

## English Teachers Endorse Holiday Inns Boycott

CINCINNATI--The National Council of Teachers of English endorsed at its annual convention recently a boycott of Holiday Inns International until the corporation issues "an express guarantee of non-discrimination against Lesbians and Gay males as consistent policy."

NCTE cited as reasons for endorsing the boycott the attempt to cancel the Fifth Annual Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men in Memphis and an order by Holiday Inns to its Ft. Meyers, Florida innkeeper to cease renting facilities to the Metropolitan Community Church.

The Committee of the Concerns of Lesbians and Gays in the Teaching of English urged NCTE to endorse the boycott, and NCTE subsequently urged its affiliates to take similar actions. A second resolution, encouraging the passage of laws banning discrimination against homosexuals, was introduced to the NCTE meeting by Richard Follett, co-chair of the committee and Lesbian linguist Susan J. Wolfe.

The motions included concern statements about the Greenwich Village slayings which occurred the weekend of the convention, saying, "Sadly, homophobia is alive, well, and increasing."

The non-discrimination resolution praised NCTE's apparent concern with bias against Lesbians and Gay men during the past 5 years and noted that the committee has found that discrimination is still a problem. A survey conducted in 1978 of NCTE members concluded that homophobia is

evident within the Council. Forty-seven percent of the teachers polled responded, and 56% noted that Gays who made themselves known would probably face overt job discrimination. Twenty-three percent of the teachers felt that Gays should not be hired by primary schools.

NCTE's resolution also commended other organizations, such as the National Education Association, for

passing similar resolutions.

The Conference '80 Planning Committee of the 5th Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men called for an international boycott of Holiday Inns in August following the conference after noting that Holiday Inns had "used every possible means" to have the conference cancelled during the week prior to the event. The

Committee noted also that numerous other "harassment" factors by H.I. entered into the decision to call for the boycott.

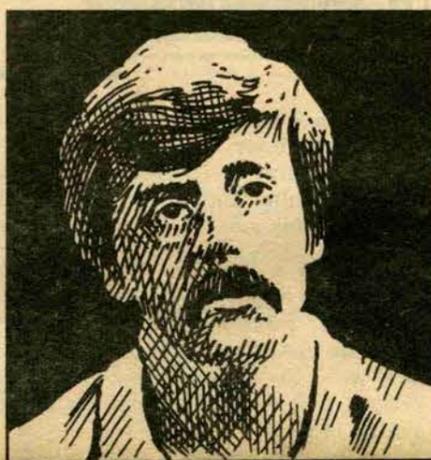
It has been reported, though no official statement has been released by the organizers, that similar discrimination occurred at the Pennsylvania Lesbian/Gay Conference held last year at a Holiday Inn in Harrisburg.

## "Bruce Puce" Is Back--On WLVS

MEMPHIS--DJ Ron Jordan, who was fired last year from local radio station FM-100, has resurfaced with his anti-Gay "Bruce Puce" characterization on country radio station WLVS.

Jordan was fired from FM-100 because of "a disagreement with management decisions" following numerous protests of his anti-Gay characterizations by the Memphis Gay Coalition and of other offensive characterizations by other local groups. The Memphis Gay Coalition had aired a rebuttal to Jordan's "Bruce Puce" shortly before his firing. After the rebuttal was aired, Jordan's characterizations became more rather than less offensive.

Numerous complaints have already been voiced to WLVS about Jordan's attempted humor. Additionally, station WVEE, a "sister" station to WLVS, aired on the Chip Bramlett show some clips of Jordan's "Puce" characterizations recently as an attempt to show



Ron "Bruce Puce" Jordan

"the humor" of them. Bramlett, answering one Gay caller who protested the show, said, "I was just trying to have a little clean fun." When the caller said to Bramlett that one of his children

might be Gay, Bramlett said, "No way, Buster!"

Jordan recorded in December a "Christmas record" titled, "Hopalong Sissy."

Evidence of increasing protests by area Gays came from a recorded message left recently on the Memphis Gay Switchboard's answering machine. The male caller, according to a Switchboard spokesperson, "sounded very much like Jordan--or at least like a DJ with a very similar voice. He said that he just wanted to tell us to stop protesting 'Bruce Puce' on WLVS and to just 'quit it.' He identified himself as 'a concerned citizen.'"

It was suggested by members of the Memphis Gay Coalition at a January meeting that persons wishing to protest "Bruce Puce" do so by calling the sponsors of Jordan's show. Protesting to the advertisers, said the MGC, is much

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## Court Denies Distribution For Norfolk Paper

NORFOLK, VA--Norfolk federal district court denied on December 19 a move for a preliminary injunction to restore "full distribution and open display rights" for the Tidewater area Gay paper, *Our Own*, in the public libraries of Virginia Beach.

The issue had come to public referendum in the November 4 election and voters (48,000 to 13,000) rejected distribution rights for the paper. A lawsuit had previously been filed by the Unitarian Universalist Gay Community, publishers of *Our Own*, in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, in an attempt to restore distribution rights by charging that the ban violated the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution.

Judge V. Calvitt Clarke of the Eastern Virginia U.S. District Court ruled that attorneys for *Our Own* had entered no evidence to show that the change in treatment of *Our Own* (the termination of distribution rights) "could not have been the result of rational and normal library policies." He therefore concluded that there was no violation of the First or Fourteenth Amendments.

Complaints registered in March by two city council members and area religious fundamentalists prompted the City Manager to order suspension of display and distribution in the libraries

in Virginia Beach. The Library Board then recommended to City Council that it withdraw the distribution rights of the newspaper that had been granted in September of 1978. The Board also recommended that one file copy be kept in each of the branch libraries. This recommendation was not enacted, however, until after a June 16 heated debate between spokespersons for *Our Own* and its opponents at a Council meeting.

The single copy is not on public display with other newspapers currently, nor is it indexed in the library catalogue. The paper is, instead, filed in boxes containing newsletters.

The denial of the preliminary injunction to restore distribution rights will lead to a full trial which has been set for March 19, 1981.

Rev. Rodney Bell, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church and leader of the forces to ban the paper, has called upon the city to move immediately to finish the banning of *Our Own*.

"This is over a publication," said *Our Own* staff member Jayr Ellis. "That doesn't mean that they're not going to start crying out next about Gay bars, cruising spots, even Lesbian and Gay meetings. I really feel that they could take it farther."

ACLU Executive Director Chan Kendrick expressed little surprise at the court's denial of the injunction saying,

that they really expected to lose the first round. Kendrick noted that should the UUGC lose in full trial in March, they would probably go to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

A last minute affidavit by Virginia Beach Library Director Marcie Sims, filed on December 18, likely influenced Judge Clarke's decision. Clarke had mentioned Sims' statement that some months prior to the removal of *Our Own* from distribution, all other similar kinds of material had been removed.

Library sources, however, have denied that any materials were removed from the libraries previously.

Sims' statement to Judge Clarke has also said that "the libraries had

made an error in continuing to allow distribution of *Our Own*."

Library Board Chairperson Jack Robertson had been concerned prior to the public referendum concerning *Our Own*'s distribution rights about the "politicizing" of the library system on the issue. The Library Board had placed ads in local papers prior to the election urging voters to abstain on the referendum question. Local fundamentalists subsequently called for the dismissal of Robertson as Library Board Chairperson and threatened the use of their voting power to remove city council members opposing their position on the issue.

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## Something To Be Proud Of

The latest 1980 census figures place Memphis as 14th largest city in the United States, hardly anything to sneeze about when you consider that such cities as Washington, Cleveland, Boston, Seattle and Denver are smaller than we are. Smaller, that is, in terms of the number of people who live within the city limits of those cities. But the fact that we don't often appreciate is that these cities and numerous others with which we often compare ourselves are actually much larger than we are. The difference comes in what is termed "metropolitan area" or that populated area composed of the actual city and its suburbs. Memphis' metro area has fewer than one million people while Washington, for example, has slightly more than three million, even though Memphis has approximately 20,000 more residents within its city limits than does Washington.

So why the big fuss? Think of it this way. Memphis is bigger than Washington, but Washington has 2 million more people in its suburbs than does Memphis. This means, in effect, that Washington has more than two cities the size of Memphis surrounding it. But, as we twiddle our thumbs in disgust that we don't have the number of Gay bars and businesses that Washington has, we sigh and attribute our lacking to a subtle ineptitude on the part of Memphis' Gay citizens.

Even sadder still is that we attribute our lack of progress in the same manner. Yes, we are a southern city. Yes, we are a Bible Belt city. Yes, we are Memphis--and that carries a stigma in itself. We are not as good--nor are we ever to be as good--as our neighboring and not so neighboring cities in the land of liberty. We are the city that shot Martin Luther King. We are referred to by *The Washington Blade* as a "southwestern

Tennessee town," hardly a label we'd like to carry when we place ourselves in the category of cities such as Atlanta, Houston, Dallas and San Francisco. But they are cities and we are a town.

We are a town that is known in Europe and South America as readily as the name "Broadway" or "Hollywood" is known in America. We are not ready to deal with this fame because we are not certain that we can measure up to the reality of it.

What we really do with our little inferiority complex, though, is *use* it to excuse ourselves. We excuse ourselves for inaction by saying that "this is Memphis" and the rest is self-explanatory. It won't work here, we say, or Memphis is the Bible Belt, we say, or you name it, we say it.

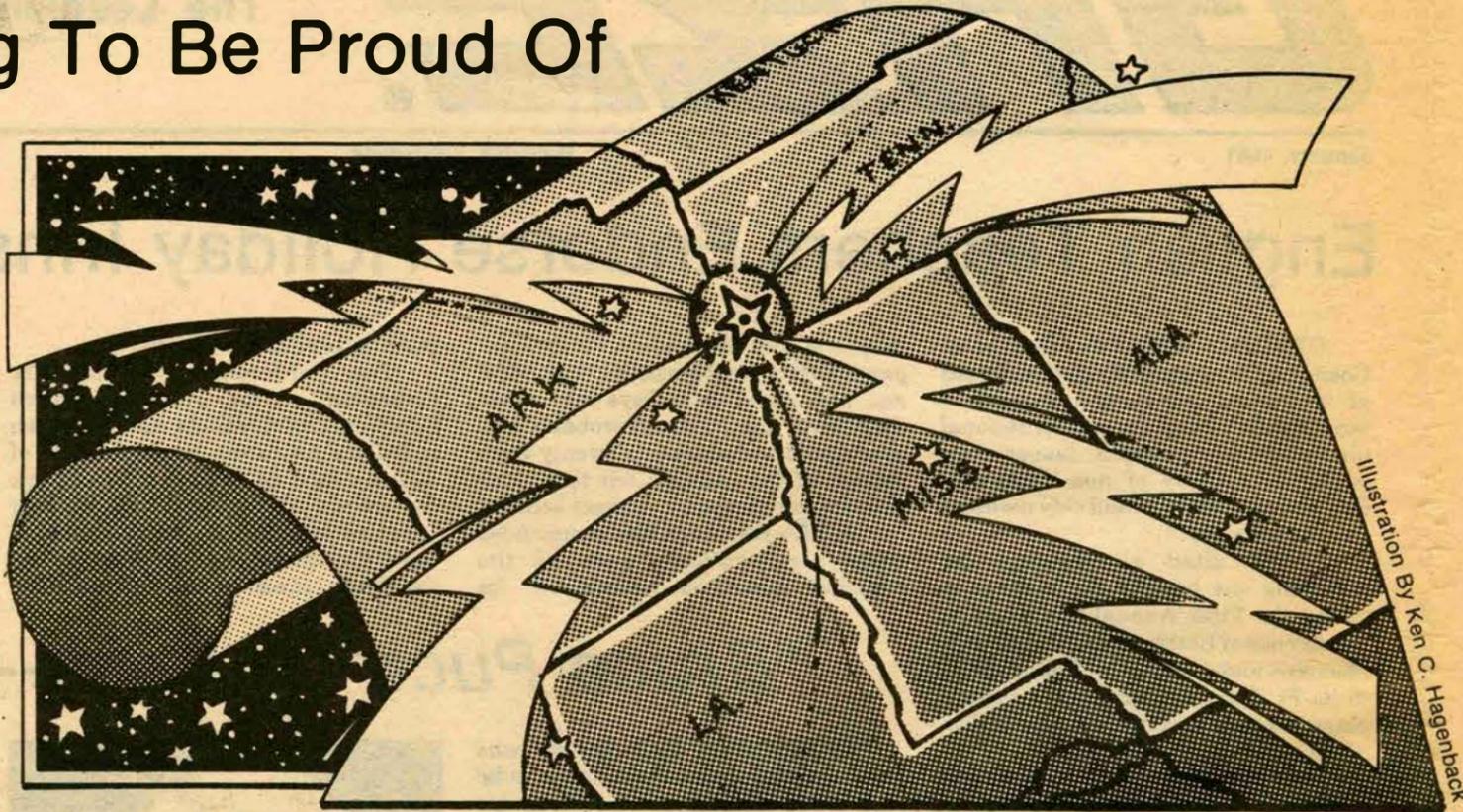
Obviously, as I have pointed out, we don't have the metropolitan population base that the cities we so readily compare ourselves with do have. We don't truly have the numbers of people that many cities have to draw resources from. The problem is that we think we do. We have been forced into a clothing size too big for us and we don't know what to do with all that extra room.

We have been forced into trying to be a *big* city when we are in reality a smaller one. To complicate matters further, we are the *biggest* city in a very large geographical area. New York, for example, is not much further from Washington than is Nashville from Memphis ... and we don't have Baltimore and Philadelphia between us. Still we are expected to measure up to the standards of those cities.

So the point, which is somewhere between a pencil dot and the dot designated Memphis on my official Tennessee Department of Highways roadmap, is that we must work and have worked harder--much harder--to achieve much less than many cities thrice our size. This is something to be proud of--not something to be ashamed of. Congratulations, Memphis, on a job very well done.

There are more than 225 million people in America who don't live in the Memphis area. What is our little million? It is home for a million, and a happy home that we will continue to make happier for all of us.

It is a harder home to build, but one built more carefully and with stronger materials.



### Study Shows Closeted Gays More Likely To Be Victims

## Anti-Gay Violence Increasing Nationwide

By Emily Rochman

The Chelsea Gay Association Hotline, a New York crisis number which monitors attacks against Gays, has compiled statistics indicating that anti-Gay violence in New York is massive, widespread and growing. *Gay Community News* (Boston) reports that the Chelsea Gay Association's statistics indicate that 1.5 people per day are attacked in New York for being Gay.

In San Francisco, concern has grown in recent months because of a steep rise in anti-Gay attacks. Gays or men taken to be Gay (IGNA) have been stabbed with knives and screw drivers and assaulted and harassed in many locations around the city, notably in the Dolores Park and Buena Vista Park areas. The increased violence has prompted Mayor Dianne Feinstein to place more police patrols in Gay neighborhoods and to use police decoys to help prevent the continued violence against Gays.

*The Washington Blade* reported in a recent issue that D.C. homicide detectives were "puzzled over the motive behind the December 9 murder of a 60-year-old Gay man near the corner of Half and O Streets, S.E.--the second Gay related murder in Washington in less than a month."

The stories go on and on all across America. Anti-Gay attacks in Memphis,

though most go unreported, continue to cause concern among local Gays who fear that gangland type slayings (such as the November machinegunning of 8 Gay men in New York) could happen here.

**"Seldom is a homosexual victim simply shot; he is more apt to be stabbed a dozen or more times, mutilated and strangled."**

Of course, society's attitude toward Gays is the spark behind the flame of violence against Gays, an attitude which spills over into the courtrooms of America and gives license to offenders. The classic case of Dan White, murderer of San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone, is a constant reminder of the judicial system's insensitivity toward violence against Gays. White was convicted of manslaughter in the two shootings and sentenced to 7 years and 8 months in prison. White's attorney has recently requested that the California State Court of Appeals reduce the sentence by more than a year, and if the Court agrees, Dan White could be freed on parole in November of 1982 after serving only four years (IGNA).

A report published recently of *Qualitative Sociology*, based on a study by Dr. Laud Humphreys, professor of criminal justice at Claremont Graduate School in California, and Brian Miller, a Los Angeles psychotherapist, indicates that "Killers of Gays are usually heterosexuals--at least outwardly--who hate Gays or who may themselves be fighting homosexual tendencies... Society's attitude toward Gays causes some people to feel that they have a right to beat up homosexuals, and people who fear they may be Gay are sometimes so self-hating they steer themselves into situation in which they are likely to become either victims or offenders."

The researchers investigated 161 Gay victims of murder for 5 years between 1973 and 1977. All of the victims were men and most were closeted. "Almost two thirds of the victims were highly secretive about their homosexuality," says Humphreys, "in fact, 36 percent of the Gay men were heterosexually married with wives and children at the time of their death."

Male prostitutes killed 64 percent of the Gay victims. The remainder were murdered by "Gay-bashing" gangs.

"The gruesome nature of the killings shows the offenders' intense hate," says Humphreys. "Seldom is a homosexual victim simply shot; he is

more apt to be stabbed a dozen or more times, mutilated and strangled."

"Lovers' quarrels," Miller says, "were not responsible for the deaths, nor was sadomasochist sex play involved in the fatalities."

The researchers suggest that a way of preventing anti-Gay violence is to have people become more accepting of homosexuality and to have more Gays come out of the closet and band together for mutual protection. They don't, however, suggest a means to accomplish such feats.

The fact remains that anti-Gay violence is on the rise--or at least such violence is more frequently reported or discovered than it once was. The new conservatism and the trend toward fanaticism in religion cannot be discounted as causative factors. When religious leaders, such as Bob Jones of Bob Jones University in South Carolina, proclaim that God has given "man" the right to execute homosexuals, it can be expected that some followers will attempt to "carry out God's will."

In the 1980's, Gays are beginning to react on anti-Gay violence in America, but the effect this increasing trend toward violence will have on us as a community remains to be seen.

# GAZING BACK



## The "Barring" Of Midtown

By Scott Correll

This, the centralization of the Memphis Gay community's gathering places and commercial establishments in the Midtown area, is the first part in a series dealing with the Gay "ghettoization" of Midtown. Facts were gathered for this series by interviewing Gay men and women who have been "out" in Memphis for at least 15 years. Because of the differences in recollections of past events, there may be variations of the facts. Names of those interviewed have been withheld by request.

"Ben's" was the first Gay bar in the Memphis area. Located in West Memphis in the late 50's and early 60's, "Ben's" was actually a mixed bar; the downstairs being totally straight and the upstairs being a mixture of Gay and straight. No dancing of same-sex partners was allowed.

"The Purple Eve" was the first gay bar in Memphis; "The Blue Note" opened soon afterwards and then "Frank's Showbar" became the Gay gathering place. During this period of time, mid-60's, many of the Gay men and Lesbians went to Tipton County to a bar called "The Aristocrat." Located about 7 miles north of Millington, "The Aristocrat" was owned by a Lesbian couple. Between '66 and '69, it was nothing to have 5 or 6 cars loaded with at least 6 Gay people in each car forming a caravan each Friday and Saturday night on their way to "The Aristocrat." The reason for the 20-mile journey? Protection, no police harassment. "The Aristocrat" mysteriously burned in '67, and in late '67 or early '68, the former owners opened "The Raven," which was about a mile closer to Millington. "The Raven" became very popular throughout the Mid-South. It was a private club and was therefore able to offer same-sex dancing, mixed drinks, and a game room. Gays from Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama (and Tennessee) came regularly to "The Raven."

During the days of "The Raven" the "Blue Note" burned and "Frank's Showbar" became the Gay bar. Located at the corner of South Bellevue and Eastmoreland, the "Showbar" sold beer only and no dancing was allowed; it seated about 75 people. Those patronizing the "Showbar" did not go without police harassment. Parking for the bar was Exxon's parking lot. When the police did go into the bar it was for checking I.D.'s; the drinking age at that time was 21. The "blue boys," the vice squad, would stand in the parking lot, watch the people come out of the bar and go to their cars, and take down their license plate numbers. This was during the Loeb administration, and the order of the day was to "discourage Gays from gathering in a public place." Today the police view it quite differently. They prefer Gays to be together in a bar having fun than out on the streets.

The "Entre' Nuit" opened in '68 at 232 S. Bellevue, a beauty shop separated it from "Frank's Showbar." There was a walkway at the back that connected the two. After a particular shooting incident outside these two bars, the police were given the license number of the car which carried the harassers of the patrons. To this day the police have done nothing about it.

Many bars followed. The "Entre' Nuit" moved to 232 S. Cleveland and was sold to become "The Tango Palace" which later became "The Front Page,"

"David's" and "Phase III." "The Psych-Out" opened where the original "Entre' Nuit" was and later moved to its present location at 76 N. Cleveland. "The Psych-Out" is officially named "The Fruit Jar" and has the distinct honor of being the oldest Gay bar in Memphis with the same name.

There was "Ivanhoe" located in a downtown alley, "The Oasis" in the old Hotel Tennessee, "The French Quarter" on Union Avenue. Mixed bars were "The Coachouse" in the Claridge Hotel and "The Falstaff Room" in the Peabody. Other bars which have gone by the wayside are "The Body Shop," the upstairs at the corner of Cleveland and Madison (which burned); "Box Office," the downstairs at the same location; "The Peacock Lounge," "The Eye Ball," on Willett; "The Sharecropper" on Willett; "The Closet" on Jackson at N. Main which became "Raincheck II" which became "Club Peaches;" "Raincheck I" had opened where the

"Sharecropper" was; "The Hourglass" at Jackson and N. Watkins; "Kelsy's" at 1474 Madison; "Sam's" at Marshall and Monroe; "Twilight Lounge" at 1786 Madison which became "The Door" which became "The Famous Door" which became "George's;" "George's" moved to 600 Marshall and became "George's Krisco Disco and Leather Bar;" "Robert's Halfshell" at Poplar and Mendenhall; "F.W.O.-For Women Only" in Eastgate shopping center; a bar on N. Front (name long forgotten); "The In Crowd" at Bellevue and Lamar which later became "The Score;" "The Butterfly Cabaret;" "Buddy's" on Young; "Johnnie's" on Avalon, and "Ma Turner's" at 238 N. Cleveland.

Today we have: Club 10 N. Cleveland, Club Paradise, Family Affair Club, French Connection, George's, J-Wags, My Place, The Pendulum and Gunslinger (upstairs), the Psych-Out, Sharon's and Terri's Townhouse. Most are in Midtown.

## Over And Above Our Differences

By Regina Russell

We've made some progress in our attempts to join Gay women and Gay men together in the struggle to achieve human rights. An acquaintance told me recently of a group of Lesbians and Gay men, who deciding to dine out together, sat at separate tables in the restaurant. Was he disappointed that the sexes were separated? No, he was tremendously excited that they were eating in the same restaurant.

It may not represent a total coming together—at least socially—of opposing men and women, but it does say something about where we may be headed.

Lucia Valeska, co-executive director of the National Gay Task Force, said on the occasion of the NGTF's 7th anniversary, "We must build a coalition between women and men—and a new consciousness within both the Lesbian and Gay male communities. Gay men must come to understand and respect a feminist perspective and Lesbians must come to understand and respect Gay male concerns. We are not creating a brand new single-minded entity between women and men but rather an

understanding of our differences. And, in a very pragmatic fashion, we must create a well-defined and specific agenda which both women and men in the movement will support over and above their differences."

How much she says in that short paragraph. It is all too often we hear the statement of women who say that they are "not ready to work with men." How vast a generalization they make with that statement. And if we are not ready to work together, how will we ever expect non-Gays to work with us?

The bigotry against homosexuality is as much a result of the patriarchal power structure as is the discrimination against and exploitation of women. If we refuse to help re-educate society, we are a part of that problem. If we refuse to work together, we are aligning ourselves with the power structure that we claim to disclaim.

If we can truly come to understand our differences and utilize our common talents to solve a common problem, we will achieve much more than could either of us alone.

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In addition to several "out of the closet" Gay businesses, Memphis has other Gay gathering places besides the bars. The quarter movies have been popular in the last few years.

Court Square was the cruising park before the Mid-America Mall was built. From the mid '50's until the early '70's, cruising took place from noon until very early morning. Other cruising areas were McKellar Park, Riverside Park (which is still a cruisy area for the noon crowd from downtown), and Overton Park.

# GAZE

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WHEN LOOKING FOR A CHARITY,  
LOOK TO GAZE.  
WE'RE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!

January, 1981-GAZE-3

## Above All You Are Like Them...

There is a place for each and every person in the community. This is meant to be a statement of hope for us all. I recently had the privilege in two separate speaking engagements to represent a part of the Gay community. As I fielded the questions of those men and women I was proud to be an openly Gay person, unashamed of my place in our community. The reception was calm and easy; the questions were easily answered. This left me with a sense of great personal accomplishment. It was a personal victory, not a community-wide one.

It is my personal belief that the community as a whole will not accept the Gay men and women of our community until we as Gay men and women accept ourselves. I can only speak from personal experience in that of living an openly Gay life for 12 years. There are many different factions of our Gay community: Black, white, men, women, young, old, effeminate, masculine, cross-dressers, tall, short, fat, skinny, wealthy, poor, moderate, politically active, apathetic, and indifferent. We are all Gay, some self-accepting while others deny themselves the peace that comes with self-acceptance. The straight community will not help us accept ourselves; we must do this on our own.

So the next time you look at another Gay person with contempt for that person because he or she is not to your personal liking, remember that above all you are like them in that you too are Gay. Please help the Memphis Gay community grow stronger and healthier by learning to accept all of our Gay men and women for what they are. Be proud to be Gay and a Memphian.

John Kelley  
Memphis

## Circuit Playhouse Clarifies Photo Policy

Circuit Playhouse, 1947 Poplar, has a standard policy concerning requests of photographs to be used in printed publications.

After contact has been established between the theatre and paper a form is filled out describing the photograph involved, the length of the loan and credit in the publication for the photographer.

There is also a policy concerning critics and reviewers which states that any authorized person from a broadcasting company or printed publication will be given two complimentary tickets to any show simply by calling the theatre manager and making arrangements to view it. The only thing we ask is that the person see the show within the first two weeks of its run.

That is the theatre policy. As manager I have a responsibility to adhere to this policy.

If I had been approached by a member of your staff in regards to a photo loan, we would have followed the standard procedure. However, I was approached by a person working on the show for a "photo to be used in a Gay story." You can see where the problem that has since arisen began. I feel that the responsibility of your reporter who I assume was here that evening would have been to approach me as a representative of your publication and request a photo. I would like your readers to note that I was not quoted in your article and I feel that any one who

knows me would not attribute such a remark to me.

Furthermore, I would like to know that I provided the budget and designed the set and lights for the production of "Staircase" which I am proud to say, was chosen as one of the ten best plays of 1981 by *Memphis Magazine*.

Circuit Playhouse and myself will recognize *GAZE* as a printed publication and will welcome any representative of your paper to view our productions and run a photograph with your review.

Susan Cashatt  
Manager, Circuit Playhouse  
Memphis

## Reader Alleges Discrimination

I am not an active participant in any Gay activities or groups in town. Nor do I regularly patronize any of the bars. Therefore you may not consider my opinion of any valid or representative importance to the Gay community in Memphis, but I do have a statement to make.

A couple of weeks ago, I went into 10 N. Cleveland. The man in front of me in line to get in the bar was Black, middle-aged, and well-dressed with nothing slouchy about him. He was asked for 4 I.D.s, which conveniently for the bar, hardly anyone carries, and was refused admission. He politely pleaded, "Look, I've walked a long way to get here in order to keep someone from knowing I was coming here and now you tell me I can't get in?" He was blatantly refused. When I stepped up the window, I wasn't asked for any I.D. whatsoever. (I am white if that clears the picture any.) I felt sorry for the guy but I went in anyway.

A few days later a Black friend of mine told me he too had been refused admission to 10 N. Cleveland. My next visit to the bar, I met two more Black people at the door who were leaving. They too had been refused. I stepped up to the window where the cashier, a different one from last time, said, "\$2 please." Asked why I wasn't required 4 I.D.s, he replied, "I know you. I've seen you before." I turned and asked another employer of the bar. "Why won't you let Blacks in?"

"Because \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't want them in here."  
I left.

From now on I refuse to enter a bar that practices such acts of discrimination as bad if not worse than these acts and attitudes that Gay people are always on the uproar about.

Mike Morgan  
Memphis

## A Warped Sense Of Humor?

Concerning your article, "The Right To Flaunt And The Need To Fight," first, let me commend you on an article that was well written and very timely. If Memphis had more Gays who felt that way, maybe there would be more changes here.

However, there are certain points in your article that we do find disagreement with. It seems almost that your political persuasion and anti-Christian dogma has narrowed your mind and warped your sense of humor.

We are both Gay, Born Again, and voted for Ronald Reagan [sic]. We are not in the closet by any means. We attended the Conference '80 at the Rivermont, and were both outside to defend our way of life and our Gay

position against Charles Britt and his fools. We both also appeared on television that night. We do not say this to brag, but to point out that we are not "Christian conservatives" hiding in our closets.

I am somewhat appalled at your linking thugs, bigots, Christians, the KKK and Reagan [sic] supporters all in the same breath. I realize fully that there are Christians, like Britt, who can be considered thugs and bigots, but are you including MCC in that group? And the KKK and Reagan [sic]. That's really out of left field, with no proof to hold it up. Why are we as Gay people so eager to support someone like Anderson for president with only looking at one point of his total platform, Gay rights. The economy is crumbling all around us, we desperately need someone to turn it around, and the Gays in this city support an underdog who has no chance in hell of making it. Is it wrong for us to want a good solid economy too? We can elect a man like Reagan [sic], who has supported Gay rights in the past, get the economy turned around so we can at least keep a decent job, and then work through the ballot box and in the streets to get our rights.

Frankly, Memphis has done neither of these. When we attended a TGCHR meeting, parties, fundraisers and self-defense were on the agenda. There is nothing wrong with any of these, but where is the affirmative action, the political insight, the need for action that this city so desperately needs?

Let's all work in accord in the '80's and make this decade the greatest time in which to be Gay.

David B. Stevens  
Dennis R. Lemmons  
Memphis

P.S. We wish to commend the staff and editors of *GAZE* for an outstanding newspaper, one which Memphis really needs. Have a Merry Christmas and a Gay New Year....

*Editorial Response: I frankly don't like to respond to letters because it taxes my feeble brain, but I felt a response was in order here because you have inferred things I did not imply and because you mention several other points that I would like to address.*

*I did not link thugs, bigots, Christians, the KKK and Reagan supporters in the column you mention (Gazing, Vol. 1, No. 12). I spoke of them all in the article as evidence of our need to fight. You will note that "Christians" appears in the article in quotes and as direct references to the type you label "like Britt" and "his fools." It is in no way a reference to Christianity as a religion nor to an anti-Christian dogma. The Christian Right is a political movement that seeks that all Americans live by the moral (or religious) beliefs of one segment of our society. The references are anti-Christian right, not anti-Christian.*

*My only reference to the KKK refers to the fact that Reagan was supported by that organization. He was officially endorsed by the KKK. This and a reference to Moral Majority were the only mention I made of Reagan supporters.*

*Because I endorsed Anderson for president in a previous column, I must defend the charge that his supporters viewed his platform on the basis of a single issue, namely Gay rights. This charge is made every time we experience an organized Gay support of a candidate*

*who supports Gay rights. I could likewise accuse Reagan supporters of looking only at his position on the economy were not the Anderson and Reagan economic platforms so similar. Choosing the candidate we would vote for on the basis of how we think other people will vote says very little in favor of our political system.*

*As for the Gays in this city supporting Anderson, they didn't. Both Carter and Reagan received more of the Gay vote in Memphis than did Anderson. Anderson received a larger percentage of the Gay vote in most other major cities than he did in Memphis. The unfortunate reasoning prevailed that we should not vote for Anderson because he will not win. And we chalk up another of America's notorious self-fulfilling prophecies.*

*Your statement that Reagan has supported Gay rights, however, is in error. His only encounter with what would seem like support involved the Briggs Initiative in California, a stand determined only after the state's attorney general assured him that the law would be declared unconstitutional should it pass. Reagan has stated that he does not believe that homosexuals should be allowed to hold certain jobs. His positions on other human rights issues, particularly womens rights, speak for themselves.*

*Finally, I am beaming that you mentioned the need for affirmative action, political insight, etc., that Memphis so desperately needs. Obviously, many other Gays in Memphis have been asking that question in the last year or so. It took me a long time to realize that asking the question, however, is only a symptom of our own disease. Who do we expect to take that action? Who do we expect to initiate that political insight? Are heterosexuals to do it? Are other Gays to do it?*

*Where is Memphis? We speak of it always in the third person, disclaiming that it is us. We may write our address as Memphis, but we always seem to imply that we actually live somewhere else.*

*Indeed, much needs to be done. But don't discount or belittle what others have done by proclaiming what they have not done. The Memphis Gay Coalition (formerly TGCHR) has accomplished a great deal during its short lifetime. That group is responsible for organizing Conference '80 that you attended. Those people spent many all-nights and weekends to secure speakers, organize workshops, deal with Holiday Inns, mass mail registration forms and information packets, raise money, print programs, and the thousands of other details that come with hosting a conference of that magnitude. And most of them were stuck with working registration desks, coordinating, marshalling, etc. during the conference so that others could benefit from the experience. They were all volunteers.*

*The Memphis Gay Coalition is responsible for the publication of this paper. Every person who works on our staff is a volunteer, and we spend many all-nights and weekends to put it together.*

*Those who have become involved with the Memphis Gay Coalition have become all too familiar with the problems of political action. Whether you realize it or not, much is being done along these lines. The Political Committee of the MGC has involved itself with confronting city officials, the police department, area Congress-people, etc., in an effort to let them become more aware that there is indeed*

an organized Gay political effort in Memphis. They are more aware of this than are most of Memphis' Gay citizens. The Political Committee is currently working with an independent group (direct political action violates the charter of a non-profit organization) in securing the elections of candidates who support civil liberties in Memphis and Shelby County.

Additionally, an organized effort that has been underway for some time and is proving highly successful to actually populate certain council districts in order to aid in the election to city council of openly Gay candidates was an idea implemented by the Memphis Gay Coalition.

I could go on, but I feel that I have made my point. If we see ideas and needs unmet in the areas of political action, culture or whatever, it is up to us to work toward the goal of meeting them. No one will do it for us.

Every month when I realize, after a whole week of nights to myself, that the next three weeks involves spending

every minute of my spare time writing, editing, typing, trying to sell ads, researching, reading, coordinating, revising, sending out statements, book-keeping, organizing, filing, worrying, answering correspondence, mailing subscriptions, and printing this paper, I suddenly get this exhilarating feeling of simply forgetting the whole thing. It is letters like yours, however, that keep me going, because you have read it and thought about it and taken the time to write a letter about it. And thought is the precipitator of action.

As for my sense of humor being warped, I can't deny it. It probably is.

#### Enlightening And Informative

I have just finished reading my first copy of *GAZE* and it was very enlightening, informative and interesting. Keep up the good work.

Name Withheld  
Memphis

## Gay Speakers Banned From Minneapolis Schools

MINNEAPOLIS—A speakers panel of Lesbians and Gay men is being barred from addressing classes in public elementary schools and possibly from secondary schools here.

The Minneapolis *Tribune* reports that Superintendent of Schools Richard Green, who recommended the exclusion of the speakers panel, is considering banning discussion of the topic of homosexuality altogether from the public schools. Green told the *Tribune*, "It's the question of where we draw the line on discussion of personal life styles. And I think by this presentation we've gone beyond that line."

The purpose of the speakers panel was to educate young persons about Lesbian and Gay lifestyles, discussing topics of stereotypes, myths, family relationships, minority rights, and history. Anti-Gay remarks and games such as "Smear the Queer" have become increasingly and alarmingly popular in Minneapolis schools, says Polly Kellogg, director of the Lesbian/Gay Curriculum Project for the Education Exploration Center which offers the panel.

The Community Resource Volunteers, a support service program that locates speakers on various issues and notifies teachers that speakers are available, listed the Lesbian/Gay speakers panel in a recent newsletter as being available to classes. While the

School Board refused to name the complainant of the panel, they did reveal that the objection was initially raised by a teacher.

At least two members of the School Board, chair Marily Borea and Philip Olson, agreed with Green that the panel should not be allowed to address school classes.

Kellogg noted, however, that the students have become much more outwardly anti-Gay than they were several years ago and many teachers have expressed a need to have anti-Gay myths dispelled. Jerry Rogers of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, who noted that the matter had been referred to the union's Professional Policies Committee, was uncertain what the outcome might be or whether or not the committee would discuss the possibility that exclusion of the panel would be an infringement of academic freedom.

Betto Jo Zander, director of support services for the Minneapolis public schools is at odds with the ban. Zander said that the panel is a badly needed resource and that the ban is a "civil liberties issue" which she intends to fight.

Both Zander and Kellogg are optimistic that the ban will not be permitted in Minneapolis. Kellogg noted that Minneapolis has a "high consciousness level" and is a very liberal city.

# The Gunslinger Saloon & Pendulum Dance Hall

92 N. Avalon--725-1530

#### SUNDAY:

**Gunslinger Saloon** Open 2 p.m.  
Cablevision-Sports Pool Tournament 7 p.m.  
Cash Prizes & Trophies No Cover

**Pendulum Dance Hall** Closed

#### MONDAY:

**Gunslinger Saloon** Open 4 p.m.  
Happy Hour Lite Draft 50¢  
Weekend Recovery Night  
All You Can Eat Buffet 5:30-7 p.m. \$2  
Bloody Mary Mix 25¢  
Easy Listening Music Slow Dancing  
No Cover

**Pendulum Dance Hall** Closed

#### TUESDAY:

**Gunslinger Saloon** Open 4 p.m.  
Happy Hour Lite Draft 50¢ 4 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Free Munchies  
Shuffleboard Tournament 7 p.m. Cash Prizes & Trophies

**Pendulum Dance Hall** Closed

#### WEDNESDAY:

**Gunslinger Saloon** Open 4 p.m.  
Happy Hour Lite Draft Beer 50¢ 4 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Free Munchies

**Gunslinger Saloon & Pendulum Dance Hall**  
Beer Bust Lite Draft Beer 8 p.m.-11 p.m.  
New Generation Night  
Punk & New Wave Music & Dance  
Most Bizarre Dress Contest  
Cash Prizes & Trophies

#### THURSDAY:

**Gunslinger Saloon** Open 4 p.m.  
Happy Hour Lite Draft Beer 50¢ 4 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Free Munchies

**Pendulum Dance Hall** Closed

#### FRIDAY:

**Gunslinger Saloon** Open 4 p.m.  
T.G.I.F. Happy Hour 4 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Lite Draft Beer 50¢ Free Hors d'oeuvres  
Beer Bust 8 p.m.-11 p.m.  
Open Mike Jam Session 11 p.m.  
(Free Cassette Recording To Each Participant)

**Pendulum Dance Hall**  
Beer Bust Lite Draft Beer 8 p.m.-11 p.m.  
Floor Show 10 p.m.

#### SATURDAY:

**Gunslinger Saloon** Open 2 p.m.  
Cablevision Sports or Movies  
Live Band 9 p.m.  
Jam Session 11 p.m.

**Pendulum Dance Hall** Open 8 p.m.  
Cover Lite Draft Beer 50¢

Gunslinger Saloon & Pendulum Dance Hall  
"Something Different" Every Day!  
Happy Hour--Pool Table Area--Shuffleboard  
Electronic Games--Live Entertainment--Cablevision  
Strip Hardwood Dance Floor  
Unique Light Show--Awesome Sound  
92 N. Avalon--725-1530

Remember  
the  
"Silver Slipper?"

## Clothiers Recant On Gay Firing

PORTLAND, OR (IGNA)—The top buyer in the women's clothing department of a fashionable Portland department store won a victory for Gay rights after the store at first discharged him for failure to change his "image" and his "lifestyle."

According to *Oregon Gay Rights Report*, Mike Sandmeyer was fired last September after he inquired of store officials if it was true that another employee had been discharged for being Gay. As a result of his question, store officials sent him to Seattle to meet with the chain's vice president.

The executive warned Sandmeyer that if he wished to continue his work for the chain he would have to change. Among the requirements for effacing his openly Gay existence were: not frequenting Gay establishments, not belonging to Gay organizations, and bringing female dates to store functions or other functions where other store employees were likely to gather.

Sandmeyer chose to reject these demands the next day during a buyers' lunch. "I brought a date—a male date who was seeing me during this time. I introduced him as my date to everyone. Some people were shocked; others were approving."

Sandmeyer said the incident did not end there. That evening I was called and told by the store manager that I had to quit. I said that I was not quitting; that they would have to fire me first. I went to work the next morning. They sent me home—took my key and my charge card."

Sandmeyer went immediately to his lawyer, who sent a demand letter to the chain asking for a written apology, back pay, \$500 damages, and reinstatement.

Barely a week later, Sandmeyer, impatient, decided to act on his own. He went to the Portland store manager and threatened him with the possibility of a Gay boycott of the store.

This threat alarmed the official, because a discreet survey by the store had suggested that 30% of its sales in some departments were to Gay people.

The next day, Sandmeyer's lawyer was notified that his demands had been agreed to. "I even received a raise because of my being the top buyer in the department," Sandmeyer said. Even so, a week after reinstatement, Sandmeyer voluntarily resigned.

According to Ted Stroll, who wrote the article, hostility to Gay employees by major department stores in Portland has been a reality for years.

## Robin Tyler Sues Colorado School

DENVER—Comic Robin Tyler in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado has filed suit against the Colorado School of Mimes charging that the entertainer's constitutional rights were violated by the school.

Tyler's manager had entered into an oral agreement with school administrators to perform a general comedy routine at the annual "Engineers' Day" celebration. After school officials, however, discovered that Tyler is a Lesbian, they

refused to allow her to appear. The suit seeks \$111,750 in damages.

## Protests In Albany And A New Mailing From Falwell

ALBANY, NY—According to reports in *Gaylife* (Chicago), a newly formed coalition of community activists, students, and religious leaders called Community for Common Sense led a protest rally of about 200 persons objecting to positions held by the Moral Majority in regard to the military, abortion, the ERA and civil rights for Gays outside the Palace Theater here on November 14 while Jerry Falwell was speaking inside.

Meanwhile a new mailing from the Reverend Falwell contains a sealed envelope with explicit instructions not to open until the kids are out of the room. It suggests that the contents be destroyed "so that it won't fall into the hands of an innocent youngster." The envelope contains a page of reprinted paragraphs from a sex-education textbook including mention of the 1973 decision by the American Psychiatric Association that homosexuality is not a mental illness.

In San Diego, the Moral Majority (founded by Falwell) clearly stated in pre-election material that it favors wire-tapping for marijuana offenses, stiffer penalties for marijuana users, prosecution for sale of requested pornography, repeal of the consenting adults law, an end to sex-change operations, an end to the over-the-counter sale of prophylactics, no sale of contraceptives to minors without parental consent, teachers fired for failing to notify students' parents of coming sex education classes, children legally required to support parents in old age, unmarried cohabitating adults denied conciliation court services, tougher requirements for divorce, and students released from public school classes to attend religion classes.

## N.Y. Court Strikes Sodomy Law

ALBANY, NY (IGNA)—The New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, ruled December 18 that the state's sodomy law was in violation of the constitutional rights of privacy and equal protection of the law. Prior to the ruling selected sexual acts were illegal unless performed by married partners.

Judge Hugh Jones, in the majority opinion (5 to 2), wrote: "We express no view as to any theological, moral or psychological evaluation of consensual sodomy." He further stated that it was not the function of the law to provide for the enforcement of moral or theological values.

The high court's ruling verified a decision by a middle-level appeals court in New York last year declaring the statute to be unconstitutional. The decision also overruled the convictions of two men charged with engaging in oral sex in a parked car on a Buffalo street and the conviction of a Buffalo woman charged with performing fellatio with a man in a parked truck.

## S.F. Doctors Sued For Malpractice In Treatment Of Gays

SAN FRANCISCO (IGNA)—The Committee for Representative Media is undertaking a lawsuit against the Uni-

versity of California Medical Clinics for malpractice. The Committee charges that there is an agreement between the medical profession and the San Francisco Department of Public Health and a certain drug company to treat Gays afflicted with amebiasis, which is caused by a tropical amoeba, in an inappropriate manner.

The Committee claims that the most widely used treatment is dangerous and needlessly expensive; the drug Flagyl (Metronidazole) cures the amoebas, but it is also a sexual and emotional depressant. The logic of the Department of Public Health, according to the Committee, is based on the "punitive merit of treatment." Pain and anguish will curtail sexual expression.

Flagyl is also more lucrative for doctors to recommend because it costs 10 times as much as the other common treatment, a combination of Tetracycline and Diotioquin which is said to be virtually harmless, inexpensive and "just as effective."

The Committee expressed that the attitudes toward such sexually transmitted diseases comes "from the bowels of the church."

## Activist Elected To State Party

SAN HOSE, CA (IGNA)—A Gay woman activist has been elected to the State of California's Democratic Party Executive Committee by fellow members of the Santa Clara County central committee.

Johnnie Staggs, who was campaign manager for the county's losing Gay rights ballot measures last June and who has also worked in local candidates' races, will be a delegate to the Democratic state convention in Sacramento, 1981 and will assume a seat on the State Party Execom for a two-year term.

Ms. Staggs is the first openly Gay person in Santa Clara County to serve on the statewide Executive Committee.

Following the defeat of the Briggs Initiative in 1978, the Lesbian activist lobbied for city and county Gay rights ordinances and served as campaign manager to defend the ordinances when they were forced to a vote by local fundamentalists.

The defeat of the ordinances led to a bitter division within the campaign committee, known as the Santa Clara Valley Coalition for Human Rights, as to the direction the Gay political action committee should take in future elections. Ms. Staggs resigned from the executive committee in November in protest of its lack of commitment to Gay rights as a single issue.

She now plans to work within the Democratic Party for liberal candidates and issues aimed at turning around the recent surge by the Moral Majority and other New Right groups.

## Have Things Really Changed?

A State Department security record of the Otpeka Case, dated 1963-65, contains some information similar to what we might read today. The record is of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Act and Other Internal Security Laws. Mr. Sourwine is chief counsel. Mr. Crockett is responding to questioning.

MR. SOURWINE: Haven't you had a very high standard, really, of performance and experience, and considerable buildup seniority, among the men who have been running your field offices?

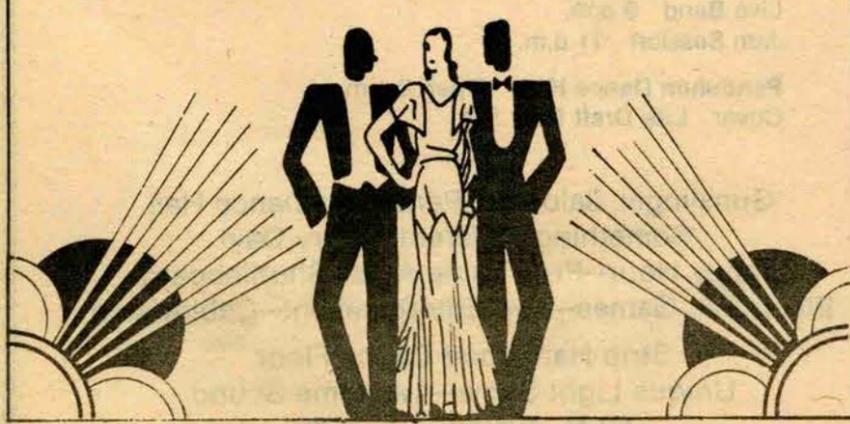
MR. CROCKETT: With three or four exceptions, this is true.

## STUDIO ONE

Located in Overton Square

**All Winter Clothing & Shoes  
1/2 Price**

**Also Check Our New Arrivals  
For Spring  
(Especially Our Men's & Women's  
Swimsuits)**



Mention this ad for 10% discount!

MR. SOURWINE: It has been my impression that they are a very high grade bunch of men.

MR. CROCKETT: They are. I am proud of them. Within the last several months we have had two or three fairly bad disappointments among them that we have discovered. I can tell you about it off the record.

MR. SOURWINE: I didn't mean to gun for any particular individual. I wasn't asking for that kind of information.

MR. CROCKETT: No, but they are good. There isn't any question about it. Mr. Gentile has started a series of Washington conferences for these people...For instance, they are good, but they are not good enough. I don't know whether they will ever be good enough or not. But to the extent that we find a homosexual in the State Department 1 or 2 or 3 years after his employment means to me that he escaped the first net-our security officers in the field.

MR. SOURWINE: That isn't a hereditary defect, is it?

MR. CROCKETT: Sir?

MR. SOURWINE: That isn't a hereditary defect, is it?

MR. CROCKETT: No, but it is certainly something that they might have found if he were practicing it at the time of his employment. So I am just giving you an example. This is just one thing that I am very concerned about. I have written Mr. Gentile saying I think this is something that we have to increase and intensify our security investigative program and evaluative program on, to insure that we have a better record on this score.

### Gay-Organizing Baptist Preacher Dies

CLINTWOOD, VA (Update)-The Rev. Iberus Hacker, a "blue-jeaned and bearded" Tennessee Baptist preacher died Nov. 17 at age 47 in Clintwood, Va. He and his wife Ruth lent their organizing skills to Chicago's Gay Alliance in the early 70's and set up the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic in the upstairs of his Liberty Hall on Lincoln Avenue, helped organize demonstrations, and participated in early efforts to stop Gay-bashing street gangs. While living temporarily back in his home town of Chattanooga, he reportedly helped organize the city's first Gay liberation parade. He was in Clintwood for a speaking engagement. Memorial services were held Nov. 30 at Chicago's People's Church following burial in Chattanooga Nov. 20.

### Booksellers Pledge Non-discrimination

SAN DIEGO-The American Booksellers' Association at its September 9 meeting here passed two resolutions endorsing "positive social issues."

"Whereas, the Board of Directors of the American Booksellers' Association is opposed to discrimination based upon sex, and Whereas the proposed Equal Rights Amendment of the United States Constitution is a positive means to insure equal rights to all, regardless of sex, Now therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Directors...endorses the principles incorporated in the proposed Equal Rights Amendment and urges all members of the book industry to lend their efforts to the passage of that amendment.

"The American Booksellers Association recognizes that there exists minorities not necessarily ethnic,

which may be subject to discrimination. Be it therefore resolved that the Association urges upon its members and associate members, booksellers and publishers, to oppose discrimination in services to, and employment of, all individuals regardless of ethnic or social class background and regardless of religion, gender, *sexual orientation*, age or physical handicap." (Emphasis added.)

The ABA noted, however, that the statements were in support of the "social implications of the issues" and that they do not support "political action outside the industry." ABA noted that it would not honor the ERA boycott of non-ratified states in selecting its convention sites. The 1981 convention will be held in Atlanta.

### Gay Group Wins Suit Against Printer

AUSTIN, TX (Gaylife)-The Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus won a settlement in a discrimination complaint against Jim and Giner's Northside Kwik Kopy. The complaint arose when Kwik Kopy refused to print the group's September newsletter because of its Lesbian/Gay content. The case, settled out of court, resulted in \$50 for the Gay group's expenses incurred in taking the newsletter to another printer, a written statement that the printer will not discriminate in the future and an agreement not to screen clients over the telephone. The owners admitted no wrongdoing as a condition in settling the complaint.

# Social Friends

What would you do if you arrived at the possibility that you may be Gay? Who would you turn to if you found yourself unhappy with your lifestyle? Where would you go to find friendship within our community?

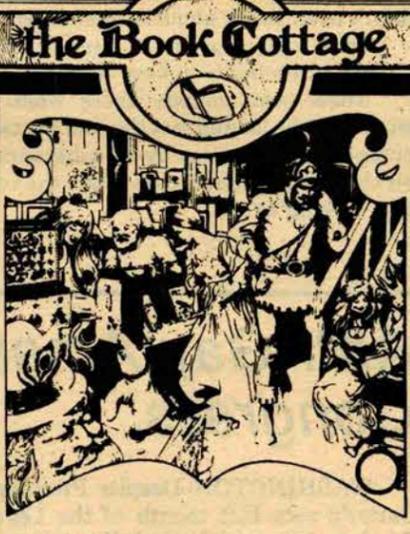
The answer? Social Friends.

We at Social Friends are a group of concerned Gay individuals dedicated to the purpose of providing friendship and support on a one-to-one basis to those persons who find the need for a reassurance of confidence and for support of friendship. For those persons who are discouraged we are here to encourage. No need is too great. No problem is too small. We are here when needed. Please feel free to call us.

## Social Friends

272-2955 (evenings)  
For Adult Men And Women

**the Book Cottage**

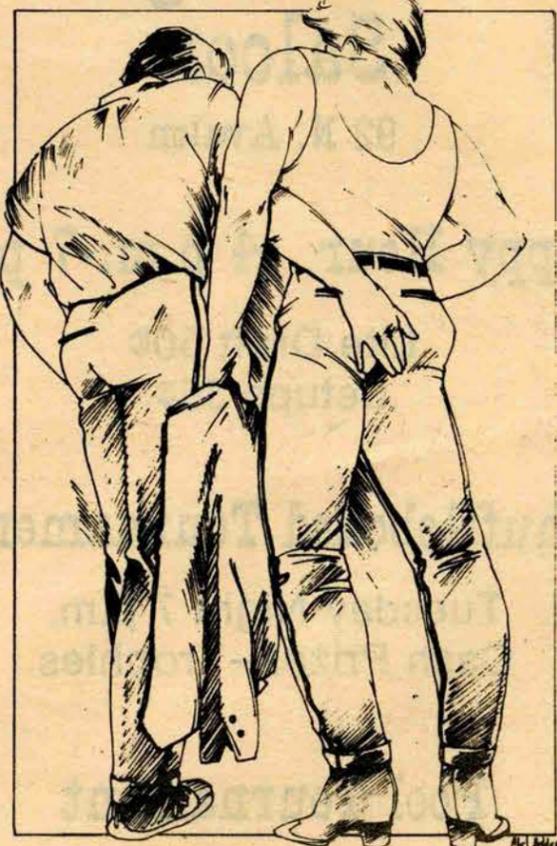


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**AFTER-HOURS**  
MON. THRU SAT. 3AM-6AM  
COMPLETE MENU



“J=WAG’S”  
1268 MADISON 725-4670  
OPEN DAILY AT NOON  
Bring this ad for free set up anytime!

# Police Harrassment

By Rick Jacobs

*(This is the second in a series dealing with individuals who have suffered police harassment and, in some cases, brutality because they are Gay. While GAZe recognizes that the Memphis Police Department as a whole is generally non-discriminatory and that the official policy of the Memphis Police Department is a non-discriminatory one, we also recognize that nothing is being done to end the harassment caused by a small percentage of officers who exhibit bias against Gay people. Because we have no way of verifying stories told us by individuals involved, we cannot assume responsibility for inaccuracies.)*

We are interviewing a man who was arrested upon leaving a local bar. "Al" was charged with public drunkenness and resisting arrest.

*Where, exactly, were you arrested?*

I was in a parking lot on my way to my car. I had just left the bar and crossed the street. I had jaywalked, but I didn't see the cop and he didn't see me until I was in the parking lot because the lot is behind another building. I would prefer not to say the name of the bar.

*Why was the cop in the parking lot? Was he ticketing cars?*

As far as I could tell he wasn't. He was sort of leaning on a police car which was parked in a shadow behind the building. When I rounded the corner of the building he ordered me to stop where I was. He asked me what I was doing in the parking lot, and I told him I was going to my car. He asked me where I had been and I told him.

*What time was this?*

To be honest, I can't really say for sure. It was late--about 3:30 or 4 in the morning, maybe a little earlier, maybe a little later. I hadn't gone into the bar until sometime around 1:30.

*Were you drunk?*

I don't drink.

*Were you given a test for alcohol consumption?*

No. A friend of mine who is a lawyer--I don't have one (a lawyer)--told me that they aren't required to give the test unless the person is charged with driving while intoxicated.

*What did the officer do after you told him where you had been?*

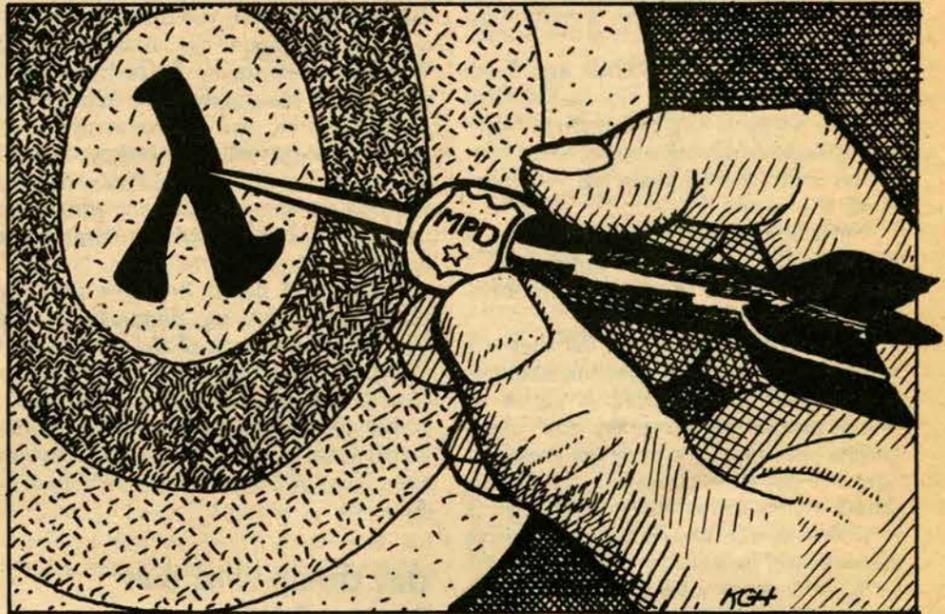
He sort of laughed and said that he could tell by looking at me. I thought at first that he was trying to make a pass at me because the way he said it sounded really friendly. But then he just stared at me for a couple of minutes and I felt real uncomfortable. I asked him if I could go to my car, but he said that I needed to be "taught a lesson."

*Did he become hostile?*

Yes and no. He sounded jovial and friendly, like I said, but after he told me that I needed to be taught a lesson, he told me that I was filthy and perverted. He never called me anything like "fag" or "queer" or anything; he just kept saying that I was filthy and dirty and perverted.

*And then he arrested you?*

Yes. He told me that he was taking me in for the rest of the night. I asked him why and he said because I needed to learn a lesson. He must have said that about 10 times.



*Did he tell you what you were being charged with?*

I didn't know that until I was at the police station. He wouldn't tell me.

*Did he handcuff you?*

No, he didn't. He wasn't rough or anything. He just told me to get into the police car and I did. There was another cop in the car, but he just yawned when I got in. Nobody said hardly anything on the way to the police station. It was really weird. I couldn't believe it was happening. I was worried about my car but when I asked about it, the cop told me that it would still be there the next day.

*Were you advised of your rights?*

No, the subject never came up and I didn't even think about it until later.

*Was there anyone else in the parking lot when you were arrested?*

There was nobody there when I went into the lot and met the cop, but two or three people passed by--at a distance--on their way to their cars while the cop was talking to me.

*What happened in court?*

The case was dropped because the arresting officer didn't show up. I was prepared to defend myself, I think, but I didn't have a lawyer. I had two friends there with me who could swear that I didn't have a drink while I was at the bar--they were there the whole time and I left before they did. I don't know whether they would have been allowed to testify or whether or not their testimony would have been any good, but they were there anyway. I don't know why I was charged with resisting arrest, either, because I cooperated with the cop completely. All I did was ask him why I was being arrested and I was very nice about that. I still can't believe the whole thing happened. It was just incredible.

*Would this incident keep you from going to this bar--or any bar--whenever you should want to?*

Absolutely not. And if something like this ever happens again, I think I would be more prepared for it. It was senseless.

## The Gunslinger Saloon

92 N. Avalon

Happy Hour 4 p.m.-7 p.m.

Lite Draft 50¢

Setups 35¢

## Shuffleboard Tournament

Tuesday Night 7 p.m.  
Cash Prizes--Trophies

## Pool Tournament

Sunday Night 7 p.m.  
Cash Prizes--Trophies

## Anti-Gay Amendment Passes Congress

WASHINGTON--Despite President Carter's veto last month of the Legal Services Appropriations Bill because of an anti-busing provision that had been added by the Senate, anti-Gay H.R. 7584 has become law.

Legislative aide to Sen. Lowell Weicker (D-CT) Marty Moore reports that "the appropriations bill which President Carter had vetoed, containing the anti-busing language, was then included in a continuing resolution verbatim, except for the busing language."

The amendment specifically "prohibit(s) legal assistance for any litigation which seeks to adjudicate the legalization of homosexuality." Effectively weaker than its forerunner, the McDonald Amendment, the resolution is a compromise written by a House-Senate conference committee. The McDonald Amendment would have prohibited the use of federal funds through the Legal Services Corporation in litigation "promoting, protecting, and defending homosexuality."

It was noted by Gay Rights National Lobby Executive Director

Steve Endean prior to passage of the amendment that this would represent the first time in many years that anti-Gay legislation would pass Congress. Indications were at that time that Carter might veto the bill because of the anti-busing provision, but it was apparently unexpected that the continuing resolution containing the anti-Gay amendment would pass.

The Senate had previously passed the appropriations bill without adding anti-Gay provisions and GRNL had speculated that the bill would not pass conference committee. When the conference committee met November 20, House conferees insisted that the bill contain an amendment concerning Lesbian and Gay cases. The resulting compromise between House and Senate conferees substantially narrowed the prohibition to only those cases which seek the "legalization of homosexuality." The original amendment, according to the Justice Department, might have been interpreted to deny Gay citizens access to the Legal Services program.

**The Lure** by Felice Picano. Dell, softcover, \$2.75.  
**The Confessions of Danny Slocum** by George Whitmore. St. Martin's Press, hardcover, \$9.95.

Believe me, some of my best friends are...New Yorkers. But that doesn't mean I want to read only books about New Yorkers, written by New Yorkers.

And yet sometimes I feel that the publishing industry, based as it is in New York City, has become so ingrown that it really believes all the rest of us are wetting our pants with excitement about what's going on there. No doubt NYC has its charms, even its intellectual passtimes, but it also has insularity, smugness and a fondness for fads masquerading as "culture."

Nor do the best writers necessarily live there...although it seems pretty clear that living there is the best guarantee of getting published. Propinquity, I believe the term is. The *polite* term, at least.

In Gay New York there seems to be an equal insularity and an equal cliquishness. The openly Gay editors and writers publish, review and write blurbs for each other's books--not to mention running excerpts in their magazines. They even appear at autograph signings together. (They manage to drag themselves away from NYC for a day or two, although nothing is "happening" anywhere else in the whole world and they have to rush back, presumably to go disco dancing and take drugs.)

This does not a great Gay literature make.

For those of us who are outsiders, although not without our accomplishments, there is bound to be resentment. (Why the hell not?) I won't go into all the horror stories I know about New York publishers, both Gay and straight, but trust me, the picture's not pretty--at least if you're not one of the Fabulous Few.

The Fabulous Few are those Gay New Yorkers who have access to big New York presses, promotion and money.

Felice Picano is, according to publicity releases (sent by Pony Express out here to the boondocks?) and the prominence of his name on dust jackets, one of the Fabulous Few. His novel, *The Lure*, has received major distribution and advertising by Delacorte, and now there is a Dell paperback available. Well, how nice for Felice Picano!

He is a good commercial writer, and such writing, from all reports is what the publishing cartels want these days: books that can be sold in supermarkets and made into movies. Well, *The Lure* could easily have replaced *Cruising* as the basis of a movie script and it certainly would have been more honest about Gay life.

It's a story about a man hired by the police (New York police, yes) to lure a killer. It has a strong narrative and all sorts of glamorous characters. It's the kind of novel that you can't put down, but afterwards you ask yourself why you bothered reading it. It's all high gloss, but the gloss gives little illumination about human behavior. Of course there are occasions for reading books like this, but I can't see encouraging the publishing cartels to go on excluding far better Gay books from their lists and spending its energies and considerable cash on commercial fiction.

(I have nothing to gain by saying these things--except some enemies--but there are times in life when one tires of all the literary politics and must speak what one feels. I think people interested

## THE FABULOUS FEW OR GAY LIFE IN NEW YORK CITY (And why we're tired of reading about it)

A Review By Daniel Curzon

in serious writing have to scream and cajole until the world of publishing regains its soul.)

*The Confessions of Danny Slocum* by George Whitmore is quite another matter. Whitmore, I've gathered, has become one of the Fabulous Few, but his journal of one man's therapy for sexual dysfunction is nevertheless in most ways quite fine-sensitive, perceptive, even erotic.

But I bet you it wouldn't have been published if it took place in Kokomo,

Indiana instead of in the Big Apple--the Village, Fire Island, blah, blah. But, as it happens, the best parts of the book take place in San Jose, grubby little San Jose, where the relationships between the protagonist and his parents are spelled out with moving clarity.

The other parts of the book where the hero *isn't* suffering (from not being able to come with another person) are lively--but brittle. The New York arrogance ("my novelist friend," "my composer friend," etc.) make me want to slap the characters' faces. They are 30

## Claiming an Identity They Taught Me to Despise

Michelle Cliff

Reviewed By  
Bill Johnson

When I am hard up for reading material I occasionally search the market--and wade through tons of print for print's sake that I would trade for a good gothic, sexist, irrelevant romance that I could read in my sleep--for a good book of poetry. I found one.

I read this one through twice, went back and read it the way one is supposed to read poetry (creative writing teachers will tell you that the correct poetry reading process is somewhat like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack without ever wondering how or why such an object as a needle would become misplaced in a pile of hay), and

still I wanted to read it again. There is something there that the innocent reader can't quite figure out how or why. But, innocent reader, you will identify with it. *That* is what good poetry is all about.

*Claiming An Identity*, lo, though I thought it *would* be, is *not* a book of poems about being Gay. Yet, it is. The book was written by a Black woman, sexual orientation unknown, who takes the innocent reader through a world that the innocent reader knows by heart, whether the innocent reader is Black, white, green or yellow, woman or man.

While looking for that old needle in that old haystack, I found something that caused me to wonder why I had found something when I really doubted that there was really anything there. The first entry in *Claiming An Identity* is called "Passing," which is preceded by a quote from Oscar Wilde (ah ha!), "The mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible." I felt this sudden gnawing inside me that perhaps my closet door was straw instead of steel.

"Passing is about a light-skinned Black woman who 'passes' as a white woman. 'Passing demands quiet. And from that quiet--silence.'"

"Passing...Something used by someone else carries a history with it...You want to know when it was used...Passing demands you keep that knowledge to yourself."

I was hooked.

Generally, reading poetry becomes staid after the first two or three--and lengthy--philosophical narratives, but this one will surprise you. There is no boredom until the last page. And that comes only when you've finished and realized that whatever you might choose to read next (and you'll still be in a reading mood because the book is entirely too short) simply cannot measure up.

self-congratulatory, so queenly, so breathless with themselves and their local group. (It's gossip in Kokomo, but it's "the latest" in NYC.)

Does it really take *pain* to make homosexuals palatable?

I don't suppose it will do any good to point out New Yorkers' faults. (They'll only brag about them. "What wonderful faults we have!") But someone has to. They don't seem to realize how condescending they are to everyone and everything that isn't Their World. They talk to us all as though we're spastics, who probably can't hear and don't *matter* anyway.

George Whitmore fortunately is an honest, worthy writer. At one point he comments on the fact that he and his friends are "spoiled." Yes, they are spoiled! They need to broaden their horizons.

*Danny Slocum* is wonderful when it's about humanity and unhappiness. It's less satisfying when it's about that cute little dancing number whose major problem in life is ejaculating with maximum pleasure.

Good for George Whitmore that he doesn't let the "New York" passages intrude too much. He has triumphed over bad companions in a bad environment.

*Daniel Curzon's novels include Something You Do in the Dark and Among the Carnivores (Ashley Books, \$9.95). A novel (From Violent Men) and short-story collection (Human Warmth and Other Stories) are due out shortly.*

*This is good poetry. It is some of the best poetry, in fact, that I've read since Keats. And I'm not too insecure to compare an unknown and present-day poet with the greatest of the classicists. Michelle Cliff is a classicist.*

Michelle Cliff, born in Jamaica and bearing a name of obvious English origin, is a Black woman.

"Tell them your father is white..." (I'm not really a Gay man; I just have this thing for men...)

Realizing that perhaps my creative writing teacher was right (now that I think back upon it, I'm *sure* she was a Lesbian), I *found* a needle in this lump of dry grass, though I must confess that I really didn't look for it until I read the back-page blurb about Persephone Press (the publisher) announcing the fact that they are a "Lesbian-feminist publishing house producing innovative and provocative writings to foster Lesbian sensibility and new ways of thinking."

(Ah ha! again. Oscar Wilde was right!)

There *is*, somewhere between those lines and straws, a definite Lesbian content, regardless of Michelle Cliff's sexual orientation.

But, "...new ways of thinking?" No, Persephone. There *are* no new ways of thinking. But, yes, Michelle Cliff, you have found a new way of saying it, and it is a very effective way.

There is no gothic romance (aren't we thankful!), nor mystery, nor plot, nor blood, nor money-making insanity in this wonder-how-they-got-the-money-to-publish-it offering to Aware-ica; it is a simple, complex, creative-writing-teacher's dreamy answer to poetic justice. And it does justice to poetry.

(*Claiming An Identity They Taught Me To Despise*, Michelle Cliff, from Persephone Press, \$4 paperback, P.O. Box 7222, Watertown, Massachusetts 02172.)

## Pride Week Theme Winners Announced--Lea Hopkins To Lead Parade

The Gay Pride Week Committee of the Memphis Gay Coalition announced last week that the theme for GPW '81 will be "Gay Memphis--Believe It!" The theme was selected from entries submitted to the committee by *GAZE* readers. The winning theme was submitted by Phil Young and Rich Roberts of Memphis who will receive complimentary tickets to the Robin Tyler performance and the Gay river cruise.

The calendar of events for GPW '81 begins with comic Robin Tyler, performing Saturday, June 20, and a street festival in a Midtown neighborhood (yet to be announced) that will include a picnic, games, and arts and crafts show and sale on Sunday, June 21.

Film showings, including "Word Is Out," are planned for Wednesday, June 24.

The 2nd annual "Gay Client Seminar" has been set for Memphis State University on Friday, June 26, cosponsored by the Memphis Gay Coalition and MSU's Department of Continuing Education.

The "Showboat," (the big boat) will be the site of this year's GPW river cruise on Saturday, June 27, from 8 pm until midnight.

GPW '81 will end on Sunday, June 28 with Memphis' first Gay Pride Week

parade and rally. Leading these final events, commemorating the 12th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, will be Lea Hopkins, who was a featured speaker at the 5th Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men in August of last year.

GPW '81 committee chairs Scott Correll and Cecil McLeod urge the Memphis community to help with the planning of these and other events. The committee meets twice monthly and all meetings are open to any interested persons. Call 452-0802 (evenings) for further information (Scott Correll).

A variety show benefiting Gay Pride Week activities is scheduled for Sunday, March 1, 8 pm at the Pendulum, 92 N. Avalon. Anyone wishing to perform should contact Scott Correll at 452-0802.

## Dignity Memphis Celebrates Christmas With Caroling And Mass

Members of Dignity Memphis met for a buffet at St. Peter Village and assisted in decorating the Chapel for Christmas on December 23, and later traveled about Midtown for impromptu caroling.

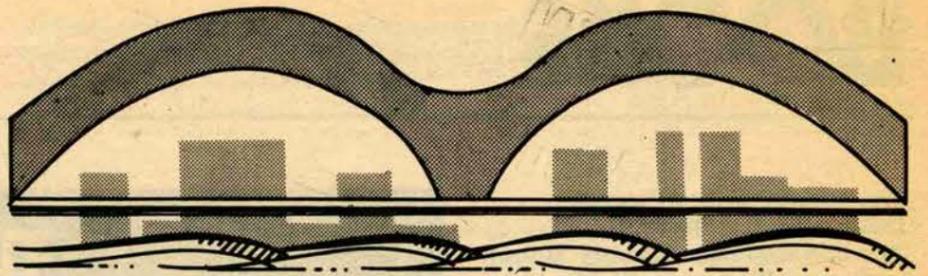
Members of Dignity, Integrity, MCC and Parents and Friends of Gays joined with the regular congregation at St. Peter Village on Christmas for Midnight Mass. The group participated in all parts of the Liturgy; readings, carols, offerings, and leading

Quince. Jordan pleaded with the officer to "give me a warning" and let him go.

The officer refused and wrote Jordan a ticket. Jordan, however, refused to wait and drove away only to be forced to stop by the officer a few blocks later.

After giving police a Little Rock address, Jordan was charged with disregarding a red light, resisting arrest, reckless driving and straddling lanes.

It was speculated by one member of the Memphis Gay Coalition that the reason for Jordan's reckless driving was simply that "Bruce Puce was chasing him."



congregational singing. Dignity Memphis has been a frequent participant in the regular Sunday Liturgy at St. Peter Village.

Dignity will meet on Monday, January 26, 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Village, 1805 Poplar Avenue at McLean Blvd. Meetings are held in the administration building at St. Peter.

## Parents Of Gays Speak To MGC

Helen and Bill Denney, co-founders of Memphis Parents and Friends of Gays, spoke at the January 5 meeting of the Memphis Gay Coalition about the need in the community for an organized parents' group.

"Working with John (her son) in the Gay community," said Ms. Denney,

"many of his friends would say to me 'I wish my parents could be as understanding as you.' That is why Parents and Friends of Gays exists." She noted that PFOG can act as a support group for parents struggling to come to terms with their child's homosexuality.

"Forty years ago in Nazi Germany," said Mr. Denney, "you would have gone to the gas chambers...and I would guess that 25 years ago in Memphis, you would not have been allowed to assemble here. You've come a long way."

PFOG offered to talk with persons thinking of coming out to their parents and to help those whose parents are having difficulty adjusting to the knowledge that their son or daughter is Gay. PFOG may be contacted by writing P.O. Box 3733, Memphis, TN 38103 or by calling Bill Denney at 274-0653.

## Rep. Gaia Challenges Gays To Defeat Her

MEMPHIS--Pam Gaia, the unnamed candidate for Tennessee state Representative endorsed by *GAZE* prior to the November elections because her opponent was endorsed by Moral Majority, was interviewed last month by *GAZE*--more or less. Actually, she didn't know it at the time.

Reporter Ric Sullivan, who encountered Gaia at a December party, "chatted" with her about the efforts of the Memphis Gay Coalition to elect someone to City Council and the State Legislature from Memphis who would openly and directly support Gay rights issues.

Immediately after identifying himself, Gaia said to Sullivan, "You have a tough row to hoe."

Sullivan responded, "I'm glad you said that because your Gay constituency expects you, should it become necessary, to publicly support them when anti-Gay issues arise."

Gaia said that she took Sullivan's comment as a "threat" and challenged the Gay and Lesbian community to "just try" to put someone else in her place (referring to her elected seat in the State Legislature).

Gaia noted that she would do nothing that she thought might hurt her chances for re-election in the future. She had stated this intention previously when asked her position on Gay rights issues by the Memphis Gay Coalition prior to the elections and was adamant that *GAZE* not endorse her. (We wouldn't have had her opponent not been Moral Majority's Andy Strickland.)

Gaia's district includes a sizable area of Gay neighborhoods in Memphis.

After challenging the Gay community to defeat her in the next election, Gaia terminated the conversation with Sullivan.

## "Bruce Puce" ...

continued from page 1

more effective than protesting to the station. It is not necessary for callers to identify themselves when registering a complaint with the sponsors.

Jordan's troubles number more than his offenses to Gay listeners. He was arrested January 2 on traffic charges while rushing to work. He was observed by police speeding and running a red light at Mt. Moriah and Park and refused to stop when pursued by Patrolman W.F. Novarese. Jordan finally braked at Mt. Moriah and

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## Classifieds

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THE MYSTIC KREWE OF APHRODITE is here to serve you. For further information, PLEASE WRITE TO US at P.O. Box 40364, Memphis, TN 38104.

LATIN AMERICAN LESBIANS interested in contributing articles (Spanish/English) on their struggles in the US & Latin America for an anthology being published by a collective of Latin Lesbian activists contact Juanita/Digna L., 170 Ave. C, 4-H, NYC 10009 (212) 473-6864.

TRANVESTITE (borderline transsexual?) desires dating and friendship relationships with responsible persons of both sexes (not to be confused with trick-turning); many may have thought I wasn't interested in this, but that isn't so. Phone 323-0830 (no late-night calls), or write Teresa Hart, P.O. Box 11263, Memphis, TN 38111.

PRISON INMATES need your friendship. *Ken's Friends* directory lists many addresses and descriptions. Donations appreciated. Lambda Lighthouse, Box 3023, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952.

MALE SEEKS ROOMMATE, late 20's, early 30's, prefer professional. Write Michael, c/o **GAZE**, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

CHEMICAL DEFENSE WEAPON: Effective yet safe, pocket size unit. \$5 includes shipping. Free crime prevention literature. Barry Distributing, 2944 Motley, Suite 301-G, Mesquite, Texas 75150.

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER. At last, a nationwide group! Write: BWMT-NA, 279 Collingwood, San Francisco, California 94114. BWMT is a non-profit oriented support group. We publish a national newsletter, free for all interested, and have groups in several large cities.

IF YOU KNOW of visually impaired sisters or brothers who would like to arrange to have **GAZE** read to them, a service is now available via telephone (local only). Write to "GAZE Talks," Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

## Gay Memphis

"Gay Memphis" provides free listings of bars, restaurants, social and service clubs, religious organizations and services for the Memphis community. If your business or organization is not listed here, please let us know about it. Write **GAZE**, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTIONS, Producers of feminist concerts, P.O. Box 63065, Memphis, TN 38163, 276-7625.

CLUB 10 N, CLEVELAND, disco, & PHASE V, bar and game arcade, 10 N. Cleveland, 726-9813.

COUNSELING SERVICE, Holy union, pastoral, couples, being Gay, etc. By appointment only, noon-10 p.m., Tues.-Fri. Call 358-5433.

DIGNITY MEMPHIS, Box 3733, Memphis 38103. Phone 278-5677, 274-3466 or 726-5297. Mass Sundays 11 a.m., St. Peter Village, 1805 Poplar at McLean.

FAMILY AFFAIR CLUB, bar, 873 Vance, 527-0672.

FREEWHEELIN' FRANK & FAMILY, Smokin' Shop, 722 S. Highland, Memphis 38111, 452-7998.

FRENCH CONNECTION, piano bar & restaurant, 598 Marshall, 526-1038.

GAY ALTERNATIVE, radio show, WEVL-FM 90.3, Sundays, 3 p.m.

GAYGUIDE MEMPHIS, Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

GAY PRIDE WEEK '81 COMMITTEE, 181 N. Merton, #10, 452-0802 (evenings).

GAZE, newspaper, Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

GEORGE'S, bar, clothing and toy stores, game room, and movies, 600 Marshall, 526-1038.

GRAND ILLUSION, Hair styling, Bellevue Towers, Suite 110, 305 S. Bellevue, 725-6994 for appointment.

INNER MAN, personal development group for all people, Virginia Hornsbuckle, 346-1998.

INTEGRITY, Box 12856, Memphis 38112.

JACK'S PIT STOP, Restaurant, 1674 Madison Ave., 725-6757.

J-WAG'S, bar & restaurant, 1268 Madison, 725-4670.

MEMPHIS GAY ACTIVISTS, 981 Meda, Memphis 38104.

MEMPHIS GAY COALITION, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103. Meetings held 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Main Library, Meeting Room B, Peabody at McLean. Open to the public.

MEMPHIS GAY SPEAKERS BUREAU, Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

MEMPHIS GAY SWITCHBOARD, 726-GAYY, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. nightly.

MEMPHIS PARENTS & FRIENDS OF GAYS, Meets 2nd Mondays of each month. Call Helen Denney, 274-0653 or John Denney, 274-3466, P.O. Box 3733, Memphis 38103.

MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY GAY AWARENESS DISCUSSION GROUP, Call 726-4299.

MEMPHIS WIMMINS ALLIANCE, 10561 Hwy. 64, Arlington, TN 38002, 382-3849.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF MEMPHIS, Services Sundays 11 a.m. at the Pendulum, 92 N. Avalon, 358-LIFE, 358-5433.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH CHRISTIAN GROWTH CLASS, Wed., 7:30 p.m. Call 358-5433 for location.

MY PLACE, bar & restaurant, 238 N. Cleveland, 725-9837.

MYSTIC KREWE OF APHRODITE, Service organization, P.O. Box 40364, Memphis, TN 38104.

PENDULUM/GUNSLINGER, bars, 92 N. Avalon, 725-1530.

PSYCH-OUT, bar, 76 N. Cleveland, 725-9842.

SHARON'S, bar, 1474 Madison Ave., 278-9021.

SOCIAL FRIENDS, support and counseling line, 272-2955.

SOUTHEASTERN LESBIAN NETWORK, 10561 Hwy. 64, Arlington, TN 38002, 382-3849.

STUDIO ONE, Clothing, etc. 2075-9 Madison Avenue in Overton Square, Memphis 38104, 725-0831.

TERRI'S TOWNHOUSE, bar & restaurant, 603 Monroe, 523-9912.

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