

GAZE

News of the Lesbian And Gay Community

FREE

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Memphis, Tennessee

July, 1982

Gay Pride Week 1982: Festivity, Pride, Exhilaration Hopkins Announces Founding Of National Gay Museum At Rally



By Susan Smith

MEMPHIS--Activist Lea Hopkins announced to 200 participants in the city's second annual Gay Pride March and Rally the formation of the first national Gay museum and established state coordinators for Tennessee.

"I am kicking off a national program in Memphis, Tennessee today," Hopkins said, "and I am very excited about it and I hope you are too...I am going to found the first national Gay museum in this country. What I want you to do in Memphis, Tennessee to help me along is to start collecting your wares."

"The title of the campaign is 'Because We Care.' The statement is we care enough in 1982 that in 1992 a young man or woman can come out, or if they choose not to come out, go to a legitimate museum and see who we were in 1982, who we were in the '70's and the '60's. And if we don't document ourselves, nobody else will...I will not be a Gay in this country and not be recorded correctly for every young baby that will be Gay someday."

Hopkins preceded the announcement with a twenty-minute talk about Gay and Lesbian history, but opened her remarks by commenting that John Peter Wenger "did not commit suicide; he was murdered." Wenger, one of 14 men arrested in Clarksville in April of 1981 on "crimes against nature" charges, took his life on January 29, 1982 due to sensationalized media coverage. The Reverend Jim Simon of the Metropolitan Community Church of Memphis conducted a memorial service June 23 at Trix Gallery in honor of Wenger and all Gays who have lost their lives due to oppression in society.

Talking about how Gay men and Lesbians are defined in society, Hopkins

said, "I can say with great authority no one ever asked me, no one ever asked me if Lesbians were what they're supposed to be and Gay men are whatever they're supposed to be. And it's my life. These are my friends. This is my community. We have not been asked honestly who we are. Anita did her thing and her facts were all wrong. Everyone does this to us. It happened to Blacks. No one ever called me and asked me if I preferred nigger to coon. Blacks as a people decided we were Black and said it loudly across the country. We are Lesbians and Gay men."

Also speaking at the rally were Julie Steiner, Executive Director of the ACLU of Tennessee; Joe Calhoun of Black and White Men Together of Memphis; and Paul Gordon, Pres. of Arkansas Gay Rights.

Entertainment was provided by Charlie McMullen and Kelly Johnson. McMullen, who led the crowd in a sing-along of Holly Near's "Singing For Our Lives," sang several songs a capella.

Johnson began her rendition of "I Shall Be Released" with a story about a recent experience at Huey's in which she was harassed and physically assaulted. After the incident, she reported that a bartender there had commented that "those dykes shouldn't have been here in the first place." Johnson said, "No damn body is going to tell me where I can and cannot go."

The march and rally was the grand finale to a two-week celebration of Gay and Lesbian pride in Memphis. The groups represented in the march included the Memphis Gay Coalition, the Memphis chapter of NOW, Black and White Men Together of Memphis, the ACLU of Tennessee, the Metropolitan Community Church of Memphis, Arkansas Gay Rights, the Mississippi Gay Alliance, and the Memphis State University Gay Student Union.

Gay Pride Week activities began June 13 with a well attended picnic with live entertainment by local performers and the first annual Gay Pride Art Show and Sale.

The Gay Switchboard's annual Schlitz Belle Anniversary Party was cancelled at the last minute because workers at the Schlitz brewery went on strike on the day the event was set (June 16).

The Metropolitan Community Church of Memphis conducted a memorial service in honor of Peter Wenger on June 23.

A Gay Film Festival was presented at Bread and Roses Del1 June 25 by Lambda



Televideo and Gay Alternative.

The third annual Gay Pride Week Riverboat Cruise, which featured entertainment by Joyce Cobb and Hot Fun, was a sellout this year, drawing more than 350 people. The cruise raised more than \$1200 to help offset costs of Gay Pride Week activities.

The march and rally and other Gay Pride Week events were filmed by Lambda Televideo and will be presented in the near future on Channel 32's "Views From Ten Percent."

Gay Pride Week in Nashville began June 20 with a talk by Mel Boozer, the Director of Civil Rights Advocacy of NGRP. The week also featured a riverboat cruise on the Cumberland River and a picnic in Edwin Warner Park. Boozer's speech also was filmed by Lambda Televideo for airing in Mem-

phis on a date to be announced.

Several Memphians attended the first ever Gay Pride Week Rally in Little Rock June 20. Noted speakers included Susan McGreivy of the ACLU National Gay Rights Project, Sandra Kurjiaka of the ACLU of Arkansas, Paul Gordon of Arkansas Gay Rights, and Bill Johnson of GAZE. Approximately 100 people attended the rally on the steps of the Arkansas Capitol. Despite distorted implications by newspapers in both Little Rock and Memphis, only two participants in the rally wore paper bags over their heads. According to Sandra Kurjiaka, the bags were worn to make a statement that oppression against Lesbians and Gay men is very real, but the non-Gay media misinterpreted that statement.

McGreivy Attacks 'Patriarchal Protection Act'

By Joel Tate

Susan McGreivy, director of the ACLU National Gay Rights Project, told Memphians June 21 they must prepare to meet threats being posed by the nation's strong conservative backlash.

McGreivy, a Los Angeles lawyer, was in town to address a joint meeting of the Memphis Gay Coalition and the ACLU of Tennessee's West Tennessee Chapter. She was there to help celebrate the city's third annual Gay Pride Week celebration and spoke on "The Family Protection Act: Whose Family is the New Right Protecting?"

The 43-year-old feminist spoke more than an hour about a worldwide patriarchal movement that she said is aimed at "getting control of women's bodies and their reproductive systems." She said the movement in the United States has produced many threats to women. She warned that those threats inherently also pose problems for Gay men.

As director of the ACLU Gay Rights Project, McGreivy has been involved in some of the most vital litigation in the nation concerning Gay employment and housing rights. She also has worked with Gay rights and the military service, and she was attorney for the Norton Sound case last year. Established in 1979, NGRP is an advocacy and public education program designed to stop sexual orientation from being a barrier to the full enjoyment of Constitutionally guaranteed liberties.

In town after speaking at the Little Rock Gay Pride Week Rally on June 20, McGreivy spoke strongly against the

Family Protection Act now pending before Congress. She urged the Memphis Gay Community to join Gays nationwide in opposing it.

Calling it "the Misogynistic Manifesto," McGreivy said the bill doesn't have "much of a chance of passing in its entirety." She also said it is one of the greatest organized mechanisms the Gay community has been given in a long time.

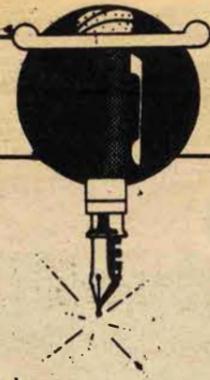
McGreivy said the Family Protection Act, if passed, would stop Legal Aid Society funds from aiding the poor in divorce proceedings. She said it would change laws aimed at providing for shelters for battered women, children and runaways. She said it would eliminate sex education in the schools and allow religious qualifications for teachers.

The FPA proponents' main goal, however, is to attack abortion, McGreivy said. "That is the bottom line, because it gives women the same freedom men have," McGreivy said. "and that's the freedom to have sex without the fear of having a child."

"If you're into patriarchal control, as they are, you must ensure that single women are virgins. You must ensure the rest are pregnant and down on the farm."

McGreivy said the FPA attacks Gay men because "if you have one promiscuous segment of society, what's to say that women, too, can't have the same kind of fun? In the past, women in this country have earned the right to own property, the right to vote, the right to contraception and the right to abortion. Having them keep all that is important to the success of Gay rights. If you lose one, you lose it all."





Gazing

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

Religion As A Tool Of Oppression

Pure Hearts And

Dirty Minds

By Bill Johnson

Oh, divisiveness. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could dispense with the concept of "rights?" Wouldn't it be great if we could have pure hearts and care for all humans regardless of who they are? Wouldn't it be great if we didn't have to worry about people's rights because none were ever violated?

Those words were said to me on the phone recently by a non-Gay woman who moved to Memphis from San Francisco a couple of years ago. Why did she call me? She was upset about the ACLU of Tennessee's state meeting featuring a Lesbian activist speaker (Lea Hopkins).

"This is an infringement of MY rights," she said.

"How?" I asked.

She couldn't answer.

Twenty years ago we Gays weren't a problem. Twenty years ago we had a much higher suicide rate. Yep, we

I said to her, "What about my rights? What about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?"

(You're not well for this.) She replied in no uncertain terms that the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, not to mention Gay rights, are, to put it as politely as possible, a crock. She emphasized her discontent (if not disbelief) with the cornerstone of the good old U.S.A.

As I talked with this woman I became more and more confused. How could she talk about purity of heart and how great it would be if nobody's rights were ever violated and then tell me that the whole concept of rights is a crock?

But the pattern emerged. She didn't want to believe in the Constitution--an idea whose time has been ushered in by the so-called "Christian" Right--because that particular document is supposed to guarantee equal rights to everybody, even Gays. Her idea that people's rights should not be violated



successful in using her "pure heart" to oppress us.

It is ironic that so many people who claim to believe in a good and just supreme being can accept a supposed calling to enslave Blacks, burn witches, condemn Gays, and dominate women. I have a difficult time believing that

It is terrifying to me to hear anyone express the idea that rights are nothing more than a protection for people who would oppress others.

The fact that our nation refuses to pass an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex is a clear reminder that God is still being used to promote bigotry.

just ended it all. Were all those pure hearts out there too much for us? Twenty years ago we hid in mortal fear, even in San Francisco. Twenty years ago we didn't have a concept of our "rights."

Now that things are changing, some dodo calls me to tell me that these changes are infringing on her rights.

wasn't based on civil and human rights. It was based on bigotry. The Gay rights movement is forcing her to confront her prejudice against Gays, and she is not at all pleased about it.

It is terrifying to me to hear anyone express the idea that rights are nothing more than a protection for people who would oppress others.

Because this particular Gay activist happens to believe very strongly in the good old U.S.A. and its cornerstone I was weirded out that anyone might contradict them.

I just may be a good old patriotic Southerner, right here in River City. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all had pure hearts and never violated the civil rights of others? Most of us do not have very pure hearts, and most of us violate the rights of others.

And that is why our founding fathers and mothers saw the need for the Bill of Rights. Because many people let their biases and prejudices stand defiantly in the face of justice, the Bill of Rights is not always effective; but its existence is at least a guarantee that oppressed peoples may struggle to overcome oppression.

In many ways America's history has not been a very proud one. We have consistently suffered the oppression generated by groups of people crying purity. The things we have done in the name of God is enough to make me wonder whether that God with the capital "G" isn't used as a big scapegoat for all the evils of humankind.

The Puritans burned people at the stake if they were suspected of being witches. This, in the name of God and pure hearts. Whitemen enslaved Blacks because Blacks were considered below the level of human; slavery was defended by people who claimed that the entire race was "blackened" by God as a punishment for some untold but supposedly heinous sin. Women, of course, are still oppressed by men; the entire concept of male domination is clearly a function of religion. God, after all, is a man.

I wish I had reminded the woman on the telephone, when she condemned the Bill of Rights, that, without it, women would never have achieved the very basic right to vote. The fact that our nation refused to pass an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting

discrimination on the basis of sex is a clear reminder that God is still being used to promote bigotry. It is no wonder that the major warriors against the Equal Rights Amendment just happen to be the major warriors of the so-called "Christian" Right.

Before I start getting a lot of hate mail from people about being anti-God and anti-religion, I am not saying bad things about God. I am talking about people who use the concept of God and religion to dominate other people.

If you happen to be a Lesbian or a Gay man, you are fully aware, I hope, of the function of religion as a tool of oppression. The woman on the phone made this very clear to me--not that I wasn't already quite aware of it. She apparently saw it as her duty to complain because an organization that she does not even belong to was having a speaker talk about Gay rights at a meeting she would not even be attending. Why did she complain? Because she has a "pure heart" and thinks if everybody did there wouldn't be a Gay rights movement. We would all be totally hidden and desperate, and she would be

a diety who could endorse such oppression would have time to care about my sex life and romantic attachments.

Because there is a Gay rights movement--because we are utilizing our constitutional right to try to overcome our oppression--the woman on the telephone was compelled to, in effect let me know that I was violating her religious rights by not being in the closet. I simply threw the ball back into her court and told her she was violating mine by complaining about it.

It gets more than a little bit scary when someone says the Bill of Rights should not exist. Of course, the Moral Majority, Religious Roundtable and other so-called "Christian" Right organizations have made it crystal clear that the Bill of Rights shouldn't be there standing in the way of oppression in the name of religion. But it is different when you have to deal with a real human person and hear it in real human words. I've sworn off the telephone for awhile. I have to regain my confidence in people and try to forget how frightened I am.

Gaze

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Southern Roots

By Bill Johnson

It's not easy being a southerner. I have to put up with all sorts of uninformed non-southerners who assume that I am a redneck bigot living in a log shack on Memphis Mountain.

I am constantly asked why I don't move to a civilized country like the United States. I constantly answer that I happen to like my home and, in fact, am quite proud of it.

I have noticed more than one rather smug reception based solely on my native geography. Frankly, my dear, I am over it.

Yes, there is a great deal of oppression in the South. There is a great deal of bigotry. And there is a great deal not to be proud of.

On the other hand, I take a great deal of pride in being one who has chosen to stay and fight oppression and bigotry. The idea of running off to San Francisco never did anything for me. It's a nice city to visit, but it's not home.

It worries me that there is so much bigotry against the South, based, as all bigotry is, on ignorance. Most of the people I encounter who express the greatest distaste for it have never been here.

There are a number of things about this area that we frequently fail to consider. Specifically, in Memphis, Nashville and Little Rock there are fairly large populations of liberal, fair-minded, non-bigoted people, and these people are real go-getters. We are probably more keenly aware of the problem of bigotry than most areas of the country, not only because we've had more direct experience with such,

but also because we are the fighters. San Francisco, for example, is not a good battleground for Gay liberation. The fighters don't move there.

All that aside--including the fact that I am looked upon with frequent disdain for liking where I live--the three major cities in our particular part of the South are strikingly handsome ones, and each contains many very interesting attractions. We natives, of course, take them for granted.

I am intolerably biased toward Memphis (it's home, after all). Memphis must have the greatest number of trees per square inch than any other city. From my 15th-floor office downtown I look eastward and, except an occasional high rise, see a literal forest. I know there is a city out there. It is an incredibly beautiful and relaxed city; even the most devout Memphis haters do not deny that.

There is really no need to say anything about Nashville, because everybody knows that Music City has much to offer. Actually, it has very much more to offer than is generally known, but I have space limitations here.

Little Rock is probably the most underrated of the three. It, like Nashville, is situated among beautifully rolling hills which are just short of mountains. (Memphis is the flat space between Nashville and Little Rock.)

All three of these cities, just like most other cities, are made up of a vastly diverse group of people. I do not think it's quite fair for people in other areas to stereotype us all as they do. (The entire state of Mississippi gets an even worse rap.)

Come on, folks, we don't deserve it.

The Eyes Have It

By Rick Reed

I have wanted to write for GAZE from the first moment I discovered the first issue. It is a very special time for me to sit here and type away from the heart reflections of my innermost being and share them with the Gay community of Memphis, Tennessee and other cities GAZE reaches.

My particular style of journalism is called NEW JOURNALISM, henceforth labeled NJ because I just don't think I feel like writing it out each and every time I use the term. NJ has always been around, and there's room for it in every newspaper. From the looks of it, I'm it for now. NJ is usually whatever efforts are made that happen

to be too weird or off the wall to be labeled anything else. ("Well, that certainly seems pretty NEW to me!") So they call it NEW. Actually it isn't. There have been a great number of fruitcakes writing the stuff way before I was even thought of being thought of.

In the eighteen years that I have been writing NJ and actually managing to be published in black and white, I have spilled the beans about the most personal things to me. NJ has four major characteristics in its evolution that must be satisfied, and being PERSONAL is the first. Unashamedly I have poured from my heart my religious beliefs and disbeliefs, my political opinions, and an understanding fantasy with Cybil Shepherd, Ken-L Ration and

carpet samples, as if I really thought someone might care. My portfolio is about as personal as one can stand. Upcoming stories may reflect allergies to toe jam, jock itch in southern states or personal aversions to amyl nitrate, if any.

The second requirement is that the story be passionate. You'll just have to take my word on that one. I usually write with such a passion that I often itch all over, sweat and emit odors not even a real dog could stand.

Third, the story must be subjective, which confuses me because how can you be personal and passionate without being subjective?

Last, but not at all least, I must expose a degree of the BIZARRE, which to me is the hardest part, though my friends tell me I have no problem in that area. What do they know though? (They're all crazy.)

Keeping within these four guidelines, the New Journalist can do no wrong, and we are encouraged to go OVERBOARD at least 85% of the time. We are even allowed to repeat ourselves repeat ourselves, which by definition is a literary trope (look it up). The sub-

ject of our stories can be whatever pops into or out of our heads. The editor is the one who gets to read the stories that never make it, where we go overboard 100%.

THE EYES HAVE IT is the name we have chosen to identify this particular brand of NJ, thanks to GAZE and the powers that be, who we won't even name because they are so powerful they know who they are. Thanks to them I am able to be personal, passionate, subjective and bizarre again.

So, if I am not locked up for being myself, this particular space will be devoted to NJ. A writer is only as good as his last story. I hope you will continue to notice GAZE (and especially my contribution), THE EYES HAVE IT, which is incidentally the beginning of my third book by the same title. It would be even nicer if you would go all the way with me by subscribing to GAZE so that it is delivered to your front door regularly like a regular person would like. The very nature of GAZE is an expression of NEW JOURNALISM, and I can't tell you exactly how ecstatic I am to have found a new home.

Alcohol: Must We Continue To Oppress Ourselves?

By Audrey J. May

One in three Gay persons in this country is an alcoholic or on the verge of becoming one, according to a 1977 study on alcoholism in the Gay community.

While we do not have statistics on how many of the Gay alcoholics in this country are Lesbians, the percentage is probably quite high.

Alcoholism is not a moral weakness or a failing on the part of those who have little willpower or weak stomachs. It is a serious physiological disease that is often fatal. It is as serious as cancer, and the prevalence of alcoholism in the Gay community is 3 times higher than in the overall population.

Why is this disease so common among Lesbians? It may be that alcohol and drug abuse are common, accepted coping strategies for living in an oppressive and alienating society. Often bars and social gatherings where liquor is served in large amounts help us forget our troubles, to feel free and at ease with ourselves, if only temporarily.

Lesbian bars still play a significant role in the Lesbian community. But alcohol abuse in itself is not the fault of the bars, or even of the social oppression we try to forget through drinking. As alcoholism experts say, IT IS DRINKING ALCOHOL THAT CAUSES ALCOHOLISM.

Drinking is a commonly accepted form of socializing in general society as well. For most people, sports events, barbecues and family gatherings would seem strangely lacking without the traditional six-pack or mixed drink. However, for Lesbians the link between alcohol and socializing may be even more strong due to limited social options we face and the lack of alcohol-free alternatives.

This means we need to become more aware of how alcohol abuse can destroy us and the people we love. We live in a society that doesn't look kindly toward Lesbians. We don't need to destroy ourselves and our sisters with alcohol. There's too much yet to be done to drink ourselves into permanent oblivion.

There are several stages of alcoholism, and alcohol affects different people differently. Some people can drink a lot and not become alcoholics; others become hooked after a drink or two. Some people are simply allergic to alcohol or can't metabolize liquor adequately. So definitions of alcoholism vary. But the best indication of alcohol abuse is when someone can't or does not control drinking.

Alcoholism does not discriminate on the basis of economic status, ethnic background or skin color. You do not have to be a certain kind of person to become addicted to alcohol. Basically, when alcohol becomes more important than other things in your life, alcoholism has begun.

Sometimes in the Lesbian community, we help the people we love stay alcoholics. As lovers, friends, family members, we make excuses for the alcoholic, take care of her and allow her to continue the same pattern of addiction because she is too "weak" to make changes. However, this does not help the alcoholic kick the disease. Although women are programmed to be nurturers, to "rescue" those we love, in the case of alcoholism, we must allow the alcoholic to make her own recovery.

Alcoholism counselors who have themselves battled the disease suggest the only way to beat alcoholism is to stop drinking, get counseling, and get into a support group with other alcoholics. Getting over alcoholism is extremely difficult and doesn't happen overnight. Stopping the intake of alcohol allows the alcoholic to begin to look honestly at the situation. Good counseling allows her to begin dealing with some of the problems she tried to escape with alcohol. And peer support can help the alcoholic find new coping strategies for those problems.

Unfortunately many therapists and alcohol recovery programs are not sensitive to the special needs of Lesbians. Some may be openly hostile. This should not be used as an excuse for not getting help. In some cities, groups such as Alcoholics Together and Gay Alcoholics

Anonymous exist especially for Gay alcoholics. If such services do not exist in your community, start them. Or scout around until you find a supportive therapist and support group. It is imperative that the Gay and Lesbian community have these services to meet a tremendous unmet health need in our community--the epidemic of alcoholism.

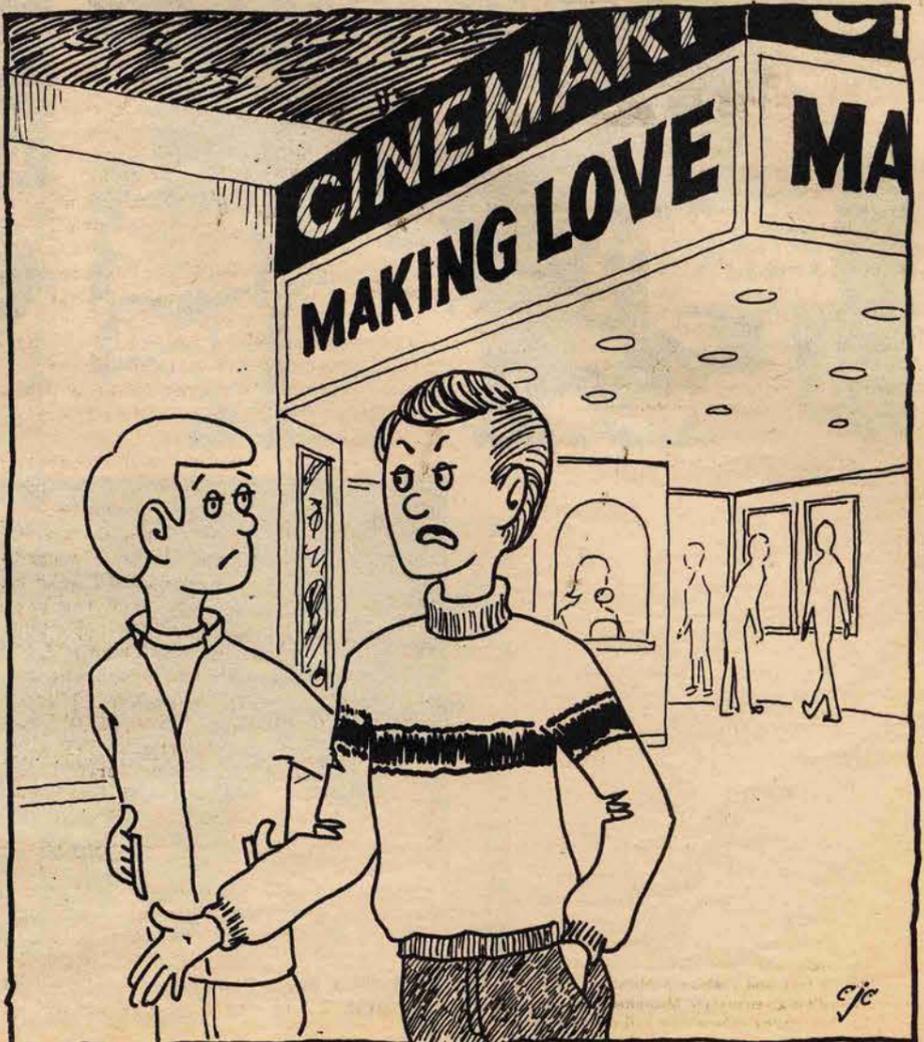
In Memphis, a group called Phoenix is here specially for Lesbian and Gay alcoholics. For information, call 365-7155.

Finally, what can we do as a community? First, we must be aware of the severity of the problem. And the fault lies not in the bars, dear Brutus; it is in ourselves. The bars have often provided a great service to the Lesbian community as a gathering place and social outlet. But we are the ones who control how much we drink. If the problem lies within ourselves, then the solution does, too. We must create alternatives to alcohol,

as a social activity and as a coping strategy.

That does not mean that a socially conscious, politically correct Lesbian must never allow the taint of alcohol to stain her breath. What it does mean is that we must begin to be responsible for how we use alcohol. We can provide alcohol-free events and gatherings, or at least have non-alcoholic alternatives at gatherings where alcohol is served. We can be sensitive to friends and loved ones struggling with alcohol addiction. We must develop alternative coping strategies (such as working together politically) for the stresses we face. Such strategies should foster our living, working and playing together as healthy, women-loving women without drowning ourselves in alcohol. We cannot use our oppression as an excuse to drink ourselves into wasted lives.

But we are strong. And we shall overcome.



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Signs of the times at the Gay Pride Picnic.

Gay Rights are Civil Rights



David Alexander pigs out at picnic.



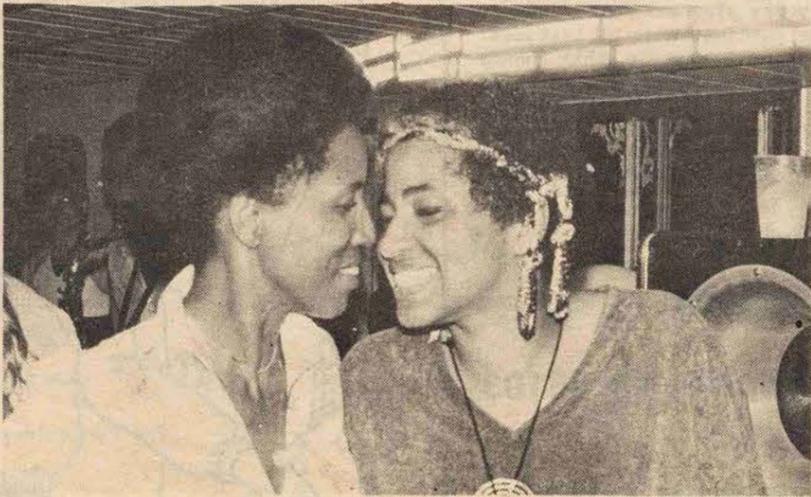
Not a sad face on this boat cruise!



Popular spot at Gay Pride Picnic.



Gay Coalition
The Lineup.



Lea Hopkins, Joyce Cobb embrace on the riverboat cruise.



Ric Sullivan and company -- are they dancing or what?



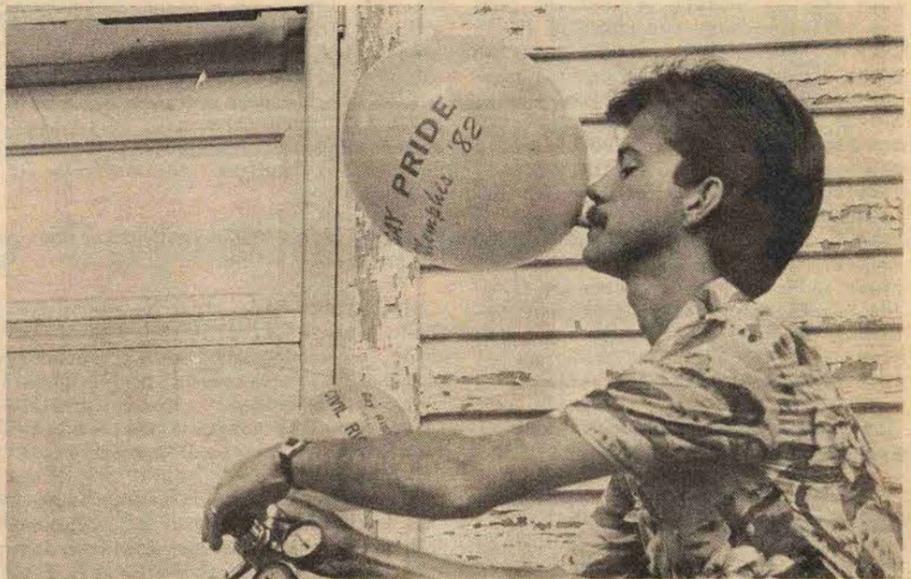
"It was a simply marvelous cruise, darling."



ACLU of Tennessee Director Julie Steiner: "Look at us! We made it. We're out here and we don't have any paper bags on our heads!"

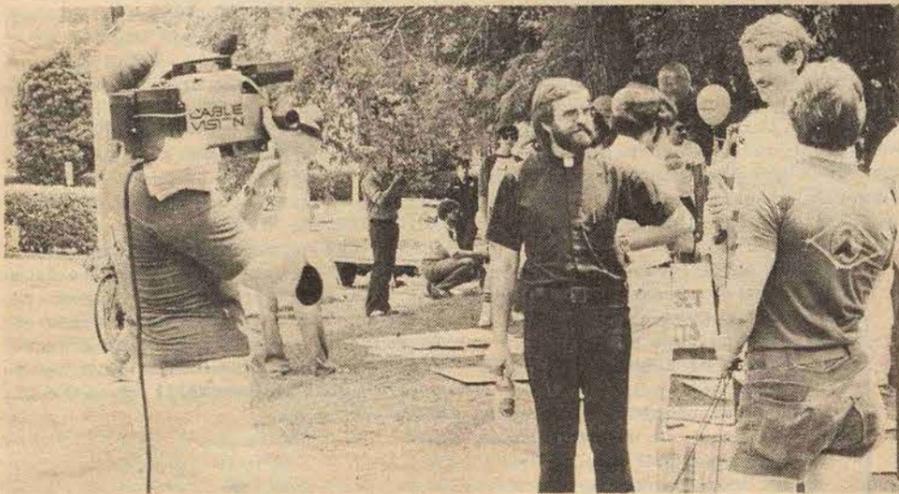


The ACLU of Tennessee's annual meeting June 26 featured Lea Hopkins speaking on "Why Is The ACLU Involved In Gay Rights?" in honor of Gay Pride Week in Memphis. (L to R) Kathy Hearn, new Executive Director of the ACLU of Tn; Lea Hopkins; Mary Wilder, outgoing President of the ACLU of TN; and Julie Steiner, outgoing Executive Director.



Filling it up and sucking it out.

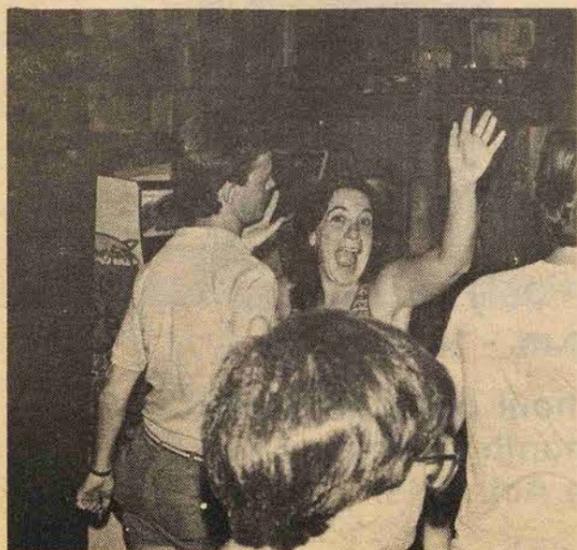
GAY PRIDE WEEK 1982 Memphis



Reverend Jim Simon and Hunter Johnston -- an interview with the staff of Lambda Televideo.



All smiles -- out on the green, green grass of home.



She's not drunk, just crazy. July Steiner at the Annex after the rally.



Bill Johnson, Ric Sullivan become Lea Hopkins' Tennessee Coordinators for the first National Gay Museum.



National

Gay Group Goes Back To School

GAINESVILLE, FL (GAYLIFE)—A Gay organization that was evicted from the campus of the University of Florida here has gotten its on-campus office back. The University of Florida Lesbian and Gay Society was removed from its office because the Board of Managers of the university said that the group did not "serve the general campus community." UFLAGS filed a number of lawsuits against the university and the board of regents. Ultimately, the board of regents forced the university to reverse its decision and return the unassigned office space to UFLAGS, which in turn dropped its lawsuits. The original eviction came about in March, shortly after the Florida Supreme Court declared unconstitutional the Bush-Trask amendment cutting off funding to any state school that recognized Gay organizations.

Gay Leadership Conference Planners Excited By Early Response

DALLAS -- The National Leadership Conference on CELEBRATING THE MOVEMENT: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE is scheduled for Dallas on August 13-15 and has been greeted by nationwide interest and enthusiasm. Replies to an early mail-out have been received from all corners of the country from Caraibou, Maine to San Diego, California. Several organizations have planned regional meetings in conjunction with the conference. Meeting space will be made available free of charge to any group wishing to hold a meeting on Sunday, August 15th. Interested organizations should contact the Dallas Gay Alliance, Box 35011, Dallas, Texas 75235.

Individual registration for the conference is \$40, which includes four meals (one a banquet with entertainment), all activities of the conference, and shuttle service to Dallas night spots. Individuals interested in attending are encouraged to send for hotel information and registration materials.

Hill Briefing To Focus On Exclusion Of Gay Foreigners

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Steve Endean, Executive Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), announced recently that Representative Julian Dixon (D-CA) has agreed to sponsor a special briefing for Congress focusing on the exclusion of foreign Lesbians and Gay men from our country under prevailing immigration laws.

The Hill briefing will be held dur-

ing the week of July 12 to coincide with the Annual Conference of the International Gay Association (IGA), which will be held this year at George Washington University.

Several delegates to the IGA conference will be among the principal witnesses at the briefing. They will be asked to testify concerning the adverse impact of present exclusionary practices not only Gay people abroad, but also on America's moral stature around the world. The violation of the Helsinki Accord, which calls for free movements of peoples across national boundaries, will be the primary subject for analysis at the briefing.

First Gay Men's Music Festival Set For Labor Day

MINNEAPOLIS--The First American Gay Men's Music Festival, three days of music, workshops and community events will be held here over Labor Day Weekend, September 3-5. The event will be sponsored by Voices & Visions Productions, a collective of Gay men based in Minneapolis.

"We want to present non-sexist music that nurtures us as Gay men, celebrating our diversity in an affirming and non-threatening environment," said Ken Majerus of V & V Productions. "We've been interested in this Festival for several years. It's a project close to my heart and I'm glad to see it becoming a reality."

Three mainstage concerts and at least two matinees are planned; workshops on songwriting, performance and production, a tentatively planned community meal and other events will round out the weekend.

Cost of the weekend will be \$30 for registration prior to August 15th; \$40 after that date. Site for the Festival has not yet been confirmed, but it will be wheelchair accessible and easily reached by public transportation. Concerts will be signed for the hearing impaired; childcare and limited weekend housing will be available for those who pre-register.

Pre-registration payments should be postmarked no later than August 15th and mailed to Voices & Visions Productions, P.O. Box 3549, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403.

Court Orders Reinstatement Of Sex Course

CINCINNATI (GAY COMMUNITY NEWS)-- A district court has ruled that the University of Cincinnati must reinstate a non-credit course on sexual minorities it had previously cancelled.

According to a May 27 ruling by U.S. District Judge Carl Rubin, the Univer-

sity denied Gay activist and journalist John Zeh his First Amendment right to freedom of speech last fall when it cancelled "Sexual Subcultures in Cincinnati," a six-session course Zeh had been scheduled to teach.

University officials had initially claimed they were cancelling the course because not enough students had registered for it but later admitted they feared controversy surrounding Zeh would jeopardize the passage of a hospital tax levy favorable to the University. In a widely publicized case, Zeh was charged in February of 1981 of disseminating material harmful to juveniles through a humorous discussion of sexual lubricants on a radio program he produces. Zeh was acquitted of the charge.

Arkansas ACLU Challenges Sodomy Law

LITTLE ROCK (ARKANSAS GAY WRITES)--In February, two Gay men were arrested in the Hot Springs National Park and charged with violating a little used Arkansas law, commonly known as the sodomy statute. ACLU cooperating attorney Paul Gordon represented one of the defendants in a hearing before Federal District Judge Oren Harris.

Gordon asked the judge to dismiss the charges and to acquit the man on the grounds that the statute is unconstitutional in that it violates the right to privacy, denies equal protection of the law and punished the defendant on the basis of his status as homosexual. The judge disregarded the arguments and

found the man guilty of violation of the statute and sentenced him to ninety days in jail. Gordon asked that the sentence be stayed pending an appeal to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis. Judge Harris granted the stay.

Research indicated no other state has a statute similar in wording or in application to the Arkansas law. Under this law it is illegal to have sexual relations with members of the same sex. The ACLU of Arkansas believes the law violates the rights of Gays and will pursue the battle to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary because the law singles out Gays.

MCC Admission Tabled By NCC

NASHVILLE--The Governing Board of the National Council of Churches put off for at least a year a decision on whether to admit the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches to the Council. The 32-member Council voted 88 to 77 May 14 to call for a one year study of "ecclesiological issues" surrounding the membership of MCC.

According to Rev. Oscar McCloud, chairperson of a committee that had recommended that MCC be found eligible, "I don't have any question that there will be a significant vote for eligibility." McCloud noted, however, that votes could change if adverse publicity generated significant grassroots opposition to the application.

GRNL 'Shocked' At Government Surveillance

WASHINGTON--Steve Endean, Executive Director of Gay Rights National Lobby, has expressed "shock and dismay" at revelations that the FBI, CIA and military surveillance program has investigated thousands of Gay Americans, going as far as "fugitive-style" investigations. Endean said that GRNL will urge Congress to take immediate action to ensure that this serious government invasion into the private lives of Americans has stopped.

In an article by Larry Bush for The Advocate, FBI officials confirmed that surveillance had been maintained--not only on Gay activists but on closeted Gay people and even non-Gay supporters of civil rights for Gays. Official word is that this program, part of which was known as "Homex," has been discontinued.

Documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act confirm long-held suspicions that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (and other intelligence agencies) have been conducting massive surveillance against Gay people and Gay organizations from 1954 to about 1978. This included:

- fugitive style investigations into the lives of prominent, wealthy, and closeted Gay men;
- monitoring private mail;
- infiltration of Lesbian/Gay civil rights groups;
- harassment of people, including at least one time in which an anon-

ymous letter was sent by the FBI to officials at a university alleging that a particular professor was Gay and calling for that professor's dismissal;

- using names obtained in investigations to identify and terminate employment of government workers known or thought to be homosexual;
- compiling lists of persons alleged to be homosexual and turning them over to the Defense Department;
- continued monitoring of Gay groups after determination that the groups were not engaged in illegal activity nor in activities related to ongoing FBI investigations.

Endean, however, questioned whether the invidious program had truly stopped and stated that GRNL, as the Lesbian and Gay community's lobby at Congress, would urge Congressional hearings on the matter. "Not only was it an unbelievable invasion of privacy but also a colossal waste of taxpayers' precious money to pry into the private sex lives of American citizens," Endean said.

"If the matter weren't so serious, raising the spectre of witch hunts from the McCarthy period, I would recommend these surveillance programs for Senator Proxmire's (D-WI) "Golden Fleece" Award given by the Senator to the government program that best exemplifies waste of taxpayer money.

MEMPHIS
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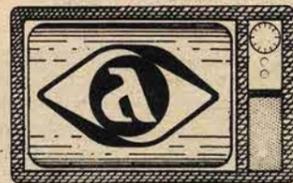


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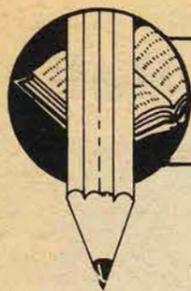


Views From Ten Percent

July 8 July 21 July 27
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

The one-hour program being run this month will feature the Gay Pride Activities.

Cablevision Channel 32



Books

'Cleveland Station' Mixes Politics, Romance

Reviewed By Joel Tate

TO THE CLEVELAND STATION, by Carol Anne Douglas. The Naiad Press, Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL., \$6.95.

Five years of heterosexual hibernation were enough. Brenda Anne Dougherty never guessed it would take a suicide

note from Cleveland to do it. She just knew it was time to get the hell out of her lukewarm marriage.

Five years with the love of her life and Karen Carpenter's other half was struck dead by a car. Nobody cared--not family, maybe not even the feminist newspaper in Washington she wrote to in desperation. She just knew it was time to get out of her empty life.

This is TO THE CLEVELAND STATION, a "novel of Lesbian lives," the story of Brenda and Karen. It celebrates and mourns the uniting of a Black paralegal from Cleveland and a white doctoral student from Washington, D.C. It chronicles how Karen and Brenda care for each other and shape each other's lives.

It is the story of Brenda--mentally out of the closet and living the married life of a non-Gay--as she comes to terms with her first Lesbian love affair. Hers is a story of compulsion and commitment. It is the tale of an individual, but in it lies the politicization of the Lesbian community at large.

It's the story of Karen--an affirmed Lesbian who remains locked in her own psychological closet--as she falls for her second lover while struggling to recover from the loss of her first. Hers is the story of failing to cope with society's pressures.

TO THE CLEVELAND STATION is the anatomy of a love affair. It's a subjective look at how two women grow. It takes no detective to see that the book's "novel" status is purely semantic. All indications are that it is author Carol Anne Douglas' thinly disguised autobiography. The unapologetic approach is itself enough to make this book worthy of the reader's attention.

In fact, the book is pertinent to most any Gay reader of the '80's. It is relevant because Gay liberation is new enough that, like Brenda, many are still blinking from the light outside the closet. And like Karen, the light

is bright enough that many are doing their best to climb right back in. That conflict is so central to many contemporary Gay relationships, the book is bound to come alive for many.

The work also goes far toward explaining the particular joys and pains unique to Lesbian love. It seems almost an obsession with Douglas:

"Some woman must come and take her away from this...A person was necessary, but it must--yes, must--be a woman. There must be a woman somewhere who would love her. Well, no, there didn't have to but she hoped."

Douglas sees Lesbian love as a circle, and as the lovers dance around it, we are continually confronted with pain--the pain conveyed by suicide attempts and shock therapy and rejection. Douglas is almost too good at describing it:

"Suddenly, she felt closer to the horrors of this world than ever before. They did not just happen to women in articles in feminist publications. They happened to people you knew."

TO THE CLEVELAND STATION is a significant contribution to Gay literature. By mixing the strange bedfellows of politics and romance, Carol Anne Douglas has done what many others have failed to do--be relevant, entertaining and lasting.

BWMT/Memphis BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER

A new Gay interracial social, political and educational organization in Memphis

Now organizing a support group for interracial relations

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Irwin at 901-276-4160 or Joe at 901-274-0532

BWMT Memphis meets the last Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Main Library, Meeting Room A, Peabody at McLean

Classifieds

RATES FOR CLASSIFIED: 20¢ per word, \$3 minimum. Phone numbers & zip codes are free. Deadline for ads is 10 days prior to publication date, 4th Friday monthly. Payment must accompany ads. There is a \$2 charge for use of our post office box. Address to Gaze, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103. Phone (901) 274-0431 (irregular hours, keep trying).

ROOMMATE WANTED: Gay male to share 2-bedroom furnished apartment. Split expenses. Call Norwood. 365-4345.

WANTED: Women and men to form coed softball team. To play in "exhibition" benefit game(s) this spring/summer. No experience necessary but basic knowledge of bats and balls helpful. Good time guaranteed in writing. Call 274-2358 or 274-0431.

JOIN 501 LEVI FETISHERS. SASE to Box 8029, Tucson, AZ 85725.

G/W/M SEEKS HOUSING with same. Willing to share house or large apartment. If interested please call 726-4333.

TENNESSEE GAY COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS meets 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7:30 p.m., MCC Building, 131 15th Ave., No. Nashville. Your concerns, ideas and participation are invited. For more information write to P.O. Box 24181, Nashville 37202.

1982 WORLD'S FAIR GAY HOUSING. Write Main Placement Service, 3708 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919.

FRIEND WANTED: New to Arkansas. Need someone to show me around Memphis. Prefer middle age gentlemen. Write to ad number 875, c/o Gaze, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

KNOXVILLE--Guest House. One mile from World's Fair. Rooms from \$28.50 per night. Call 615-523-5831.

GAY WRESTLING: Info/Mag--\$3.00: NYWC, 59 West 10th Street, NYC, 10011. Pro-style, collegiate, fans welcome.

TRACY --

It's alright to call me (collect).

I love you -- Glenn.

G/W/M SEEKING employment: strong background in management, data processing, and accounting. Also have Associate Degree in business administration. All offers will be considered. Call 726-4333 early a.m. or late evenings.

THIRTY-ONE year old semi-professional male seeking friend companionship with same or there about. Not out to use or be used. Write Bob--Address to Boxholder, P.O. Box 40377, Memphis, TN 38104.

W/MALE 28, serving last year of 5-year sentence in Nevada State Prison; 5 ft., 11 in., 180 (solid) lbs. brn. hr & eyes & moustache; good-looking, well-endowed, educated, sincere, bisexual, w/o friends or family, seeking meaningful relationship and friends too. Loves to laugh, not afraid to cry; feel people most valuable commodity. If you have time in your life, space in your heart, I welcome you. Will answer all mail. Write: James Ross, #15312, P.O. Box 607 N.S.P., Carson City, Nevada 89702-0607.

New City Tales

Reviewed By Joel Tate

FURTHER TALES OF THE CITY, by Armistead Maupin. Harper & Row, \$6.95.

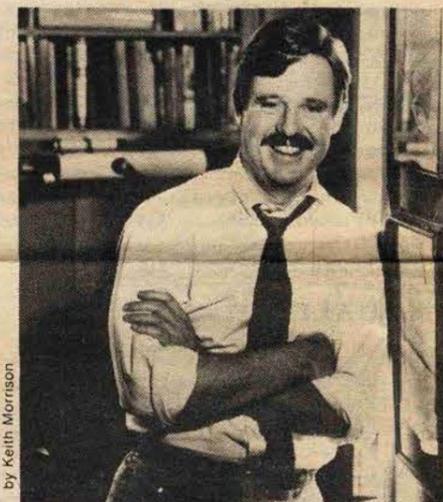
I opened Armistead Maupin's FURTHER TALES OF THE CITY knowing it was a sequel to two books I had never read. Based on past experience, I prepared for a letdown.

It never came.

This is the latest chapter in the life and times of Michael, Mary Ann, Brian and landlady Anna Madrigal. They're the heroic residents of San Francisco's Barbary Lane.

FURTHER TALES chronicles the exploits of Mary Ann, an aspiring TV journalist, as she searches for a familiar cult figure who threatens the life and children of her Lesbian socialite friend who is just back from Guyana. It spins the tale of Brian the frustrated lawyer-turned-waiter as he pursues Mary Ann's hand in marriage. And it lays groundwork for Michael's budding Gay romance.

FURTHER TALES is uncompromising as a modern-day romance novel. Chapter by chapter, it is pieced together just as its 18th-century English counterparts--like TOM JONES, for one. It has all the necessary spice and sex and violence, just as they did.



Armistead Maupin, author of *Further Tales Of The City*.

And it has a happy ending that few can regret.

FURTHER TALES is high humor. It is light. And for writing that shares such a hearty slice of life in our nation's Gayest city, it's whimsical.

Armistead Maupin, write on. You have done what Charles Schultz's "Peanuts" did for me 15 years ago--make me want to start back at the very beginning.

New Art, New People Show At Trix

By Ric Sullivan

The latest offerings from Memphis' clothing/art emporium were unveiled June 5 at an Art Show opening sponsored by Trix, 2044 Young at Cooper.

Co-proprietor Randy Toy stated that the artists presently showing represent "some of the best contemporary artists in this area at this time." These include Carolyn Gaylor Ryan Bradshaw, pottery; Jan Hankins, oils; Richard Mize, oils; and Lamerance Wang, oils.

Undoubtedly, some of the show's more unusual features were Dickey Stafford's "Slut Drawings" grease pencil sequence and his felt marker "Male Nudes" sequence. Randy gleefully described these as "the most sexual pieces in the show--someone fulfilling himself and enjoying his art."

Cheryl Phelps, another Trix co-owner, emphasized that they wanted "to show

a new group of people," as only Dickey has previously exhibited works at Trix. She also stated that they were "showing more figurative work through the present artists." The third member of the Trix triumvirate, Greg Conover, noted at the opening that they were "now showing the largest pieces in Memphis." Oddly enough, this comment followed a discussion of Dickey Stafford's "Male Nudes" offering.

Reactions of visitors at the opening ranged from lengthy discourses on the quality of the works presented to the practical admission of one attendee that "I came for the watermelon."

Cheryl stated that no shows are now planned at Trix for July or August. However, they will present an all-women's show in early September that will feature three photographers, three painters, and a paper maker.

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Herstory In The Making

Memphis NOW Joins Pilgrimage To Florida ERA Rally

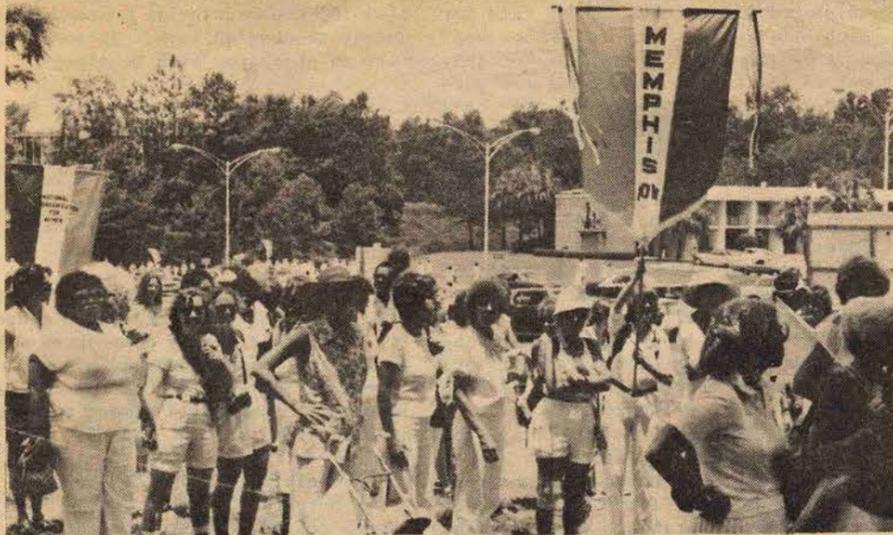


photo by Audrey May

Some 45 strong, the Memphis delegation gathers to form lines as marching time nears.



photo by Audrey May

Rally participants join in song and chant voicing "Come November We'll Remember."

The following diary is an account of images based on experiences. Memphis NOW members and friends traveled to Tallahassee, Florida on June 6 and marched at the state capitol to support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

7:00 PM--(Strategy Session) We meet at the home of 1st Vice Betsy Wacker to plan. Press conference and bus departure only hours away, our lives as resident ERA enthusiasts are complicated by news earlier today of North Carolina legislature's tabling the amendment. Resisting depression compounded by fatigue, we draw upon each other and Wacker's wit for comfort.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

11:00 AM--(Press Conference) Thanks to cooperation of Memphis State Women's Studies, we gather in the Student Center DELTA Room (yes, even southern belles favor ERA). April Ferguson takes the reigns before cameras, notepads, pencils of THE PRESS.

EQUALITY OF RIGHTS...

National NOW Board member Kathy Webb updates on actions in targeted states of Illinois, Oklahoma, North and South Carolina and Florida. Webb cites Harris polls and fundraising success of NOW's Political Action Committee among indicators of women's skills for political organizing. Speaking of the women's voting bloc she states, "We will not be denied..."

7:00 PM--(Send Off Party) MSU Student Center parking lot fills fast. White ribbons honoring Sonia Johnson and sisters fasting in Springfield, Illinois, and green and lavender. Tee-shirts, overalls, poster, ice chests, backpacks, shoulder bags and pillows. Breasts sporting buttons tout: "ERA YES!" "ERA YES" "Support Gay Teachers" "ERA YES" "He's pretty but can he type?" "ERA YES."

Well wishers come: ACLU's Julie Steiner and Bill Johnson; Coalition's Ric Sullivan; ERA volunteer Carol Lynn Yellin distributes love labor home baked bread for travelers; Phyllis brings fruit; numerous NOW members cheer us on.

7:07--(Bus Arrival) Green/White Starlite bus adorned with eagle--of all birds!--enjoys applause pulling up for loading. Female driver (Sandy) smiling. Omen of safe travel.

WREC-TV and C.A. photographers choreograph shots as "Granny" Walker grins, kids cry. We spill off car hoods, pilgrims jamming single-file into bus aisle claiming seats. We've made the news.

UNDER THE LAW...

T-shirt slogans shouting "Older feminist," "Florida," "Holly Near for a nuclear free future," "Ballet South," "Tennessee State NOW," we board. 39 Pilgrims + two, we head for lower southern spheres.

8-Gaze-July, 1982

7:30 PM (Traveling) Gaining shipmates' legs, we mingle 'midst the belly of our sausage clipping way cross Mississippi miles of concrete ocean.

10:15 PM--(Rest Stop) Some carousing later, Sandy-the-androgynously-titled platinum bouffant bomb halts us just inside Alabama reporting "There should be plenty of men inside!" Above our hooting Dr. Scarborough (discussion group leader par excellence) declares our need for mobile consciousness-raising: "Form a group tonight!"

Webb with candy bar leads us into paths of unratified foods at this one horse (one Jane/John) truck stop. We look each other over: pilgrims/natives/pilgrims. Natives get their ears full. We are multitalented: teachers/computer programmers/deli proprietresses/lawyers/librarians/sales engineers/scientists/info dispensers/teachers--a community en transit. We are multipersoned: grandmothers/mothers/sisters/daughters/lovers/sons/friends. We share duties caring for our youngest: Baby Irena.

11:15 PM--(Passing Hamilton, Alabama) Via miracle of modern vehicular speaker system, Webb and ERA Action Team chieftess Laura Yoder give moonlit policy statements addressing the "absolute abuse of power in North Carolina" just yesterday.

Miles passing, talk of troubled times--common traumas we've encountered, stacked-deck life games of women/men relations; curse stereotypical role perpetuation; regret pejorative labels ("man haters") feminists endure.

quote: I would have given the church my feet and hands, but they wanted me to crochet in my aunt's parlor.

quote: The folks I work with get real excited the first time they take a stand....They tremble for a while...they're saying 'Hey, I read that Equal Rights Amendment and I agree with that!'

quote: They called us wide-eyed radicals...our eyeballs foaming over.

Divorce and parenting, past participation in women's rights event, southern attitudes, southern intolerances, southern feminist accents.

12:30 AM--(Night Passing) Sufficiently teasing Ms. Webb for birthing Arkansas NOW, we settle, some snuggling, to catch possible winks. Baby Irena voicing, Sandy's C.B. clatter, air conditioner complaints tune our Starlite cradle's sounding through the night.

SHALL NOT BE DENIED...

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

6:00 AM--(76 Truck Stop) Bleary-faced pilgrims emerge to Florida dawning. We stretch, change, stave-off gas pains. We gloat in having sneaked into Florida by night.

7:30 AM--(Bread and Roses a la carte) Carol Lowe tempts us with sweet rolls (cheese, pineapple, raspberry CHOICE) with O.J. (Dear, Anita). Chomping fruit, phallic bananas surprisingly preferred: a sense of power?

On the freeway MS. Walker reads from a double full page ad--"Open Letter to Governor Bob Graham" from anti-ERAer's and a front page account of parade/rally plans-- TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT: "Florida's Capital Newspaper."

9:00 AM--(Myers Park, Tallahassee) Having disembarked our sausage wishing happy dreams for Sandy, we parade in sunshine. Beneath transplanted palms and moss hung pecans, bluegrassers strike up entertainment "adamantly equalitarian reed and strings."

Chorus: Roll the ERA
Don't you roll so slow
Inequality
Just got to go.

Voices/faces gathering many sorts and kinds: Mississippian to New Yorker, child to elder, Black to white, woman to man.

We are woman + woman + man + man + woman + woman.
Hand in hand, we are women = women = men = men!

11:00 AM (Governor's Greetings)--Our marchers gathered Florida's chief exec and Mrs. welcome us with call for special legislative session June 21st for ERA.

quote: When you leave here, know that you are all winners...we are going to win the Equal Rights Amendment...when you leave here stand up and be proud...Lincoln had a dream, Martin Luther King had a dream...We need to be realists but we also need to be dreamers...Let us walk and to dream together...

OR ABRIDGED...

Welcome! 5 more Memphis pilgrims join our pride!

11:20 AM--(Moving Out, March Underway) Form lines!
10 across! Delegations moving out...
10 across! "As we go marching, marching..."

chant: ERA! ERA! ERA! ERA! ERA! ERA!

cheer: What do you want?
ERA
When do you want it?
NOW!

Signs marching: Rainbow--equal rights for all! People of the earth for ERA! Business and Professional Women for ERA! Honor thy mother, put her in: the constitution! Twins for ERA! Grandmothers for ERA! Everglades for ERA!

Stretching from Myers Park now, down the valley, up Apalachee Parkway to

Capitol Hill in Tallahassee--a stream of white marching for ERA!

Alphabetically by states, our Tennessee NOW contingent (Memphis, Nashville, Sewanee) forms the final delegation with Countdown Campaign volunteers bringing up the rear. Over 10,000 before us, we march and march along the route, Baby Irena strolling. We see aide stations, early marchers doubled back, national media, the public traffic jam--all turned out for ERA!

1:30 PM (Capitol Steps--Rally Underway) Scattered NOW throughout the swollen crowd, our banner having joined the throngs at platform heights, Memphis pilgrims cheer and chant. Pilgrims everywhere together sing for ERA.

BY THE UNITED STATES...

2:00 PM--(Rally Closes/Fountain Dipping) Deed accomplished, pilgrims seek release: sun-drenched bodies cool off in state capitol pools: Christopher/Lil/Audrey/David. We float balloons: "GAY PRIDE WEEK 1982--MEMPHIS" (Such a message!).

Wet with contentment in our Tallahassee presence, we play in yet another city's fountains. Lazing on lawns, we observe shared feelings of support from so many gathered. Through the moment, we communicate deeply.

4:00 PM--(Collect Calls Home) Audrey May on telephone buttons-- Memphis media; accepted! Yoder updates. We have made the news! We want THE MID SOUTH to know who/where we are--absolute dedication.

Off to Mama Mia's for beer and pizza and beer. We tell life stories... coming out.

6:05 PM--(Civic Center Parking Lot) Our rested green/white eagle trimmed, Sandy driven, sausage speeds us toward Memphis. One pit stop for liquids.

Jokes. Memories. Hugs and kisses.

9:05 PM--(Traveling) All quiet. Exhaustion as a day of skiing at the beach. One light burning; pilgrim reading feminist treatise. Baby Irena snoozing.

OR ANY STATE...

MONDAY, JUNE 7

6:30 AM (Arriving Memphis) Face the world again, heading for employment. We are resolved. We are happy pilgrims, our actions, our words spoken.

ON ACCOUNT OF SEX.