," and those opposed to say "nay." Democrats, who are in the minority, yelled "no," and Kernan slapped down the gavel and said the bill had been rejected.

Senate Republican leaders who control the chamber raised no objections, and business continued.

With one swift swoop of the gavel and no debate or recorded votes, the Senate had killed a bill that Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, R-Columbus, acknowledged made many members of both parties uncomfortable.

"It was obviously an organized effort," said an irked Sen. John Waterman, R-Shelburn, the bill's sponsor.

He's right about that.

It's not the only way to push the button on a controversial bill.

Oftentimes, they are simply sent to the rules committees in either chamber and are never heard from

again. Or if they are, they're severely gagged.

In 1996, a "parental rights" bill became too hot for then-Republican leaders in the House to handle because it was mixed with seemingly rightful precautions but wrongful paranoia about child welfare cases.

It lingered in the Rules Committee until the end of the session, and when finally freed, was punted to a summer study committee. It was such a complex issue, legislative leaders said, it needed some in depth analysis.

Right.

Nothing of substance came out of that committee's study except the bill's slow, taxpayer funded execution. By the time the next session rolled around, elections had taken place and other issues were at the forefront. The whole "parental rights" controversy had been snuffed out, by design.

In 1994, when the House was controlled by Democrats and the Senate by Republicans, a bill to enhance penalties for hate crimes became big news.

It included extra penalties for hate crimes aimed toward minorities and homosexuals.

But the bill had a problem. It was enacting into law special treatment and recognition of Gays, opponents said.

So when the bill was in conference committee, where lawmakers can make their quick deals behind closed doors, a provision was slipped in that would make it unlawful to burn the American flag.

"Why, the bill is dead!" was the reaction from surprised legislative leaders, throwing up their arms in disbelief. "We all know the U.S. Supreme Court has said it is against the First Amendment to ban flag-burning! How could this happen? Who put this provision in here?"

No final debate, no recorded vote.

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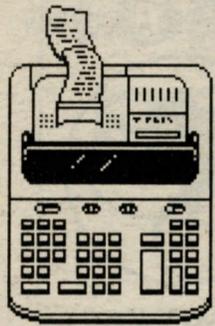
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Queer Science

by Dr. Simon LeVay
See page 27

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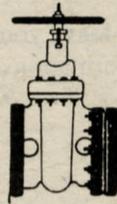


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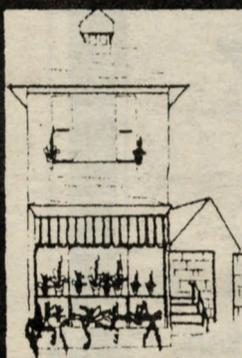
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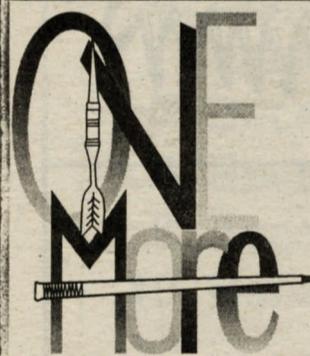
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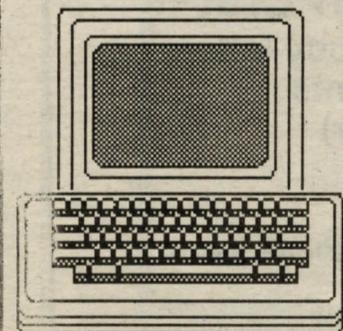
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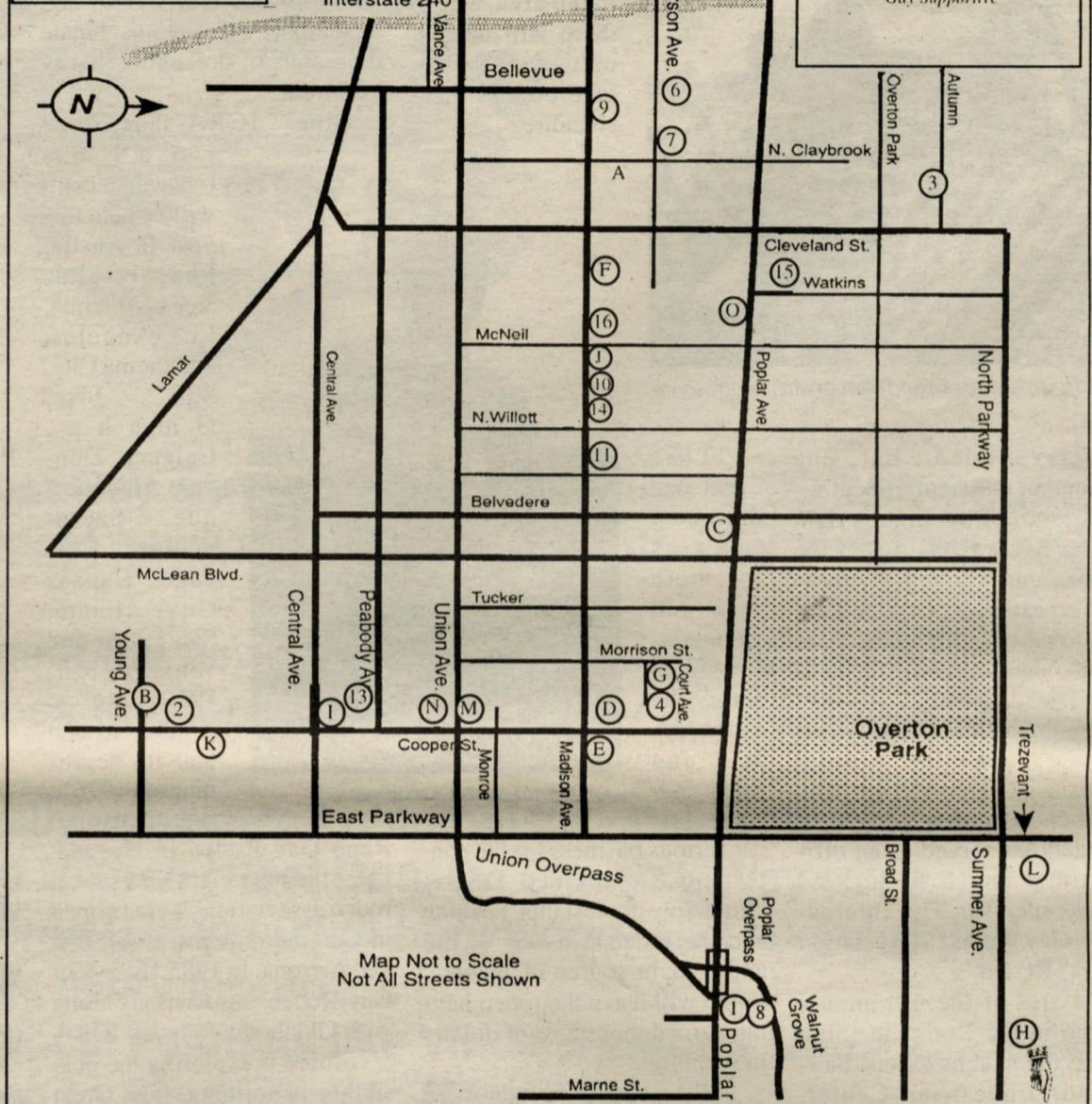
Businesses and Other Points of Interest

- A. Aloysius
- B. Botanica
- C. Circuit Playhouse
- D. Dabbles
- E. French Quarter Inn
- F. Friends for Life
- G. Gypsy's
- H. Holy Trinity Church
- I. Inz & Outz
- J. Lambda Center
- K. Lavender Earth
- L. Paris Theatre
- M. Playhouse on the Square
- N. Safe Harbor MCC
- O. Star Search Video

Clubs and Restaurants

- 1. Amnesia
- 2. Arizona
- 3. Autumn Street Pub
- 4. Backstreet
- 5. Chaos
- 6. Crossroads
- 7. 501 Club
- 8. In the Grove
- 9. J-Wag's
- 10. Lorenz
- 11. Madison Flame
- 12. N-cognito
- 13. One More
- 14. P & H Cafe*
- 15. Pipeline
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Dawson's Creek Character Comes Out

LOS ANGELES — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) today praised series creator and executive producer Kevin Williamson, the WB Network and the creative team of *Dawson's Creek* for bringing an openly Gay teen to the hit television series.

On the Wed., Feb. 10 episode of *Dawson's Creek*, series regular Jack McPhee (Kerr Smith) was forced to read a poem before his class in which he spoke of his feelings toward another man.

Jack denied subsequent rumors which were circulating at the fictitious Capeside High School, and ignored derogatory remarks made by other students, as well as an incident in which his locker was vandalized. Furthermore, Jack told girlfriend Joey Potter (Katie Holmes) that he was not Gay.

Yet on the Feb. 17 episode, Jack came out to his father, his sister Andie (Meredith Monroe), and later to Joey. While his father disapproved, both Andie and Joey were supportive of him.

Jack is the first openly Lesbian, Gay, bisexual or transgender series regular on the WB Network, and joins 25 oth-

ers on the growing list of diverse television representations.

"*Dawson's Creek* stayed away from stereotypes on this one," said GLAAD Entertainment Media Director Scott Seomin. "Jack is a strong character, written with intelligence, depth and integrity. *Dawson's Creek* has added to the diversity of Gay characters on television with its positive portrayal of Jack. Kevin Williamson's work will educate viewers both Gay and straight."

"*Dawson's Creek* painted a very accurate picture of the harassment Gay and Lesbian youth suffer in schools," said GLSEN Communications Director Jim Anderson. "The fact that 'fag' was written on Jack's locker, the fact that he suffered ridicule from classmates — statistics show that harassment of this nature is a part of everyday life for Lesbian and Gay students in schools across America. But just as tens of thousands of Gay youth saw for the first time a representation of a young person struggling to come out, tens of thousands of non-Gay youth learned that it's all right to stand up for Gay friends and to support them as they move through that complicated process."

The show explored the impact

of Jack's revelation upon Joey, Andie and Jack's father, and prompted many of the show's characters to discuss the issue of sexual orientation. The grandmother of Jen Lindley (Michelle Williams) reprimanded Jen's conservative and religious love interest, Tyson, for his criticism of Jack, noting that "If anything, that boy must be scared and alone, and he will need the understanding of his fellow man to

help him through."

"GLAAD's work is all about the power of images; it's about the influence that Jack will have upon raising awareness among all *Dawson's* fans," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry. "The show really covered its bases, providing interesting perspectives on coming out. Showing Joey's reaction to the news that her boyfriend is Gay added a new dimension which is

often overlooked in even the best media representations. And Jen's grandmother is one of the best advocates I've heard in a long time. GLAAD applauds the entire team behind *Dawson's Creek* for its sensitive representation of a Gay youth and the impact it has on his community. We look forward to sharing in Jack's experience in episodes to come."

See related story on page 30

Spanish Archbishop Calls AIDS Campaigns Spiritually Harmful

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — A Spanish Roman Catholic archbishop has condemned anti-AIDS campaigns promoting condom use as contributing to the spiritual and moral ruin of the young.

The archbishop of Barcelona, Cardinal Ricard Maria Carles, railed against the government media campaigns in a weekly newsletter article sent to parishes in his northeastern Spanish city.

The article comes after the church in Spain elected a particularly conservative leadership at its Bishops Conference earlier that week.

The cardinal said it was "feeble and deceptive" to promote condom use as a way to engage in safe sex, and railed against what he called authorities' failure to warn the young that this method could fail.

Dr. Francisco Parras, head of the Health Ministry department

dealing with AIDS campaigns, said that while he respected the church's right to comment, this would not influence government-sponsored campaigns.

"If this was a society where people didn't have sex, then sexual relations would not be a way of transmitting the HIV virus. But Spain is not like that," Parras said.

According to official figures, there are 53,000 AIDS patients in Spain. Most of them contracted the illness through drug use, with the rate of new cases diagnosed falling sharply in recent years.

The vast majority of Spaniards consider themselves Catholic, although the influence of the church in daily life has been greatly reduced since the country's transition to democracy in the wake of the 1975 death of dictator Gen. Francisco Franco.



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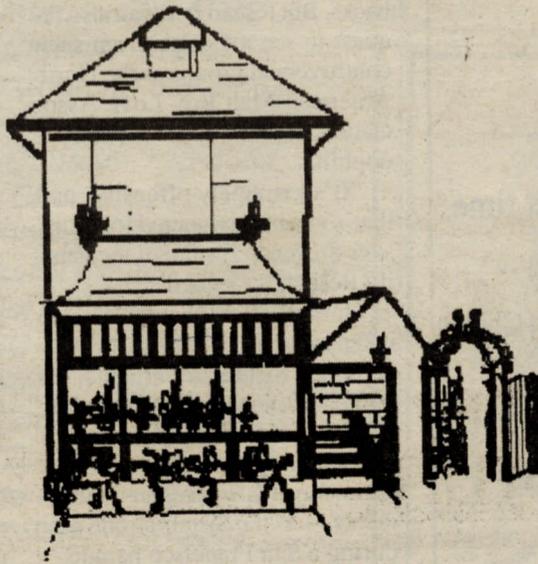
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Gay Philanthropist Seeks Ambassadorship

By Jean H. Lee
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — James Hormel has all the makings of a distinguished U.S. ambassador: a law degree, diplomatic experience, a pedigree and a reputation as one of San Francisco's most generous philanthropists.

But there is one catch to Hormel's nomination as ambassador to Luxembourg: he's Gay.

Hormel, 66, would become the country's first openly Gay ambassador — if his nomination, submitted by President Clinton a second time, ever makes it out of committee.

Christian conservatives have fiercely opposed Hormel's nomination, calling him a radical activist with a Gay-rights agenda. Last year, even though the Senate Foreign Relations Committee ap-

proved the nomination, several conservative Republican lawmakers, with help from Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, stalled a full Senate vote.

Clinton started anew this year, resubmitting the nomination to the Senate. The Foreign Relations Committee has not scheduled hearings.

"The only reason they oppose him is because some of those on the extreme right have asked that a Gay person not be allowed to serve as ambassador of this country," says Richard Socarides, a White House aide. "It's simply base discrimination."

If the nomination fails this year to reach the floor, Clinton could always appoint Hormel during a recess. The next one falls at Easter.

Hormel's supporters — some who have pushed for a recess appointment — say he is eminently

qualified to serve as ambassador. A trained lawyer and a onetime law school dean, Hormel has served on several boards of directors and twice was named to U.S. delegations to the United Nations before being proposed as envoy to tiny Luxembourg, population 425,000.

"I hardly view myself as a 'radical,'" he wrote to Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore.

Friends add that he is charming and funny, a good listener and conversationalist who is a consummate host.

"He's very bright, he's very good with people. He has a real sense of foreign relations, always has," says Alice Turner, who was married to Hormel for 10 years. "He is extraordinarily well-qualified — overqualified — for this appointment."

His nomination cleared the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1997 and secured bipartisan Senate support. Luxembourg, which is 97 percent Catholic, said it would welcome Hormel as ambassador.

Then, Christian conservatives got wind of Hormel's nomination.

"This is a man who uses his incredible financial resources to promote the homosexual agenda. He's funding homosexual marriage, homosexuals in the military," says Andrea Sheldon, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition. "He does not represent — he does not embody — the standard of most Americans, and he will be going overseas and representing America."

At the center of the controversy: a cozy alcove in the San Francisco Main Public Library that bears Hormel's name.

Several years ago, Hormel gave the library \$500,000. In gratitude, the library named its Gay and Lesbian collection after him. He was touched, friends say.

Among items are the papers of Harvey Milk and Randy Shilts, rare film footage and pulp paperbacks. But researchers can also request to see materials from such controversial groups as the North American Man Boy Love Association, accused of advocating pedophilia.

"It's extremely offensive, and that's in a library named for him," says Steven Schwalm of the Family Research Council.

Hormel's opponents are also incensed that he refuses to condemn the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, men who dress in drag as nuns. TV footage once showed him laughing — friends say in reaction to a broadcaster's comments — as the Sisters strode past during a San Francisco parade.

That angered William

Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, who urged senators to oppose Hormel.

"Any person who cannot find it within himself to quickly and decisively break with those who engage in religious bigotry has no legitimate role to play in representing the U.S.," he said last year. "That would be like sending Louis Farrakhan to Israel or David Duke to Kenya."

And Hormel's critics cite his financial contribution to an educational video about homosexuality.

"If he was a homosexual and wasn't making an issue out of it, how would anybody know?" Schwalm says. "But he's aggressively promoting homosexuality in every venue."

Hormel has vowed not to promote a Gay-rights agenda as ambassador. But three Republican senators — Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas, Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma and Bob Smith of New Hampshire — publicly put holds on Hormel's nomination to prevent a roll call. Others did so anonymously.

"This is not a tolerance issue," Smith said last year. "This is a matter of advocacy of the Gay lifestyle."

Majority Leader Trent Lott, who last summer compared homosexuality to vices such as kleptomania and sex addiction, refused to schedule a floor vote. Hormel's nomination languished, despite pleas by 42 senators.

"It was quite frustrating. On one hand, you have these anti-Gay senators saying we don't need legislation to protect Gays and Lesbians, but you have the United States Senate discriminating against someone because he's Gay," says David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign. "It was very un-American and unfair."

The attacks so angered his ex-wife that she wrote Lott: "This is a good man. Give him a chance."

She speaks warmly of the man she has known for more than 45 years since they were college sweethearts. They remain friends, and Hormel often invites his ex-wife and her current husband to his San Francisco home.

Together, the Hormels raised four daughters and a son. But after a decade of marriage, she sought a divorce.

"Then he was free to come out and be who he was," Dr. Turner said by phone from her Virginia home. "He didn't choose to be Gay. He was trying so hard to be somebody he wasn't."

James Catherwood Hormel, heir to the Hormel Meat Co. fortune, grew up privileged in Austin, Minn., among chauffeurs and bodyguards. He has described his

childhood as "lonely, and very isolated."

He has spoken of seeing no Gay role models while struggling with his sexuality, even after seeking books about homosexuality while in law school.

"Being a very conventional sort of adolescent who was concerned about what people thought of him, I did everything I could to suppress those feelings," he told the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 1997.

After coming out and moving to San Francisco in the mid-70s, Hormel launched his career as a patron for social justice. He helped create the Human Rights Campaign, now the nation's largest Gay-rights group, and began giving away a quarter of his yearly income.

Hormel, who cannot grant interviews while his nomination is pending, has described himself as "part elder statesman for a constituency that is still in its adolescence in terms of experiencing its wisdom and empowerment."

"I can be a resource for that constituency to grow and develop," he told the *San Francisco Examiner* in 1996. "I am especially curious about why we seem to work so hard to create class, status and other devices that separate and exclude."

Hormel has been generous to AIDS and civil rights groups, and to arts and education. In recent years he also has supported two issues close to his heart: breast cancer and autism. His mother suffered from breast cancer and four of his grandchildren are autistic.

Far from being a radical activist, Hormel is a devoted family man — to his partner, Timothy Wu, and to his children and 13 grandchildren, friends say.

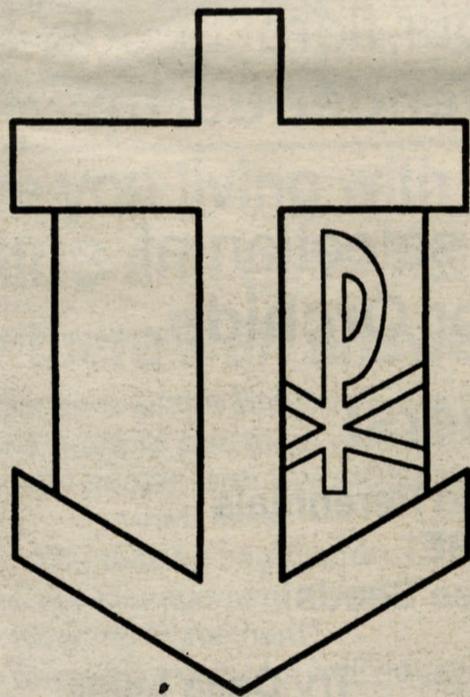
"My father has better family values than most parents I know. He is very dedicated to his family," says James Hormel Jr., who moved to San Francisco. "Our family is different, yes, but it is extremely strong. We love each other very much."

Friends describe Hormel as frustrated but gracious, conceding that his detractors have the right to say what they wish.

"He is the true definition of a gentleman," says San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno. A tidal wave of support and a conviction that he is qualified for the position has kept Hormel from backing down, he says.

"He's not a hypocrite," his son says. "This is part of who my father is and what he's instilled in us: You stick up for what you believe in... even if it doesn't look good or isn't the popular thing to do."

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Task Force Condemns Brutal Alabama Murder; Massive Mobilization Countered Violence and Discrimination

WASHINGTON, DC — The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has condemned the brutal murder of Billy Jack Gaither in Coosa County, Ala. The confessed killers claim to have committed the crime because Gaither was Gay.

"The brutality of this crime is evidence of the pervasive violence and prejudice against Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in our culture," said Tracey Conaty, NGLTF communications director. "It is meaningless to say 'no' to hate but 'yes' to discriminate. The contradiction is killing us. Anti-Gay leaders must not only disavow hate violence, but also stop promoting the prejudice and discrimination that feed it."

Gaither, 39, was last seen on the evening of Feb. 19. He was in a bar in Sylacauga, 40 miles south of Birmingham, with the two men later arrested for his murder. Gaither was taken to a remote location, bludgeoned to death with an axe handle and set on fire. His charred remains were discovered the next day.

Charles Monroe Butler, 21, was arrested on March 1, while Steven Eric Mullins, 25, was arrested March 3. In statements to local police, both confessed to planning the crime two weeks in advance and attributed their act to Gaither's sexual orientation.

The murder came two weeks before the kickoff of a national campaign to focus attention on

Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender discrimination and violence. During the week of March 21-27, activists in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico participated in actions in every state capital. Called Equality Begins at Home, the 250 rallies, lobby days, town meetings and religious events called for an end to injustice and bigotry. Events in fifteen states specifically addressed hate crimes.

"We call on all people committed to ending prejudice and violence to stand with us in state capitals across America," continued Conaty. "We will not stand idly by while our people are murdered one by one."

See related story on page 4

In Colorado, It's Mom and Nana in Lesbian Custody Battle

By Sandy Shore
Associated Press Writer

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP) — Like many children, a 9-year-old girl in Golden divides her time between two parents who no longer share a home.

Unlike most, she calls one parent "Mom" and the other "Nana."

It's an unusual family situation that is bound by an even more unusual court order requiring Kelly Cunningham, or "Mom," and Leanne Bueker, or "Nana," to share custody of the girl in Colorado.

The case, which has been hailed by Gay rights advocates as a landmark custody ruling, was back in county court Mar. 18.

Responding to a motion to close the hearing, Jefferson County District Judge Christopher Munch ruled the public would be permitted to attend parts involving nonemotional issues, such as jobs and finances, but that testimony about the child's emotional welfare would be kept private.

"I have to do a balancing act here," Munch said. The motion to close had been brought by attorneys for both sides, who said publicity about the case already has led other children to tease the girl.

Munch must decide whether Ms. Cunningham may take the child to Albany, N.Y., to create a family with her new husband, Michael Naylor.

Ms. Cunningham has contended the joint custody order has denied her daughter the opportunity to live in a stable, loving environment. Ms. Bueker claimed it is in the best interest of the girl to remain in Colorado, where both women may play an active role in her life.

A telephone message seeking comment from Ms. Cunningham's attorney was not returned, and Ms. Bueker's current attorney declined

comment. But Mara Pawlowski, who represented Ms. Bueker until recently, said the key is the finding of the best interest of the child.

"This child is a very bright, gifted child who does not want to move to New York," she said.

Ms. Cunningham and Ms. Bueker began a relationship and moved in together in 1987. They decided the next year to have a child, according to court records, and Ms. Cunningham was artificially inseminated.

Her daughter was born in July 1989. Seven years later, Ms. Cunningham, a computer programmer, informed Ms. Bueker that she had met Naylor through the Internet, fallen in love and wanted to pursue a relationship.

The women separated and Ms. Bueker, a mortgage banking supervisor, sued for custody even though she was not listed on the birth certificate and did not adopt the girl le-

gally.

Court records indicate the child loved both women equally and feared losing one through the breakup.

Last year, Jefferson County District Judge Frank Plaut awarded the two women joint custody, calling Ms. Cunningham the girl's "biological" mother and Ms. Bueker the "psychological" mother.

He based the decision on a state law granting custody rights to an unrelated person who has had physical custody of a child for at least six months prior to a separation.

Plaut also said the girl should remain in Colorado, where she could be nurtured by both women.

The decision was one of a handful nationwide in which a court has legally recognized a family with parents of the same sex, said Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.



Sad to Say, Happy to Hear

By Butch Valentine



Sad to Say... Butch has been very busy with this major project... restaging last month's Sinatra Benefit for Theatre Memphis on April 7.

Happy to hear... Look what he is accomplishing for the AIDS community.

Butch is taking the month off from writing his column. He will return in the May issue. —Eds.

Church Up In Arms Over Easter Drag Queen Party

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Catholic leaders want the city to revoke a permit for a street party on Easter thrown by a troupe of habit-wearing drag queens known as the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

The Sisters have a permit to close a section of a road in the largely Gay Castro District to celebrate their 20th anniversary.

Allowing a group that "mocks the Catholic Church" to close a public street on Easter is comparable to "allowing a group of neo-Nazis to close a city street for a celebration on the Jewish feast of Passover," said Maurice Healy, a spokesman for San Francisco's Roman Catholic Arch-

diocese.

He wrote in the archdiocese's official newspaper, *Catholic San Francisco*: "This group has garnered a reputation for outrageous behavior by mocking religious life, ridicule of Catholic institutions and profane references to sacred liturgies."

But one of the Sisters, known as Sister MaryMaye Himm, said the party is on.

"We're really appalled at the insensitivity of comparing us to neo-Nazis, which totally invalidates the Jewish struggle against Nazis," Himm said. "The Catholic Church should be ashamed for promoting such absurdity."

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What Was *The Children's Hour*?

In 1933, best-selling mystery novelist Dashiell Hammett had just finished writing *The Thin Man* and was looking for his next project. While skimming a collection of British court cases titled *Bad Companions*, he found a subject he thought would make an excellent play. But instead of writing the play himself, he passed the idea to his lover, Lillian Hellman, who used it as the basis of her first play, *The Children's Hour*.

The case that

bed." Although other witnesses contradicted Cumming's testimony, the jurors were unable to dismiss her vivid story, and they decided for Dame Cumming Gordon. A long, tortuous appeal, which wasn't resolved until 1821, turned the tables and found for Pirie and Woods. But after legal fees and court costs, the impoverished schoolmistresses collected only a fraction of the 10,000 pounds. Dame Cumming Gordon owed

as a risk-taker and brought it to the stage anyway. *The Children's Hour* found a producer and opened on November 20, 1934.

The manager of New York's Shubert Theater warned Hellman, "This play could land us all in jail." But audiences loved *The Children's Hour*, the police stayed away, and the show ran for more than 600 performances. Critics, too, applauded it as "finely and bravely written" and "the season's

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PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO



Hammett discovered involved a Scottish libel trial of 1811. Jane Pirie and Marianne Woods were close friends and former governesses who decided to start a girls' boarding school in Edinburgh in 1809. At first, they had trouble attracting students, but the situation changed dramatically with the admission of 14-year-old Jane Cumming. Cumming was the orphaned, illegitimate, half-Indian granddaughter of Dame Cumming Gordon, who, despite her social standing, had been unable to find a school that would accept the young girl of color. When Pirie and Woods admitted the girl, Dame Cumming Gordon was so grateful that she convinced her friends to enroll their daughters, too. The future of Pirie and Woods's school seemed secure.

But in November 1810, young Cumming told her grandmother about "disturbing" events she had witnessed at the school. Outraged, Dame Cumming Gordon immediately withdrew the child and wrote letters to her friends, encouraging them to do the same. The reasons, she wrote, were so shocking that she could only relate them in person. What Cumming had told her grandmother was that Pirie and Woods had been sexually intimate with each other.

It is unknown whether the two women were actually lovers or simply romantic friends who kissed and embraced each other in public, as many women of the day did. But only 18 months after their school opened, Pirie and Woods lost all their students and, with them, their livelihood. They engaged a lawyer and sued Dame Cumming Gordon for libel.

At the trial, which began on March 15, 1811, and lasted several months, Cumming's testimony was corroborated by two other witnesses. Cumming provided graphic sexual descriptions of the women's behavior, which included making "a wet kind of noise, attended with motions of the body, quick and high breathing, and a shaking of the

them.

For her play, Lillian Hellman appropriated the story line of the Pirie and Woods case but moved the drama to 20th-century New England. Her protagonists, Martha and Karen, are college friends who decide to open a girls' boarding school together. When Mary, a malevolent student, sees them hugging innocently, she decides to get revenge on her teachers for a harsh punishment she received.

Mary implies to her grandmother, a wealthy and influential woman, that Martha and Karen are lovers, although Karen has a fiance. The grandmother spreads the rumor.

Martha and Karen are ostracized by the community, and they lose all their students. They then sue for libel — unsuccessfully. In a twist at the end, Martha realizes she is indeed a Lesbian who has always loved Karen, and she hangs herself in shame.

Although it was illegal to depict Lesbianism on the Broadway stage at that time, Hellman saw herself

success, Samuel Goldwyn paid \$50,000 for the movie rights to Hellman's play without any knowledge of its subject matter. When told that it was about Lesbians, he supposedly replied, "That's OK, we'll turn them into Americans."

Because the strict Hays Production Code policed "morality" on the Hollywood screen, the movie version of the play skirted Lesbianism. *These Three* (1936), which William Wyler directed and Hellman herself scripted, heterosexualized Mary's lie: Instead of getting caught hugging Karen (Merle Oberon), Martha (Miriam Hopkins) is accused of "carrying on" with Karen's fiance (Joel McCrea) in a bedroom near the students' quarters. Unlike in the play, heterosexual Martha doesn't commit suicide but simply leaves town at the end.

Hellman justified the mutilation of her own play by claiming that *The Children's Hour* had never really been about Lesbianism at all, but about a lie ruining the lives of innocent people.

Twenty-six years later, when the Hays Code loosened, Wyler decided to direct a second film version of Hellman's play, restoring its original title and theme. *The Children's Hour* (1962), starring Shirley MacLaine, Audrey Hepburn and James Garner, was not the critical or popular success that either Hellman's play or *These Three* had been. The grim ending didn't make sense, MacLaine (who played Martha) later complained, because Wyler excised important scenes from the script that clearly

showed Martha's growing love for Karen.

The Children's Hour is remembered today by Lesbian and Gay film historians for its early, if negative, depiction of Lesbianism. But true to its time and to Hellman's play, the word "Lesbian" was never even spoken on screen.

David Bianco, M.A. is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at DaveBianco@aol.com. For more *Past Out*, visit www.gay.net.



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Backwards and Forwards

By Vincent Astor

Thought for the day: A picture may speak ten thousand words, but a caption can be only so long.

Nashville Ho!

By Lady A.

We are not going to preach to you this time, we just are going to tell you about our lovely weekend. There were too many events to take them all in for Equality Begins At Home. We attended, accompanied by David Stroud who turned the big 3-0 on Sunday. Several of us drove up through that dismal rain and were rewarded by somewhat a

comedy of errors upon arrival at the hotel. That past, a gathering was held at The World's End restaurant to welcome us to Nashville. We found a scrumptious Korean restaurant (right across the street) and then went to the Chute for the turning party. After all, with a leather run in town, one might as well get one's birthday whippin' from a serious practitioner of the art, ne c'est pas? That, too, was successful and the scenery was better than the Smokies.

The speakers at the rally next day were all inspiring. It began and ended with religious speakers who are strong supporters and friends from the larger Christian community. Rev. Greg Bullard spoke on behalf of MCC Nashville. We re-

membered one of his favorite phrases, well partially anyhow. It had to do with the small number of Bible verses regarding same-sex doin's and the much larger number of verses which have to do with opposite-sex doin's. His conclusion was simply that straight people need much more supervision than we do.

Bottled water and brownies from Lovin' Oven were supplied by the owner of Your Way Café, there was a suggested donation, but they could be obtained on the house. We fervently hope that this rally and events will continue the struggle for equal rights for all of us.

By the by, while we're taking over things, NOW (National Organization for Women) is promoting flying your rainbow flag on Flag Day (June 14). Don't not fly your American flag, just fly both. Etiquette note: If both flags fly together, the American flag, if on a staff, must be flown higher and take the more prominent position. If you want to go all out, put the American flag in the center and a rainbow flag on either side. The state of Tennessee and even the city of Memphis have separate flags. The stars should be to the left of the viewer and the red stripe on the rainbow flag goes either left or on top. Those with an especially militant attitude hang the Stars and Stripes upside down (this is a distress signal).

While we have the floor, we must say (and we are unanimous in this) that we had another fine time at 501's 5th anniversary show. We heard the same thing from every performer we talked to, it was just a come-as-you-are-and-do-what-you-wanna kind of evening. The mulligan stew was tasty (it was St. Patrick's Day), and the company was quite receptive. Thanks to Shelby Lynn for according us "legend" status at such an early age (moi, niny, not her).

Meanwhile, Back In Memphis....

The weekend got off to a start on Thursday for the 5th annual Misty McEntire awards. An extensive buffet was catered by Arizona! and began at 8-ish. My favorites were the pasta with the salmon and portobello mushrooms, the seasoned rice, the Parmesan Italian salad dressing and a mammoth cake flavored with rum and covered in whipped cream, fresh fruit and strawberry

glaze. The trademark chocolate-dipped strawberries were also present. The buffet was donated, and both Friends For Life and Loving Arms received donations from the ticket sales. The event was held at Madison Flame.

It was a show of very high quality, but I would suggest perhaps moving it to Sunday and beginning a tad earlier. It is unique in that Misty and co-hostess Hetti McDaniels get to sit down through the whole thing instead of standing. I

know that's welcome. Shelby Lynn played trophy girl and there were numerous guest entertainers. Jo Anne Badey was one of the featured performers.

Highlights were: Horizon Award for newer entertainers-Taylor Huntington; Entertainer of the Year-Jackee; Hall of Fame-Friends For Life (organization), Hetti McDaniels (individual); Lifetime Achievement-Triangle Journal News (organization), Simply Vonna Valentino (individual). Tsarus won as Leather Club of the Year (which is no surprise) and the Jungle as Bar of the Year (which was a big surprise since, as owner Sharon Wray noted, it has been open less than a year. It has made a good impression.) Shelby Lynn, Gary Bodell, and Odie from Club 501 also won awards.

On Friday, I stopped by the opening reception for the 6th annual St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament (SPIT) sponsored by Brothers & Sisters Bowling League. 135 bowlers from across the country (one from Canada) were registered for three days of events at Cordova Lanes, the Holiday Inn Midtown, Backstreet and Pipeline. I remarked to the organizers at the Backstreet party how highbrow the tournament has obviously become when I discovered caviar on the buffet. Whether the caviar mattered or not, it turned out to be a grand weekend and a role model event of the highest order.

Members of the Cotton Pickin' Squares also attended a square dance at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, that is, those who were not in Kansas City for the annual Fly-In weekend.

Warm Fuzzy of the Month

As many things as I have said about Tom Rowe and Trent Gatewood, owners of One More, there is one more to mention. I have written about Aphrodite shows, fund-raising murals, new patios and live music. All of this support

culminated last fall when Tom and Trent were given the official designation of Friends of Aphrodite.

The Friends of Aphrodite are those individuals who are not members of the club for one reason or another and whom the club wishes to honor and officially associate with the full members. It is a very tangible way to show Aphrodite's appreciation, particularly of the male friends of this women's organization. Each year, such a distinction is awarded, and Tom and Trent were so honored in 1998.

It may be a lesser known fact that their weekday business, TNT Painting, employs a large percentage of female professional painters. Feminists take note, this is significant and probably a first (but we will leave others to tell us specifically).

And don't forget, even Ann Landers has to apologize sometimes.

Other Stuff

In the Grove is advertising swing music every night. On Thursdays, the music becomes live and may include other styles. Thump-thump music is rarely on the program.

One More also continues to offer occasional live entertainment.

Backstreet will host the Miss Gay Mississippi USA pageant on Fri., Apr. 23, at 9 p.m.

Laura Lee Love will host a party on March 28 at Madison Flame to make an announcement which I'm not supposed to tell you about until she does. So, if you want to know before the end of April, you'd better show up.

The annual Pride Picnic will take place on April 17 at Plough Park. Food and drinks will be available and some fun events are scheduled.

MGLCC's Twinkie Museum Film Festival will also take place on April 16-18 at the University of Memphis Psychology Auditorium. It's free! Go! Ten films over three days (although I worry about the one titled *God Shave the Queen*).

April 7 the successful Tribute to Frank Sinatra is being restaged to benefit WKNO at Theatre Memphis. If you missed it the first time, now's your chance.

Happy 40th birthday again to Dottie Jones from your own personal birthday fairy.

Final Round

Mark your calendars for April 30, 2000: The Millennium March on Washington!

Ta, ta.
V. A.

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By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

The Biology of Butch-Femme*

One of the most enduring perceptions about Lesbians is that they come in two types, "butch" and "femme." According to the description given by JoAnn Loulan in her 1990 book *The Lesbian Erotic Dance*, butch Lesbians are assertive, athletic and aggressive, they tend to adopt traditionally masculine styles of dress and appearance and they are often leaders. Femme Lesbians are affectionate, sensitive, yielding, child-like, and child-loving; and they adopt more typically feminine dress and mannerisms.

Do butch and femme Lesbians form couples, thus mimicking the coupling of men and women in ste-

reotypical heterosexual relationships? And if so, why is that? Are butches and femmes biologically different, perhaps as a result of a different genetic endowment, or is it more a matter of culture and role-playing?

The butch/femme distinction has been fairly durable in the history of Lesbian culture, although attitudes towards it have changed greatly over time. According to Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline Davis, whose book *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* recounts the lives of working-class Lesbians in Buffalo, N.Y. in the 1950s, Lesbians of that era were required to declare themselves as

butch or femme and to act accordingly, and Lesbian relationships could only be between a butch and a femme.

With the rise of Lesbian-feminism, the butch/femme distinction became politically suspect: butches were too much like men and femmes were too much like men's sex-objects. As described by Lillian Faderman (in her book *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*) the ideal Lesbian relationship in the 1970s was one in which the partners "took turns being soft and strong."

Nowadays, the butch/femme distinction is very much back in evidence, but it often seems to have a more ironic or playful quality than it did in the 1950s.

In 1996 a group of psychologists at Georgia State University, led by Sharon Pearcey, reported on their study of 28 Lesbian couples in the Atlanta area. They first asked all the participants to rate themselves on an 8-point "butch/femme" scale. They found a significant negative correlation between the scores of the two members of the pairs: in other words, the more butch one member rated herself, the more femme the other rated herself.

This finding supports the traditional notion that Lesbian relationships tend to be formed across the butch/femme divide. It runs

counter to a wide body of literature, based mainly on heterosexual couples, which says that couples are very similar to each other in many characteristics—that "opposites don't attract," in other words. Heterosexual couples, however, are already "opposite" in the sense of being a male and a female together. Perhaps a portion of that "oppositeness" serves as a glue in many Lesbian relationships.

Intrigued to know whether there might be some biological basis for the butch/femme difference, Pearcey and her colleagues went on to measure testosterone levels in the women in the study. Although the differences were not great, they found a significant tendency for the more butch partner in a relationship to have higher testosterone levels (as measured in saliva) than the more femme partner.

The authors interpret their findings to mean that pre-existing (possibly innate) endocrinological differences between individual Lesbians influence the selection of mates or of gender roles.

While I certainly accept this as an interesting possibility, one should also be aware of another possible interpretation, which is that the differences in testosterone levels result from roles taken in the relationship, rather than causing

them. Researchers who have studied monkeys kept in same-sex pairs have found that altering the dominance relationship between the two animals influences their hormonal status, including their testosterone levels. And there is some evidence in humans that changes in circumstances, such as promotions, stress and so forth, influence hormonal status.

To make a strong argument that a woman's hormone levels predispose her to take the butch or femme role in a Lesbian relationship, it would be necessary to make a long-term, perhaps life-long study of a large cohort of women.

As to the question of whether there is a genetic predisposition to being a butch or femme Lesbian, the data aren't yet available. Still, the traits that characterize the butch/femme difference have a substantial genetic basis. According to the long-running University of Minnesota study of twins reared apart, for example, genes account for at least half of the reason why people differ in aggressiveness and dominance. Thus it is possible that, whatever path leads a woman to a Lesbian identity, inborn predisposition may influence her to become a particular kind of Lesbian.

United Methodist Bishop To File Complaint Against 92 Ministers

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A United Methodist bishop is taking the first step towards a possible church trial that could decide what to do about 92 ministers who officiated en masse at a "holy union" for two Lesbians in dramatic defiance of a church rule against such same-sex ceremonies.

Bishop Melvin Talbert, head of the 375-church California-Nevada Annual Conference, said filed a formal church complaint March 23 against clergy who took part in or gave their names to support the Jan. 15 ceremony.

The complaint accused clergy of "disobedience" to the denomination's rules. The complaint will be investigated by a committee of clergy and lay people. Talbert will then decide whether the evidence merits a church trial, which could bring penalties as severe as removing the pastors as clergy.

The California-Nevada Annual Conference has impaneled such a jury only once before, but the minister in question confessed to inappropriate sexual conduct before the trial began, Talbert said.

The complaint is aimed at the Rev. Don Fado of St. Mark's United Methodist Church of suburban Sacramento and about 91 colleagues who performed the act of "ecclesiastical disobedience" for Jeanne Barnett, 68, a retired state unemployment administrator, and Ellie Charlton, 63, a divorced great-grandmother. The two Folsom women have long been ac-

tive in church activities.

Fado said he was not surprised by the decision to file a complaint, calling it an "appropriate" move.

"If we can show in this conference that we can deal with this in a creative way without silencing those who differ, that will be the challenge," he said.

More than 1,000 clergy, lay leaders, Gay men, Lesbians and other supporters attended the joyful ceremony that was moved to the Sacramento Community Center because of the crowds and featured folk songs, dancing and poetry.

The ministers lined up on risers on the stage to chant the blessing that Fado proclaimed could land them all in trouble with church officials:

"O God, our maker, we gladly proclaim to the world that Jeanne and Ellie are loving partners together for life."

"In our church, unfortunately, I'm allowed to come into their home and bless their house, bless their car, bless their tractor and even bless their dog, but I am not allowed to bless them," Fado said after the ceremony.

The ceremony took place in a state where voters next March will decide whether only marriages between a man and a woman are legal. The initiative, placed on the ballot by a Republican senator who could not get the Legislature to pass the same measure, is expected to generate an expensive and emo-

tional fight.

The conflict over same-sex weddings has been simmering for years within the United Methodist Church, with 8.5 million members America's second biggest Protestant body after the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1996, the church's legislature, the General Conference, took a stand against clergy around the country who had been quietly performing same-sex couple blessings. It added these words to the Methodists' Book of Discipline: "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches."

The next year, the Rev. Jimmy

Creech performed a blessing for a Lesbian couple in his Omaha, Neb., congregation. Last March, a Methodist tribunal decided to take no action against Creech. The denomination's supreme court overturned that decision last August, finding Creech guilty and declaring the ban to be binding law.

Talbert himself disagrees with the church policy. Before the August court ruling, Talbert had said he wouldn't prevent same-sex ceremonies. He issued a letter Jan. 6 stating he is obliged to uphold church law, but "will also continue as a strong advocate to change the position of our church to be more consistent with the teachings and compassion of Jesus."



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Deep Inside HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

Ethan Green, Movie Star?

Eric Orner, the Gay cartoonist and creator of "The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life Of Ethan Green," has a deal in the works to bring a live-action version of his Chelsea-boy comic strip to the big screen. Orner will be creatively involved with the project, which will have the same fatalist-but-funny tone as his cartoon. While the plot is hush-hush, Gay comedian and *Openly Bob* author Bob Smith will most likely write the script. Director George Bamber, who worked on the Gay Sundance hit *Happy, Texas* will helm the project, which is expected to go into production in about a year. The strip appears in more than 80 Gay and alternative publications around the country, and was the winner of the 1998 Sappho Award for Creative Expression (part of the Vice Versa Awards). No word yet on who will play Ethan, but his doppelganger Robert Downey Jr. seems to me like a good fit.

Master and Servant

Move over Mr. French, there's a new butt, er, butler in town and this one's hot! Gay actor Rupert Everett has convinced Paramount Pictures to pony up a pretty penny to option the book *Servile on Sunset* for him to star in. Everett will play a wealthy British aristocrat whose fortune goes bust. In order for him to live in the manner to

which he's accustomed, he must take a job as a butler for a "new money" American family in the decidedly down-home setting of Texas. During the fish (and chips)-out-of-water tale, the shallow snob discovers that true worth is found (you guessed it) within. The project won't get rolling until Everett finishes up acting chores on *The Next Best Thing* with Madonna.

Hippie Chick

Remember that long-in-the-works Janis Joplin biopic that was supposed to happen with dyke chanteuse Melissa Etheridge starring and Etheridge's wife Julie Cypher directing? Well the project is back on track, this time with *Clueless* actress Brittany Murphy set to play the bisexual rock icon who died at age 27 from a drug overdose. Director Gary Fleder (*Kiss The Girls*) will bring the project to the big screen.

Rumor around town is that Etheridge's screen test proved disappointing and, despite her strong vocal ability, forced the studio to search for a new leading lady. Enter the talented (and more age-appropriate) Murphy, who should be able to pull off the Texas-born singer's twang, since she voices the character of "Luanne" on *King of the Hill*. Murphy is expected to sing some Joplin songs in the feature.

Scream in the New Year

Cashing in on what could be the

most lucrative horror franchise of all time, Miramax has shored up a deal with queer scribe Kevin Williamson to write the screenplay for the third installment of the *Scream* series. While details of the plot are sketchy, the story is rumored to focus on Neve Campbell's character moving to Los Angeles to begin an acting career. The film will reunite Campbell with fellow *Scream*-ers Courteney Cox and David Arquette; and it will begin shooting in late spring or early summer to accommodate Cox's and Campbell's television production



Neve Campbell

schedules. Look for *Scream 3* in theaters December 10th.

Romeo San Vicente's social life is mostly fabulous. You can contact Romeo care of this publication or at RomeoDeep@aol.com. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit www.Gay.net or www.popcornq.com.

Teenagers Protest Homosexual Theme in Television Show

WILMINGTON (AP) — More than 30 teen-agers gathered outside Wilmington's EUE Screen Gems Studios to protest the homosexual subject matter of the locally filmed television show *Dawson's Creek*.

Members of Youths Against the Promotion of Homosexuality held placards Mar. 11 reading "Jack and Jill, Not Jack and Bill" and "Hollywood: No More Gay Promo."

Screen Gems' employees were greeted with chants of "Don't Holly-weird me!" as they drove into the studios' parking lots.

"We're sick and tired of Hollywood trying to force its pro-homosexual values down teenagers' throats on shows like *Dawson's Creek*," said Robert Hales, 17. "This show is 100 times worse than *Ellen* because they're targeting high school kids with their 'pro-gay' propaganda."

Ellen, which starred Lesbian comedian Ellen DeGeneres, created a national stir two years ago when the main character an-

nounced she was a Lesbian.

The protests about *Dawson's Creek* center around a 16-year-old character who announced in a recent episode that he was homosexual.

Kerr Smith, whose character Jack was introduced on *Dawson's Creek* this season, said the show

simply explores common adolescent themes.

"Everybody knows that *Dawson's Creek* addresses prevalent issues about teenagers, and one of them is homosexuality," he said. "It's in the schools now. Ten years ago, it wasn't talked about, but now it is."



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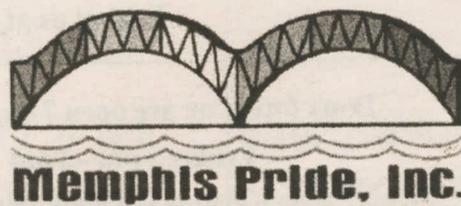
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Murder

Continued from page 1

asked them to keep the killing quiet so as not to interfere in the investigation.

"We wanted to make certain it was not one of those things that would be swept under the rug," said David White, state coordinator of the organization.

While Alabama does not have a law allowing the death penalty in hate-related killings, Bradley said capital charges could be filed based on evidence of premeditation, conspiracy and, possibly, kidnapping.

Tracey Conaty of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D.C., said Alabama is one of 19 states with hate-crime laws that do not cover offenses related to sexual orientation.

"The message it is sending is that some hate crimes are wrong

and others are not," she said.

State Rep. Alvin Holmes, D-Montgomery, has filed a bill that would extend Alabama's law to cover Gays. Holmes said he was moved to file the bill by the death of 21-year-old Matthew Shepard in Wyoming.

Shepard, a Gay youth, was beaten and left tied to a fence in frigid weather.

In Sylacauga, about 40 miles southeast of Birmingham, there was remorse over the Gaither slaying.

"He was a good person. He didn't deserve this," said Donna McKee, a waitress and bartender at a bar frequented by Gaither.

"This is not the type of place where this happens," said optician George Carlton, president of the City Council. "Just because you don't like someone, you don't beat them to death."

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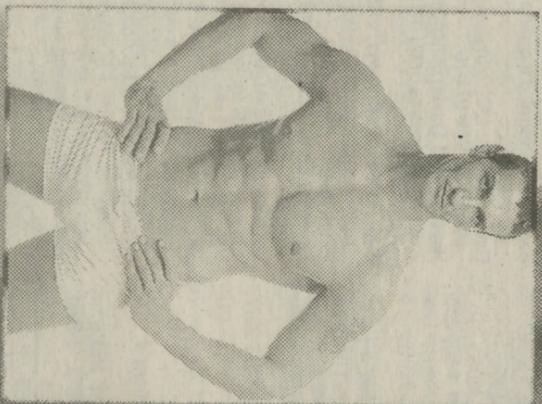
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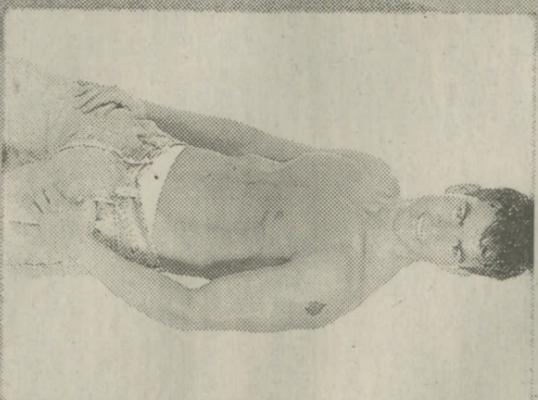
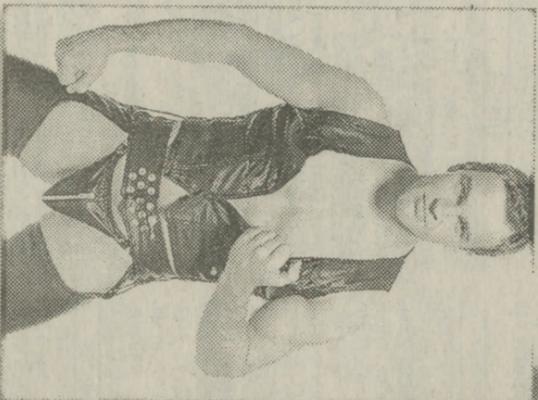
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