

FREE

Gaze

News of the Lesbian And Gay Community

FREE

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GSU Presence Sparks Comments

By Ric Sullivan

For the first time in its two-year history, the Gay Student Union of Memphis State University was granted permission to have an information table at fall registration. Several GSU officers staffed the table on January 10 and 11, disseminating pamphlets from the Memphis Center for Reproductive Health, the Memphis Gay Coalition, and the American Civil Liberties Union as well as their own organization.

Termed a "historic event" by GSU treasurer, Jim Browne, the table helped increase the visibility of the only Gay-oriented group on campus, and enabled students to obtain information on sexual harassment, the Acquired Immunity Disease Syndrome and Memphis' Gay Advocacy Project.

Will Dunklin, GSU Secretary, indicated that the Gay group "wanted people to know there is a support group on campus if they need it."

Both officers told Gaze that they

received no direct adverse reactions from students. "We haven't had anyone come up and patronize us. We have heard that people around the building are saying things like it's the silliest thing they've seen," Dunklin said. "We've seen some Gay people run by real fast—they see us and keep going."

Browne emphasized that the GSU table occupied "the best and brightest spot, so we can't hide." The table, with a large pink GSU banner on the wall behind it, was the first student organization information table students encountered as they went through registration at MSU's University Center.

However, an article in MSU's *Daily Helmsman* on January 13 stated that the GSU booth "was disapproved of by several students and registration workers."

Douglas Buckser, Associate Editor and author of the article, talked primarily to several registration workers. One, who was not identified,

was quoted as saying, "A lot of people complained about it. A couple of my friends were upset about the student activity fee being used to support them (GSU)."

Gregory Stewart, a freshman staffing a nearby Black Student Association table, told Buckser that several students criticized and ridiculed the GSU table and its members as they walked by.

When contacted about the article, GSU President Marty Katz told Gaze he was "pleased to see that the *Helmsman* covered the fact that we had been there and had made an impact. I wish

it had been more of a positive than a negative impact." He said that he had talked with Buckser, who indicated that the *Helmsman* had not directly received complaints about the GSU table. Rather, Buckser discovered that the GSU table was the most talked-about aspect while interviewing student workers about fall registration.

Katz indicated further that, "we already have some response coming in from Gay students who learned about the group as they went through registration."

The Gay Student Union meets Wednesdays at 12:30 in 201 Clement Hall.

QUOTATION MARKS...

One of Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority folks was recently caught in a quote suggesting that most decent Americans would rather be called Nazis than homosexuals, and repeating some biblical suggestions that homosexuals should be put to death. Soul Winning Ministries leader Rev. J.O. Grooms also said, "What do you mean it sounded extreme? They were just

the police force in Germany, that's all." When told they were prime examples of mass murderers, he replied, "Well, God Himself murdered all the Sodomites in the city of Sodom, so you wouldn't make an accusation against Him, would you?" Grooms asked.

That example of lunatic thinking should make us all concerned.

Women's Hotline Service Organizing

By Allen Cook

A new hotline service is in the process of forming in Memphis.

According to Gee Gee Parola, one of the principle organizers and owner of The Pendulum, an organization is being formed that is open to Gay and straight women designed to face the practical needs that come up in the Gay life. "The idea is that a lot of us older women have been through what some of the others are just experiencing now," she said.

Ms. Parola indicated that the organization is in the organizational phase and that members will be attempting to raise money in the near future to get the effort started. "We're just barely off the floor," she said. "We have had four meetings and each one has brought in more people than the last." Meetings are planned for the first Tuesday of each month at The Pendulum (92 N. Avalon). Although The Pendulum is not open for business on that night, the doors will be open to anyone who wishes to participate in the new group.

The organization is tentatively to be called "Big Sisters" and will

operate a telephone hotline.

Among the problems which have been identified which need to be addressed are financial problems, stress, Gay life in general, coming out to family members, Lesbian motherhood, drug and alcohol abuse, religion, appearing straight at work and the problems involved in employment discrimination.

Parola says that many women live in constant fear that someone will say something about them and "they will be wiped out." It is something she doesn't think that the group can solve, but "we hope that with all of us working together, maybe five or six years from now, they can stand up and be counted and say, 'You youngsters who are coming in can feel free to be what you are and who you are and not have to worry about your job security because you can point to the older people and say we've got vice-presidents here who are Gay.'"

Several resource people have volunteered to speak to the group to discuss the issues with which they are concerned. "We have a priest coming in to talk on Gay people and religion. Two lawyers are giving

their time to discuss any legal problems they may have in relation to being Gay. And we have several psychiatrists who have dealt with the Gay community that have agreed to come out and talk with the girls," said Parola.

The group estimates it needs about \$1000 to start up and to avoid going into debt. A similar group recently began in the Tampa Bay, Florida area and the local group is in communication with them for advice. Apparently the group in Florida has been successful in its initial operation.

Ms. Parola indicated that most of the women involved have never been associated with anything like this before and feels that it is "nice that everyone is helping one another."

Arkansas Sodomy Law Challenged in Court

by Jil Clark, Gay Community News

LITTLE ROCK---A federal appeals court is deliberating whether to strike down the Arkansas sodomy law. The statute in question, which pertains to homosexuals only, was passed in 1977, two years after legislators repealed a long-standing law which prohibited the practice of sodomy between heterosexuals as well.

The appellant in the case is Charles Lloyd Lemons, who was arrested for having sex with another man in Hot Springs National Park last February. Paul Gordon, Lemons' attorney is challenging the conviction on the grounds that the existing statute denies homosexuals equal protection under the law and abridges their privacy rights.

Gordon also argues that his client's conviction constitutes cruel and unusual punishment "because the court is not punishing conduct, it is

punishing status; it is punishing a whole class of people, which is clearly forbidden by the Eighth Amendment." Gordon cited a 1962 U.S. Supreme Court ruling striking down a state law which applied only to drug addicts.

If the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis declares the law unconstitutional, it will be the highest court in the country to rule on such a law, Gordon said.

The appellate court has been deliberating since September and Sandra Kurjiaka, an attorney with the ACLU in Arkansas, believes this is "a hopeful sign... If we lose in the end, they at least gave it a lot of time and thought."

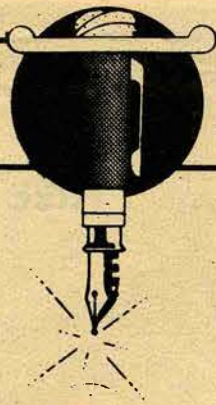
Instead of plea bargaining, as is usually done in such cases, Lemons moved prior to the trial for dismissal of the charges on the grounds that the statute is unconstitutional.

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Gazing

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

Gay Rights is a First Amendment Issue

By Ronald Gold
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Civil Liberties

A few years back, the National Gay Task Force surveyed 100 major corporations on their policy toward the hiring of homosexuals. A majority of those queried failed to reply, but nonetheless the results seemed encouraging. Some of the country's largest employers did respond, stating that they did not discriminate and considered their employees' sexual orientation a private matter. But a year or so later, when the Moral Majority was urging repeal of an antidiscrimination ordinance in Dade County, Florida, a Gay man who'd worked as a Ronald McDonald clown decided to come out publicly, as proof that association with homosexuals causes no harm to children. McDonald's—one of the companies which said it didn't discriminate—sought and obtained an injunction against any further public statements, on the grounds that "association with homosexuality" would bring its Big Mac into public disrepute.

The standard civil libertarian view has been that Gay Rights is a privacy issue, but the McDonald's case illustrates as well as any other that we are dealing primarily with a First Amendment violation, in which "Privacy" is defined differently for homosexuals and heterosexuals. Heterosexuals are free to show affection in public, reveal the names of the movie stars they find appealing and casually mention their spouses or dates. Lesbians and Gay men have been required to be "private" at risk of their livelihoods or lives.

"It would simply prevent anyone from suggesting that Gay people might, on the whole, be a group of reasonably happy, healthy, law-abiding citizens."

By the late 1960s, Jews in America had long ago stopped changing their names and bobbing their noses; Blacks had stopped trying to pass or to "act white" in hopes of majority acceptance; and large numbers of women were breaking away from socially prescribed roles. But only a few brave Gay people weren't part of a conspiracy to pretend they didn't exist. Then came New York City's Stonewall Riot, in which some of the brave ones resisted police harassment of a Gay bar, and suddenly significant numbers of Gay people were declining to join the conspiracy and using the legal system to secure their civil rights.

Since then, quite a bit of progress has been made. There are few places nowadays in which Gay people are forbidden to congregate. Two men or two women may now dance together legally (sometimes even when they're a minority on the dance floor). The Federal Civil Service (though not the military, FBI or CIA) has adopted a non-discrimination policy. Forty-three cities and counties and one state (Wisconsin) have antidiscrimination statutes. The courts have ruled in a variety of contexts that homosexuality isn't tantamount to bad moral character. There have even been positive rulings on First Amendment grounds.

"The Court fully recognizes," a federal district court said in a Del-

aware case, "that homosexuality is an extremely emotional and controversial topic and that (a Gay teacher's) opinions on the subject quite likely represent a minority view. But...the fundamental purpose of the First Amendment is to protect from state abridgement the free expression of controversial or unpopular ideas. The decision not to renew (a teacher's) contract because of his public statements contravenes those most basic teachings of the First Amendment and cannot be tolerated."

So much for the good news. The bad news is that the New Right has seized on this progress as its prime evidence of "moral decay" and is using it as the point of its fear-provoking spear. (Most of the mailings from Richard Viguerie's right-wing propaganda mill begin with the "homosexual threat" and end with the MX missile or the Panama Canal.) As usual, the New Right is a lot clearer in defining the issue than its liberal opponents. "We're not going after their jobs," Anita Bryant once said, "as long as they do their jobs and do not want to come out of the closet."

The New Right realized something else civil libertarians weren't aware of: just as there weren't any laws to protect Gay people, there also weren't any that mandated silence (laws weren't necessary when social pressures did the job). So they set to the task of framing legislation that would bring back the *status quo ante*.

Take, as a case in point, the section of the infamous Family Protection Act, pending before Congress, which provides that "no Federal funds should be available under any law to any entity for the purpose of advocating, promoting or suggesting homosexuality, male or female, as a life style." This, its proponents declare,

doesn't discriminate against homosexuals. It would simply prevent anybody from even "suggesting" that Gay people might, on the whole, be a group of reasonably happy, healthy and law-abiding citizens. It would put every university at risk that dares to share with its students the prevailing views of the medical profession and a major segment of organized religion on the psychology and morality of being Gay. It would have a devastating effect on all scholarship in the field of human sexuality; threaten schools with Gay studies courses or Gay groups on campus; dry up funding for Gay counseling and health-care services; and end the recently won tax-deductible status of Gay-related organizations.

Another section of the Family Protection Act (which was also proposed, and passed by the House of Representatives, as an Amendment to the Legal Services Act) which provides that no legal assistance may be offered "to promote, defend or protect homosexuality." Congressman Larry McDonald (D-GA), the framer of the amendment, said during the House debate that the purpose of the bill wasn't to prevent all indigent Gay people from defending themselves against discrimination—even though he conceded it would have that effect. "If an individual openly professes his conduct and is discriminated against, we do not want

him to have legal aid in his defense," he said. "If, on the other hand, he keeps his conduct to himself and does not bring it into the issue then he can walk into any legal aid society as a private individual and get help." Transalte "open conduct" into "free speech" and you can get McDonald's drift.

A good deal of justifiable alarm has been generated by the Arkansas "creationism" law, but considerably

"...America's 22 million Gay citizens will never have their civil rights if they're not permitted to speak out and be visible?"

less outcry has been raised about an Oklahoma statue that was one of the first New Right victories. It provides that teachers or teachers' aides may be fired for "public homosexual activity," which is defined as "advocating, soliciting, imposing, encouraging or promoting public or private homosexual activity in a man-

ner that creates a substantial risk that such conduct will come to the attention of school children or school employees." At least the Arkansas bill didn't say that teachers had to stop teaching evolution. But this law, in addition to preventing teachers from engaging in political

activity or speaking out on a public issue, effectively prohibits them from providing their students with any scientific information on homosexuality.

These and similar statutes are not the only areas in which the conspiracy of silence is being imposed. These days, many parents are denied custody and visitation rights not because they're Gay, but because they're open about it. The immigration service no longer excludes all Gay people, only those who say they are. Gay prisoners are denied parole unless they declare that they have been rehabilitated—that is, turned into heterosexuals. Gay inmates are also denied Gay rights literature on the grounds that they'd be beaten up for having it. And the currently fashionable argument is not that Gay people can't be decent soldiers, firefighters or police officers, but that it would be "detrimental to good order" if people who don't like homosexuals knew there were any around. There is a concerted effort on a variety of fronts to deny Gay people their most basic First Amendment right—the right to say that they exist.

The excuse for such an assault on the free interchange of ideas is a familiar one: society, the family, and particularly children, must be

"protected" from a harmful point of view. And the reason that this assault has been so successful is that many people who think of themselves as civil libertarians share the New Right's fears. They don't think it's right for Gay people to be discriminated against, but they too are afraid of somebody telling their children it's okay to be Gay. The only way this situation can fundamentally change is when a majority of the

people in this country can sincerely say to themselves, "It IS okay to be Gay—even for my children." And the only way that that can happen is when the truth about Gay people is available to every child in the land.

It may seem curious that with fear of homosexuality such a hot item, not one "Gay book" has been removed from school libraries or one "pro-Gay" text summarily rejected by the state of Texas. (Book selections in Texas, the second largest textbook purchaser in the nation, are heavily influenced by Textbook censors Mel and Norma Gabler). Actually there aren't any books about Gay people in the school libraries, and no sane publisher would dare submit a rational discussion of homosexuality to the Gablers and their friends. Walt Whitman is revered as America's patriot-poet, but not one high school text—no matter how fulsome its biographies of other famous figures—reveals that Whitman was homosexual or includes any of his magnificent Gay love poems. Not one civics text includes the Gay movement in its discussion of civil rights. And even in the sex education courses so dear to the hearts of liberals, homosexuality is customarily ignored altogether or included only under such headings as "the misuses of sex."

It is up to civil libertarians not only to resist the efforts of the New Right to codify First Amendment restrictions into law, but to end the restrictions which have festered in our society since its beginnings. The battle for Gay civil rights is not about privacy but free speech, and civil libertarians of whatever sexual orientation must understand that America's 22 million Gay citizens will never have their civil rights if they're not permitted to speak out and be visible.

Ronald Gold is a New York writer, a founder of the National Gay Task Force, and an ACLU life member.

Sodomy Laws

One Gay-related issue that is a privacy matter is the existence of the so-called "sodomy" laws, which criminalize certain sexual acts, even by consenting adults in private. Except in two states, these laws also apply to heterosexuals (the majority of whom are reported to violate them with some frequency), but enforcement is virtually limited to Gay males.

Despite the Supreme Court's summary affirmation of Virginia's sodomy statute, considerable progress has been made over the past decade on this front as well. A federal court has recently declared the Texas law unconstitutional. New York and Massachusetts have ruled their statutes

violative of state constitutions, and 23 other states have repealed their laws (along with a variety of other victimless crimes) by adopting the Model Penal Code.

Here again, however, the New Right is battling to reverse the trend. Arkansas, which had repealed its sodomy statute, adopted a new one that applies only to homosexuals. And the Moral Majority claimed its first clear-cut congressional victory by overturning the sodomy-repeal vote of the District of Columbia City Council—a virtually unprecedented interference with home rule that was accomplished with nary a peep from liberal legislators or the press.—RG

An open letter to the gay community on hepatitis B

Hepatitis B, a serious disease, may be sexually transmitted

Sexually transmitted diseases among the gay community are epidemic. Herpes has recently received a lot of attention; gonorrhea and syphilis are well known; but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently issued a major recommendation for the prevention of another sexually transmitted disease: Hepatitis B. In their *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC stated: "Susceptible homosexually active males should be vaccinated [against hepatitis B] regardless of their age or duration of their homosexual practices."

Gay men are at a high risk of contracting hepatitis B

In one study, from 51% to 76% of 3,816 gay men seen in five sexually transmitted disease clinics had evidence of past or present hepatitis B infection. Once infected, there's a 6% to 10% chance of becoming a carrier—capable of passing on the virus. The CDC estimated there are nearly 1 million carriers in the United States and that 100,000 of these carriers are gay men.

The hepatitis B virus can be passed on by contact with contaminated body fluids

such as saliva, urine, semen, and blood. The hepatitis B virus can be transmitted through tiny breaks in the skin or contact with mucous membranes. This can occur during intimate sexual contact and can lead to hepatitis B for the partner of an infected person. Although most patients recover and over half contracting hepatitis B do not get symptoms, there is no specific treatment and no known cure for hepatitis B infections.

Hepatitis B may lead to even more serious complications

For those who do get symptoms of hepatitis B, a mild or severe "flu-like" sickness may continue for weeks or months. Ten percent of all infections become long lasting (chronic) with potential complications that are sometimes more serious than those of other sexually transmitted diseases. The serious complications include the chronic carrier state, chronic active hepatitis, chronic persistent hepatitis, cirrhosis, and even cancer of the liver. Every year almost 4,000 carriers die of cirrhosis. In addition, carriers have a risk 273 times greater than that of the general population of contracting a usually fatal form of liver cancer.

Now this serious sexually transmitted disease is usually preventable by vaccination with the new hepatitis B vaccine

After more than a decade of research and development, a new vaccine is available for prevention, *not treatment*, of hepatitis B. In clinical studies, the vaccine was highly effective in preventing hepatitis B infection and was generally well tolerated. No serious adverse reactions occurred in these studies.

The vaccination regimen consists of a series of three injections, the first two a month apart and the third, six months after the first. To be effective, the vaccine must be given before a person gets hepatitis B. The vaccine helps prevent the disease: It is *not effective as a treatment*. We suggest that you consult your doctor to determine if you should be vaccinated.

**For more information
about hepatitis B and the
vaccine to prevent it, contact
your doctor, clinic, or the
American Liver Founda-
tion. 998 Pompton Avenue,
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
(201) 857-2626.**

This message is brought to you as a public service by
The American Liver Foundation

Why you should consult your doctor or clinic

The vaccine helps protect against infection caused by hepatitis B virus. This virus is an important cause of viral hepatitis, a disease mainly of the liver. Even mild forms of this disease may lead to serious complications and aftereffects, including liver cancer. There is no specific treatment for viral hepatitis.

Vaccination is recommended for persons who have a higher risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B virus because of frequent, close contact with infected people or exposure to body fluids from such people. It will not

protect against hepatitis caused by viruses other than hepatitis B virus.

No serious adverse reactions were reported in over 6,000 individuals receiving the vaccine in clinical trials. The most frequent reaction was soreness at the point of injection; less common local reactions included redness, swelling, warmth, or formation of a hard, lumplike spot. The local effects were usually mild and lasted no more than 2 days after vaccination. Occasionally, low-grade fever (less than 101 °F) occurred. When it did, it usually lasted no longer than 48 hours following vaccination. In

rare cases, fever over 102 °F was reported.

More generalized complaints including malaise, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, muscle pain, and joint pain were reported infrequently. Rash was reported rarely. As with any vaccine, broad use may reveal additional adverse reactions.

Your doctor or clinic knows what special care must be taken when administering the vaccine and in determining who should receive the vaccine. The vaccine is not intended for persons who are allergic to any of its components.



AIDS Spreading to General Populace

According to recent reports from four different states, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has spread to the general population. The surprising victims were from New York, New Jersey, California and Connecticut, and all had received blood transfusions. This leads researchers to believe that the disease can be spread by transfusions and blood products from one person to another. Especially upsetting to one doctor was the appearance of the syndrome in eight Newark, N.J. children whose deaths during the past few years have been attributed to AIDS. Until the syndrome was confirmed in those cases, among others in the general population, the primary target was thought to be Gay men, intravenous drug users, Haitian immigrants and hemophiliacs. As of the latest count 788 cases of AIDS have been reported nationwide with almost 300 deaths. In other AIDS developments, researchers now believe that the syndrome may take six months to two years to develop before the person is left defenseless to opportunistic infections.

Defense Dept. Strikes Back

PHILADELPHIA (*The Gay News*)--- The Defense Department may act soon against those colleges and universities which bar military recruiters. Although the new policy does not mention it, a recent spate of recruiter expulsions have occurred because the military position on Gay men and Lesbians is incompatible with many college and university anti-discrimination policies. Under a 1973 law, the Defense Department can cut off government research projects to colleges which do not permit any or all of the armed services to recruit on campus. Until recently, only 10 schools suffered such a fate. But that number may increase under the new policy which requires the services to report twice a year which schools have kicked them out. The policy, however, is not as tough as it could be. Formerly, the entire university could have its research funds cut. Under the new guidelines, if only one college department actually prohibits military recruitment, only that department will lose government projects. Several major universities and law schools have recently barred military recruiters because of the service's anti-Gay policy.

Openly Gay Director Appointed

MADISON, WI---An openly Gay man has been named Director of Communications for Wisconsin's new governor who took office January 1. Ron McCrae, 39, a former editor with the *San Jose Mercury*, was appointed by Gov. Anthony Earl.

Confusing Role Models

VENTURA COUNTY, CA (*GAY COMMUNITY NEWS*)---The directors of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters chapter here voted 15 to 6 to permit Lesbians and Gay men to apply to the program.

Four board members resigned in protest of the policy change, which

brings the policy of the Ventura chapter into line with other affiliates of the organization, according to the Los Angeles Times.

"I don't think it's wrong to protect children from confusing role models," said Louis Vigorita, who resigned.

However, since all adults applying to be a big brother or big sister must go through an in-depth screening process which includes questions about their sexual preference, some staff members doubt any Lesbians or Gay men will be selected for the program.

Tricia Diorio, executive director of the Ventura affiliate said that it is unlikely that they would make a match between a Gay man and a young boy, since such a match is a recurring concern of mothers and of the public in general....But if such a match does develop, "we will make it. This is not just a 'paper policy'."

Diorio said she asked for the policy change "because it is against my personal policy to discriminate against anyone."

Schlafy to Teens: DON'T!

(*The Weekly News*)---Phyllis Schlafly is trying to get her new brochure, "Herpes: Just the Facts" into schools around the country. In it, she tells students that clinics and counselors "lied to you!" and that they should ignore "everything told you by the pill producers, the porno publishers, *Playboy*, *Penthouse*, Planned Parenthood, television and sex 'education' counselors."

Schlafly's advice to teenagers: "Avoid sexual relations of any kind until you are married" and "marry a virgin."

Televangelist Rev. Pat Robertson told 700 Club viewers in August, "It is unbelievable that people just think they can break God's Law, which is a very good law for bringing together men and women in marriage and procreating the race... And (herpes) is the consequence... If we won't go back voluntarily to God's way, we'll go back forcibly."

BWMT Hosts Pacific Coast Regional Network

SAN FRANCISCO---Members of Black and White Men Together (BWMT) chapters from Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco met in San Francisco on December 18 and 19 in the second meeting of the BWMT Pacific Coast Regional Network. This meeting follows the formation meeting of the Network which took place in Los Angeles in October which was also attended by Grupo Gay De Bahia (Brazil). All groups are affiliates of the International Association of Black and White Men Together (IABWMT) and the formation of this network follows similar distinct regional geographic groupings within the IABWMT. Regional Networks are already functioning in the Great Plains/Rockies, Midwest, East, and Southeast Coast Regions.

Polaris Broadcasting Exploring Feasibility of Gay Radio-TV Net

Polaris Broadcasting Corporation, a San Francisco-based company specializing in communications projects

targeted at the national Gay community, is working on plans to develop a detailed study which will explore various approaches leading to the formation of a Gay-oriented radio and television network.

Charles Marchman, Chairman and CEO, said the organization's ultimate goal is "to provide for the distribution of Gay-oriented programming and related services via television and radio stations and cable systems which will fulfill the needs and desires of Gay audiences and which will be non-threatening to non-Gay audiences." He added that a by-product of this objective is to help educate other members of society about Gays and their lifestyles.

Charles Ball of Polaris told *The GP Reporter* that the Gay community is an important market and that Polaris was studying ways of opening that market up to major advertisers.

John Stilwell of Lambda Televideo, which produces a local Gay-oriented program *VIEWES from 10%* indicated that he would be in contact with Marchman to discuss the feasibility of either helping with production or in gaining access to the network for local distribution.

Right to Privacy Foundations Gets Tax-deduct Status

WASHINGTON, D. C.---The Right to Privacy Foundation announced that it has secured approval from the Internal Revenue Service to operate under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code--- meaning people who contribute to the Foundation can list the full amount as a deduction on their Federal income tax returns.

The Right to Privacy Foundation is unique in its focus on education and research on national legislation of special interest to Lesbians and Gay men. Many other organizations mount educational efforts on homosexuality but only the Right to Privacy Foundation focuses exclusively on national legislation such as the federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights bill or the anti-Gay McDonald amendment. The Foundation was created recently by the Gay Rights National Lobby.

"Careful, thoughtful research is desperately needed on the bills and amendments under consideration by Congress which would have a profound impact on the lives of Gay and Lesbian people," said Rick Davis, education and Research Director for the Foundation. "Professional-quality analysis should be better supported now that the Foundation has the tax-deductible status," he said.

Contributions to the Right to Privacy Foundation can be sent to 750 7th Street, SE, Washington, D. C., 20003.

Gaze

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NGTF CRISISLINE

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In N.Y. State (212) 807-6016

- * To report anti-gay violence
- * To obtain A.I.D.S. referrals

BLACK & WHITE MEN TOGETHER BWMT/MEMPHIS

We are a Gay interracial, cultural, social, political and educational organization dedicated to fostering a supportive environment wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome, as well as working to combat racism both within and outside the Gay community.

General Meetings with Guest Speakers
Group Travel
Potluck Social Evenings
Consciousness-Raising/Support Groups

Canned Food Drives
Gay Pride Week Activities
Employment Surveys of Bars
Community Dances

Co-host (Memphis/Atlanta) of 1984 International Association of Black & White Men Together.

For Information Call: Irwin at 901-276-4160 or Joe at 901-274-0532. BWMT meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Main Library, Meeting Room A, Peabody at McLean.

General Meetings: February 28
Consciousness Raising/Support Groups: February 3, 8 & 24

AIDS: Some Questions & Answers

(From an article in *Gay News* by
Dr. Lawrence Mass)

Q: What is AIDS?

A: AIDS stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome. It is a newly documented, still poorly understood disorder in which part of the body's immune system is damaged in varying degrees of severity. As a result, some victims of AIDS are more vulnerable than others to a large and growing number of serious, often fatal diseases.

The two most frequently reported of these are a rare form of cancer called Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS) and a more common protozoan infection of the lungs called *Pneumocystis Carinii* pneumonia (PCP).

Q: What causes AIDS?

A: The cause of AIDS is not yet known. However, the majority of leading observers currently believe that AIDS is caused either by an infectious agent—probably a virus, by repeated infections with this agent, or by many exposures to several such agents. Virtually all observers agree that AIDS is to some degree contagious.

Q: Who is at risk?

A: At the present time, Gay or bisexual men who are sexually intimate with many different male partners, (the risk is highest in New York and other large American cities); those who use shared needles for the injection of drugs; Haitians; and hemophiliacs or individuals who receive blood products by transfusion are believed to be at risk.

Other possible related factors are a history of chronic, recurrent or multiple communicable diseases such as hepatitis, herpes, gonorrhea, and syphilis; genetic predisposition; a background of malnutrition; the use of recreational drugs such as "poppers", marijuana, and narcotics such as heroin; and sexual practices which involve repeated ingestion of or exposure to urine, feces, and/or sperm. Some theorists have suggested that such diverse substances as sexual lubricants, steroid creams, and estrogens might also contribute in some cases.

Q: Is there a difference between Immune Deficiency and AIDS?

A: The Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta currently defines a reportable case of AIDS as one in which there has been a history of at least one of the following diseases: KS, PCP, or other major opportunistic infections. Most observers, however, believe that persistent laboratory evidence of immune deficiency accompanied by one or more of the symptoms listed here, may qualify for the diagnosis of AIDS.

It is important to emphasize that many of those with immune deficiency do not have and may not develop AIDS.

Q: If I have Immune Deficiency, how likely am I to develop KS, PCP, or other serious complications of AIDS, and over what period of time?

A: One study suggests that perhaps 10% of Gay men with persistent laboratory evidence of immune deficiency and persistent lymphadenopathy may eventually develop KS over a period of months to years.

Q: How many of us are Immunodeficient?

A: Federal Health Officials have speculated that "thousands or tens of thousands of homosexual men have varying degrees of the acquired immune dysfunction" and "are at risk" for developing complications of AIDS.

Q: What are the symptoms of Immune Deficiency?

A: In its mildest forms, Immune deficiency is not accompanied by specific disease symptoms and may go unnoticed. In more severe forms, the symptoms are those of the rapidly growing number of diseases that patients may develop. Diseases include widespread infections caused by viruses, fungi, protozoa, and other parasites. The most often observed diseases have been KS and PCP which are the two primary causes of death, so far with PCP claiming approximately twice as many lives as KS. But many other opportunistic diseases, sometimes occurring in combination with KS, PCP, or both also have been documented.

AIDS symptoms may include:

1. Profound fatigue, which may be accompanied by light-headedness or headache, that is not transient and not explained by physical activity or by a psychiatric or substance-abuse disorder.

2. Persistent fevers or night sweats.

3. Weight loss of more than 10 pounds during a period of less than two months that is not related to diet or activity; loss of appetite.

4. Lymphadenopathy or enlargement, hardening, painful or otherwise prominent lymph nodes. Diseased lymph nodes or glands often are found in the neck, armpits, and groin and may be associated with a wide variety of non-AIDS conditions. When persistent for more than three months in at least two different locations, however, lymphadenopathy may be an important predictor of KS.

5. Recently appearing or slowly enlarging purplish or discolored nodules, plaques, lumps or other new growths on top of or beneath the skin or on the mucous membranes (inside the mouth, anus, or nasal passages or underneath the eyelids).

6. A heavy, persistent, often dry cough that is not from smoking cigarettes and that has lasted too long to be a cold or flu.

7. Persistent diarrhea.

8. Thrush, a thick, persistent, whitish coating of the tongue or in the throat which may be accompanied by a sore throat.

9. Easy bruisability or unexplained bleeding from any orifice or from new growths on the skin or on the mucous membranes.

Q: Besides "amoebas," what would cause persistent diarrhea in someone with Immune Deficiency?

A: There are many common causes of persistent diarrhea in those who are immunologically healthy as well as those with immune deficiency. However, one of the recently reported causes of this symptom in Gay men with AIDS is an otherwise uncommon parasite in human beings called cryptosporidiosis.

The symptoms include loss of appetite, low-grade fever, abdominal cramps, and five to ten watery, frothy bowel movements a day followed by constipation.

Like certain forms of dysentery, this disease is thought to be self-limiting in immunologically healthy individuals; that is, disease symptoms disappear within a period of

several weeks. In those with immune deficiency, cryptosporidiosis may be a serious, life-threatening illness.

Q: Why might easy bruisability or bleeding be symptoms of AIDS?

A: A blood clotting disorder discovered among Gay men called autoimmune thrombocytopenia purpura (ATP) may be connected with AIDS. In autoimmunity, the immune system attacks the actual tissues of the body as well as foreign invaders such as viruses and bacteria. In the case of ATP, the platelets necessary for normal blood clotting are attacked.

The symptoms of ATP are easy bruisability or unexplained bleeding and may include enlargement of the spleen.

Although it is not known for sure whether or not ATP is connected with AIDS, the sudden appearance of ATP in the same population, in the same locations, at the same time suggest more than coincidence.

Q: What should I do if I have any of these symptoms?

A: Each of these symptoms may appear in diseases that are not caused by or associated with AIDS. When not easily or otherwise explained, the persistence of one or more of these symptoms should be discussed with a health care provider who is familiar with AIDS.

Q: Can AIDS be treated?

A: There are no certain treatments at the present time for the varying degrees of immune deficiency that are seen in AIDS. There are treatments for individual episodes of the opportunistic infections (KS and the other diseases to which AIDS predisposes). These treatments include antibiotics, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and experimental agents and techniques. Many of these treatments are transient in effect, costly and/or irregularly available.

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Meeting Room B

Q: Is AIDS caused by a single infectious agent or by multiple factors?

A: There are differing points of view on this question, however, both sides agree AIDS is believed to be caused by infectious processes to some degree and the greatest risk factors are sexual contacts with many different Gay or bisexual male partners and the use of shared needles for the injection of drugs.

Q: What is the prediction for the future?

A: Epidemiologic studies so far predict more disease. The curve has been rising steadily. The CDC reports now indicate that the case acquisition rate has doubled every six months since the reports were made over a year and a half ago. If this is so, we are looking at a possible 10,000 cases in two years.

Q: How can the risk for AIDS be lowered?

A: Apart from abstinence and masturbation, monogamy represents the lowest risk. The increasing number of different sexual partners increases the risk.

To reduce the risk, limit the number of different partners and select partners who are known to be in good health and who are limiting the number of different partners they have sex with.

If you are immunodeficient, refrain from sexual contact with new partners until you are notified otherwise by a knowledgeable health care provider.

Do not waste valuable energies on negative reactions to sex. There is nothing "immoral" or "sinful" involved. Just as heterosexual men and women who are sexually active must be aware of sexually transmitted diseases and take precautions against them, Gay men have to be aware of the health risks and how those risks can be minimized.

February, 1983-GAZE-5



News, Information, Coming Events...

Come Out and Sing Together

Come Out And Sing Together! is the name selected for the first North American Gay Choral Festival, which will be held in New York City in the Fall of '83. The four-day event is tentatively scheduled for the week following Labor Day.

More than 1000 singers from the 31 Gay and Lesbian choruses all over the U.S. and Canada are expected to attend. The festival will celebrate the success of these choruses since the founding of the first two of these groups, the San Francisco Men's Chorus and the Stonewall Chorale of New York, more than four years ago.

"Representatives of the choruses met two years ago and chose New York as the site because of its prominence in Gay history and its importance as the music capital of the world," said Charles Carson, Chairman of Come Out and Sing Together! (COAST). "We are pleased and honored to be hosting the first such festival, and expect an extremely successful event."

The first three evenings will each feature several choruses performing highlights of their concert repertoire. All of the participants will perform in two or three massed choruses for the final evening.

The festival will present several world premiere works commissioned especially for the event. A prominent guest artist will be sought to conduct the commissioned pieces during the final concert of the series.

Choruses already planning to attend include the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, the Lambda Men's Chorale of Columbus, Ohio, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, the Great American Yankee Freedom Singers of Los Angeles, the Stonewall Chorale of New York, the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus, and the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C.

Thanks From BWMT/Memphis

Black and White Men Together/Memphis would like to extend a special thanks to the Memphis Gay Coalition, Metropolitan Community Church and the many friends who supported them through their first year. BWMT/Memphis has grown from the hopes and

dreams of a few to be the inspiration of many. The theme "Unity in diversity" has been carried out in all aspects of the organization.

BWMT has had a very full year with such activities as monthly potlucks, "WIZ" night, a trip to Mud Island, participation in the International Association of BWMT's convention in Washington, DC, formed the Southeastern Regional Network with Atlanta and Raleigh/Durham chapters of BWMT, sponsored a community Thanksgiving dinner and Ebony and Ivory Dance at Trix and in July of '84 will co-sponsor the 1984 IA/BWMT convention in Memphis and Atlanta.

Southeastern Gay Conference Slated

The 1983 Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay men will be held in Atlanta, Georgia April 28 through May 1, 1983. For the past seven years, Lesbians and Gay men throughout the Southeast have come together to share aspects of their lives, broaden information and skills, and encourage greater community involvement through extensive networking in this region of the country.

In this eighth year of the Southeastern Conference, they are particularly interested in more diversified presentations, topics, and ideas. Your participation as workshop facilitators is welcome and you are invited to submit a proposal, in outline form, of the workshop you would be interested to lead. In addition to your proposal, it is requested that you include a biographical sketch or current vita, and indicate the audio/visual equipment, if any, that you would require. The following suggested topics may serve as guidelines:

Grassroot organizing in conservative communities; Lesbian/Gay male health concerns; Same Sex couples; "On the job training" (handling questions at work); Police/community relations; Coming out (friends, family, employers); Lesbian/Gay parents; Tie-in with national organizations (regional and national); Gays in health care professions; Fundraising Techniques; Helplines; Gay literature; Gays and aging/Gays and youth; Single and sober (meeting people outside the bars); Religion; Professional papers; Feminist therapy; Voter Registration.

The deadline to submit your proposal is February 1, 1983. In an effort to promote topics more pertinent to these political times, each workshop proposed will be considered separately. Confirmation of workshops will be received by March 15, 1983. All facilitators will receive a 25% reduction in Conference fees.

Please address all proposals and questions to: Caitlin Connor Ryan c/o The Atlanta Gay Center (AGC); 848 Peachtree Street; Third Floor; Atlanta, GA 30308; (404) 876-5372.

International Gay/Lesbian FilmFest

Entries are now being accepted for the 7th annual San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, June 20-25, 1983. Held each year during San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Celebration, the Festival brings together the best in feature, documentary and short films by and about Lesbians and Gay men. The Festival has been established by Frameline, a non-profit film collective, to develop an audience for Lesbian and Gay cinema and to promote a demand for quality productions and wider exhibition within and outside the Lesbian and Gay community.

Presented at the Castro and Roxie theatres in San Francisco and at the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley, the 1982 Festival included over 50 films screened to audiences numbering more than 7,000.

Awards will be presented to outstanding films in the categories of feature, documentary and short films. The deadline for entries is May 1, 1983. Formats accepted are 35mm, 16mm, super-8, and 3/4" video cassette. For more information and entry forms contact: FRAMELINE, P.O. Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Liver Foundation Education Efforts

The American Liver Foundation has announced that it has launched an extensive educational outreach program on the hazards and prevention of Hepatitis B infection aimed at the Gay male community, a population at great risk of contracting the disease.

The public information program is believed to be the most extensive ever conducted in the Gay press.

The educational message, developed after sampling the reactions to several proposed formats by a group of Gay leaders at a recent conference in Dallas, is being placed in 88 national and regional Gay publications. Plans for continuing the campaign into 1983 have not been completed.

Full-page public education messages are being placed in each publication and premium positions--such as back covers--have been used wherever available. During the awareness campaign, the message will appear in each issue of the weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly publications selected.

According to the American Liver Foundation, this approach was developed because there is a need to disseminate detailed, factual information about Hepatitis B infection and the protective effectiveness of Hep-tavax-B vaccine developed by Merck Sharp & Dohme. The program is being funded by a grant from the pharmaceutical company.

Although the Gay press has given a significant amount of editorial space to news about the vaccine's availability since it was introduced in July, 1982, the Foundation wanted to enhance this effort to help prevent this disease that causes tremendous human suffering and economic burdens to our nation.

Gay Pride Day In N'Orleans

For several years now the GAYFEST Board of New Orleans has been struggling with producing a festival during the month of June to coincide with the nation's Gay Pride Week. During the past there have been highly successful celebrations for the commemoration of pride in New Orleans, however, because of Mardi Gras, there has been less participation because of the amount of work that goes into creating the Gay balls and elaborate costumes for Fat Tuesday.

Recently, the Board of Directors voted to change the date of this event to the Sunday before Carnival Day (Mardi Gras), February 13th, 1983. The purpose of this decision was that there are thousands more Gays in New Orleans from all over the world. The local Gays will have an even better chance to show off their pride to a larger audience, both Gay and straight, and the countless hours spent on costumes, parties, etc. will not be duplicated in June. By celebrating Gay Pride at this time of the year, "we acknowledge ourselves as a viable constructive power in New Orleans."

This year they commemorate self-recognition and pride with the slogan "Alive and Aware," with the symbol of the Lambda and the Crescent, "reminding us of who and where we are."

Mardi Gras has traditionally been a Gay extravaganza and the decision of the Board marks a first for the New Orleans community to literally "take the bull by the horns" and focus pride on the work done throughout the year by various organizations, culminating in what has become known as the "Greatest Free Show on Earth."

New Orleans, the city that care forgot, invites Gays from all over the world to visit and revel in the culmination of an entire year of pride by Gays in the Crescent City.

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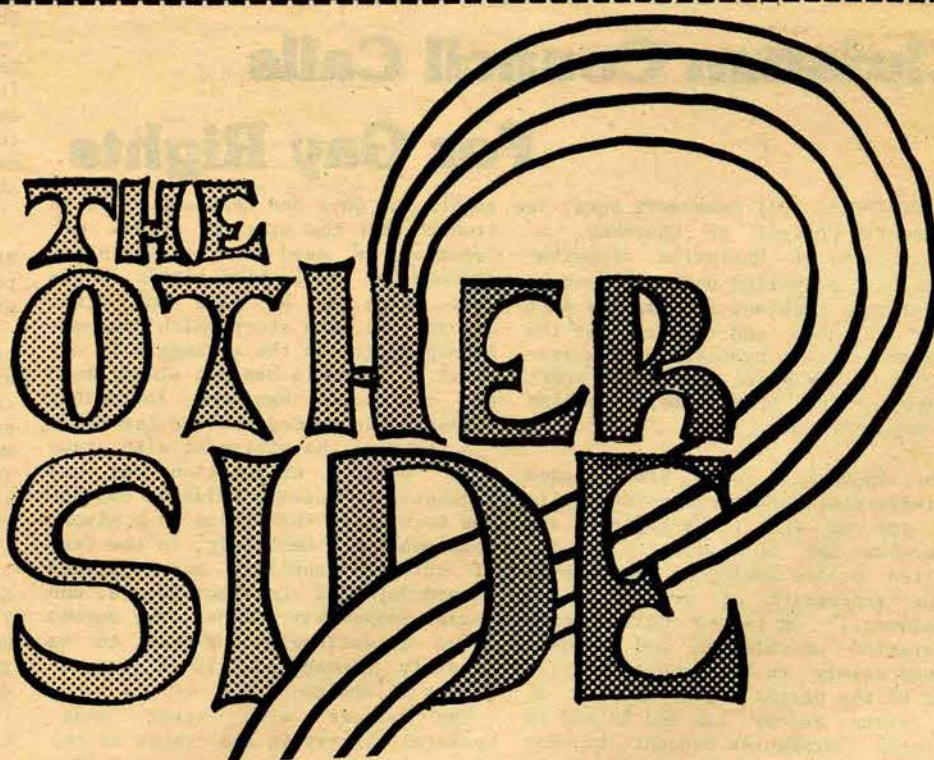
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BWMT Makes Donation

by Joe Calhoun

BWMT/Memphis began a canned goods drive during the month of October to be donated during the holidays. At the November general meeting it was decided to make the donation to Catholic Charities of Memphis for their work with Third World people.

Pat Rush, of Catholic Charities, said, "because of our work with Third World people we receive limited support from the community." Miss Rush also informed us that many would-be donors ask the race of the people who will be receiving their support.

BWMT voted to make the canned foods drive an on-going project and asked that people bring a canned good to each BWMT sponsored event.

1.5 Million Men Living Together

WASHINGTON---When the U.S. Census forms came around to our doors in April 1980, some 1.5 million unrelated American men responded that they were living together. Only 7,000 of the two-man households also included children.

The information recently was released in *Marital Status and living Arrangements*, a government publication released in June. It did not include information about households consisting of two women.

More details are available in a report that can be purchased for \$5 with checks made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Sisters of Izod?

SACRAMENTO (Bay Area Reporter)---For the first time ever a convention of Gay male nuns dedicated to the expiation of stigmatic guilt was conducted January 2, in Sacramento.

The event was co-sponsored by three groups of California nuns: The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (San Francisco), the Charitable Sisters of Izod (Sacramento), and the Order of Candle Burnt at Both Ends (Davis, CA.)

Only Gay male nuns in habit were admitted to "NunCon '83," which featured a croquet tournament, a cocktail party and various opportunities to do missionary work.



MCC Evicted Without Notice

NEW YORK (The Native)---A Church leasing its sanctuary to one of the three Metropolitan Community Church congregations here cancelled MCC's new one-year lease hours before its first worship service was to begin there.

Bill Smith, worship coordinator of Trinity MCC, said he was "stunned" by the decision made by the Park Avenue Christian Church's Board of Directors. He said the pastor, John Wade Payne, had been supportive. Dr. Payne said the lease was proving to be "more divisive than unifying" at his church.

The following is a list of Coalition activities planned for February:

- 2/7 MGC Business Meeting
- 2/8 Gaze Staff Meeting
- 2/9 Gay Political Caucus Meeting
- 2/10 Fundraising Committee Meeting
- 2/11 Gaze copy deadline
- 2/12 Coalition Wine and Cheese Social
- 2/14 Coalition PR/Outreach Meeting
- 2/15 Gay Switchboard Meeting
- 2/17 Gay Pride Week Meeting
- 2/21 MGC Program Meeting.

For more information on times and places call 726-GAYY.

Gay Coalition Reports

On January 3, 1983, the Memphis Gay Coalition held its first monthly business meeting of the year at the Main Library at Peabody and McLean.

MGC Treasurer Cecil McLeod indicated that the MGC treasury had a balance of approximately \$100 having spent almost \$750 for expenses during the month of December. Anticipated revenues are expected to increase the treasury balance sufficiently to cover January expenses.

The program meeting set for February 21 will feature Paul D'Encarnacao who will speak on the subject of "Sexual Pleasure and Ways of Increasing it."

The Membership committee reported that a direct mail solicitation targeted at 300 former members has been completed and has been reasonably successful.

Allen Cook of the Gaze Staff indicated that problems with the former publishing company of Gaze going out of business have been resolved and that a new printer has been found. Cost of publication of the newspaper remains about the same per issue.

Pat Jones, who is in charge of *The Gay Alternative* radio program on WEVL said that a donor has been found to underwrite the program for December (\$10 per month). WEVL has recently been requiring that special interest programming be underwritten. Jones indicated that plans are moving ahead on the power increase for WEVL and that in three or four months *The Gay Alternative* may be heard in a wider area.

In other business, Kenny Thomas, a candidate for City Council from the Citizen's Party requested Coalition endorsement and a copy of the mailing list of the MGC to solicit votes directly. Request for endorsement was

referred to the Memphis Gay Political Caucus for consideration. Since the Coalition membership list is strictly confidential, his request for that information was denied.

Discussion was presented on the possibility of sending a letter to Mayor Richard Hackett requesting his position on the issue of Gay rights and what his administration plans to do in this regard.

Media Monitor Irwin Rothenberg told of several articles relating to Gays that have appeared in local papers.

Buddy Chapman (former Police Director under Mayor Chandler) had previously indicated in an appearance before the Coalition that a liaison might be established between the Coalition and the police force as part of the psychological training new police recruits must undergo. It was suggested that new Police Director John Holt be contacted to determine if this can be done.

Finally, Vincent Astor agreed to be the new quarterly facilitator for the Coalition. He will serve through April.

Mark Franceschini served as the first quarterly facilitator under the new Coalition program and through his efforts and hard work, he got the new programs off to a healthy start. We also must thank him for the sizable donations he made to the Coalition and the newspaper. At Mark's last meeting, Ed Leggett volunteered to head the Fundraising Committee and John Heizer and Whit Smith will head the Public Relations and Outreach Committee jointly.

Mark has left Memphis to go to school in Texas. We wish him luck and offer thanks for the fine job he did.

Christian Council Calls For Gay Rights

MINNEAPOLIS (GAY COMMUNITY NEWS) The Minnesota Council of Churches, a coalition of 18 Christian denominations have prevailed upon its members to welcome Lesbians and Gay men into their parishes and to work for the passage of laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual preference, reports *Equal Time*, a Lesbian and Gay newspaper.

The 55-member board also passed anti-discrimination resolutions calling for an end to "arbitrary and selective use of laws.....legally applied police violence which serve as an expression of prejudice and harassment," an end to court-ordered separation of children and parents "based solely on the sexual orientation of the parent," the repeal of the state sodomy law and an end to official "pressures brought to bear in parks, bars and other public meeting places solely on the grounds that they may be frequented by Lesbians and Gay men."

The Council, which is affiliated with two lobbies in the Minnesota legislature, urged them to support anti-discrimination bills. "Our Christian faith requires that we respond to injustice in our society manifested in the denial and violation of the civil liberties of persons whose affectional or sexual orientation is towards persons of the same gender," reads part of the five-page, single spaced "Statement on Ministry to and with Gay and Lesbian Persons."

Also in the statement, the board criticizes the role many churches have played in opposing equal civil

rights for Gays and Lesbians. "It is ironic that the story of Sodom and Gomorrah is used so repeatedly to condemn Gay and Lesbian people. Whatever else may be said for the account, it is a story which condemns inhospitality to the strangers in our midst. While it has not always been so, the church has been incredibly inhospitable to Gay men and Lesbians."

Authors of the statement also argue that sexual orientation is not necessarily chosen. "Evidence continues to suggest that there is a givenness about it. Certainly, in the face of current hostility and violence toward Gay and Lesbian people, one would reasonably wonder why anyone would intentionally choose to so identify themselves, if it were a matter of choice."

The authors also state that societal bigotry is the cause of the higher incidence of emotional difficulties among homosexuals as a group: "This minority group is often invisible...the cost is compromise of self and resignation to a shadow life of dishonesty and duplicity. It comes as no surprise, then, that data indicates that people in such situations are (at) risk for chemical abuse, emotional difficulties and even suicide."

Mexico/Taiwan Gay Lib Groups Form

Despite many problems the Grupo Lambda de Liberacion Homosexual continues work on a permanent basis and have now realized one of their principle projects, that of opening a central office, open to the public.

The official opening was held in November with a series of activities which will be the beginning of a busy future for the group in their new location. With this office they will continue being a strong part of the national and international Gay Liberation Movement.

Since the inauguration activities

are a big event, the group would like to receive messages of support, congratulations and solidarity.

The group wants to keep the bridges of communication with other Gay organizations and publications throughout the world open and plan to publish a newsletter with information about the Mexican Gay movement. *Nuevo Ambiente* (New Atmosphere), which stopped publishing due to financial and organizational problems, will soon be published regularly.

Send all mail to: Vileta L de la Rosa, Grupo Lambda, Apdo, Postal 73-130, Mexico 12 D.F., Mexico. DO NOT USE THE WORD HOMOSEXUAL ON THE ENVELOPE AS THIS MAY CAUSE THE ENVELOPE TO BE OPENED.

On another front, a Gay Liberation Group has formed in Taiwan as the result of correspondence between a Taiwanese, responding to an ad placed in *Scientific American* by LGAES, and Edward Sebesta of the Lesbian and Gay Associated Engineers and Scientists. A Chinese Gay Liberation Group has not existed since the group, formerly in Hong Kong was disbanded.

The group in Taiwan would greatly appreciate Gay liberation books and literature from all countries. All materials should be sent book rate but not labeled as books to: Box 13, China Medical College, Taichung, Taiwan, Republic of China.

Though the group in Taiwan can read English, it is a great effort and frivolous correspondence should be avoided.

NPR Makes Grant for Gay Radio Documentary

WASHINGTON (*The Washington Blade*)--National Public Radio has announced that it has awarded a \$14,464 grant to a Boston group to produce a one-hour documentary about Aaron Fricke.

Fricke gained national attention in 1980 when he successfully sued local school authorities in Cumberland, R.I., for the right to take a male date to his senior prom. Fricke later wrote about that experience of growing up Gay in small town America in *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*, published by Alyson Publications.

The NPR grant was awarded to Gay Media Production Associates and Wesley Horner of Boston. Horner and Gay Media were involved in a earlier NPR dramatization of another work published by Alyson, called *The Men with the Pink Triangle*, the story of a Gay man's persecution in Nazi Germany.

NGRA Enters Employment Discrimination Case

SAN FRANCISCO--National Gay Rights Advocates has filed a brief urging the reinstatement of a guidance counselor in Mad River, Ohio. The school district there refused to renew Marjorie Rowland's contract solely because of her sexual orientation.

NGRA has asserted that Rowland's constitutional rights were violated. Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director, said: "There are court decisions that establish the legal rights of public employees. The First Amendment protects school teachers from discharge based on what they say and believe."

The school district's position is that a person like Rowland could not be respected and therefore would be ineffective. Jean O'Leary, Executive Director of NGRA, said: "This attitude is a perfect example of prejudice based on outdated myths." O'Leary further stated that "NGRA is committed to fighting this type of employment discrimination."

The law suit was filed in May of 1975 in the U.S. District Court and Rowland won a judgement in excess of \$40,000 in the fall of 1981. The Mad River school district appealed the decision and the case is now before the U.S. Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Marjorie Rowland

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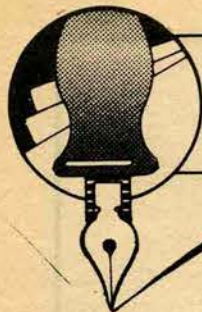
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Box 3038

Dear Editor,

After reading the stirring editorial by co-editor John Stilwell, I was moved and inspired beyond belief.

First, I certainly must acknowledge the sincere dedication that Mr. Stilwell seems to offer those who read GAZE and the entire Gay sector of Memphis. It is also a resounding victory to know that there are others who feel that they are working toward the improvement of an entire community. I applaud Mr. Stilwell's direct approach to the issue of the much misunderstood "Miss Mod II" pageant and the accompanying attitudes of the community as a whole.

Even though I am from Little Rock, I know that pleasing a community takes much time, efforts and a tremendous amount of volunteer work. However, the Memphis Gay community is so far more fortunate than their counterparts to the west, here in Little Rock.

Unfortunately, we have not attained the level of prominence of the various vehicles for accommodations that Memphis has. Consequently, to have a quality newspaper, and both radio and cable TV shows are not mere achievements. But, to also have a switchboard, cultural and social activities plus numerous bars and lounges to choose from are outright accomplishments.

Oh, Memphis how I envy your community and, yet, how I scorn each of you with the same breath for not taking complete advantage of all the activities and services offered you by the diligent efforts of the Memphis Gay Coalition.

Only, if Little Rock was so fortunate to not have to deal with such a stagnated, homophobic group, we too, could be more progressive in the Gay movement and advancements. Furthermore, Gays and Lesbians alike, flock to Memphis from Little Rock, only to return in awe of the community there.

However, I don't think they realize that we too can have the same, if not more, if we all worked harder for the cause just as MGC has. It is thoroughly depressing to think that your efforts are seen as minute and insignificant. Seemingly, the attitude that most Gays feel is that it is not their "job" to protect their rights,

Letters should be as short as possible and must be signed. Names will be withheld by request but anonymous letters will not be published. Mail to Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

and this is among the most demeaning to those of us who have worked on countless committees, spent hours to help when there was no one else and took time from other interesting efforts to help their fellow Gay brothers and sisters.

In conclusion, criticism is always welcomed from the community, however, when that criticism is unfounded and somewhat malicious, it seems to serve no useful purpose. Especially, when those doing the criticizing are not updated paid members or volunteers in any projects.

Memphis is becoming a "trendsetter" city and should be regarded as model city for other areas and certainly, should be for Little Rock. Hopefully, in the year to come, I feel that I personally will continue to learn more from reading GAZE and hope that the members of the Memphis and Little Rock communities follow suit.

Cornelius Mabin, Jr.
Activities Chairperson
Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Rights.

Dear Gaze,

We are so very sorry to see Bill and Ken leave us, the Gay Community and Memphis.

We hope they will be happy and will be accepted in their new "homes."

I'm sure everyone there will continue to do the fine job of running the paper that you have all done in the past.

Good Luck to Bill and Ken... and Gaze. But mostly, Good Luck to us --- your fans.

Our Love,
Joyce Kent
Aphrodite Club
Community Service

While Ken Hagenback has indeed left the city, Bill Johnson is still very much with us. Hopefully you will continue to see his contributions in these pages. -Ed.

Ark. Sodomy Law

Continued from page 1

Federal District Judge Oren Harris upheld the state's new sodomy law just as he had upheld the old unnatural acts statute ten years earlier. Harris sentenced Lemons to 90 days in jail.

GCN asked State Representative Irma Hunter Brown, a supporter of Lesbian and Gay rights, whether she or any of her colleagues is planning to challenge the sodomy law in the legislature. She replied, "No, I have no plans to do so at the present time. Nobody from the community has brought that up and to be very honest with you, people will never change unless they are forced to. We are in the so-called Bible belt, the heart of the conservative Baptist movement. To come out publicly on certain issues is not a way to get re-elected."

State Representative Jerry King, a minister of the Assembly of God Church in Hackett, supports the new sodomy law, although he readily acknowledges that it is discriminatory. "I think what heterosexuals do within the framework of marriage is up to them as to their sexual activity... (The passage in the Bible about) Sodom and Gomorrah is about homosexual activity not heterosexual activity."

The legislature last year passed a resolution proposed by King which prohibits what King calls "the teaching of homosexuality" on the campuses of the state university. King defended the resolution "on the basis of separation of church and state."

"By his standard," Kurjiaka countered, "the sodomy law is unconstitutional and he (as a minister) should not be sitting in this House."

Kurjiaka continued, "After the vote on his proposal, several legislators said to me, 'I didn't want to vote for that garbage.' But they were chicken not to. If any of those people had received two or three

notes or phone calls from constituents they would have opposed it. The same goes for the sodomy law."

Since 1980, the sodomy laws of Pennsylvania, New York and Texas have been eliminated but Arkansas and 22 other states (including Tennessee) still have similar prohibitions on the books. However, said Gordon, in Arkansas the legislators and police "don't really mean it." "They don't care what you do as long as they can say you are wrong and it is illegal," Gordon said. "Legislators get together once a year and speak platitudes about the wonderful United States. (Back in 1977) someone must have pointed out that there were no laws against homosexuals in the state, so they had to pass one. But then they all went home and invited the local hairdresser and the florist to their parties and said, 'Sorry about that law but we had to...'"

"If you get up and say you think Gay people are wonderful, you'd have the entire congregation of the First Baptist Church up in arms. But if you and your lover want to show up at the church social and discuss your recipes and dogs (because you can't have children) they think, 'aren't they a sweet couple.' You're just eccentric to them."

Lemons' arrest was a mistake to begin with, said Gordon. "No one informed this brand new trooper down there that you don't arrest people for doing that."

Gordon and Kurjiaka both noted that incidents of "queer bashing" are rare in Arkansas. "Nobody bothers us because we haven't asked for anything," said Kurjiaka. "We're not a threat. But I'm working against closetedness here. I can't stand seeing people feel the world will end if they come out... On the other hand, look at what happens when you do get visibility. Look at the bar (Blue's) in New York and other bars in large cities."

"We're the only ones who are going to save ourselves from all those people who'd like to see us go down the tubes."

— Susan Green
Gay Rights National Lobby

In 1982, because of your support, we supported Gay coalitions in Nashville and Little Rock, staged our second Gay and Lesbian Pride March, continued a Gay Advocacy Project, spoke with Police Director Buddy Chapman and Rep. Harold Ford, established a Gay Political Caucus, continued production of WEVL's "Gay Alternative" and Lambda Televideo's "Views from 10%," published GAZE, celebrated our Gay Pride in marches, rallies, picnics and riverboat cruises, maintained the Gay Switchboard, and supported projects of the ACLU, Arkansas Gay Rights, National Conference of Christians and Jews, NOW, and the Tennessee Coalition for Human Rights. With your continued support, we'll go further in 1983.

Meetings are held on the first and third Monday, 7:30 p.m., Main Library, Meeting Room B. The second meeting of each month features an educational program (films, speakers, roundtables, etc.)

Memphis Gay Coalition

- ☐ I would like to join MGC. Enclosed is my \$20 donation which includes a complimentary subscription to GAZE.
- ☐ We would like to join MGC. Enclosed is our \$35 donation for our Gay/Lesbian family which includes one year subscription to GAZE.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Bowling

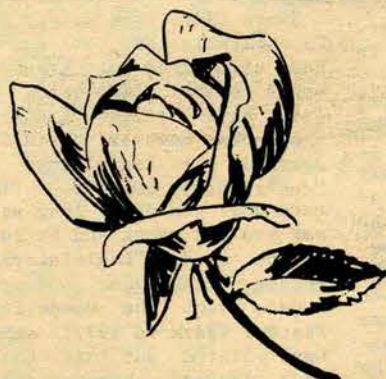


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LLDEF Urges Army to Abandon Discriminatory Policies

BOSTON-In May of this year, Hugh J. Clausen, the Judge Advocate General of the Department of the Army, wrote a number of law schools urging that the Judge Advocate General's Corps be exempted from policies prohibiting on-campus recruitment by organizations which discriminate on the basis of sexual preference.

In their letter dated December 10, the National Gay Task Force and Lambda Legal Defense Fund, Inc. have asked the Department of the Army to reconsider the arguments advanced in the May letters, and to end the policy of discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men which is ineffective in achieving its announced purpose, wasteful and expensive, damaging to the military preparedness of the nation, and finally and most importantly, unjust. The significant parts of the joint NGTF/LLDEF letter are as follows:

Despite the exclusionary policy of the Department of Defense, it will come as no surprise that Lesbians and Gay men have, nevertheless, elected, in great numbers, to serve in the armed forces.

The thousands upon thousands of people expelled from the armed forces for homosexuality represent but a tiny fraction of those who could be, but the time, effort, and money involved in processing out only that tiny fraction is astronomical. At a period in our history when resources for the most meritorious projects are in short supply, what sense can it make to squander time, money, and energy on an exclusionary policy which is mostly ineffective and which, if effective, would actually reduce the military's ability to carry out its role.

Moreover, in the age of voluntary

service, when the pool of potential recruits has already been drastically reduced, what sense can it make to shrink the pool further by excluding 20 million Lesbians and Gay men from potential recruitment for reasons which have nothing to do with their ability to contribute to the national defense.

In the May letters, the Judge Advocate General argued in favor of the current policy by stating that the presence of homosexuals in the armed forces would tend to impair unit morale and cohesion and would represent an inclusion of a class of likely criminals under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

With regard to the first argument, Lesbians and Gay men are already present in large numbers in the armed forces. Some are open about their homosexuality, and a good many others are readily ascertainable, but the incidences of problems arising from their presence is virtually non-existent. Even if some tensions did, in fact, surface from time to time, it would hardly justify exclusion. Racial tensions, for example, are a genuine and continuing problem, but who would suggest that excluding 20 million Blacks from the armed forces could have anything but a deleterious effect on national defense. Despite certain, at-the-moment, inevitable racial tensions, the armed forces actively recruit minorities as a way of strengthening the armed forces. An extension to that outreach to Lesbians and Gay men would have the same beneficial result.

As for the point about a potential increase in violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, governmental limitations on the private, non-commercial consensual, sexual activ-

ities of adults are of dubious validity. (See, for example, PEOPLE VS ONOFRE, 51 NY 2d 476, NYS 2d 947 (1980), a case in which Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund was involved.) Moreover, the very idea of using the Uniform Code of Military Justice as a support for an exclusionary policy is a classic example of a boot-strap argument, for the military would then be using its own action, not the objective, pre-existing reality of the outside world, to justify its own further action.

The ultimate issue is not whether the U.S. Supreme Court will eventually permit the armed forces to discriminate against Lesbians and Gay men if they choose to do so; the constitutionality of an act has never been synonymous with its rightness or prudence.

The appropriate question is - what is right and prudent? As to what is prudent, it would seem unwise to lessen the nation's defense capability as a result of a policy excluding Lesbians and Gay men from the military. The Judge Advocate General suggests that if the schools which have adopted a non-discriminatory policy fail to abandon that policy with regard to the armed forces, the

armed forces would be withdrawn from various programs. Specifically, certain officers would be denied the opportunity to attend the school of their choice, and certain agencies would be urged not to contract with the school of their choice. Assuming that in most cases the officers and agencies affected by these changes would have selected, in the first instance, the best school for their purposes, the suggested policy change means that, on top of all its other drawbacks, adherence to the exclusionary policy will diminish and/or increase the cost of the education and research available to the armed forces.

As to what is right, a consensus has emerged and continually grown over the course of our history that it is right to judge people as individuals and wrong - wrong in a very moral and important sense - to discriminate against people in employment for reasons unrelated to their ability to perform the job at issue.

In conclusion, the National Gay Task Force and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund urge the Office of the Judge Advocate General to reconsider its policy toward the law schools that prohibit on-campus recruitment by the Department of Defense. We urge all branches of the military to reconsider their exclusionary policy toward Lesbians and Gay men.

LOVERS ON THE "EL"

She smiles up at him
Straightens the jacket collar that
Doesn't need straightening.
He lets her; he loves it when she
Touches him.
At the far end of the car
As the "el" lurches to a stop
A couple fall into one another.
She sneaks a quick kiss into his
Shirt at the moment of contact
Release,
and they gently balance against
each other -

Lovers
on the "el"
in the morning.
Others observe
savor the evidences
of love
of intimacy that
In small, quite respectable ways
Assert themselves in this rush hour
rush to the job
to the batterings of
theworldoutthere.

If you were here
And I looked down at you
Your hair might fall over your eye.
I would reach to brush it gently away
To be soothed by its softness
and the warmth of your skin
on my fingers.
But I'd detour my reach
to better grasp a cold pole
Or to scratch
at an itch that I don't
really have --

Lovers
on the "el"
in the morning.

Others don't know
don't feel the pain
of love
of intimacy that
In such small, such ridiculous ways
Hide themselves in this rush hour
rush to the job
through the batterings of
theworldoutthere.

--Bonita Freeman

Poetry will be accepted for publication in future issues of Gaze. If return is requested please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Mail contributions to Our People's Voice Collective, care of Gaze, Box 3038, Memphis, Tennessee 38103.

Memphis Gay Coalition Presents



A Wine & Cheese
Potluck
Social*

Saturday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.

1055 Philadelphia

*Bring wine or cheese

Information and Services

Memphis

Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): general movement; 81 Madison Bldg., Suite 1501, Memphis 38103, 521-9875.

Black & White Men Together: support/movement; 276-4160 or 274-0532.

Gay Advocacy Project: movement, ACLU & MGC; 521-9875 or 726-4299.

Gay Catholics: Recommended Sunday Mass 11:00 AM—St. Peters Village.

GOPS: social, private membership; no address listing.

Lesbian Mothers Support Group: NOW, 458-1661.

Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: non-sexist, non-heterosexist; 1462 Poplar Ave., Memphis 38104, 274-3550.

Memphis Gay Activists: movement, private membership; 274-0431.

Memphis Gay Coalition: movement, public; Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

Memphis Gay Speakers Bureau: movement, general education; Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

Memphis State University Gay Student Union: movement/student support; Room 416, University Center, MSU, Memphis 38152.

Metropolitan Community Church: religious, general Christian; 2224 Central Ave., 278-1091.

Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite: social/movement, women; P.O. Box 41822, Memphis 38104.

Mystic Krewe of Apollo: social, private membership, men only; no address listing.

National Organization for Women (NOW): movement, feminist; P.O. Box 40982, Memphis 38104, 458-1661.

Phoenix: Gay alcoholics anonymous; meets Weds., 8 pm in Clark Tower, 5050 Poplar, Room 3102; 365-7153.

Queen's Men: social, private membership; no address listing.

Tsarus: social, levi-leather/motorcycle, private membership, P.O. Box 11831, Memphis 38111.

Hotlines

Gay Switchboard: information, crisis, referrals, counseling; 726-GAYY.

Rape Crisis: 528-2161.

Suicide and Crisis Intervention: 274-7477.

Media

"Gay Alternative": radio, weekly, Sundays 3 p.m. WEVL-FM 90.3, P.O. Box 41773, Memphis 38104.

Gaze: newspaper, monthly; Box 3038, Memphis 38103, 454-1411.

Lambda Televideo: television, monthly program *Views from 10%*, cable channel 7; P.O. Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

Restaurants & Bars

The Barracks: bar, large disco, patio. Late hours; 616 Marshall Ave., 527-6348.

Family Affair Club: bar, Gay crowd Sunday nights only; 873 Vance Ave., 527-0672.

The French Connection: restaurant, piano bar, dining menu; 598 Marshall Ave., 526-1038.

George's: bar, shows, large disco; 600 Marshall Ave., 526-1038.

J-Wag's: bar, serves food, moderate menu; patio, late hours; 1268 Madison Ave., 725-4670.

Loretta & Juicy's: bar, late hours; 76 N. Cleveland. Juicy's.

The Other Side: bar, 12 N. Cleveland, late hours. 726-9245

The Pendulum: bar, large disco, serves food, limited menu; 92 N. Avalon St., 725-1530.

P.W. Bumps Disco: bar, serves food, limited menu; 238 N. Cleveland St., 726-9953.

Psych-Out II: bar, shows on weekends; 571 Marshall Ave., 523-1940.

Sharon's: bar; 1474 Madison Ave., 278-9021.

Little Rock

Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): general movement; Box 2832, Little Rock, AR. 72203.

Arkansas Gay Rights, Inc. (AGR): movement, P.O. Box 3115, Little Rock 72203.

Arkansas Women's Network: movement, feminist; Box 1787, Little Rock, 72203.

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous (Gay-AA): meets every Tues. & Sun., 8 p.m., 7509 Cantrel, Suite 102, Tanglewood Shopping Center.

Gay Counseling Service: 409 Walnut, Little Rock 72205, (501) 663-6455.

Grassroots Women's House: 1524 S. Summit, Little Rock, (501) 378-7851.

Metropolitan Community Church: religious, general Christian; Box 1964, Little Rock 72203. (501) 664-3749.

ever, share with you some of the major activities in which our Philadelphia parent group has been involved in."

Sauerman said the group conducts monthly meetings on topical issues such as medical concerns, religion, civil rights and police harassment. He said the group also contributes money to Gay causes, maintains a lending library and sends people to appear on radio and television shows.

"It is important that the presence of supportive and understanding parents be encouraged," Sauerman said. "They're the folks who can make the most important contributions to an organization of this nature."

Sauerman also belongs to Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a national federation of parents support groups with a national office in Los Angeles.

National Organization for Women (NOW): movement, feminist; P.O. Box 662, Little Rock, 72203.

Parents & Friends of Gays: movement/support; P.O. Box 1839, Batesville, AR 72501.

Hotlines

Crisis Center: 664-8834 (toll free, 1-800-482-8886.)

Media

Arkansas Gay Writes: AGR, Inc., newsletter; P.O. Box 3115, Little Rock 72203.

Ours: newspaper, 5 times/yr., feminist; P.O. Box 2352, Little Rock 72203.

Restaurants & Bars

Chaps: 1701 S. University, 663-8682.

Silver Dollar: 2710 Asher Ave., 663-9886.

Discovery II: 1021 Jessie Rd., 664-4784.

Variations: 113½ E. Main, 371-9919; Disco nights, piano bar days, restaurant 24 hours.

Nashville

Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): general movement, Box 3167, Nashville 27219.

Conductors: Levi-Leather Club; P.O. Box 40261, Nashville 37204.

Justice for Parents Defense Fund: legal child custody; 43 Music Square West, Nashville 37203.

Lifestyle Health Services: confidential clinic specializing in STDs, 1727 Church Street, Nashville 37203 (615) 329-1478.

Metropolitan Community Church: religious, general Christian; 131 15th Ave. N., Nashville, (615) 320-0288.

Nashville Committee: social/movement, P.O. Box 23321, Nashville, TN 37202.

Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights (TGCHR): movement, Box 24181 Nashville 37202.

Womankind Health Service: confidential clinic, feminist, 1727 Church Street, Nashville, 37203 (615) 329-1478.

Womankind Books: bookstore, records, extensive selection; 2011 Belmont Blvd., Nashville 37212, (615) 292-1597. (mail order available, send for catalogue.)

Women's Resources Center: general services for women; 1608 Woodmont-YWCA, Nashville, (615) 385-3952.

Restaurants & Bars

Cabaret: 1711 Hayes St., 320-7082,

Crazy Cowboy: 2311 Franklin Rd., 383-9493.

Warehouse 28: 2529 Franklin Rd., 297-0992.

The Women's Rm: 2110 8th Ave. S., 292-9177.

PFG Rep to Visit Memphis

by Joel Tate

A Pennsylvania man who wants to help strengthen new and existing parent support groups for Gays will be visiting a number of Southern cities next month, including Memphis.

Thomas H. Sauerman, a member of Philadelphia Parents of Gays, said he will be interested in meeting anyone who wants to be part of a support group consisting of parents and friends of Lesbians and Gay men.

Sauerman will be in Memphis March 2 and 3 as part of a business trip that will take him to a total of 10 cities. Rev. Jim Simon, Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church here, said Sauerman will be meeting with interested people at 7:30 PM March 2, at MCC, 2224 Central.

"Believe me, there are many parents who are proud of their Gay sons and

Lesbian daughters," Sauerman wrote in a letter promoting his visit. "I'd like to offer them the opportunity to come together for mutual support and to provide them with appropriate outlets to combat society's homophobia. Since I don't know where they are, I hope that you'll assist me in getting out the word to them."

Sauerman also will be visiting Nashville, Birmingham, Jackson, MS, Mobile, Atlanta, Garden City, GA, Johnson City, and Knoxville.

"The intent of my visit is to plant a seed about the values of developing a parents' support group in your town," Sauerman said. "Each group in the national federation responds to the needs of its individual community. It's impossible to say what kind of activity and support might be anticipated in your area. I can, how-

**Gay
Alternative**
**WEVL FM 90.3
Sundays 3 P.M.**

Presented by the Memphis Gay Coalition

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HEAR: The Gay Alternative—Sundays at 3 pm on WEVL 90.3 FM.

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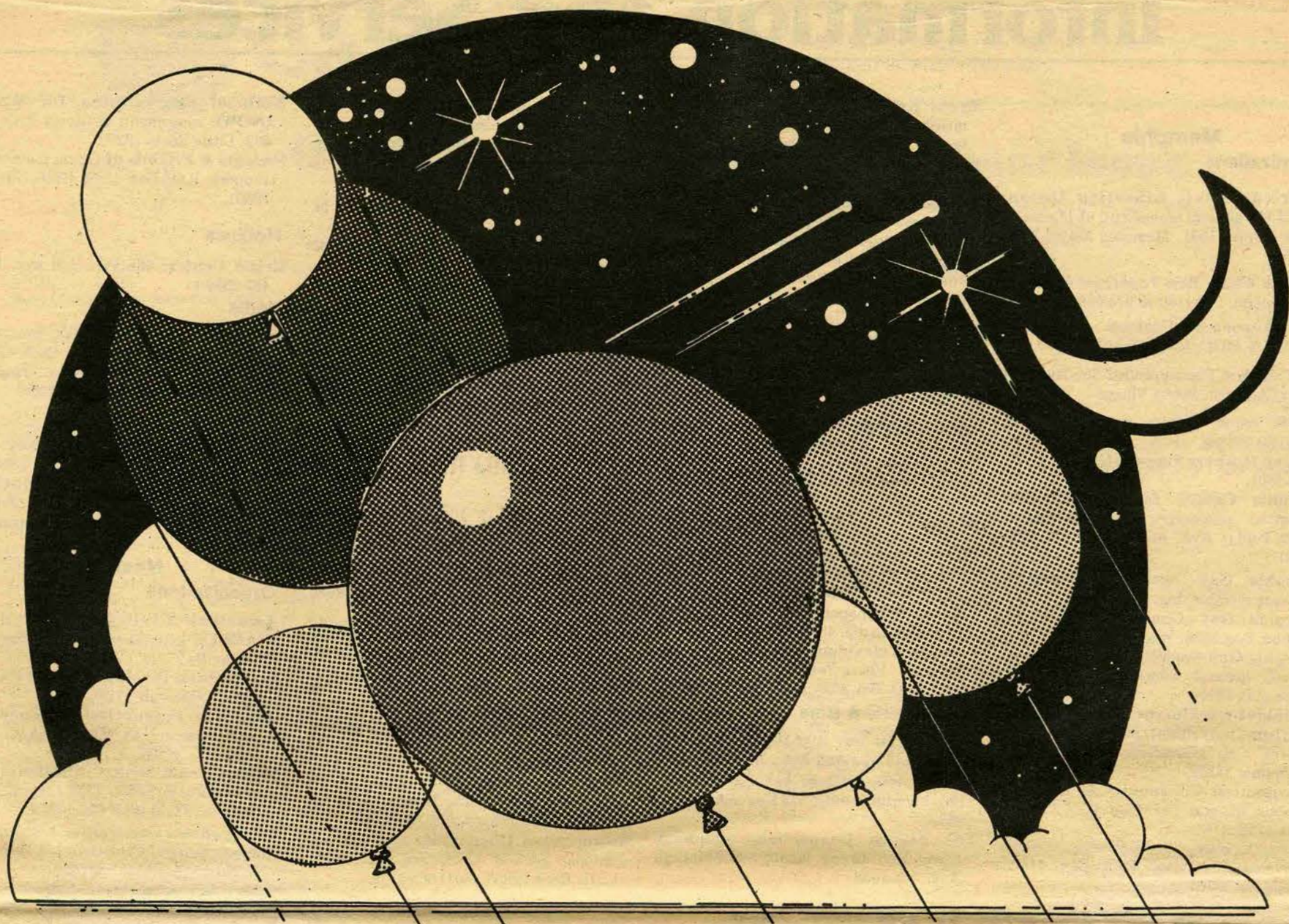
NATIONAL GAY CONTACT CLUB—Men and Women. Low Rates. SASE: Dean, P.O. Box 26044, San Jose, CA. 95159.

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WATCH: Views from 10% on cable channel 7. See display ad for days, times and topics.

JOIN: The Memphis Gay Coalition. We are working for YOUR rights. Business and social meetings at the Library at Peabody and McLean, first and third Mondays at 7:30 pm—Meeting Room B.



WAREHOUSE 28

**Sunday, February 13—Valentine's Sweetheart Contest
11:00 P.M.**

**Sunday, February 20—Zoe Walker Returns - Shows at
10 and 11:30 p.m.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SATURDAY
APRIL 2nd as
NASHVILLE PRESENTS A GALA EVENING
OF GAY
ENTERTAINMENT AT THE TENNESSEE
THEATRE.**

More Details in the March Issue of GAZE.

2529 Franklin Nashville 615-385-9689