

Gaze

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Memphis, Tennessee

October, 1983

Candidates Court Gay Vote D'Army Bailey Endorsed by Gay Political Caucus

by John Stilwell

In its continuing effort to educate and inform the Gay community, the Memphis Gay Coalition invited the four major mayoral candidates to speak at the September 19th program meeting of the Coalition. Bailey, Ford and Higgs accepted and Mayor Hackett declined. The format was five minutes for each candidate to explain their platform, five prepared questions with each candidate allowed two minutes to answer and then questions from the audience. The format and prepared questions were sent to the candidates prior to the meeting.

Otis Higgs was unable to attend but sent Chris Fletcher, the Chairperson of Higgs' issues committee. In his opening remarks, Fletcher explained that Higgs' efforts were the continuation of an eight year campaign for the position of mayor and also pointed out that in '79,

Higgs was the only candidate to respond to a request to speak to the Coalition. (His manager, John Dice, actually spoke to a small group of Coalition members.)

According to Fletcher, Memphis needs "a coalition of progressive and positive thinking individuals" and "the kind of leadership to draw people together." He described the current city government as "set up for mainstream individuals and controlled by machines," and Otis Higgs thinks it's time to "take back government from the machines." Fletcher said Memphis has gotten a reputation as a "devisive, backwater, conservative, puritanical" city. In the next four years, Higgs plans to bring 20,000 jobs to the city by "selling" Memphis' natural resources: health/sciences, agribusiness and music/tourism. "We don't need more maids, busboys and shoe shine boys. What we need are jobs people can make a living at."



Mayoral candidates D'Army Bailey (l) and John Ford (r), listen as Chris Fletcher, representing candidate Otis Higgs, responds to a question during a forum sponsored by the Memphis Gay Coalition. Photo by Ric Sullivan.

Fletcher said that money currently being spent on police harassment programs would be better spent on neighborhood watch programs. The police need to make violent crimes a priority. A partnership between the neighborhoods and the police and a dialog, which doesn't currently exist, must be established.

In his turn, D'Army Bailey addressed many of the same issues that Fletcher had with many of the same solutions. Bailey also recog-

nized the need for Blacks and Whites to work together in order for the city to progress. He also recognized the need for jobs and has already proposed a bio-medical research zone and a plan to recruit manufacturers of medical equipment.

Bailey is also in favor of taking police out of the precinct house and putting them in the neighborhood where they should be recep-

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Memphis AIDS Memphis Formed

by Allen Cook

A coalition of Gay and straight Memphians have formed a new organization specifically designed to provide education and support during the AIDS health crisis. Called Memphis AIDS Memphis (MAM), the group is planning a slate of events in November which will include informational seminars, fundraising events, a concert and a memorial candlelight service for AIDS victims.

According to Linda C. Ott, organizer of the group, the purpose of the organization is to show that a large, diverse group of people is concerned with the AIDS crisis and that together, Gays and straights should work to provide information, support and money to help eradicate the disease. "Many of my close friends are Gay and, as a person who is at low risk, I feel that it is my responsibility to do something about this. We can't simply ignore something because it does not affect us directly.

"AIDS is a problem that has the potential to affect all of us in one way or another. Everyone, Gay or straight, should have an interest in solving this (medical) problem," she said.

An advisory Board of Directors for MAM is currently being solicited which will include members of the Gay community, as well as members selected from medical, legislative, religious and business areas.

Some of the money raised by MAM which is earmarked for research will probably remain in the Memphis area. The University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences is currently engaging in extensive research into *pneumocystis carinii*, one of the major opportunistic diseases affecting AIDS victims. Research is also being done in the area of lymph system and blood disorders. UT is considered one of the major research centers dealing with the AIDS crisis. Although

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Following the appearance before the Memphis Gay Coalition of Mayoral candidates D'Army Bailey and John Ford and Chris Fletcher, representing candidate Otis Higgs, several of those in attendance were asked: "Has what you heard tonight had any effect on how you'll vote in the mayoral election?"

JOHN KELLEY: "It just reaffirmed what I already felt about the candidates. I was most impressed with D'Army Bailey... (Ford) never faced one question head on. I was a little disappointed in that."

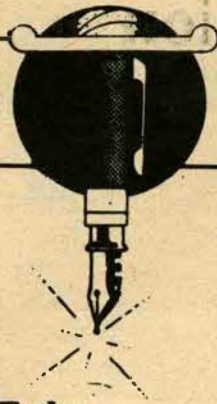
JIM BROWNE: "I felt that John Ford missed the point with the sexual preference question. He was referring to sexual discrimination toward women and not sexual preference... It made him appear more cosmetic."

CHERYL: "I haven't decided yet between Higgs and Bailey. I know I didn't like John Ford."

DEL SWANSON: "I had never really had any knowledge of Mr. Bailey's stand... I think I knew Mr. Higgs' stand from the previous election. And it put Mr. Ford in a still worse light."

ANGIE: "I was really impressed by Bailey's honesty. He really comes off as sincere about wanting to be involved with the Gay community. He also had specific responses to questions which made it seem that he had thought about what he was going to say. I was very upset with Fletcher's saying he would think about Gay Pride Week if it was wholesome—and I wouldn't vote for [Higgs] because of that."

JOE CALHOUN: "It strengthened it. Prior to the meeting, in part because of Bailey's coming to the (Black and White Men Together) dinner party and being on the (Gay Alternative) radio show, and what I've read and heard about the other candidates, my decision's been firmly rooted in a vote for D'Army Bailey. And I must say my negative opinions of John Ford were supported by his superior attitude."



Gazing

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

The Disease is Violence

by Carol Taylor

Something happened on September 1st that finally got the world's attention. For Centuries, like millions of tiny annoying, tapping fingers on the shoulders of the earth, innocent people have died asking that their humanity be acknowledged. (Hello, is anyone — home? Does my life mean nothing to you?)

When 269 people in a civilian airliner were shot down by Soviet order, most of the world was vocally outraged. The cry everywhere was then and is now to do something.

You may be wondering by now why this topic is addressed in a paper usually reserved for issues more locally focused. I address it because we are as close to that event as to the nearest human being in our hearts. I address it because our struggle to obtain that simple recognition of our humanity for ourselves is no different from identical attempts by individuals everywhere, regardless of the group to which they or we may arbitrarily attach ourselves.

And I address it out of the same outrage felt by many others: We must somehow do something.

But in what context must we act? Reasonable people demand the facts, reparation, contrition, responsible behavior. Given that the Soviets have neither a long nor admirable record in these areas, reasonable people shouldn't long expect history to support their hopes. Others want justice, reprisal, inflicted pain. Still others hope for something more lasting, something which treats the disease and not merely the symptoms.

The disease is violence. And it's like cancer: It exempts no nationality; it has myriad forms; and if not fatal, it is at best painful. To discover a prevention, and perhaps, a cure, one must locate origins, causes.

On the surface, violence appears to result from anger. But anger is a secondary emotion; anger is the result of another, primary emotion. Fear or hurt usually occur first; more accurately, hurt or fear of hurt. All of these come from insecurity. Now, dear reader, we are down to the seemingly inescapable, ubiquitous, proverbial bottom line: We are all, by virtue (and I use that term with reservation) of being human, insecure. We were designed that way, like having two legs and occasionally a brain. It comes with the territory; one whose landscape includes pain, death, error, free will, joy, love, peace and diversity.

So now we are back to the first question. What are we to do? If anger and violence are the children of hurt and fear and the grandchildren of insecurity, how do we stop inheriting and bequeathing traits which in a nuclear age will eliminate inheritance altogether?

Part of the answer may be within the systems that developed out of a need to deal with insecurity. Some of the answers are there because those same systems now rely for their very existence on the perpetuation of the problems they were intended to solve. (Patriarchy, militarism, nationalism and human hierarchies in general are the systems in question.) If we can generously assume that these systems were originally intended to protect persons or groups lacking the wherewithall to protect themselves, one must logically ask, from whom are they to be protected? The answer, of

course, is circular. One must be protected from someone more powerful who is bent on using that power to control, own or destroy another life. That person is either outside my own patriarchy or within it. If in it, I must somehow protect myself from my protectors. If outside, I must protect myself from those who wish to be my protectors. These are the only choices currently available: occidental, oriental or third world patriarchy. Or perhaps capitalistic, communistic, or *otheristic* patriarchy. The question ought not to be whether a people wants a particular economic or moral system or legal system. The point is that in a nuclear age, if we don't address the causes of violence, it won't matter whether we are Gay, straight, rich, communistic, atheistic or purple polka-dot. If we are all dead, ALL dead, world-with-a-definite-end dead, all-abortions-completed-prior-to conception dead, it will be too late to ask any questions whatsoever.

When we seek, if we do, an end to insecurity, we thereby seek the end of patriarchy and all its support systems. Patriarchy requires for its existence, insecurity in someone; it requires the proverbial cat to kick. The system and the individuals who subscribe to it and perpetuate it must have individuals and groups who are, in imagination if not reality, inferior. (*Inferior* can be defined in as many ways as the human heart is capable of being unkind: intelligence, number of functioning arms and legs, natural resources, unnatural resources. Izod shirts or Gloria Vanderbilt jeans. The fact that the jeans fade along with the glory of everything else is not a subject dwelt on long by anyone believing that somehow these things make for superiority or security.

And when I accuse patriarchy of being the culprit, I am not necessarily indicting men alone. Women are equally capable of wanting to run other people's lives. Matriarchy, if the new boss is just like the old boss, would be no solution. Changing the sex of the person making the decision improves nothing if the decision is predicated on immoral assumptions. And the assumption under which most of the world now operates is that one can control one's own life only by controlling everyone else's.

This assumption may as well be

engraved in stone on all national monuments on the face of the earth. Through this inscription, an elaborate patriarchy and its elaborate system of double standards are joined unto death. They are the marvel of intellectual Olympics, these Siamese twins of mental gymnastics. How they can do what they do on the single balance beam in an individual's head is beyond comprehension. Yet there they go, shoulder joined to shoulder (or more appropriately, spine to spine, Janus-like tumbling down the beam to the tune of "Do as I say, not as I do." The theme song of hypocrites everywhere. The song, like any senseless but catchy tune, that plays unrequested in everyone's head. EVERYONE'S head. We are none of us exempt unless we succeed.

So when violence occurs in some other part of the world in which we had no role, we jump up screaming "murderer." We forget, conveniently, that we send or sell rockets that kill, bullets that kill, soldiers that kill. We defend our own violence for that very reason: being ours, it is by definition, right and justified.

The murder of the 269 civilians on the Korean airliner was horrible and indefensible. All of the Soviet attempts to justify themselves comprise sufficient fertilizer to render redundant any need to buy grain from us. But beyond that essential point, beyond any innocence on our leader's parts in this particular incident, can we really view ourselves as innocent as a nation or as individuals? On a scale of one to ten for violence, duplicity and arrogance, we might give the Russians an 8.5 (remember Hitler?) and the United States a 5, maybe a 4. Would we not be in a better position to cast ratings and stones if we were not on the scale at all?

After having wandered through all this searching for an answer to insecurity and insanity and intolerance and violence, I am at my own end of every question. I can't come up with a better answer for what is to be done in the face of violence than those offered by Ghandi and Jesus. If the purpose of having evil in the world is to define good, to prove that we do indeed have free will and thereby prove our immortality (or our ethics), then love and non-violence are the only things worth living and dying and living again for.

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Gaze

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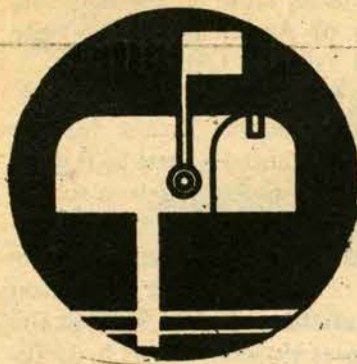
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Box 3038

Letters to the editor should be as short as possible and must be signed. Names will be withheld by request but anonymous letters will not be printed. "Box 3038" is a letters-to-the-editor column and is a public forum for readers to express their opinions. Gaze takes no responsibility for the views expressed. Mail letters to Gaze, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

Hey thanks for putting the article in your paper (Vol. 4, No.9-September) about my program in woodworking at the Jamestown (New York) Artisan Center. How nice!

There's a little location mistake--We're in the southwest corner of New York, not the Southeast, but otherwise it's totally wonderful. Thanks for the support.

Liz Bradbury, Coordinator
Jamestown Artisan Center
Jamestown, N.Y. 14701

I am a Methodist Lay Leader heading a campaign to encourage the United Methodist Church to acknowledge the civil rights of homosexuals more than the lip service than they give them now. Since your organization is concerned with this subject, could you help me? To continue the pressure, I need the names and addresses of Methodists (both lay and clergy). If you do not want to release such names, or if you do not have a church classification, please refer this letter to your members, and ask Methodists to write me.

This campaign will consist of the deluge of letters to the editor of the

United Methodist Reporter, P.O. Box 221076, Dallas, TX 75222. If your members want to write him direct, please have them send me a copy of their letters. If anybody wants help in composing a letter, I will be glad to write his or her ideas.

Richard C. Dunham
3527 E. Center St.
Conneaut, OH 44039

This letter was originally sent to the Memphis Gay Switchboard. As part of the Memphis Gay Coalition, we cannot release the names of our members. We are publishing your letter in hopes that some of our readers will help you out. -Ed.

It has been a long time coming, but Gaze is once again a typeset newspaper. In case, you're wondering about a slightly new look to Gaze, it's because the body copy is now being set on a reconditioned IBM composer. For the last couple of years, the copy has been typed on regular typewriters and then photographically reduced. While this was very economical (considering professional typesetters get upwards of \$35 an hour for their work, not to mention the cost of equipment), it also resulted in a rather cheap imitation of professional typesetting.

After a burglary in March, Gaze put out a call for a typewriter (any typewriter would have done). What we got was the use of an IBM composer, which was tucked away on a shelf in the home of one Claude H. Having been restored to full function, we are now using it to produce a much better looking, not to mention, more readable, paper. We're still working out the operator bugs in it, so bear with us. And thanks, Claude!

BWMT Convention Reflects Concerns

submitted by BWMT/Memphis

The International Association of Black and White Men Together held its third International Convention, August 16-21 at Ohio State University. The convention was hosted by the Columbus Association of Black and White Men Together and the Midwest Regional Network for BWMT.

The International Association of Black and White Men Together (IABWMT) is a Gay interracial organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. IABWMT engages in educational, political and cultural and social activities as a means of dealing with racism, sexism, homophobia and other inequities in our communities.

During the past year IABWMT has made its presence known at a national level and has challenged the National Gay Task Force, the Gay Rights National Lobby, the Gay Press Association and the National Association of Business Councils and others to address the question of racism within the Gay community. IA Co-chair, Charles Stewart, also held a series of meetings with Julian Dixon, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus seeking further support for Gay rights issues.

The speakers at the convention reflected the variety of national concerns of BWMT. Barbara Smith, a noted Black Lesbian feminist, author and educator, addressed the group in a moving talk. Ms. Smith proclaims that "we must not remain invisible, we were there in 1963 and we are still here in 1983." She went on to say, "Being different can be our pain and can also be our object of pride," as the crowd burst into a thunder of applause, she asked the question, "What do we do to make it impossible for us to be ignored?" She con-

cluded by encouraging people to make their presence known, either as individuals or as a group.

Dr. John E. Hopper, Professor of immunology at the U. of Chicago Medical School, addressed the group and answered questions dealing with AIDS. Many of the questions have yet to be answered in spite of continued research. He tried to separate some fact from fiction in the misinformation about AIDS and asked people to evaluate their sex habits.

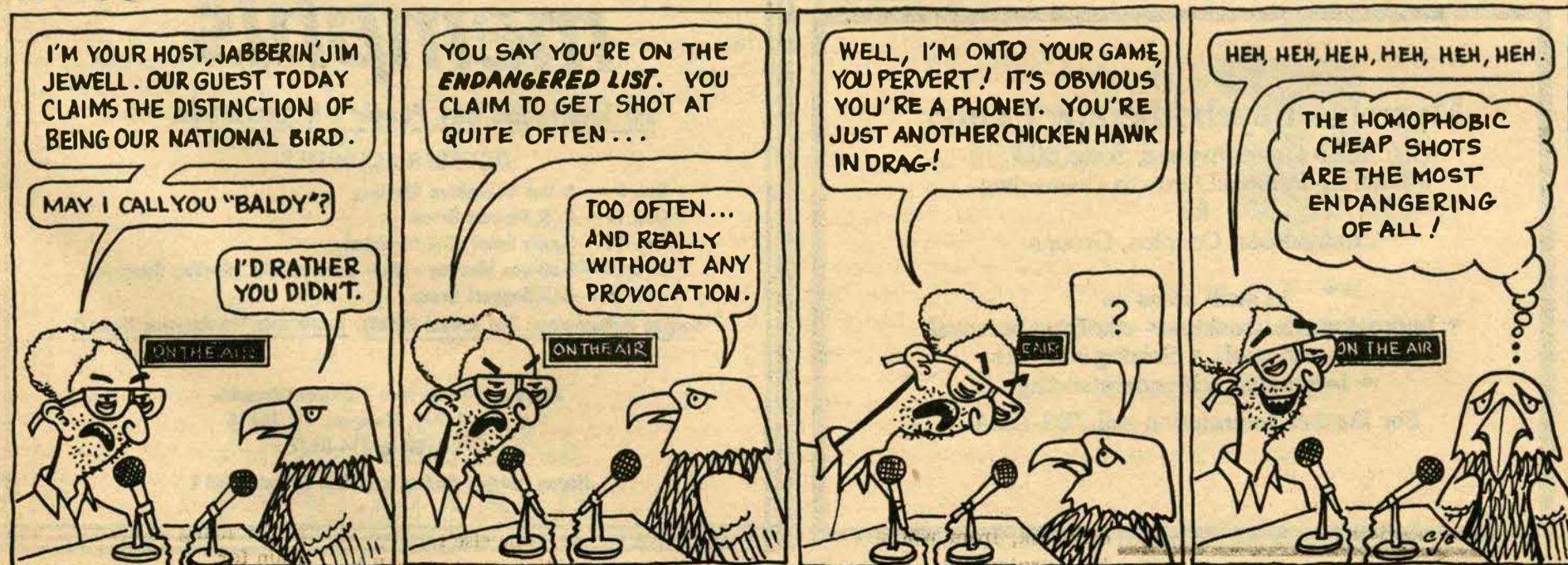
Keynote speaker was Virginia Apuzzo, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force and the NGTF Fund for Human Dignity, Inc. In a moving address, she expressed how important it is for a group such as BWMT to exist. "The forces that be are afraid for you to learn to talk together, to love together, you may have to work together." She went on to say how we need to draw support from a wide range of special interest groups and continue to make ourselves ever-present.

IABWMT is the fastest growing Gay organization in the nation with 26 chapters, the newest of which is in Little Rock. The convention drew members from across the country as well as England and encouragement from BWMT/Brazil.

The Memphis chapter of BWMT was well represented at the convention, with five members from the chapter present. Joe Calhoun and Irwin Rothenberg received awards for personal achievement. The new officers appointed Rothenberg as Chair of the newly formed Committee of Health Concerns and Calhoun was appointed as Co-chair of the Outreach Committee. Both will be representing BWMT on the national level.

The local chapter sponsors a variety of events each month. For more information on BWMT/ Memphis call 274-0532 or 276-4160.

OFF CUE





National

Discrimination Complaints Wanted

(Lesbian News)- Six Lesbian and Gay public law groups and legal defense funds announce that they have been receiving an increased number of discrimination complaints from people with AIDS and Gay men in general who are perceived as AIDS-carriers. The complaints have centered mostly on employment situations, including terminations, refusals to hire, or restrictions on the activities of certain employees.

The lawyers involved with these groups stressed that all people faced with this kind of discrimination should report such acts immediately to a local Gay/Lesbian legal service and to any available local or state human rights agency.

The six groups that should be contacted about AIDS-related discrimination are:

ACLU Lesbian/Gay Rights Project, Los Angeles.

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, Boston

Lesbian Rights Project, San Francisco

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, New York

National Gay Rights Advocates, San Francisco

Texas Human Rights Foundation, Houston.

Garment Workers Favor Gay Rights

(Lambda Louisville)-- At the 38th convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) in Los Angeles recently, the union unanimously adopted a Gay rights resolution, becoming the

newest and one of the most famous unions to endorse the idea.

Frank Monti, political and educational director of the ILGWU's western states region, noted that "It is the responsibility of trade unions to guarantee that workers shall be judged on the merits of their work and not by irrelevant criteria of what they do in their private lives.

The resolution requires the union to protest any personnel actions against workers taken "merely on the basis of sexual orientation." The union now officially supports the enactment of federal, state and local legislation guaranteeing civil rights in employment, housing, public accommodations, credit and public services without regard to sexual orientation.

Falwell Wants Quarantine of Gays

"In Texas, federal agents are even now threatening to quarantine cattle suffering from brucellosis in order to prevent a possible epidemic among cattle... And yet, AIDS, the number one cause of death among hemophiliacs, has not received the same radical and immediate treatment from governmental agencies."

Falwell noted that it was unlikely that the government would take up his suggestion because "homosexuals constitute a voting bloc and cows do not."

...Which Sounds Familiar

Hitler wrote the following in his book *Mein Kampf* in 1927.

"To proceed against the further spreading of venereal disease, one will have to proceed to the pitiless isolation of incurably diseased per-

sons, a barbaric measure for one who was unfortunate enough to be stricken with it, but a blessing for posterity. One can mock nature for a certain time, but the revenge will not fail to appear."

Red Cross Recalls Blood

Washington (The Weekly News)- The American Red Cross announced it recalled almost 6,000 units of plasma for hemophiliacs because one of the donors died of AIDS. The precautionary measure was considered "in the best interest of insuring a safe blood supply," said a spokesperson for the organization.

The donor in question died 10 months after giving blood. Although the anti-hemophilic plasma is drawn from a pool of donors, the Red Cross was able to identify which vials might have been contaminated.

None of the 5,992 vials was distributed in the mid-South area.

Florida Physicians Report AIDS

Miami (TWN)- Florida physicians are now required to report any cases of AIDS. AIDS was added to the 60-odd diseases and conditions that must be reported to the state via county health departments, said Spencer Lieb, a state epidemiologist.

To better prepare private physicians, the state mailed out 18 informative, question-and-answer kits to its 18,000 practitioners.

Women's Art Museum to Open

(Lesbian News)- A national museum devoted entirely to women's art is scheduled to open in Washington, D.C., possibly as early as 1985.

The National Museum for Women's Art will be located in an impressive 1907 Renaissance Revival building only two blocks from the

White House, close to the National Museum of American Art and the National Portrait Gallery. Helmina Holliday, has collected works by women artists for the last 20 years and planned to donate her extensive collection to a school or institution. But Dr. Ann Sutherland Harris, art historian and curator of the landmark exhibition "Women Artists: 1550-1950" at the Los Angeles Museum of Art in 1976, encouraged Holliday to make her paintings and sculptures the nucleus of a new museum collection instead.

Lesbian Expelled from ROTC

(Lesbian News)- A Lesbian who was expelled from ROTC has taken the Dept. of Defense to Court. Sgt. Diane Matthews, who earned two medals for exemplary service in the Army prior to being "disenrolled" from the ROTC at the U. of Maine in 1981, is charging that the army officials have violated her rights to free speech and privacy. Matthews is demanding that the Army reinstate her and eliminate the regulation barring Gay and Lesbian soldiers from talking about their sexual orientation.

Matthews is challenging a military regulation which concerns itself with "homosexual propensity" not homosexual conduct, so if she wins the suit, the victory will be a relatively narrow one.

Memphis Gay Switchboard
726-8AVV

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in such areas as

- Improving relationships • clarifying personal values and goals • Solving conflicts
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For Further Information call 726-1284

BWMT memphis

An Interracial Gay People's Organization

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Oct. 6 — Action Committee Meeting

Oct. 11 — C/R Support Group

Oct. 15 — Social Event (Call for details)

Oct. 24 — Business Meeting - Main Library, 7:30, Meeting Room A.

Oct. 28 — C/R Support Group

Coming in November: 2nd Annual BWMT Community Thanksgiving Dinner!

Black and White Men Together/Memphis
P.O. Box 41773, Memphis, TN 38174
276-4160 or 274-0532

Happy October Birthdays to Eric E. and David L.



News, Information, Coming Events...

Trash Day, 1983

Submitted by TSARUS

WHERE can you meet new and interesting people; be entertained all afternoon; enjoy booze, bodies, and burgers, and not even leave town? Why, Trash Day III, sponsored by TSARUS October, 14, 1983, 12 noon at the Psych Out II. There you can have all the above for the modest price of \$10.00.

Trash Day, a Memphis tradition for the past 3 years, was started to give the local people the feel of a club "run." The day will start off with an eyeopener cocktail party and an ole fashioned cook-out. Next will be People Events; a chance for everyone to compete for prizes and trophies. Of course, there will always be time during the day for meeting new friends and visiting old ones.

Trash Day gives our local people a chance to know TSARUS and also to get insight into what the club scene is about. It lets TSARUS show that brotherhood is the key word in all clubs. Everyone at Trash Day will see that a cook-out can be fun in Levi/Leather or in T-shirts and shorts; which ever you prefer. Trash Day will give the feel of a full run at little cost.

To make sure this will all be a fun filled 'Club' weekend, TSARUS will have a club night at Jackie's, Saturday, October 13, at 9 PM. (You can register for Trash Day at Club Night.)

Men's Music Conference Set

Milwaukee, Wis.-- People who feel that many of the Gay community's needs are not being met in mass art forms will gather in Milwaukee Oct. 21-23 for the first North American Men's Music Conference. The conference, staged by Billygoat Productions, will focus on techniques and encourage development of Gay production companies throughout the nation. Registration fee is \$35. For more information, write: Billygoat Productions, Box 11725, Milwaukee, Wis. 53211.

Studds' Comeback

South Dennis, MA (*The Washington Blade*)-- As readers of *The Washington Post* and other mainstream dailies may already know Rep. Gerry Studds received his first less-than enthusiastic welcome from constituents here. What the *Post* and others did not mention is that Studds, out only a month, may already have developed the best one-line comeback to those who enjoy waving the Bible in front of Gays.

Confronted by one such person, who wanted to know how Studds could "look [him] in the eye" knowing that Leviticus plainly says it is an abomination for a man to lie with another man, Studds showed that humor is often the best weapon against bigots.

"You better sit down, because you're not going to like what I have say," Studds replied, according to a person at the meeting. "I don't think people who live on the Cape should quote Leviticus carelessly. After all, that's the book that also says people shouldn't eat shellfish."

Fishing is a major industry in Studds' district, which includes all of Cape Cod, and the audience roared with laughter.

San Diego Women Donate Blood for Men

(Update)-- Some 170 women checked in at the San Diego Blood Bank in July to participate in the "Blood Sisters" blood drive, campaign by the Women's Caucus of the San Diego Democratic Club to replace blood donations lost from Gay men due to the AIDS health crisis. In all, 145 women gave blood that weekend.

The blood drive creates a blood bank account in the name of the San Diego Democratic Club. Anyone needing blood can contact the club and arrange to draw on the account.



**AIDS HOTLINE
1-800-342-AIDS**

Gay Basher Accused

For the second time since April, a man has been accused of assault on a Gay man who picked him up at a local bar.

Jerrad Blake was accused of assaulting a man in his home after they met at J-Wag's. The man allegedly beat his victim, extorted \$100 from him, cut him with a knife in the scuffle, stole some items, and fled the apartment. He was later apprehended on Madison, brought back to the victim's apartment and identified as the attacker.

The victim has requested that his name be withheld, but he is known in the Gay community as "Lily."

Blake was accused in April of a similar attack by Ron Gough which took place in the Skyline Apts. on Poplar. That case was dismissed when Gough left town and failed to prosecute.

The victim contends that officers conducting the investigation repeatedly referred to him as a "Faggot" and indicated that, in general, those conducting the investigation were not only unsympathetic, but hostile to the victim.

According to the victim, Blake was arrested in possession of some of his stolen property. Normally, with such evidence, the state would undertake prosecution on its own volition. However, officers told the victim that he would have to file a formal complaint downtown. Officers told him that if Blake's fingerprints were not on the knife that he (the victim) would have to take a lie detector test. He contends that officers insinuated that he cut his own arm in an effort to fake evidence. It was during this part of the investigation that one of the officers investigating referred to the victim as a "f--ing faggot."

Police said that it would be hard to prosecute such a case because the wounds received by the victim were not serious enough to be treated by

a physician. The victim is a surgical nurse and treated himself. They indicated that the case was "a little shaky." Sgt. Joe Dunn, one of the investigating officers said, "Not a court in the world would prosecute because you (the victim) are a homosexual and because of the circumstances. The victim protested that his homosexuality had nothing to do with the beating, the extortion or theft.

A call to Police Director John Holt's office put the victim in touch with a Mr. Graham, apparently Mr. Holt's assistant. He quotes him as saying, "It doesn't matter what he did to you, no one can or will try to do anything 'under the circumstances.'" At one point, Graham, who believing he was connected with Sgt. Dunn, is quoted by the victim as saying "Joe, you don't have to worry about this faggot. I'll just tell him he'll have to get a warrant. Joe...Joe, did you hear me?" When Graham was informed that he was, in fact, speaking with the victim, the line went dead.

The victim contacted his own lawyer with intention of filing suits against both Blake and the Police Department. He has also contacted the ACLU of Tennessee about the treatment he received.

Katherine Hearne, Executive Director of the ACLU of Tennessee says, "This is exactly the kind of case we need to hear about, We've been hearing about a lot of this (kind of treatment by the police) lately. If the victim is willing to prosecute, it is the sort of case we will undertake." The victim met with Bill Johnson, Associate Director of the ACLU Memphis office for several hours to talk about his treatment by the Police Department.

"I can't believe that they treated me in this way.. After all, I was the victim," he said.

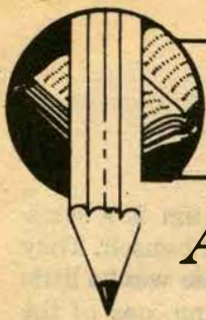
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Books

AIDS Fact Book

Inform

by Ric Sullivan

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, commonly known as AIDS, dominates the Gay media and is repeatedly reported on in the non-Gay media. In its second year as a national epidemic, AIDS has struck all ages, both sexes and many races. But while the majority of Americans have heard of AIDS (91% of those questioned in a *Newsweek* poll this summer), those most likely to contract the opportunistic diseases associated with AIDS continue to face prejudice founded in fear and ignorance.

The *AIDS Fact Book* attempts to remove the stigma placed on the high-risk groups by telling us exactly what AIDS is, as is presently known, and what AIDS is not.

The syndrome of complex opportunistic infections is treated solely from a medical crisis point of view. "It is essential that we discard any prejudices we have concerning sexual preferences, race or ethnic background, and consider AIDS a public health crisis affecting our entire society," the authors state early in the book.

The importance of dealing with medical over social or sexual issues

is repeated throughout the book. While sexual activity is still considered a direct variable in the transmission of AIDS, the authors stress repeatedly that no one cause, no one factor has yet been established to explain why the body's immune system collapses, allowing opportunistic infections and rare cancers to develop, grow and kill or debilitate their victims.

On the cover of the book, the authors purport to "conquer fear with the facts." Statistics are presented— as of March 1983, 95% of all cases involved males, with two thirds of those being Gays or bisexuals. New York City had 50% of all cases, while San Francisco had 12%. The disorder has been found in at least 30 states and 15 foreign countries. About 60% of all cases in this country have involved whites. Women and children have also contracted diseases associated with AIDS.

The body of the book is devoted to describing known signs & symptoms of AIDS, characteristics of AIDS diseases, trends and findings in AIDS research and recommendations for possible ways to lower the risk of developing AIDS.

While the thrust of the book is medical fact, the human, personal consequences are not ignored. The authors list resources available to AIDS victims, and stress the importance of non-judgemental, supportive services being available to both AIDS victims and those who are close to them, regardless of their lifestyles.

The authors are careful to address the needs of all high-risk groups, but focused specifically on the needs of Gays, especially concerning the negative pressures and sense of isolation that Gays experience.

The book does not preach. It presents facts, as they are currently known and advocates individuals making choices based on the available facts.

The mood of the book and the intent of the authors is perhaps best expressed in their belief that, "The disease is our enemy, not the people who are struck by it."

The AIDS Fact Book, by Ken Mayer, M.D., and Hank Pizer is available from Bantam Books, 666 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10103 for \$3.95.

Toothpick House — A Realistic Love Story

by Donna Leslie Bian

Toothpick House is a beautifully written novel that realistically depicts the varied contemporary Lesbian and feminist lifestyles. Simply put, it is the love story of the working class dyke, Annie and the aristocratic "Yalie", Victoria.

Annie Heaphy is a baby dyke in a non-traditional role of a cab driver who lives a very unsettled free life in the bars, her cab and shack on the beach. Annie, who always wears a cap, comes from a working class Irish background and drinks too much, frequently winding up in bed with someone who she sneaks away from in the wee hours of the morning.

Annie first sees Victoria in a bar with two of Vicky's feminist Yale classmates who have decided the politically correct thing to do is become Lesbians. She notices Victoria because she is so obviously uncomfortable and out of place in the bar setting, yet Annie is strongly attracted to her. After working up her courage for quite some time, Annie invites Victoria to dance. Victoria is overwhelmed at her feelings for

Annie as they dance as she had never felt this compulsion for another human being. Shortly following their dance, Victoria leaves the bar.

It is several months before Annie accidentally runs into Victoria again, this time determined not to lose sight of her. From this point on, the book deals with Annie's and Victoria's tumultuous relationship as it is reflected in their very different groups of friends coming to know and respect each other.

This novel reminds me of the lyrics of Holly Near's new song "A Perfect Night" as it picturesquely tells the story of the Lesbian life style in all its diversity.

Toothpick House is a realistic, serious, heartwarming love story that many will enjoy reading and re-reading. You can't miss it in the book stores as the cover is great. It is a photograph of two Lesbians kissing under big red letters saying "Toothpick House by Lee Lynch." You can find it locally at Encore Cards and Gifts. Again we owe a debt of thanks to Barbara Grier of Naiad Books for encouraging Lee Lynch to write this novel.



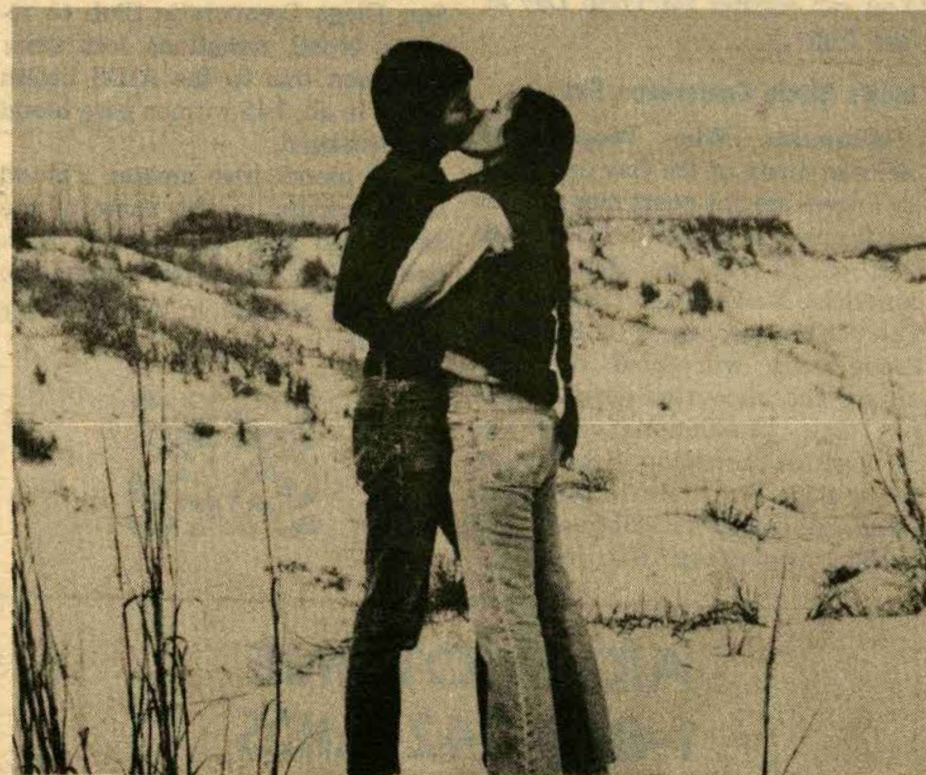
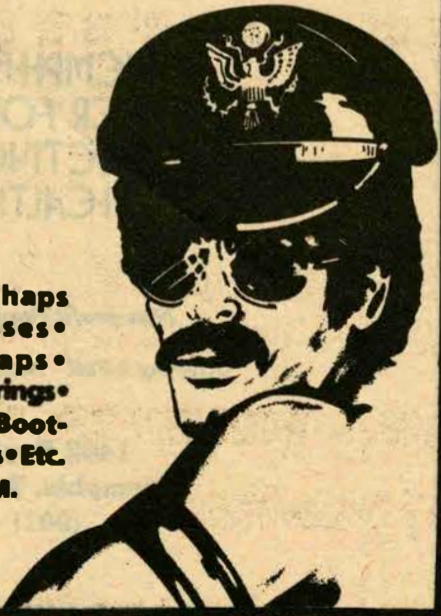
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MAM Formed continued from page 1

few AIDS cases have been reported in the immediate area. tests are routinely conducted on specimens from potential and actual AIDS victims here.

Other monies may be made available through various other local groups whose purpose is information and education. The Memphis Gay Coalition, which began an AIDS fund in June, has been asked to prepare proposals for projects which might be funded from MAM. An

MGC spokesperson indicated that while the MGC fund and MAM are financially independent, the MGC will be cooperating in efforts to raise money for needed research and services.

Among the events tentatively scheduled for mid-November are:

*An informational seminar featuring nationally respected physicians to answer questions that members of the Gay community may have.

*A day-long medical seminar for the medical community to further their education into the cause and treatment of AIDS victims from both a purely medical as well as a psychological standpoint.

*Opportunities for Gay businesses to show support for AIDS research.

*A day when the religious community can show its support of both the Gay community and the research being done to find a cure for

AIDS.

*A candlelight vigil for the victims of AIDS.

*an entertainment event (concert) for the entire Memphis community which will benefit AIDS research featuring national caliber talent.



Georgetown Inn

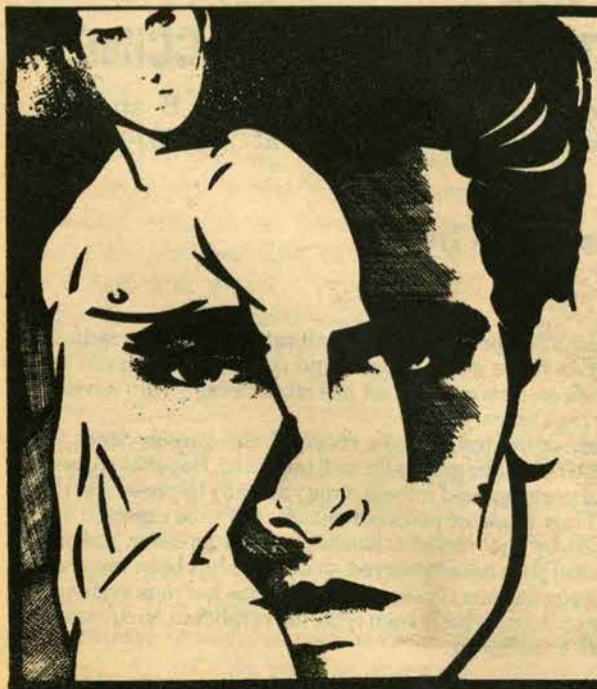
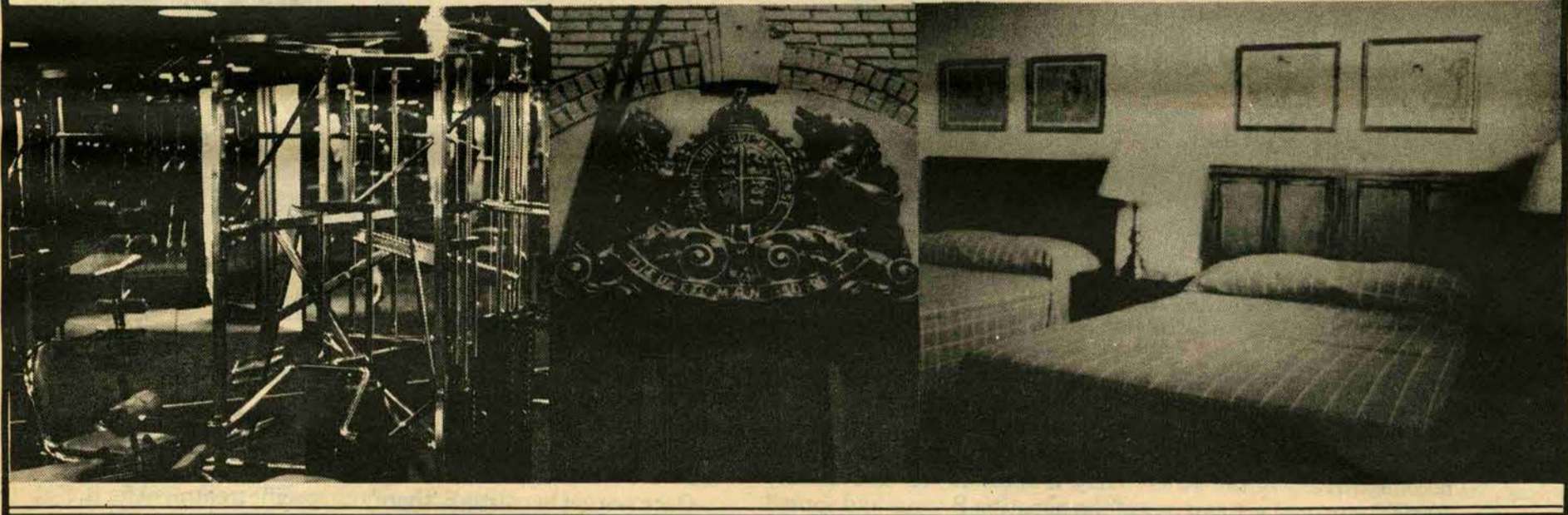
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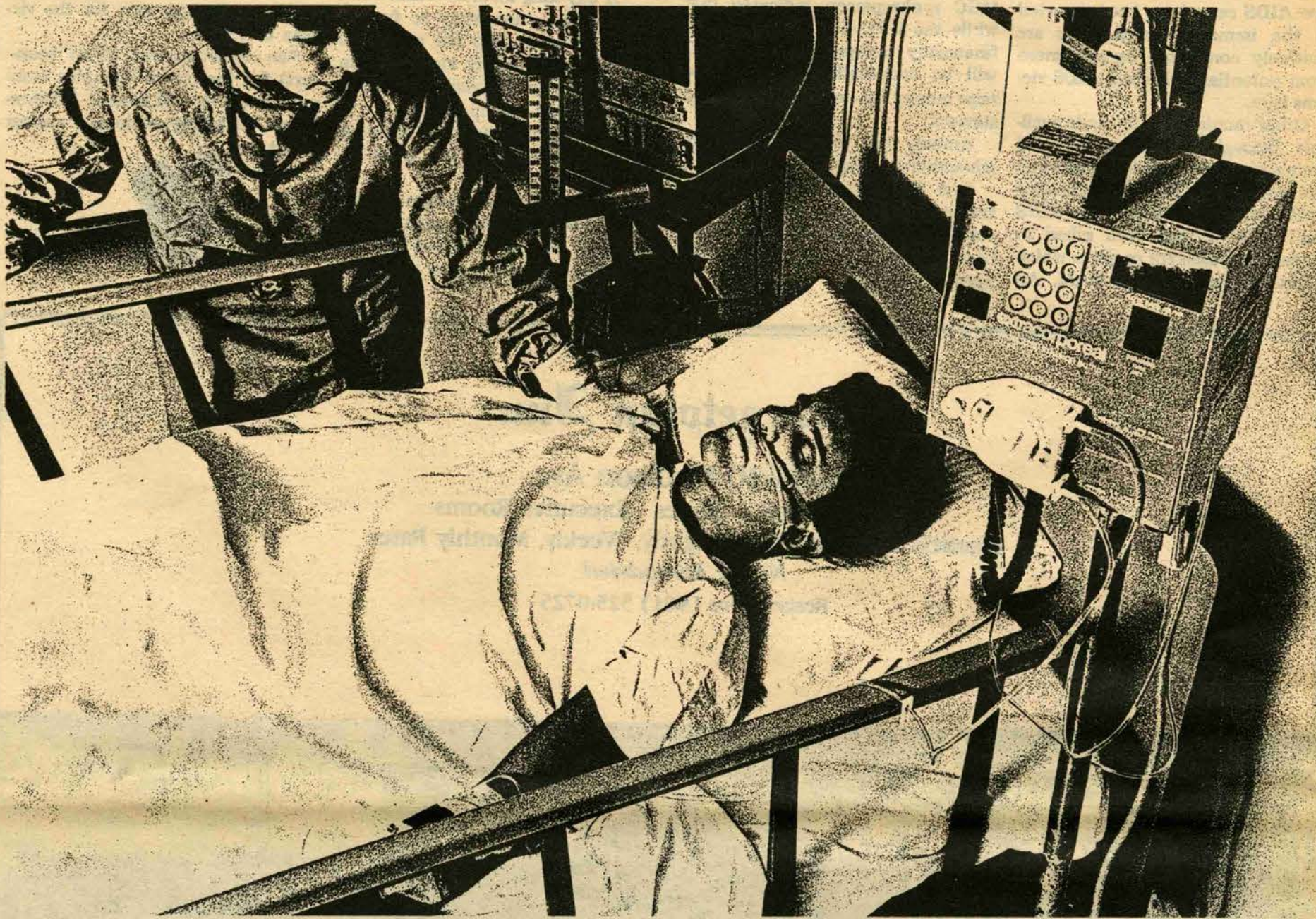
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If you'd like more information about hepatitis B and the vaccine, call The American Liver Foundation at (201) 857-2626.

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Studies showed that the vaccine protected against infection caused by hepatitis B virus in 85% to 96% of those who received the required three shots.

Hepatitis B 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.

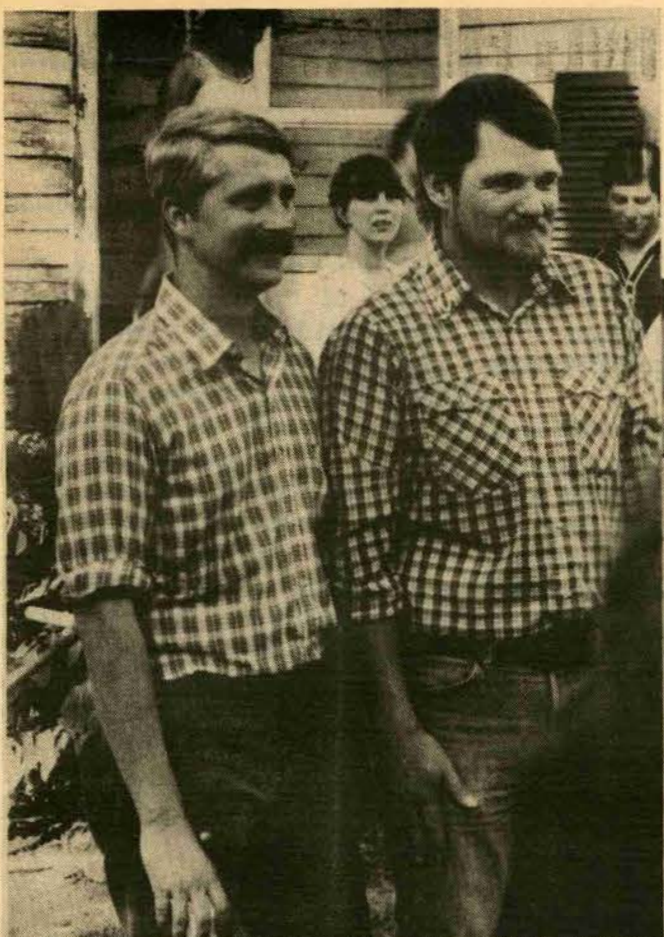
Vaccination is recommended for persons who have a higher risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B virus because of frequent, close contact with infected people or exposure to body fluids from such people. It will not protect against hepatitis caused by viruses other than hepatitis B virus.

Because of the long incubation period for hepatitis B, it is possible for unrecognized infection to be present at the time the vaccine is given. The vaccine may not prevent hepatitis B in such patients.

In three studies involving 3,350 persons, the overall rate of adverse reactions did not differ significantly in those given vaccine and those given placebo (an inactive substance). As with any vaccine, broad use often reveals rare adverse reactions not observed during clinical trials.

Over 200,000 people are estimated to have received the vaccine since its release, and the vaccine continues to be generally well tolerated. Hepatitis B has a long incubation period, and unrecognized infection may already be present at the time the vaccine is given. Thus, reported cases of hepatitis are to be expected and do not appear to be caused by the vaccine. Reactions such as fever, nausea, vomiting, headache, and local pain have occurred. Joint pain has been reported; rash has been reported rarely. Serious illnesses affecting the nervous system—including Guillain-Barré syndrome—have been reported rarely, but no cause and effect relationship has been established.

Bill and Roger Tie the Knot



by John Stilwell

On Saturday, September 10, 1983 (coincidentally (?) the 4th anniversary of the Memphis Gay Coalition) with the sun beating down fiercely, Coalition co-founder and former editor of Gaze, Bill Johnson and drought-stricken soybean farmer, Roger Green made their commitment to each other as a symbol of potential for others" before an assemblage of 45 or 50 Coalition members, friends, associates, and loved ones glowing or sweating in sweltering heat.

The ceremony was conducted by long-time friend, Coalition member, and BWMT representative, Irwin Rothenberg, who began the ceremony with "There is no standard ceremony that is applicable to the bonding of two persons of the same gender, and with these two individuals, none would be appropriate." Following this, "The Builder" was read by John and Dale. A very emotional poem "Love Is Not All" was read by Carole Taylor, and as threatened she broke down mid-poem and finished with much difficulty, obviously overcome by the seriousness of the event and her deep emotional commitment to Bill and Roger. Linda Ott read a poem by

Adrienne Rich, modified for the occasion, Patricia Dahl read "Fontaine, Je Na Boirai Pas De Ton Eau (Fountain, I will not drink of your water), and Vincent Astor acted out Barter and finished with a flourish of glitter over the two honorees.

Then came the pronouncement of the commitment. As explained earlier to a Gaze reporter by Roger the two promised "to always communicate your feelings and thoughts to each other" because communication is essential to a relationship," Roger said. They promised "...to always drink each other's leftover wine." because it is the bitterest of all and you have to be prepared to deal with the worst times as well as the best of times." According to Roger, "we both feel our love is like a young plant that must continually be allowed to grow, hence our third point of commitment." And finally, "we promise to always try to give more than we receive and always be tolerant of others."

At this point the assemblage of well-wishers lit multi-colored sparklers (we were assured the group had special release from the law banning fireworks, for the special occasion) and the final commitment and pronouncement was made.

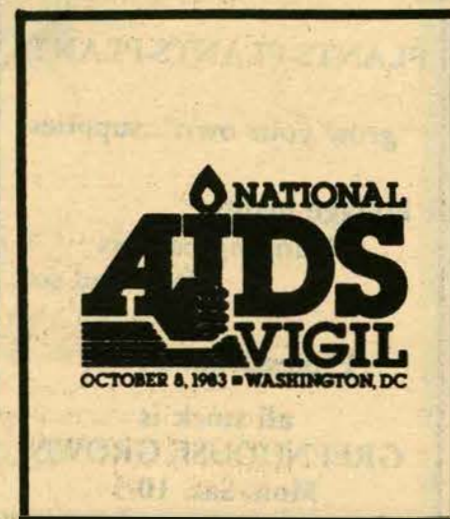
At the reception, the tables were resplendent with cake and ice cream. Champagne flowed freely and local dignitaries and just plain folk offered their congratulations to the newly committed couple.

The Lady Astor, rising to the occasion, was magnificent in a long white gown, veil, strawberry blond hair and, oh yes, wings. (Obviously fairy drag). She had to leave early for an evening performance "with just minor alterations to the face" and then an evening of public appearances again, "with minor alterations to the face." Commenting on the heat, the Lady Astor said, "after performing in 'Old Hash' (without melting) I could perform in the desert!"

The real scene-stealer, though, was Roger's attractive, dark-haired wholesome-looking, sister Diane. With her candid, straight forward, open and friendly manner, she etched out a place in the hearts of many and especially this reporter's. Dressed in a plaid blouse and red skirt she moved easily and comfortably among the various friends of

Bill and Roger and impressed everyone with her friendliness.

When questioned about future plans, the newly weds, wearing matching plaid shirts and blue jeans, said immediate plans are business as usual. Bill has his work at the ACLU and Roger has a crop to get in. Sometime in the distant future they dream of opening a crafts shop in Rainbow Valley in the Ozarks, where they honeymooned.



October, 1983-Gaze-9



Nashville

Sable Starr Captures Miss Gay Tennessee Title

by Jeff Thompson

The Cabaret in Nashville is known for its imaginative shows and pageants. On Wednesday, August 24, 1983, the thirteenth annual Miss Gay Tennessee competition was held at the Cabaret—and Memphis' own *Sable Starr* emerged the winner! One of the factors which helped Sable Starr win the Miss Gay Tennessee title over the nine other contestants was the astonishing *disappearing act* which he performed before the five judges and 500 spectators. Running Sable Starr an extremely close second in the five-hour long pageant was the Cabaret's own *Rita Ross*, who utilized the music of Diana Ross in his dazzling act. Rita Ross was named First Runner-up, followed by contestant *Eve-*



lyn Cooper (Second Runner-up). Both Sable Starr and Evelyn Cooper regularly perform at George's in Memphis.

Now the Hayes St. Club is gearing up for the fourth annual Grand Empress of Tennessee pageant, to be held Wednesday evening, October 26.

Over at The Warehouse 28, Incorporated, the popular Miss Warehouse pageant was held on the night before the Miss Gay Tennessee ceremony. Then, on Thursday, September 1, The Warehouse staged a successful AIDS Benefit Night, featuring performances by Flawless, Muffin and Patty Melt. The benefit show was *stolen*, however, by the delightful *Ware-Me-Outs*, who spoofed The Buffalo Chips with a rousing jig set to "Coke Is It!" All proceeds were donated to the Gay Men's Health Crisis. Finally, Tuesday, September 27, was another very special evening at The Warehouse, as the club offered an "Alternative Dance Night," featuring the "dance-oriented rock" music of Men Without Hats, New Order, The Clash, David Bowie, The B-52's, Roman Holiday, The

Talking Heads and U-2.

One of the Gay community's most-loved holidays is *Halloween*—and that devilish October night promises to be enchanting here in Music City. Both the Warehouse 28 and Mother's Construction Company are planning elaborate, spell-binding Halloween extravaganzas. The Crazy Cowboy and Juanita's are planning costume parties and prize-giveaways on the 31st. John Sawyer of Juanita's announces that the Capitol Boulevard nightspot's costume party will have a Broadway theme... while the management of The Crazy Cowboy cryptically declares that, at the Franklin Road establishment, "every day is Halloween if you want it to be!"

Cabaret owner Pat Blaylock foresees that his place's 1983 Halloween party will be just as "wild" as in years past. Last year, 700 trick-or-treaters invaded the Cabaret—and, says Pat, "they were dressed as everything from Darth Vader to E.T. to a pair of dice!"

Broadway Comes to Nashville

by Jeff Thompson

With all of the notoriety surrounding this year's Tony Award-winning Broadway musical—the remarkable *Cats*—the three other nominees from *The Great White Way* have been overlooked somewhat. One Tony-nominated musical deserving a long second look is the excellent musical revue, *Blues In The Night*—which last month began its nationwide tour right here in Nashville—with veteran songstress *Della Reese* as its star.

Sheldon Epps' *Blues In The Night* is the musical story of three women and a (male) pianist who haunt "a cheap hotel" in late 1930's Chicago. Like *Ain't Misbehavin'* (in which Della Reese also has performed on tour), *Blues In The Night* tells the story of the characters' lives not through plot or dialogue, but through costuming and choreography—and (especially) through the songs that the players sing, alone and together. Those songs are the marvelous immortal melodies of Harold Arlen, Vernon Duke, Johnny Mercer, Bessie Smith, and others—"Am I Blue," "Willow Weep For Me," "I've Got a Right To Sing The Blues," "Lush Life," "Low," "Baby Doll," and the title song, to name a few.

The actresses' costumes range from lingerie and street clothes to formal-wear and theatrical garb. Choreography is by Mercedes Elling-

ton (Duke's granddaughter).

As we learn about the three principal characters' specific histories, relationships, hopes, ambitions, regrets, secrets, and hurts, we also get the idea that each one is a kind of Everywoman...especially since their only names are The Lady From the Road, The Woman of the World, and The Girl With a Date. The singing piano player—known only as The Saloon Singer—serves as a kind of modern-day Chorus, as he comments on the women's situations through songs of his own.

The Saloon Singer also is the leader of the *on-stage band*, which consists of his piano along with a trumpet, a saxophone, a bass, and percussion. The ensemble is partially hidden by brickwall-type scrims. The interior of the "hotel" is suggested by a striking, multi-level set divided into three rooms. Doors and transoms and partial walls define The Woman's room (stage right), with its vanity table and chaise lounge; The Lady's room (center stage), complete with bed and overflowing costume trunk; and The Girl's room (stage left), with its window and chairs. The backdrop is a huge, bleak ghettoscape.

The Lady From the Road, an aging chorine, is portrayed by singer/actress *Della Reese*, who, since the late 1950's, has recorded forty albums and appeared on many television programs, including "The Ed


Sullivan Show," "Chico and the Man," and "The Love Boat." Della provides much of the humor in the show, especially when she "dresses up" and sings "Take Me For a Buggy Ride" and "Kitchen Man," two comical numbers loaded with double-entendres! She is at her best, however, when she delivers the powerful "Lover Man (Oh Where Can You Be?)" and a heartbreaking rendition of Bessie Smith's "Wasted Life Blues."

The *Girl With a Date* is played by *Neva Small*, a Broadway actress who also has appeared on television commercials and as Chava, the third daughter, in the 1971 movie, "Fiddler On the Roof." As The *Girl With a Date*, Small does a fine job of demonstrating her character's long-range, unhappy love life—not only through the types of songs she sings—but through her *changing appearance* and actions. During the course of *Blues In The Night*, The *Girl* journeys from the freshness and innocence of youth (singing "I've Got a Date With a Dream" and "Taking a Chance On Love") to the dishevelment and disillusionment of bitter experience ("Willow Weep For Me" and "Reckless Blues").

The sexy role of *The Woman of the World* is essayed by *Cynthia White*, whose career was launched playing the lead role in the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical,

continued on page 12

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Bailey Endorsed

continued from page 1

tive and accountable to the citizenry. He thinks that "Hackett is a young man with his priorities mixed up" and it's unfortunate that the Federal government had to step in to make him (Hackett) aware of citizen's constitutional rights. Bailey said, "it was a mistake to get rid of Chapman. We need a civilian director of police" because of the existent "buddy system." Even the good cops fear for being black-balled. He also criticized Hackett's program of entrapment which resulted in the arrests of many Memphis citizens without any prior police record.

Bailey also spoke of the need to pay our teachers more and said he was in favor of paramutuel betting. He recognizes that tourists and businessmen like to have fun and that we are not going to attract these people with our current sanctimonious, holier-than-thou, puritanical attitudes of city officials.

Bailey then directly addressed the question of Gay rights saying that everyone should "respect the right to choice within the limits of the law." Recalling a statement from law school, he said, "your right to swing your arm ends at the tip of my nose. We oughta let everybody swing their arms in this town."

John Ford arrived a half-hour late, in the middle of Bailey's presentation with the following exchange:

Ford: D'Army, have you had your five minutes yet? If you have, it's time for you to sit down."

Bailey: "Well, you wouldn't know since you just got here."

Ford, constantly referring to himself in the third person, emphasized his accessibility and experience. Unfamiliar with what was said by Bailey and Fletcher, he did not touch on any of the issues they discussed but instead, concentrated on his experience saying it would take his opponents (Bailey and Higgs) "two years to catch up with me in local politics and four years to catch up with me in state politics."

In reference to Hackett, Ford described him as "short-sighted" and pointed out that he "turns down all significant speaking engagements."

Then, the prepared questions were asked.

As mayor, would you support a policy banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring for city jobs, in housing and in public accommodations?

Bailey: Yes. "Gays are a positive aspect of the community."

Fletcher: Yes. "As a criminal court judge, Otis Higgs has always been a champion of human rights."

Ford: "The state law is already there. John Ford will take the 12-Gaze-October, 1983

initiative to see that it is implemented."

Each year, the third week of June is celebrated by Lesbians and Gay men as the anniversary of the beginning of the Gay Rights Movement in the United States. Many mayors in many large cities have proclaimed that week as Gay Awareness Week or Gay Pride Week. How would you feel about making such a proclamation in Memphis?

Bailey: I would be willing to make such a proclamation and if my schedule permits, I would participate."

Fletcher: Higgs would not make that proclamation but would "support the movement toward that." What is needed is an education program to change the attitudes of people.

Ford: "I would take it into consideration. If it had a good wholesome purpose, I would not interfere because of my personal feelings. If we did it for others, we'd do it for you. If we didn't do it for others, we wouldn't do it for you."

We have, in the past few months seen an increase of harassment of the local Gay community, both by the police and the general population. We view this as large a problem as racism. As mayor, what would you do to alleviate this situation?

Bailey: "I will not have harassment." If I learn of an officer harassing or brutalizing citizens "I'm going to see to it that they go into another profession rapidly." The civil service commission needs to be reshaped so it is "in line with the mayor's policies and so it doesn't second guess the community, the mayor or the police director."

Fletcher: "That will not be tolerated. Currently, those things are being covered up."

Ford: "I have seen that kind of harassment and I know what it is all about. John Ford will not tolerate that."

At that point, Ford said he had to leave. His parting remarks urged those present to support him. "Give me your vote and start work tomorrow."

If elected would you lend support to the establishment of an alternative community service center which might include such services as a wife abuse crisis center and shelter, a rape crisis center and a Gay and Lesbian health clinic-community center?

Bailey: Those services need more support. They are currently receiving less money than is spent to operate the mayor's action line or the mayor's office. "Appropriations for Gay health would be an appropriate use of municipal funds."

Fletcher: Higgs supports Gay health but doesn't see a need for

specialized clinics as it would be an expensive duplication of services. What is needed is to have specialized areas within existing facilities and education and training to sensitize employees to the special needs of certain segments of society and to improve the attitudes of those employees.

Question from the audience:

Would you appoint an openly Gay person to your staff?

Bailey: Yes. "I believe there are very few families in this city who are not touched by someone who is Gay."

Fletcher: Yes. Gays would be appointed to commissions and as advisors.

Regarding the crimes against nature statute which has been overturned in several states, and which, in Tennessee calls for five to fifteen years in prison, would you vocalize support to overturn this statute?

Bailey: Yes. "It is unconstitutional and should be overturned."

Fletcher: Yes. This is another attempt to legislate morality. "Laws should protect and serve the people, not oppress them."

The meeting concluded and the members of the Memphis Gay Political Caucus called a meeting to discuss what they had heard;

John Ford had managed to alienate the few members who were still vacillating among the three Black candidates.

Fletcher presented Higgs' position well, in fact, one caucus member remarked that "if Fletcher were running, I'd vote for him." Although the positions expressed were good, Higgs can't be held to the promises of an employee. Another member said, "Higgs seems to want our support but wants to remain at a distance. Not really 'touching' us."

Of the four major mayoral candidates, D'Army Bailey is the only man who actively sought the Gay vote. Prior to the campaign, as a columnist, he supported the Gay rights movement. He appeared on the Gay Alternative and attended a BWMT dinner. Although he regrets any support he may have lost through his open courting of the Gay vote, he said on the Gay Alternative "you must make alliances and partnerships and stand up for what you believe in. We have to pull all the elements of our community together."

Bailey is the only candidate that gave straight forward 'yes' and 'no' answers to the questions. If elected, he will have the toughest job of fulfilling his promises but the general opinion of the Caucus is that he is a man who can be trusted and they

urge the Gay community to support him.

According to one Caucus member, "the thought of either Hackett or Ford as mayor is equally distasteful. Even if Bailey does not win, a vote for him is not a 'throw away' vote. If he gets a substantial number of votes, it will establish that the Gay vote in Memphis is indeed a force to be reckoned with. Bailey is a young man and this is NOT the last time he will be on a ballot."

In response to Ford's emphasis on experience, one Caucus member said, "Ford had to start somewhere too, twelve years ago. With the guts, the liberal open-mindedness that Bailey has expressed, I think I could live with the mistakes and mis-steps, Bailey might make as he 'grows into a more successful politician'. The courage Bailey displayed in openly courting the Gay vote can only be compared to a Gay person's 'coming out'."

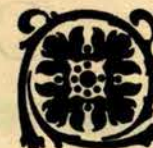
Broadway

continued from page 10

Hallelujah Baby. Like Della Reese's Lady, Cynthia White's flashy Woman dwells on her past. White is at her best when her character "remembers" "Stomping At the Savoy" (a song which she begins, *uncharacteristically*, as a *slow*, bluesy lament, and then gradually transforms into the familiar, *up-tempo* Benny Goodman dance number)... and when she "comments" on a "Lush Life" (doing an expert job of singing that difficult Billy Strayhorn tune).

The Saloon Singer is played by *Clem Moorman*, a jazz musician who is the real-life father of singer Melba Moore! Moorman's piano-playing readily captures the right style needed for *Blues In the Night*; his singing is reminiscent of Louis Armstrong's. Moorman also serves as a capable leader of the on-stage band, which sounds good except for its conspicuous weak link, the not-quite-with-it trumpet player.

An exciting moment during the Tony-nominated musical is Della Reese, Cynthia White, and Neva Small's dynamic, collaborative performance of the title song, Harold Arlen's great "Blues In the Night." It is one of many plusses which for me assures *Blues In the Night's* status as a touring show *not to be missed!*



The Gay Alternative — 7 Years Old and Growing!

by Pat and Angie

Invisibility is one of the major barriers that keep Lesbians and Gay men from an equitable position within our society. This same invisibility has kept us isolated from one another. A step toward breaking that isolation and becoming a visible part of our society is a Gay radio program that began seven years ago. A few courageous individuals made an essential step for all of us by starting *The Gay Alternative* of WEVL radio.

The early program was special not only because it was hosted by a Gay person, but we actually heard music from Lesbian and Gay artists. Initially the show was mostly music but much has changed since then.

Today *The Gay Alternative* is an integral part of the Gay community. It reflects our Gay pride, our heightened visibility; but most of all, it continues to reach out to our diverse community ... young, old, black, white, male, female.

The program has continued to grow and develop over the years. Today it is a mixture of music and local, regional and national Gay and Lesbian news, and even our own special brand of comedy. It keeps our local community informed about local political and social events. The all-volunteer staff of *The Gay Alternative* has grown from a dedicated Gay man to a staff of six Lesbians and Gays.

New programming is planned for the future. We are now trading tapes of our program with other Gay/Lesbian radio programs: Pink Triangle of Denver, CO, IMRU (I am, are you?) of Los Angeles, and Another Voice of Pontiac, MI. We welcome Jay and Larry, our newest DJs and enjoy the comedy albums they have shared with us.

If you have listened recently, you probably heard the tape of the history of the Gay Pride Movement. It was a tape exchanged by IMRU called Lifeline. In the months ahead you'll hear tapes of Rep. Gerry Studd's statement made on the floor of the House of Representatives, Jerry Falwell's statement to the press about the "Gay Plague," and Rita Mae Brown at the 1983 Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay men, and music from the 1983 Women's Music Festival.

D'Army Bailey, a candidate for mayor, spent an historic hour with us on *The Gay Alternative* in September. He is the first political candidate to appear on our program and to openly state that he would proclaim Gay Pride Week. He also said he would support a non-discrimination ordinance for Lesbians and Gay men and would support openly Gay people as liasons to the Lesbian and Gay community.

As of this writing, John Ford had agreed to appear on *The Gay Alternative* on September 25 but did not do so nor did he call to cancel. Otis Higgs has agreed to send a taped statement which has not arrived.

The Gay Alternative is broadcast on Sundays at 3pm on WEVL-FM (90.3). WEVL is a community based radio station operated by volunteers. Donations can be made to the radio station and are tax-deductible. Underwriting allows a business or individual to have his contribution acknowledged as well as pay for the station's operating expenses. It costs \$10 to underwrite one program for *The Gay Alternative*. The past several months have been underwritten by an anonymous Gay man (our thanks go out to him) and twice more by D'Army Bailey's mayoral campaign. The remainder of the time has been underwritten by the Memphis Gay Coalition or one of



Gay Alternative

WEVL-FM 90.3
Sundays—3 P.M.

Presented by the Memphis Gay Coalition

the programmers.

A weekly national Gay news service could be obtained for an additional \$10-15 per week.

Does anyone have a burning desire to help out? If so, you can underwrite the program, sponsor the Gay news or, if you are out of funds, we need help with the ever growing correspondence. Donations can be made directly to WEVL for

underwriting or to *The Gay Alternative* for the news service and sent to: The Gay Alternative, Box 41773 Memphis, TN 38174.

You can also use the same address to volunteer your services. If you want to support the efforts of the Gay/Lesbian movement, please consider contributing to, listening to, and telling your friends about *The Gay Alternative*.

Mrs. Stevens Picture Rights Acquired

The motion picture option for May Sarton's novel, *Mrs. Stevens Hears the Mermaids Singing*, has been acquired by Linda Thornburg (Writer/Producer of *Leap of Faith*).

Thornburg and her partner, Lynne Dimetrapp, have begun pre-production of the feature film, which they plan to have in production by mid-1984.

Mrs. Stevens is the story of Hilary Stevens, a poet in her late 60's, who is just coming into some popularity though she has been publishing successfully for nearly 50 years. She is waiting for interviewers from a major literary magazine, who will be asking her to reveal the inspiration for her work. As she prepares, she remembers her husband, her mother-in-law, her parents, her governess, a doctor a nurse, several women lovers—

all the passionate relationships which have shaped her life and her work. She realizes that for the interview to be meaningful, she must reveal that the Muse, the source of inspiration and passion, for her has always been a woman.

For years, Sarton's work has guided and inspired her readers, helped them to know that their lives are real and to be celebrated encouraged them to love in many capacities. With the release of *Mrs. Stevens* as a major motion picture, Sarton's work can be brought to a much wider audience.

Thornburg and Dimetrapp believe that *Mrs. Stevens* is a powerful piece with the ability to transform lives.

That is why they have chosen to produce it.

October, 1983-Gaze-13





Ask the Duchess

DEAR DUCHESS ...I hope you can help me out and give me information on someone to help me.

I am [a] black bi-male. I would like to be part of the Memphis Gay community some day.

I would like to change my life from down here [very small town, Mississippi]. I love to meet white TV's, TS's, bi-couples, bi-females also. I am lonely and tired of sleep [ing] alone.

I hope you have some friends in Memphis who would like for a black bi-male to stay with them, share their life, share expenses, to help me find a job there. I am willing to pay my way and help the Memphis Gay Coalition.

I drink myself to sleep, but drink beer-sometimes a little rum or gin-just [as] long as I go to sleep. I

sleep alone.

I am a member of Mississippi Gay Alliance. I have met some black TV's, but I just love white TV's, white drag queens, white bi-couples.

I hope you can help me find a white bi-couple or white drag queen in Memphis to share expenses and a long term relationship together.

I need your help, Duchess. Please help me. I am for real and serious. I am a sincere and clean person.

I believe in working. I have been working all my life.

I am really tired, bored, lonesome, need of white TV's, TS's, drag queens or bi couple real[ly] bad. Someone to come home to or white couple to come home to. I hope in Memphis.

I love swinging white bi-couples, white TV's, white drag queens. I love giving and receiving french, 69, foreplay, giving Greek, XXX-rated movies, and good swinging time together, and trust each other.

Please help me, Duchess, in finding friends in Memphis. I will be 35 years old in September. Please help me. It is time for me [to] make a change.

I am not looking for pity. I don't want you [to] feel sorry for me...

I am tired and lonesome. It is time I enjoyed the kind of people I [would] like to spend a life time with.

I am asking, begging you, Duchess, to help me out. I need help bad[ly]. I am for real, not a cheap person or person out to hurt somebody...Please help! HELP! HELP! HELP! I know these are hard times But if there is a chance, HELP!

I believe I can live a better, rewarding life in Memphis, Tenn. with my kind of people and help the Memphis Gay Community. I like to use my talents and skills I learned through the years to help others, and, in return, have plenty of friends in Memphis. No man is an island. Everybody has to have a few friends who understand and a few lovers also, someone or two, to come home to and have friends to drop by...

Like I said, I am bored and lonesome. I work mostly everyday or when I change shifts every night. I go to Jackson, Mississippi, on my off day to a bar or visit a black TV friend, but I love white drag queens and white bi-couples. Yours truly Cecil.

have been people I have either introduced myself to or they have introduced themselves to me. Friends, potential roommates, and lovers are cultivated, not instantly made.

The only help I can give you is to invite you to Memphis. Take a week of your vacation, come to Memphis, check into a mid-town motel/hotel, contact our organizations, and visit our bars. We have a few bars that have drag shows: George's, Psych-Out II, and The French Connection. Come to one of MGC's meetings which are held every first and third Mondays of the month. Contact Black and White Men Together, their meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month. Phoenix is an organization I feel you should contact while in Memphis. It is a Gay alcoholics anonymous group which meets every Wednesday. You may not be an alcoholic, but it worries me that you drink yourself to sleep every night. Once you get to Memphis call the Gay Switchboard (726-GAYY) for more detailed informatinn on all the above mentioned. After your week's stay in Memphis and you've made your initial contacts, if you still feel comfortable about Memphis, then start making your plans to move.

If any of my readers would like to offer their services and support to Cecil, please write me. I have Cecil's permission to help make the contact with him. I have his resume on file.

DEAR DUCHESS: I want to know how to find and keep a lover?

First of all, I met this handsome guy at George's. We talked about 5 minutes and shook hands confirming that we were friends. Now, every time I see him, he comes over just to say hello and walks off. In my heart, I have a strong feeling for him. How can I make him stay and talk to me without following him all over the place (George's)? I also want to show him that I care for him. M.B.

Dear M.B.: If I had a sure-fired guarantee answer on how to find and keep a lover, I would patent it and become the wealthiest Gay person on earth. Unfortunately there is no set answer.

I notice you live only four miles south of my home town. I think this may be one of the problems in your particular situation. You are from out-of-town, yet close enough to make frequent trips to Memphis. If he knows you are from out-of-town, he may feel that a "long-distance" relationship just would not work. continued on page 18



I HAVE THIS FEAR THAT IF WE ALL CAME OUT OF THE CLOSET, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY REAL WOMEN LEFT!

Dear Cecil, My heart truly goes out to you. No one deserves to be lonely unless he/she has brought it on himself. Have you examined yourself closely? Do you meet people well? On the first meeting are you pleasant, or do you become over-bearing and obnoxious? Do you take pride in your appearance? Do you respect yourself? Do you brag? Do you continually talk about yourself and your accomplishments to the point of "putting-off" others? I feel through your letters you are lonely not because of your personality but because of the small town you live in; nonetheless, take time to examine yourself.

Evidently, Jackson Miss. is close enough for you to make frequent trips. A move to Jackson might not be as shocking to your system as a move to Memphis would be. Are you sure you want to up-root your life and move to Memphis? Memphis does have a great deal to offer, but there is still no guarantee your loneliness will stop once you get here.

The Memphis Gay Coalition can always use a hard working, dedicated individual, and through organizations such MGC many avenues can be opened to individuals to meet others with their own interests.

Friendship is not guaranteed by an introduction from a third person. It has been my experience the majority of my truly good friends

Shoot Out at the P.O. Corral

by James Stanley

I don't particularly enjoy writing a disclaimer, but here comes one anyway. This article is supposed to be semi-humorous or at least satirical. No intent is made to offend any reader. So, if you bother to read the entire piece, please don't allow any jokes to offend you.

My first visit to the "Psych-Out" lounge on Cleveland Avenue was quite a memorable event. I was taken there by two women in early 1977. We supposedly went there to dance and for me to have a good time. These escorts either truly despised me or else they thought it'd just be funny to witness my degradation.

At this time I had approximately two months experience with the "gay bar scene." A trip to the old "George's" would raise my blood pressure thirty points. My main concern was whether our service was being provided by a male or female. I could never tell. I was beyond naive. As the philosopher Jed Clampett would say, I was "pitiful, just pitiful." The women who took me to the P.O. were friends from the "Front Page." Regarding this frog pond, I was in amazement that three guys would go together into a small bathroom and not exit for thirty minutes. This phenomenon was thrilling to my curiosity. My acceptance to party at the P.O. almost "killed the cat" of my curiosity in a terminal sense. I physically survived, but my ego was permanently damaged.

At this point I was firmly heterosexual. The only reason I wasn't a virgin was due to a couple of nymphomaniacs who had literally raped me. When I first bopped into the "Psycho-Out" on this crowded Saturday night, I thought that I had

really hit paydirt. The joint was packed with women and I saw no other man around. This isn't to say that quite a few of the females present were much more macho than the combined front four of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Nevertheless, I felt that I had died and gone to heaven. Since I was the only man present, and since most of the women were no threat to Miss America, I knew that this was my night to score big. Someone was bound to pick me up. The only way I got picked up was by Jerry Lawler's twin sister who pile drove my skull into the dance floor.

We managed to get a table and I signaled several times for the waitress. After three or four hours of watching the waitress avoid us, I strolled over to the bar to obtain our drinks. Matters got worse at the bar. I got laughed at. I got hassled. I got angry. I got no drinks. Finally my friends told the waitress that I was their gay cousin from San Francisco and she politely served our beer.

I had been hot to dance for hours. I had to sit alone and watch my two friends dance together for a long time. Eventually, one of them took me to the dance floor. The song playing was popular and the floor was jammed. Thirty seconds after I started dancing, we were the only couple on the floor. My friend was embarrassed and I was paranoid at what happened next.

The patrons staged a joint protest against my presence. Perhaps their walking off the dance floor was a protest against my very existence or that of the male gender. In a few minutes the floor was packed again and I calmed down. The fact that I had by now gulped down several beers helped also. At this point, the most beautiful and feminine woman

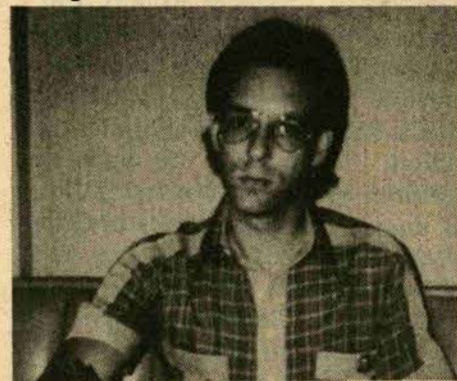
I'd ever laid eyes on approached me. She asked me to dance, I recited a few "Hail Marys" and proceeded to boogie my little butt off. This was the woman I'd been dreaming of for years.

As I danced with great expectations of ecstasy to come, I noticed a Viking-type creature bounding from the rest room. With tremendous horror, I realized that this tank was rolling toward me. This enraged woman made Attila the Hun look like Truman Capote. My dancing partner backed away as the Barbarian placed two furry paws around my scrawny little throat. My life flashed before my eyes as my face changed to an interesting shade of purple. She grunted and groaned and huffed and puffed and blew my face in with her horrendous breath. She screamed, "Why are you dancing with my lover, punk?!!!" I recall begging God not to allow me to die in such a manner. No man wants to be murdered by a psychopathic dyke. This was no way for a creation to meet his Creator.

Thanks to tremendous luck, assistance from the S.W.A.T. riot squad and the P.O. management; I escaped with only a few broken bones. The P.O. management only aided me in

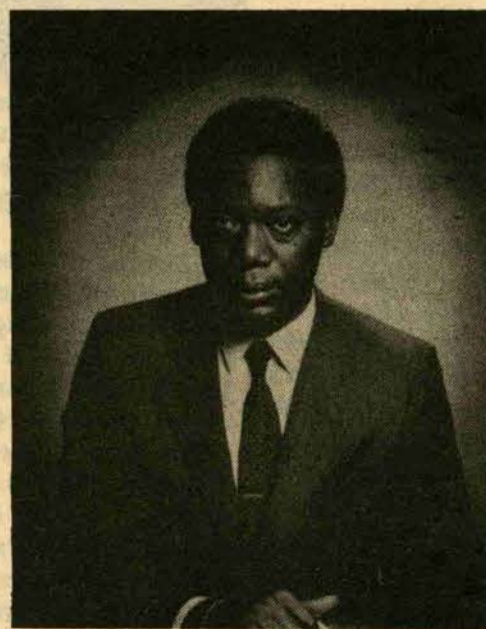
order to enforce their "no blood on the dance floor" policy. I never returned to this lovely establishment without being very drunk and armed with a .357 Magnum.

This experience was very educational for me in several ways. I decided not to believe anything anyone told me concerning a bar until I had personally been there. I learned not to invade foreign turf and automatically expect to be welcomed. I became more receptive to men because I realized how brutal women could be. I learned to say no if a gorgeous person asks me to dance with them. I learned why no men went to the "Psych-Out." Most importantly, I learned what an excellent job my Guardian Angel was doing for me.



James Stanley

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This month's program features **ROBIN TYLER!**

JACK WRANGLER - The Man and the Product

On Wednesday, August 31, 1983, we met the famous Jack Wrangler, who was in town for a special appearance at George's. Sitting in the brightly lit dressing area behind the stage with disco music pounding in the background, dressed in a red plaid shirt, faded jeans, smoking constantly, and sipping on a Long Island tea, Jack talked to us for almost an hour as we attempted to answer the question "Who is Jack Wrangler?"

Jack Stillman (his real name) is the son of producer Robert Stillman, who at one time was Stanley Kramer's partner until they had a terrible argument and split up. "I don't know what the argument was about," Jack said, "it happened before I was born." Robert Stillman is known for such movies as *Champion*, *Home of the Brave*, and *Americana*. He was the Executive Producer of *Bonanza* for 14 years and worked on *Rawhide* before its demise. His mother was a Busby Berkley girl, a successful model, and the original Chesterfield girl.

Growing up on Rodeo Drive surrounded by "personalities," Jack discovered that there were working actors who went to school, took lessons, etc. and personalities. He decided, "I don't want to be a working actor. I want to be a star. I want to be a personality. Which is a big difference because whatever role you're playing, you're still that guy. So what happened to me is, I drank a lot of Scotch and my voice got funny. I think that helped me in the films and I lumbered a lot."

But what of his film career? How did that come about? According to what we were told, rather than a phenomenon, Jack Wrangler's career was a well-orchestrated, well thought out, well executed plan.

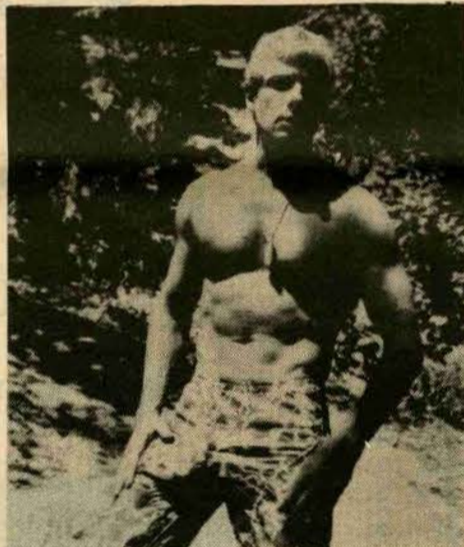
The film industry itself has grown in 7 years from a time when only foreign films were available, to garden hosing scenes ("Where they would just set a bunch of cameras up and say 'Oh, we've got two people who are kind of animals. Let's put them together with socks, with clocks on them and see what happens'" to sophisticated movies with plots done in professional studios. These movies are shot in 3 versions: hard X (full contact action films), soft X (you can have an erection but you can't put it anywhere) R-rated, no erection allowed.

But back to the game plan. Nationwide, there are thousands of theaters showing first run straight films because there is a broader spectrum of characters and the actor has more time to develop his character. In a Gay film there is a brief introduction and you come

out doing it. In a straight film you might have as much as 20 minutes to develop a character before you get down to the action.

But the Gay films were first because it's easier to get your name above the title. (e.g. Jack Wrangler starring in...) But before breaking into films a massive advertising blitz was conducted by Wrangler's manager, Bob Meyer, plastering the name, Jack Wrangler, everywhere. "If Jack Stillman invented Jack Wrangler, then Bob Meyer shoved him down everybody's throat."

Once established in Gay films as a name and personality, it was time for Jack to move into straight films and this was done via a cross-over film, *2 China Sisters*. And neither one of them were Chinese. One was a beach bunny from Santa Barbara and the other was from the Bronx but their make-up was great. The plot has the younger sister falling in love with Wrangler only to discover that he's Gay, so both sisters seduce him and Viola! he's straight and on to his next film, *Jack and Jill*, with his name above the title.



An interesting aside: Jack noted that with advent of home video recorders, straight people tend to rent films whereas Gay people tend to buy them.

Eighty-three feature films later (not counting the short films), we've established that Jack Wrangler is the successful product of Jack Stillman and Bob Meyer but who is the man behind the product?

His politics are weak, at best. "Making a big point about your sexuality is fine if you're dealing for a cause...I always wonder about a group that calls itself a political group and the only thing political about them is their sexuality...Gay pride is very important but putting your sexuality on your sleeve can be very personally detrimental and I don't think anybody really gives a f-- and I think Gays make much too much of a point about it."

Although he did support the Gay Pride March in New York, Jack felt more points could have been made

with the straight community by canceling all marches as a responsible act to prevent the spread of AIDS because the "marches brought people from all over the country together, and boys will be boys and play around and the next thing you know AIDS will appear somewhere where it hadn't been before."

Jack's theory on AIDS is, "I think that the only reason AIDS is associated with homosexuals at all is because homosexuals break themselves down by partying too much and they really should get their S... together."

Stop fooling around guys!

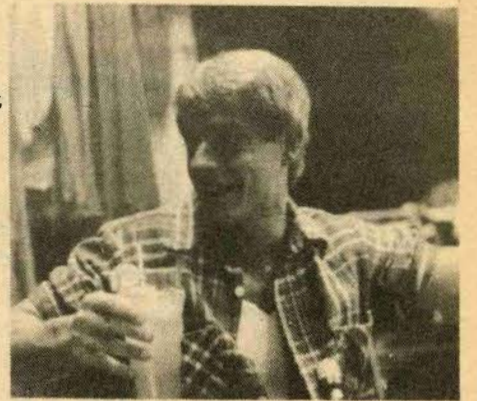
Bottom Line: Are you Gay or straight?

Jack protested about needing to keep some part of his life private. "(Fans) have seen me do much more that I've ever done in my personal life...I would never say I was bisexual because I think that is the biggest cop out in the whole world.. I would say it depends on who I'm with at the time." (For the last six years he has been living with Margaret Whiting, daughter of Richard Whiting who "next to Gershwin is the greatest songwriter in the world). "Let's just say I fool around."

Jack went on to talk about being on the road and his shyness and the fear of disappointing audiences. He told us many people are "getting burned" on the road these days but his experiences have been very good. His current tour is in preparation for his touring next year with his new book scheduled to be released in spring of '84, *WHAT'S A NICE BOY LIKE YOU* an autobiography which he is very excited about.

So having established what Jack Wrangler is and still not sure who Jack Stillman is, we prepared to watch the performance.

It started very well with a slide presentation and very funny tongue in cheek voice-over outlining Jack Wrangler's history and then the man himself same on stage. He jumped off stage to work the audience



which was lost on most of us viewing from the back of the crowd. Back on stage, there was a brief embarrassing moment when George Wilson had to drag an over-zealous patron off the-obviously-embarrassed but willing to go along to a point Jack Wrangler.

With the aid of another patron, Wrangler proceeded to show how easy it was to do the opening scene in any Gay porno movie. The patron was drunk enough or stoned enough or just crazy enough to add some personal humor to the piece without a problem. The scenario ended when Jack Wrangler jumped into the patron's arms and they both fell to the floor.

Then came the moment of truth. The strip. (Yes, he took it ALL off). However old that body may be, it is still in excellent shape. At that point Jack should have bowed politely and gone off stage but instead he went down into the audience again and one patron described the remainder of the performance "degrading."

All in all, Wrangler's performance has some good elements, such as the slide presentation but it definitely needs work. But I'm confident that the man who could invent the slick, highly marketable Jack Wrangler character and through careful step-by-step planning an execution make that character as successful as he is today, with a little planning and work, can make an act as slick and marketable as Jack Wrangler is himself.



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Gazing Back

by Scott Correll

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

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

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

During the days of "The Raven" the "Blue Note" burned and Frank's Showbar became the Gay bar. Located at the corner of South Bellevue and Eastmoreland, the "Showbar" sold beer only and no dancing was allowed; it seated about 75 people. Those patronizing the "Showbar" did not go without police harassment. Parking for the bar was Exxon's parking lot. When police did go into the bar, it was for checking IDs; the drinking age at that time was 21. The "blue boys," the vice squad, would stand in the parking lot, watch the people come out of the bar and go to their cars,

and take down their license plate numbers. This was during the Loeb administration, and the order of the day was to "discourage Gays from gathering in a public place." Today police view it quite differently. They prefer Gays to be together in a bar having fun than out on the streets.

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

Many bars followed. The "Entre' Nuit" moved to 232 S. Cleveland and was sold to become "The Tango Palace" which later became "The Front Page," "David's" and "Phase III." "The Psych-Out" opened where the original "Entre' Nuit" was and later moved to a location at 76 N. Cleveland.

"The Psych-Out" was officially named "The Fruit Jar" and had the honor of being the oldest Gay bar in Memphis with the same name until it closed in '83. After several months, it reopened as "Loretta and Juicy's", but the new bar lasted only a couple of months.

There was "Ivanhoe" located in a downtown alley, "The Oasis" in the old Hotel Tennessee, "The French Quarter" on Union Avenue. Mixed bars were "The Coachhouse" in the Claridge Hotel and "The Fallstaff Room" in the Peabody. Other bars which have gone by the wayside are "The Body Shop," the upstairs at the corner of Cleveland and Madison (which burned); "Box Office," the downstairs at the same location; "The Peacock Lounge," "The Eye Ball," on Willet; "The Sharecropper" on Willet; "The Closet" on Jackson at N. Main which became the "Raincheck II" which became the "Raincheck II" which became "Club Peaches;" "Raincheck I" had opened where the "Sharecropper" was; "The Hourglass" at Jackson and N. Watkins; "Kelsy's" at 1474 Madison; "Sam's" at Marshall and Monroe; "Twilight Lounge" at 1786 Madison which became "The Door" which became "The Famous Door" which became "George's." Georges became "George's Krisco Disco and Leather Bar," "Robert's Half-shell" at Poplar and Mendenhall; "F.W.O.—For Women Only" in Eastgate shopping center; a bar on N. Front (name long forgotten), "The In Crowd" at Bellevue and Lamar which later became "The Score;" "The Butterfly Cabaret;" "Buddy's"

The Barring of Mid-Town

on Young; "Johnny's" on Avalon, "Ma Turner's" at 238 N. Cleveland, "Club Paradise," "My Place," "Gunslinger," (Upstairs from the "Pendulum") "Sharon's and Terry's Townhouse" and "The Body Shop and Hard Times Saloon" at 523 Madison.

"Club 10 North Cleveland" was a very successful disco but when business fell off, its owners were quoted in local papers saying that they were going to try to appeal to straight patrons. When this failed, they tried to attract Gays again but the effort was futile and the bar closed to reopen as "The Other closed to reopen under different management as "The Other Side."

"Sharon's," at 1474 Madison became officially known as Memphis' leather-levi bar. It became the home of Tsarus and its owner, Sharon Wray, became the only non-male member of Tsarus. It also sports a made leather shop, Men of Leather.

Sharon Wray opened the "Psych-Out II" on Marshall and after a period of time sold "Sharon's" which became "Jackies." Also joining the Marshall St. complex was "George's Barracks."

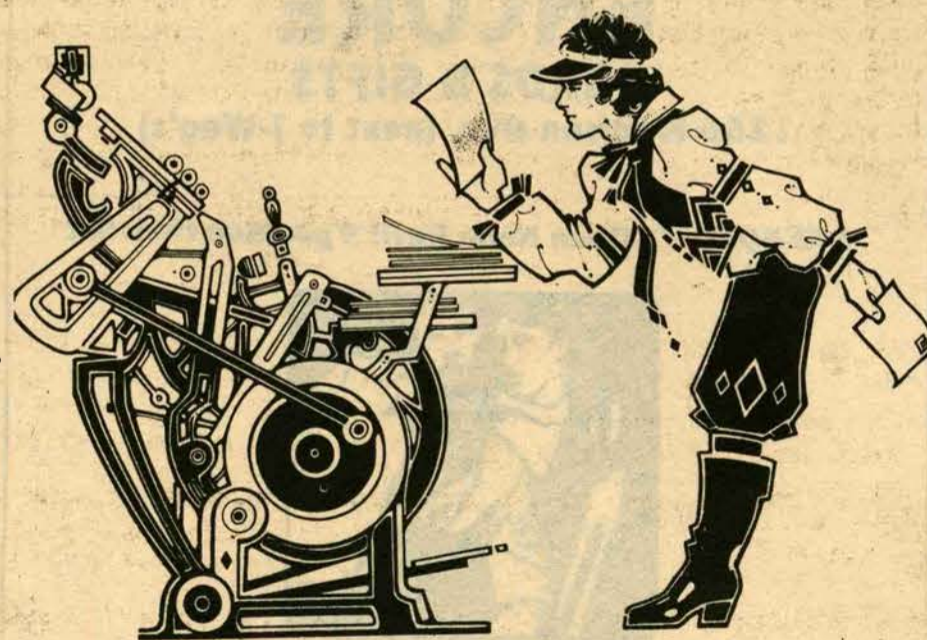
Today we have "The Barracks," "The Family Affair Club," "The French Connection," "George's" "J-Wag's," "The Other Side," "The Pendulum," "P.W. Bumps," "The Psych-Out II," and "Jackie's."

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

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

Gaze

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October, 1983 Gaze-17

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THURSDAY

BEER BUST 8 til midnight \$1.00

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EVERYDAY WE HAVE HAPPY

HOUR NOON TIL 8 PM

All Can Beer 85¢

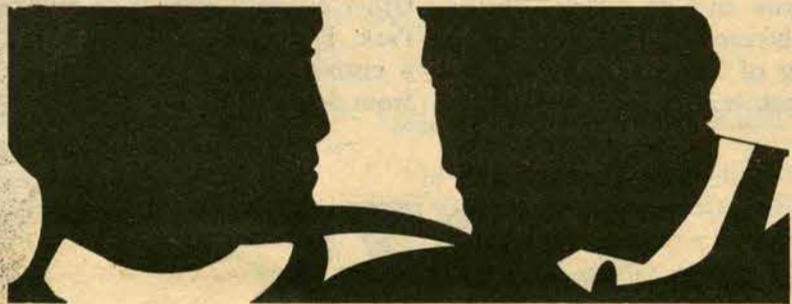
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Ask The Duchess

continued from page 14

When you see him at the bar, is he always the one that comes to you to say hello? If so, on occasions you should make the first move-go to him and initiate the conversation. Ask him to dance. If he smokes and goes for a cigarette, have a lighter (suggest carrying it in the shirt pocket for easy access) ready to light his cigarette. If his beer is nearly empty, take his glass, don't ask for it, and say "Come on, let's get another beer." Be sure to invite him to go with you; if you don't, this may give him a chance to go say "hello" to someone else.

After the small talk is over, initiate conversation that will cause him to stay and answer. "Have you seen such-and-such movie?" "Did you go to the music fest this week?" etc.

Get his phone number. Call him on a Tuesday or Wednesday and ask him for a date that weekend. Contrary to popular belief, gays do date. Plan on dinner, an early movie, and then the bar for dancing. If the date is a pleasant experience for both of you, plan another.

Now, that's how you can find a lover - that's the easy part. Keeping a lover is the most difficult and the most rewarding. "It takes two." It takes a concerted effort on both parties. The best way to keep him is to talk. Talk about insignificant things, compliment him, encourage him, support him, offer constructive

criticism, and most importantly don't bottle things up inside yourself -- talk it out -- COMMUNICATE!!!!

DEAR DUCHESS: I am an older man who enjoys the company of younger men. Often this means finding a hustler. I recently moved to Memphis from New York. In NYC I could find a different hustler for every day of the week - in Memphis, well - my question is where do Memphis' young call boys hang out? Which bar? Other places? Can you help? How can I find them? Signed -- Money to Burn

Dear Money: Perhaps the best place in Memphis to find a hustler is Overton Park. A word of caution though. Vice is known to frequent the park in unmarked, out-of-town cars, and there are now several mounted policemen that patrol the park. Always be sure to ask your prospect if he is a policeman, law enforcement officer, or in anyway connected with a law-enforcement agency. If he is, he MUST answer truthfully that he is.

There are a couple of bars in town that hustlers frequent, but for fear the Vice may see this letter or get wind of it, I don't feel I should print their names which could possibly invite needless harassing to the owners. If the bar hustler is more to your liking, just keep your ears tuned. You will soon find which bars to patronize.

The Disease is Violence

continued from page 2

Answering violence with more may feel good, but only to those to whom winning means someone must lose. We can't afford that attitude anymore. We can't

afford militarism or patriarchy which requires sides and losing.

There aren't any more sides. Everytime a bar owner refuses entrance to someone for an arbitrary reason, s/he supports the system that allows Russia to fire on an unarmed plane. Everytime I feel superior by virtue of anything, I do the same.

Love doesn't feel superior. Love doesn't feel insecure. Love doesn't feel Gay or straight or Russian or Korean.

Love simply is.

And it is the answer. Or if not the answer, at least the promise.

(P.S. Won't Mr Falwell be surprised when met at the Pearly Gates by Mr. Ghandi? Won't I be surprised when met by Mr. Falwell? Won't we all be surprised met by Mr. Andropov?

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Information and Services

MEMPHIS

Organizations

- American Civil Liberties Union-- (ACLU): general movement; 81 Madison Bldg., Suite 1501, Memphis, 38103, 521-9875
- Black and 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. Peter's Village.
- Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: non-sexist, non-hetero-sexist; 1462 Poplar Ave. Memphis 38104, 274-3550.
- MemphisGay Coalition: movement, public, Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays of month in Meeting Room B of Library at Peabody & McLean; Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.
- Memphis Gay Speakers Bureau : Movement, general education Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103-0038.
- 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, feminists; Box 40982, Memphis, 38104 452-6983.
- Phoenix: Gay Alcoholics Anonymous; meets Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Clark Tower, 5050 Poplar, Room 3102; 365-7153.
- Tsarus: social, levi-leather/motorcycle, private membership, Box 41 082, 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, Box 41773, Memphis 38104.
- GAZE: newspaper, monthly; Box 3038, Memphis 38173-0038. (901) 454-1411.
- Lambda Televideo : television , monthly program *Views from 10%*, cable channel 7; Box 3038 Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

Restaurants & Bars

- The Barracks: bar, large disco, patio, Late hours; 616 Marshall Ave., 527-6348.
- Family Affair Club: bar, Gay crowd Wed. and Sunday nights only; 873 Vance Ave., 527-0672.
- The French Connection: restaurant, bar, dining menu; 598 Marshall, 526-1038.
- George's: bar large disco, drag-shows; 600 Marshall, 526-1038.
- J-Wag's: bar, serves food, moderate menu, small disco, games, patio late hours, 1268 Madison, 726-9011
- Jackie's: bar, 1474 Madison Ave. 278-9021
- The Other Side: bar, disco, 12 N. Cleveland, late hours, 726-9245.
- The Pendulum: bar, large disco, serves food, limited menu; 92 N. Avalon, 725-1530.
- P.W. Bumps: bar, serves food, limited menu; 238 N. Cleveland St., 726-9953.
- Psych-Out II: bar; 571 Marshall ave., 523-1940

Miscellaneous

- Club South: baths, TV room, sauna spa lockers, rooms. 628 Madison. (901) 525-2852. CBC affiliated.

Encore Cards and Gifts: Cards gifts, posters, ceramics, etc. 1266 Madison Ave. (901) 722-8963

Georgetown Inn: hotel; daily, weekly and monthly rates. 628-630 Madison Ave. Reservations (901) 525-0725.

Book Cottage (Overton Square)-large selection of Gay/Lesbian novels and non-fiction; 2113 Madison Ave. 726-5857.

NASHVILLE

Organizations

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): general movement: Box 120160, Nashville 37212.
- Conductors: Levi-leather Club; 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 St., Nashville 37203 (615) 329-1478.
- Metropolitan Community Church: religious, general Christian; 131 15th Ave., N., Nashville, (615) 320-0288.
- Nashville Committee: social/movement, Box 23321, Nashville, TN 37202
- Tennessee Coalition for Human Rights(TGCHR): movement, Box 24181, Nashville, TN 37202.
- Womankind Books: 2006 20th Ave. S., Nashville 37212. Open Sat. Noon-6 p.m. (615) 297-3450.
- Womankind Health Service: confidential clinic, feminist. 1727 Church Street, Nashville 37203 (615) 329-1478.
- Women's Resource Center: general services for women; 1608 Woodmont YWCA, Nashville, (615) 385-3952.

Restaurants & Bars

- Aaron's: quiet bar, 154 6th Ave., N. Nashville (615) 254-9911
- Cabaret: bar, disco, drag shows; 1711 Hayes St. (615) 320-7082.
- Crazy Cowboy: bar; 2311 Franklin Road (615) 383-9493
- Mother's Construction Co.: 2535 Franklin Rd. (615) 297-4571.
- Slippo's: 2106-A Eighth Ave. S., Nashville (615) 269-9150

Refined, discreet, matured gay woman seeking secure, intelligent, sober gay woman for friendship. Must disco. Write B.J.B. c/o Gaze, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

NATIONAL GAY CONTACT CLUB- Men/Women. LOW RATES, SEND SASE TO: NGCC, PO Box 28781, San Jose, CA 95159.

Warehouse 28: bar, disco, shows and special events; 2529 Franklin Rd. (615) 385-9689.

World's End: restaurant, live music, (jazz); 1713 Church St. 329-3480

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, AR 72203
- Arkansas Women's Netowrk: 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, AR 72205, (501) 663-6455
- Grassroots Women's House: 1524 S. Summit, Little Rock, AR(501) 378-7851
- Metropolitan Community Church: religious, general Christian; Box 1964, Little Rock 72203. (501) 664-3749.

Media

- Arkansas Gay Writes: AGR, Inc., newsletter; Box 3115, Little Rock 72203
- Ours: newspaper, 5 times/yr., feminist; Box 2352, Little Rock AR 72203

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

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

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

Restaurants & Bars

- Chaps: 1701 S. University, 663-8862
- Silver Dollar: 2710 Asher Ave., 663-9886
- Discovery II: 1021 Jessie Rd., 664-4784
- Variations: 113½ E. Main, 371-9919. 24 hours.

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.

HEAR: The Gay Alternative--Sundays at 3 on WEVL (FM 90.3).

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

Classifieds

RATES FOR CLASSIFIED: 20¢ per word. \$3 minimum. Phone numbers and zip codes are free. Deadline for ads is 5 days prior to publication date last Friday monthly. \$2 additional charge for the use of our PO Box. Send to GAZE, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

ROOMMATE - Mature male to share nicely furnished 3 bedroom home in Whitehaven area. 1½ bath, cen/air & heat. \$135.00 mo., plus 1/3 utilities & phone. Call (901) 332-8499 after 6 P.M.

NEW BOYS IN TOWN from South of Market (San Francisco) interested in meeting other open minded couples with interests in Levi/Leather, theatre, film, outdoor activities, home entertaining, etc. We are white and both 29. Any couples 25 to 45 interested in making non-bar friends write Jim and Patrick at POB 16672, Memphis TN 38186-0672. Your number gets ours.

Husbands/Fathers! Let's communicate. Write Ad 001, c/o Gaze, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.



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