



Volume 4, Number 11

Memphis, Tennessee

November, 1983

## Allain Denies Being Gay in Mississippi Governor's Race

by John Stilwell

With only two weeks to go before the November 8th general election in Mississippi, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Attorney General Bill Allain was accused of homosexual conduct by Jackson attorney William E. Spell, Sr. after a month long investigation by Pendleton Detective of Mississippi. Allain's Republican opponent, Leon Bramlett, while attempting to remain removed from the controversy, has challenged Allain to take a lie detector test to prove his innocence. Before the release of the results of the investigation, polls showed Bramlett 30 points behind Allain in the governor's race.

In a statement released by Gov. William Winter, the governor deplored the "new low in gutter politics that the Republican Party has injected into this race." Winter said he had not seen such vicious attempts at character assassination in all his years in politics.

Spell said the investigation was begun because, "some guys came to me and said they had heard so many rumors they felt it was a good idea to at least trace those rumors to their source."

The month-long investigation, cost about \$10,000 according to Spell. Persons involved in promoting the investigation include Jackson

oilman Victor Smith (an \$11,000 contributor to the Bramlett campaign), W.D. "Billy" Mounger (a \$14,200 contributor), Neal Clement (a \$5000 contributor) as well as other who did not want their names associated with the investigation. "It doesn't make any difference who financed it," Spell said, "it's whether it's true or not."

At a press conference in Jackson, Spell, a Jackson attorney and former advisor to Gov. Cliff Finch said the investigation had uncovered "clear and convincing evidence that establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that Attorney General Bill Allain, over a period of years, frequently has engaged in homosexual acts with male prostitutes."

The "clear and convincing evidence" includes three sworn statements from four transvestite prostitutes. The four are:

David Holliday, 24, who also goes by the name Devia Ross, according to police records was convicted in 1980 on a shoplifting charge and sentenced to serve 6 months at a Salvation Army half-way house.

Grady Louis Arrington, also known as Nicole Toy, 24, was convicted in '79 on a charge of false pretense (fraud) and burglary. He paid a \$100 fine on the first conviction and served three years on the burglary conviction.

## Cianciola Murderer Sentenced

By Ric Sullivan and Allen Cook

The murderer of Michael Cianciola has been sentenced to 15 years in prison in a plea bargaining arrangement. Jerry Bob Gossett, 26, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder last month. Tom Hoover, assistant district attorney, was quoted by the *Commercial Appeal* as saying the negotiated sentence was in the "low range" of a possible 10-year to life sentence. When *Gaze* contacted Hoover, he said that his perception is that those involved may have felt that the jurors wouldn't convict "one queer... for killing another," or may have placed some blame on Cianciola. He said he felt that 15 years was too low a sentence for a bludgeoning death and that he (Hoover) wanted to take the case to trial.

Gossett will be eligible for parole in about 4 years, Hoover said.

In speaking of the case against Gossett, Hoover indicated that there was no direct connection between Cianciola and Gossett that night. Some witnesses had seen Gossett at Cianciola's beauty shop on North McLean several times before and a car "resembling" Gossett's was seen there that night. However, no one could positively put Gossett in the shop that night. According to Hoover, the main thing was Gossett's own statement. Had Gossett pleaded innocent, it is felt that the state's case against him would not have been strong enough to convict him.

Cianciola was found beaten to death last November in his beauty shop.

Donald Ray Johnson, 24, also known as Donna, was convicted of obstructing traffic, soliciting for prostitution or immoral purposes and for carrying a concealed weapon. And one known only as "Madam."

According to Spell, "Madam" received a \$300 "finders fee" for directing Holliday to the investigating agency and both received \$100 to conclude their business in Jackson before they were moved. All four are being offered "protection" by continued on page 2

## Why GAZE Is Late--

For the first time in its nearly four-year publishing history, a printer has refused to print *Gaze*. According to Nancy Apple, co-owner of Copy Cat Graphics, which handles the actual jobbing of the printing of *Gaze*, the Kosciusko *Star-Herald* of Kosciusko, Mississippi refused to print this issue because "it goes against our political beliefs." It was unclear whether the reason was because of the general content of the paper or because of the specific content of the article relating to the Mississippi gubernatorial race.

The *Star-Herald* had been contracted to print the paper because of quality problems encountered with a previous printer. Neither Ms. Apple nor *Gaze* was informed of the refusal to print until the day the papers were to be delivered. A spokesperson for the *Star-Herald* said that the owner had been "too busy to call."

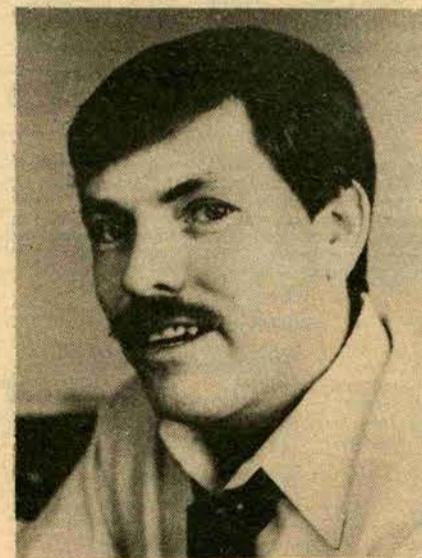
## Steve Endean Steps Down as GRNL Head

by John Stilwell

Steve Endean, the 35-year-old Executive Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby has submitted his resignation to the executive committee ending five years of service to the organization. The resignation was accepted reluctantly but the board felt "they had to let him decide."

The resignation comes after ever-increasing criticism from David Goodstein, publisher of *The Advocate* and columnist David Bush, accusing GRNL of being slow in recognizing the AIDS crisis and unsophisticated in responding to it.

In his letter, Endean said, "I believe the attacks on me during the past nine months can be largely attributed to a political vendetta combined with a quest for power and control of our movement... I have concluded...that my continuation in my present capacity is not in the best interest of the Gay Rights National Lobby, the Lesbian/Gay movement in general, or for me as an individual. While internal politics are inevitable in any movement, it is apparent that the atmosphere has been so poisoned that I can only anticipate continued power plays, maneuvering, backbiting and bickering which absorb precious time and



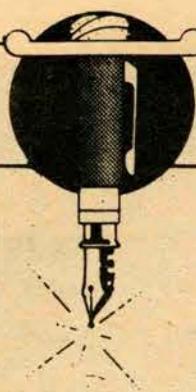
Steve Endean

energy better spent fighting our real enemies.

"If self defense becomes the highest purpose, it is time to go."

Friends and critics alike admit that when Endean came to the two-year old organization, it was moribund and had no staff, no telephone and no office. Endean worked long hours often drawing no salary to build GRNL into a dynamic and nationally respected organization with a \$300,000 annual budget and eight full time employees.

continued on page 2



## Four and Counting

by Ric Sullivan

Recently, the Memphis Gay Coalition very quietly turned four. There was no mayoral proclamation, no press release, no benefit entertainment extravaganza, not even (to my knowledge) a raising of glasses to toast the oldest Gay organization in Memphis.

While public celebrations have definite symbolic value and can serve as important PR weapons with both the Gay and non-Gay communities, they are not necessarily the most effective way to reach people, especially Gays.

The nature of a celebration, or the lack of one, is, of course, most often dictated by factors such as the prevailing mood, willingness and resources of those involved in planning and implementing the event, and certainly by what is sought to be achieved.

The Coalition turned four quietly just as it began quietly.

While there have been quiet times during its short life, those involved with the Coalition have seen some exciting and historic events--the

regional Gay/Lesbian conference at Rivermont, fundraisers for the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and AIDS research, the establishment of Lambda Televideo and *Gaze* (which, while not Memphis' first Gay paper, is its most successful especially in view of its national recognition), three Gay Pride marches, direct solicitation of the Gay vote by major mayoral candidates, and the appearance here of national Gay rights notables, such as Leonard Matlovich, Susan McGrievy, Lea Hopkins, Susan Green, Robin Tyler, and Meg Christian.

These and the dozens of other educational, social, and political events that would not have occurred had the Coalition not been formed, did not just happen. They resulted from thousands of hours of work by several hundred people who believed not only in the importance of the particular task they were involved in, but believed as well in the existence of the Memphis Gay Coalition and the ideals it represents. Those ideals, simply stated, are freedom, choice, communication, and cooperation.

Not surprisingly, those same goals are espoused by other organizations as well. So what has helped make the Coalition so successful in its four years?

People willing to make it work, willing to help turn ideals into reality, in whatever way they choose.

And a system to organize and focus energies and resources, while permitting and even encouraging, any interested motivated person to develop and utilize his or her own creativity.

The Coalition has often been criticized for its lack of formal structure, for not having elected or appointed directors, officers, or other individuals whose function would be to determine policies, activities, and methods.

But it is that fluidity, flexibility of structure that forces ideas and actions out of those who can best determine what goals and activities are needed from a Gay organization—namely the Gay community.

The Coalition has never purported to represent the Gay community, with its diversity of lifestyles, attitudes, and political opinions. Yet with meetings open to

the public, encouragement of participation at any level by any interested person, open format of discussion and consensus, lack of exclusionary or prohibitive policies, and varied activities and projects that can accommodate practically any level of motivation and willingness—the Coalition was intended to be and remains an effective vehicle to combat discrimination faced by Gay men and women, to educate both the Gay and non-Gay communities, and to promote positive attitudes toward Gay lifestyles.

Gays have felt oppression in myriad forms for hundreds of years. The end is not in sight. But the picture would be a lot darker, a lot bleaker if it were not for groups like the Coalition.

Happy Birthday to the Memphis Gay Coalition. Four down..... and counting.

*The Memphis Gay Coalition meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays monthly at the Public Library, Peabody at McLean, Room B, 7:30 P.M. All meetings are open to any interested people. A \$20 annual membership donation includes a subscription to Gaze.*

# Gaze

Box 3038, Memphis, Tennessee 38173-0038. Phone (901) 454-1411 (irregular hours).

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## Allain Denies

sponsors of the investigation and are receiving \$12 a day for food and accommodations and \$50 a day for "lost income."

"Corroborating" information includes unsworn statements from a former policeman who said he had seen Allain driving slowly through the downtown area of Jackson (reportedly a Gay cruising area) and maintenance men who said they saw, "pornographic items and activities consistent with homosexual activity" in Allain's apartment.

Although Spell said at the Press conference that Bramlett had been briefed early in the month-long investigation, Bramlett told reporters he had only heard rumors of the investigation shortly before the press conference. Bramlett said, "I have heard rumors and different reports at different times," but contended he had nothing to do with the investigation.

Allain called the accusations a "damnable, vicious (pack of) lies." He said apparently Mr. Bramlett's campaign feels that they can bring Watergate tricks to Mississippi. "But I don't think we are that kind of state. I'm no sexual deviant and Leon Bramlett knows it."

In response to the accusations, Allain "asked my attorneys to prepare a lawsuit to hold all responsi-

continued from page 1

ble parties accountable for their actions." He asked the Commissioner of Public Safety to provide additional security agents "because of the type of characters our opposition is now associating with and in response to threats. Allain has cut a new 30 second commercial and his ex-wife is scheduled to do one refuting the charges.

When advised of the lawsuit, Bramlett said, "If he really wants to clear his name, I don't think a lawsuit will settle anything between now and the election. I think it would be better, in fact, I challenge him to submit to a polygraph given by the *Clarion Ledger*," a Jackson, Mississippi newspaper.

## Endean Steps Down

from page 1

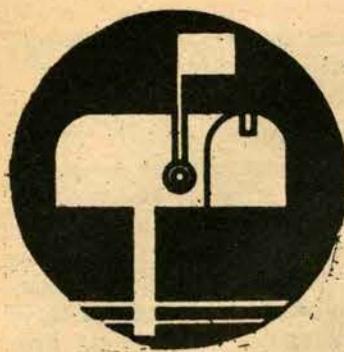
Also credited to Endean are:

- The record number of 73 sponsors in the House for a National Gay Rights Bill
- The initiation of a Senate bill with eight sponsors
- Significant increases in federal funding of AIDS research
- Constituent outreach
- A national system of field representatives
- Strengthening of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

After his departure over a period

of between three and 6 months, Endean plans to take a year off. A committee has been formed to find a replacement.

With Endean's departure, GRNL will be looking at several possible courses of action. One may be for GRNL to join with some other Gay organization, a strong possibility being the National Gay Task Force which could end a long "testy" relationship between the two organizations often attributed to internal politics and personalities.



# 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.*

## Kudos and Concerns

Having recently moved to Memphis, my lover and I decided to place an ad in *Gaze* and so far we have been quite happy with the response from the ad. We have also received many warm welcomes from others we have met in public and were made to feel extremely welcomed at Jackies on Madison. Special mention goes to the guys from TSARUS. *Gaze* has been very helpful in keeping us informed of local events. Keep up the good work!

Now to a more serious matter, I was shocked to read about the Gay basher incident and the treatment the victim underwent by the local police department. In conversation recently, I heard that some of the bar owners know who the (alleged) basher is and are still allowing the man to patronize their establishments. I would hope that a bar owner would feel obligated to protect his patrons from someone of this caliber. I would urge these bar owners to re-consider their actions in this case or face the possibility that they may soon be boycotted by their patrons. I would also like to urge other readers of this paper express their feelings about this matter to their local bartenders.

As far as the police department is concerned, it is best to let the A C L U pursue the matter through legal means as I am certain that the ACLU has a very good case in this situation. I sympathize with the victim as I too have been a victim of this type of harassment.

James Thurman  
Memphis, TN

*The alleged assailant contacted Gaze after the October issue hit the streets. The co-editors agreed to do a story putting forth his version of what happened in the two incidents. Several days later, he called and said he changed his mind about the story and was going to contact an attorney. The victim of the incident reported last issue has since decided not to press charges on the advice of his attorney.*

*We must point out that the alleged assailant has not been con-*

*victed of anything and that barring him from entering establishments may be a violation of his rights.—Ed.*

## MCC — Alive and Well

Metropolitan Community Church is still alive and well and meeting at 2224 Central at 1:00 pm every Sunday. The members of MCC wish to invite you—the Gay community—to participate in your church. I say "your church" because MCC was opened to give the Gay community a place to worship freely without fear of discrimination or "excommunication."

MCC needs the support of everyone in the Gay community if it is to continue to keep its doors open. Right now we have no telephone due to lack of sufficient funds. Our church has few members at this time, but those few are endeavoring to keep MCC alive for this community. However, we cannot do this without the help of everyone.

Does this community wish to lose a group which can be a vital and supportive part of our community? Or do we want to contribute our TIME and FINANCIAL AID to insure the continuation of MCC? MCC is trying to find a new pastor, but in its current financial position, one cannot be supported. We also wish to keep our meeting place, so we are asking for a show of support from our community.

I, Sheryl Miller, worship co-ordinator for Metropolitan Community Church, have dedicated myself to the continuation and growth of our church, and I hope that you (the community) will also. Please feel free to contact us by writing P.O. Box 41132, Memphis, TN 38174-1132 or calling 274-8355 (9 am-10 pm) or by visiting us on Sundays at 1 pm at 2224 Central and Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm.

Sheryl Miller  
Worship Coordinator

## Praise from Afar

*Gaze* is an excellent newspaper—the best in the South! It is informative, sensitively written, and a creative publication for the Gay and non-Gay community. I wish you continued success in future publications and happiness along your respective journeys. Keep up the good work! Let's always walk together to promote Gay Rights—and human rights!

Martha Walker  
Hollywood CA

## Subscriber's Thoughts

Unfortunately, due to my financial situation at this time, I am unable to renew my subscription to *Gaze*. I do hope to re-subscribe as soon as I am able to. I have enjoyed the paper for the year or so I have received it.

One thing—I miss Bill Johnson's fine editorials.

Maybe two—it's geared more towards the male.

I'll still subscribe when I get out of these financial straits.

R.H.  
Monterey, TN

*GAZING, the editorial column, is open to anyone who would like to write, including former editor Bill Johnson. Perhaps your Letter will in-*

*duce him to contribute from time to time.*

*Gaze is designed to be for the Gay AND LESBIAN community. If it appears to be male oriented, it is only because no Lesbians seem to care enough to contribute to it.*

—Ed.

## Setting the Record "Straight"

Thanks for sending along your good review of *Lifeline*. I'm glad you liked it.

To set the record "straight," however, Holly (Near) was accompanied by Afrikan Dreamland on the song "Unity" on *Speed of Light*, which is a black male reggae group. We hope someone from Memphis invites us to come there!

Loey Powell  
Oakland, CA

## MGC Facilitator Writes

As facilitator of the Memphis Gay Coalition from November through January, I want to take this opportunity to encourage anyone interested to attend our monthly meetings at the Main Library.

Our first Monday meetings provide the chance to deal with the "nitty gritty" details of running a Gay rights organization. The budget, fundraising, on-going programs, ideas for new projects, and policies and directions are some of the topics covered at these general business meetings. In addition, reports are offered by representatives of the varied services sponsored by the Coalition, such as the Gay Switchboard and Lambda Televideo.

The third Monday meetings are reserved for programs covering varied aspects of Gay lifestyles. In past, they have included special film showings, a forum of mayoral candidates, and a discussion on locally conducted AIDS research.

Throughout its 4-year history, the Coalition has sponsored an annual Gay community Christmas potluck, and plans are underway for this year's bacchanalian feast.

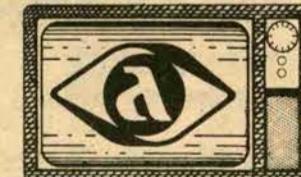
All meetings and activities of the

Coalition are open to all interested. As facilitator, I especially urge those involved with other Gay and Lesbian organizations to attend our meetings, learn what we're doing, and share your ideas and plans.

While input is welcomed from everyone—at no cost or obligation—we also have to maintain a variety of services that receive no support from outside the Gay community. Consequently our annual membership donation of \$20 is considered the "backbone" of our budget. What you receive in turn is a year's subscription to *Gaze*, and the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping the oldest Gay organization in the city continue to reach out to our diverse Gay community through a variety of programs and services.

Come to our meetings and our special events. Give us your time, your ideas, your support—in the way in which you feel most comfortable. You can probably learn something, teach something, accomplish something—and, chances are, feel good about it.

Ric Sullivan  
Memphis Gay Coalition



## Views From Ten Percent

November 9 4:00 PM

November 14 4:30 PM

November 25 7:30 PM



# National

## Peale Positive About Gays

New York (TWN)—When asked "Do you think herpes and AIDS are God's punishment of homosexuals and the promiscuous?" 85-year-old Norman Vincent Peale had a surprising answer. "I don't believe God spends his time revenging himself on people...God is too big to spend his time in revenge," Peale told USA TODAY. He also said he doesn't believe homosexuality would bar a person from entering heaven. "If a person is born with a certain condition, I can't see how it would be fair to keep him out of heaven for some reason that he is not responsible for."

## Bathhouse Controversy Aired on CBS

(GAY NEWS)—Jeff Levi of the National Gay Task Force and the Rev. Jerry Falwell debated the issue of gay bathhouses and AIDS recently. Levi was appearing on the CBS program *Nightwatch*, and Falwell called in to say that bathhouses should be closed until it was proven that they did not contribute to the spread of AIDS. They are the scene, Falwell said, of "filthy and bloody sexual activity." Levi responded that closing the facilities would not be the answer. Instead, he urged that bathhouses educate their patron about the disease and shift more toward non-sexual recreation. Chicago's *Gaylife* checked with many bathhouses in the country, and found that there is already a widespread shift away from sex, and that AIDS education is being carried out. Some have even held benefits to raise money for AIDS research.

## Columbia U. Ends Anti-Aids Policy

New York (THE WASHINGTON BLADE)—Columbia University has agreed to end its policy of refusing to hire persons with AIDS after a gay legal group filed a complaint charging the university with violating an affirmative action clause in its federal contracts.

The complaint was filed last month on behalf of an anonymous man who has AIDS. According to the man, who had applied for employment at Columbia, university administrators told him they could not hire any person with AIDS. In the complaint, the university was charged with violating an affirmative action clause for disabled persons contained in their federal contracts.

As a result of the charge, Columbia officials agreed to end the discriminatory policy, and to review each application on a case-by-case basis.

Pat Maher, a spokesperson for the gay defense group, commented on why the university decided to change its tune: "They realized they would be in big trouble and possibly lose a lot of government contracts if they tried to maintain this policy.

## Judge Rules Against Gay Immigrant

New Orleans (TWN)—A three judge federal court has interpreted an immigration law to mean that gay aliens should not be allowed entry into the United States. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 recently that the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Law means that gays should be denied entry into this country. Since legal entry is a prerequisite to naturalization, this effectively prevents former Britisher

Richard John Longstaff, 43, from becoming a U.S. citizen. Longstaff, who came to America in 1965, now owns two clothing and hairdressing shops in Dallas. He argued that he entered the country legally in 1975 since no medical determination of his homosexuality was made at the time he received his visa. In a dissenting opinion, Judge Albert Tate Jr. said he would have ruled that gays may be allowed admission in the absence of such a medical certificate.

## Another Court Forbids Alien Ban

San Francisco (Gay Scene)—The Immigration and Naturalization Service cannot stop homosexual aliens from entering the country without medical certification of deviation or defect, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled recently.

The court upheld a Federal District Court decision that found Congress expressly required Public Health Service medical certificates verifying that self-declared homosexuals were afflicted with a "psychopathic personality, sexual deviation, or mental defect" before barring their entry.

In 1979, however, the Surgeon General of the U.S. did away with health service inspections of suspected homosexuals, saying homosexuality was no longer considered a mental disorder.

## UC Law School Bans JAG Corps

Boalt Hall, the law school of the University of California at Berkeley, has amended the anti-discrimination policy of its Placement Office to provide protection for Lesbian and Gay students. Under its new policy, Boalt does not make its interviewing facilities available to employers who discriminate in selecting employees on the basis of sexual orientation, as well as on the basis of national origin, race, religion or sex.

Boalt is the first law school to adopt a placement policy protecting Lesbian and Gay students since the Judge Advocate General, Army Major General High J. Clausen, threatened last year to withdraw all defense funds from seven other universities whose law schools have such policies. Being Lesbian or Gay is a ground for discharge in all branches of the United States armed forces.

Because of the new policy, Boalt barred the JAG Corps from interviewing at the law school this spring. Unless they change their hiring practices, the FBI and the CIA will also be barred.

Adoption of the policy marks the culmination of four years of lobbying by the Boalt Lesbian and Gay Caucus.

Three years ago, Boalt surveyed all employers using the placement facilities to determine what weight, if any, they have to a job applicant's sexual orientation. Many replied, "None". Other responses included, "Significant weight", "We will not employ perverts or deviants", and "we have never thought to inquire of applicants regarding their sexual orientation; however, an applicant

for whom the subject has importance should probably not apply."

## Presidential Hopeful's Platform: No Gay Civil Rights

(The Weekly News) — North Palm Beach attorney George Kay, 65, was in New Hampshire trying to qualify for that state's Democratic primary. Kay is running on a platform opposing civil rights for Gays and bilingual education. Five months ago he heard that Gay Democrats were making big strides within the party, so he spent 10-15 hours "reading up" on homosexuality. He could contain himself no longer, announcing his candidacy to save the American society. Homosexuality was one of the main reasons the Roman Empire fell, and granting Gay civil rights would undermine the Judeo-Christian foundation of our society, he feels. Kay also opposes bilingual education because he wants to "encourage immigrants to join the melting pot" and not retreat into ethnic ghettos.

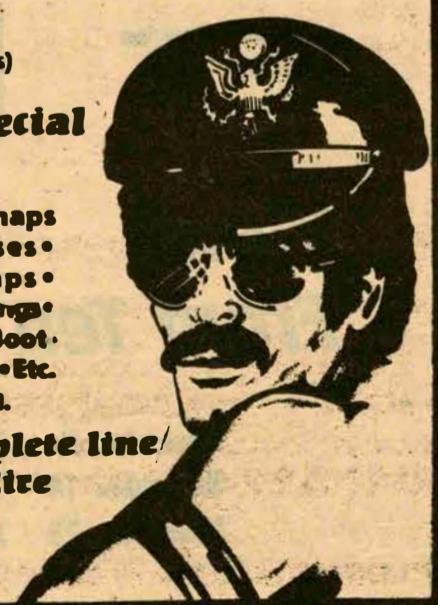
## Gay Senator Chosen as Lobby's Co-Chair

Washington, D.C. — The Executive Board of Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), announced that openly Gay Minnesota State Senator Allan Spear has been chosen as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors. Sen. Spear replaces Jerry Weller, formerly of Portland, Oregon, who served as co-chair for 2½ years. Weller recently moved to Washington, D.C. and accepted the position of Deputy Director of GRNL and resigned his Board position. Kate McQueen of South Portland, Maine will continue serving as co-chair.

Sen. Spear was first elected to the Minnesota Senate in 1972. In December, 1974 he "came out" as an openly Gay man and elected official. After announcing he was Gay, Spear received much support in Minnesota, including a supportive telephone call from Minnesota Governor Wendell Anderson.

Spear was re-elected to the Senate in 1976 with 69% of the vote and was re-elected again in 1980 and 1982. The 1982 election, due to redistricting, put Spear in an entirely new district, yet he was still successful. Currently Sen. Spear is Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Also serving on the 30 member GRNL Board of Directors are: openly Lesbian Minnesota Representative Karen Clark; former President of the Legal Services Corporation, Dan Bradley; and founder and Moderator of the Universal Fellowship of the Metropolitan Community Church, Rev. Troy Perry.



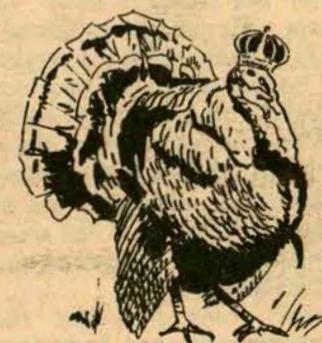
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# Nashville

## TGCHR on Hiatus

by Jeff Thompson,  
Nashville Correspondent

Because of some key member's time-consuming commitments and the absence of any urgent Gay political issues, an executive committee of the Nashville Branch of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights has voted unanimously to guide the Coalition into a temporary period of relative inactivity. Nashville Coalition official Tommy Powell stressed that Music City's chapter has not disbanded, but that the group will be dormant for at least the remainder of 1983.

Powell told *Gaze* that one of the leaders of the 160-member Nashville Coalition, David Curtis, has left town to take an important law job in South Dakota. Powell added that other vital members are involved with time-consuming undergraduate or graduate studies at area universities. Those demanding studies have prevented them from continuing their very active roles in the running of the organization.

At a September meeting of Nashville's Coalition, an executive committee voted unanimously to insti-

tute a period of dormancy for the state-chartered organization. The committee resolved to inform *Gaze* that, although the Nashville segment of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights is "hibernating", the organization is still a member in excellent standing of the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee, the National Gay Task Force, and of the Gay Rights National Lobby. The executive committee also emphasized that membership renewals and new memberships are still being accepted-- and, in fact, are encouraged. Even though the Coalition will remain inactive at least through Christmas, large-scale activities during 1984 will still take place as planned. Powell announced that the Nashville Coalition still would sponsor the third annual Tennessee Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men at the Metropolitan Community Church in Nashville on Saturday, April 7, 1984.

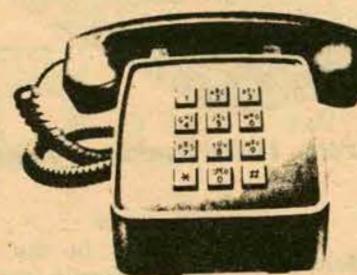
Inquiries and five-dollar membership renewals should be sent to the Nashville Coalition's still-operating post office box. The address is Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights, P.O. Box 24141, Nashville, TN 37202.

### Coming Next Month . . .

*Jeff Thompson reviews Broadway's*

*"La Cage Aux Folles"*

## Memphis Gay Switchboard



**Staffed Nightly 7:30 — 11 PM**

**Information, Counseling,  
Medical and Legal Referrals**

**726-GAYY**

**The November 21st Program Meeting of the MGC will feature Joel Chapman, Ph.D. speaking on "Coping With the Holidays." All Switchboard volunteers and anyone interested in becoming a volunteer are urged to attend.**

**A Service of the Memphis Gay Coalition**

# Gaze

## SPECIAL DECEMBER ISSUE

### Local Advertising Rates

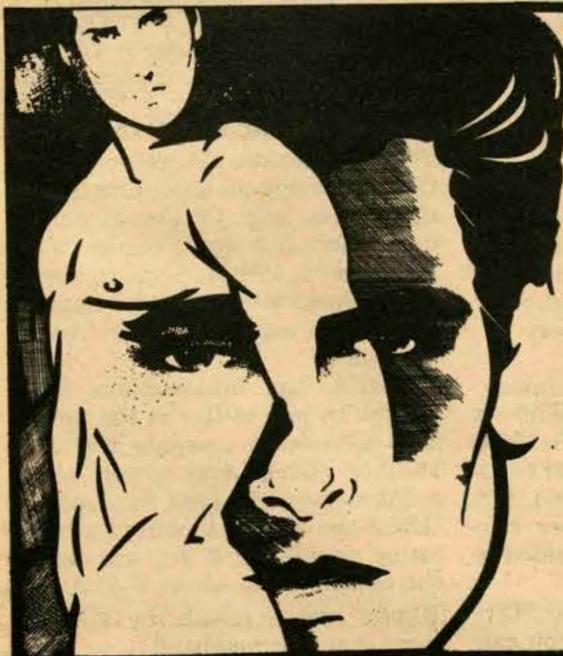
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## News, Information, Coming Events...

### Steve Quesnel to Visit MCC/Memphis

Steven Quesnel, Director of the Task Force for Substance Abuse for the United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches will be in Memphis November 17-21 to conduct workshops, rap sessions and to preach a Sunday service at MCC.

Quesnel will conduct meetings at MCC on Thursday and Friday, November 17 and 18 as well as conduct the Sunday 1:00 pm service. Tentative plans also include speaking at the program meeting of the Gay Coalition (7:30 pm, Monday November 21, Public Library at Peabody and McLean, Meeting Room B), as well as taping a program of *Views from 10%* for airing in December.

Church is non-denominational and is primarily aimed at the Gay community. The church is located at 2224 Central Avenue. For further information on church activities or Quesnel's visit, call Sheryl at 274-8355.

### G.R.E.A.T. Men in Little Rock

GREAT (Gay Racially Equal and Together) Men, the newest chapter of the International Association of Black and White Men Together, has recently formed in Little Rock. GREAT Men has selected the Central Public Library as their regular meeting site. Mike Hanna and A. Long were appointed co-commissioners and Cornelius Mabin is the Directional Officer and founder.

GREAT Men is in the southeastern network of BWMT, along with the Memphis, Atlanta and Raleigh-Durham chapters. Like other chapters of BWLT, GREAT Men will be involved in educating the community on the effects of homophobia, sexism, heterophobia and racism in our lives.

For more information on GREAT Men, contact Cornelius Mabin at (501) 374-3217.

### Mass. Police Enforcing Studded Arm Band Law

Boston—Motorcycle, leather and other butch Gay enthusiasts better check their wardrobes before entering Massachusetts. The state recently enacted a provision of the dangerous weapons law prohibiting the possession of spikes or studded leather wristbands, *Gay Community News* reports. Penalties range from a \$50 fine to five years imprisonment, because law enforcement officials consider the wristbands potential

weapons in the event of a fight. Keith Nordin was recently stopped by a state police cruiser and stripped of his leather wristband. Canada has a similar law which resulted in brief detainment of singer Grace Jones. Airport officials released Jones soon after they confiscated a studded leather wristband found in her luggage.

### Bostonians Hassle Softballers

Two Lesbian softball teams vying for a division title in Boston got more than they bargained for when a group of neighborhood teenagers continually disrupted the competition with verbal and physical abuse, according to the *Gay Community News* of Boston.

The playoff game on September 13 began under a barrage of homophobic and misogynist epithets, and culminated in rock, bottle and egg throwing by the teenagers. At one point a fist fight broke out between a member of one of the softball teams and one of the youths. Women from the teams said they had attempted to reason with the teenagers but were spat upon.

Two uniformed officers arrived at the field after three calls to summon police, but the officers seemed most concerned with finding a woman who had allegedly bitten one of the teenagers. Officer never approached any team member to get a statement.

The group of teens dispersed, but after the officers left they soon returned and began to throw eggs at the women. The Boston director of recreation said she requested that two plainclothes police officers attend the remaining games.

### GRNL Director Accepts Oregon Award

Washington, D.C. — Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) Deputy Director Jerry Weller, returned to Portland, Oregon to accept the Right to Privacy PAC's Lucille Hart Award in October. The award was given to Weller along with the 13 Oregon State Senators who voted in favor of the Oregon Lesbian and Gay civil rights bill in the 1983 Legislative Session. Senator Jim Gardner (D—Portland) accepted the award on behalf of the 13 senators.

Weller left Oregon in July to assume the GRNL Deputy Director position after serving 2½ years as GRNL's Co-Chair. Weller worked full-time for the Lesbian and Gay community in Oregon for seven years. He was founder and Chairperson of the Right to Privacy PAC

which sponsors the annual Lucille Hart Dinner, the organization's major fundraising event. Last year the \$50 per person dinner raised \$17,000. This year the proceeds will be split with the national Lesbian and Gay political action committee, the Human Rights Campaign Fund. The featured speakers at the dinner were Midge Constanza and Jean O'Leary.

Weller received a Newsmaker's Award for Outstanding Community Involvement from the Pacific Northwest Lesbian and Gay newspaper, *Cascade Voice*. The award was one of four Publisher's Commendations for special contributions to the community and was announced in Portland September 18 by *Voice* publisher, Neal Hutchins.

### Gay Pen Pals "Ripped Off" by Prison Inmates

A few members of the Gay community corresponding with prison inmates are becoming entrapped in a prison scheme involving altered postal money orders, reports the *Philadelphia Gay News*.

Some prisoners seeking pen pals through Gay publications encourage their correspondents to cash money orders in large amounts and then wire the amounts to a prisoner's friend on the outside.

Banks alerted to these fraudulent transactions by the Chief Postal Inspector deduct amounts from the correspondents' accounts. Some in-

dividuals have lost as much as \$20,000 through this scheme, the newspaper reported.

### Well Known Gay Writer Dies

New York (*New York Native*)— Wallace Hamilton, a well-known Gay writer, died September 1, a week after suffering a severe concussion in a fall down a flight of stairs. Wallace, one of the most influential Gay writers of our time, authored five books, 24 plays and countless articles of *Christopher Street*, the *Philadelphia Gay News*, the *Advocate* and other publications.

Hamilton's first book, *Coming Out*, was the autobiographical account of a man coming out in his late middle age. His other works include *Christopher and Gay*, *David at Olivet* and a final novel as yet unreleased, *Ship's Boys*. Although recognized as a fine writer, his work was not always accepted by mainstream publishers, and his active association with the North American Man/Boy Love Association often led to criticism and nasty publicity. However, it is said that Wallace, more than any other Gay writer, influenced an entire generation of Gay young men.

Wallace's autobiography, *Shadow History*, which he sold to the *Philadelphia Gay News*, is to be published shortly.

## MSU GALA News

Some things never change. Fall will always follow summer, love will always be a many-splendored thing, and students for Gay and Lesbian Awareness (GALA) will always be alive and kicking. This group of humanitarians has pulled through the summer session with little resistance and the 1983 fall semester seems to be doing quite alright for the students for GALA. The programs that are planned seem to be very informative for gay students on campus and non-gay students as well.

But before I get into that, it was as usual, election time in September and the die is now cast for the coming four months. Almost a total switch this time, with only Kay keeping her Vice-President spot. New-comer Will is holding the President's chair, and spunky Katherine is the new found secretary. Both seem to be pleased and definitely excited about their new positions in life and it is the hope of the group that this new energy might brush off on the rest of us.

I know what you're thinking. "Where's Marty?" and "Who is treasurer?" you wonder. Well, Marty has stepped down to treasurer so he can stay pretty much involved, but without the pressure of over two years of holding the President's place.

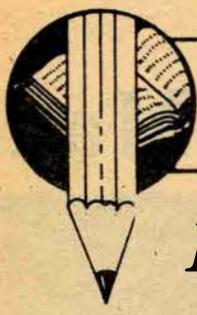
If you whip over to the MSU campus one of these days, you can

see flyers tacked up almost everywhere. Looking closer, some of these flyers advertise the GALA group and has a few phrases asking interested students (others by appointment only!) to attend. Informative, pleasing to the eye, and, best of all, this lets the campus know that the group is available.

The "gala" event (good grief) of the semester so far was a viewing at Dixon Art Gallery of the film *BREAKER MORANT*. The flyers were up all over the place, and when the magic night arrived the GALA members slipped into waiting cars and zipped over to Dixon where we were ushered to the backyard. After a lengthy discussion, the spot was decided on and the blanket was spread.

Now remember: It's night-time. This is outside. Therefore, it is COLD. Having an ankle-length coat didn't even help. One smart girl got up and left, but we "toughies" stuck it out (well, sort of). Some shivered, some wore sweaters, and I slept). I am sure it was a fire flick. And it was fun.

GALA has future plans that should be just as fun as the movie. This includes a camping trip with another college Gay group to a point as yet undecided. Students for GALA are always looking for interesting people, so if you are one of the above, please check GALA out. If you aren't, please, by appointment only, remember?



# Books

## Lobbying for Freedom in the 1980's

by Loralee MacPike

*Lobbying for Freedom in the 1980's*—Edited by Kenneth P. Norwick; Perigee Press, 1983, \$6.95.

This book is absolutely basic to an understanding of the major political issues of the 1980's and how to marshall the most effective individual campaigns to protect our basic human rights.

The first section contains chapters on how the legislative process works and how to do effective lobbying. Included are names and addresses of organizations involved in lobbying and in legislative analysis.

The second section includes chapters on reproductive rights, women's rights, Gay rights, drug laws and censorship. Each chapter gives a brief censorship. Each chapter gives a history of its topic, reviews all pertinent legislation and its relation to constitutional guarantees, outlines the specific legal and moral issues involved and gives suggestions on how to influence legislation on that particular topic. The section of Gay rights devotes itself to a legal rather than a social history — no Stonewall information here — but includes every major facet of the Gay rights struggle in the '80s; it

also avoids the common tendency for materials written by Gay men to assume that homosexuality is basically a male issue. For this reason, the book's material on Gay lobbying is fully accessible to Lesbians as well.

Finally, the third section is a veritable encyclopedia of facts about state legislatures, extensive bibliographies of court decisions and source materials, listings and addresses for organizations devoted to each of the topics covered in the second section, state agencies for women's rights, a chart of the nation's marijuana laws and an extensive sampling of materials for citizens who want to do lobbying, including letters to the editor, letters to governors and legislators, press releases and press conference outlines, petitions, resolutions, public awards and testimony before public bodies.

All of this information is beautifully and simply written, directly presented, and entirely non-sexist, non-racist, non-classist, non-ageist, non-heterosexist. With this book you could mount an impressive lobbying effort for very little money. It is a sourcebook no politically conscious person should be without today.

—reprinted from *Lesbian News*

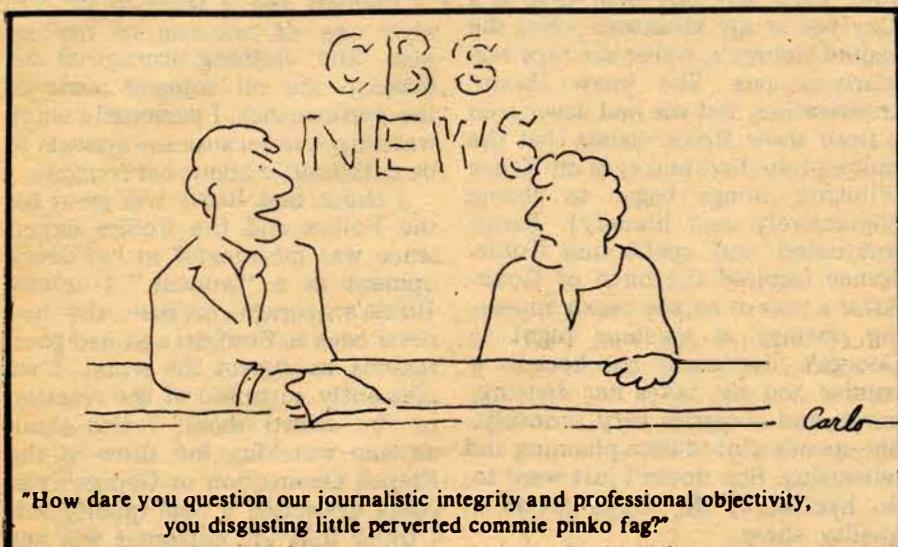
## He Ain't Heavy, He's My Lover

Alternate Publishing has announced that the newest in their line of original trade paperbacks is Carlo Carlucci's devastatingly witty book of cartoons, *He Ain't Heavy, He's My Lover*, which will be released in time for the 1983 Christmas season.

The author, cartoonist Carlo Carlucci, has selected over 130 of his favorite works, including the monumental "War Between the Machos and the Sissies" —itself probably

one of the most original looks at social differences in Gay lifestyles. While some of the individual cartoons have appeared in Gay publications as varied as *The Advocate* and *Drummer*, the majority of these insightful and clever pieces have never been seen before.

*He Ain't Heavy, He's My Lover* by Carlo Carlucci; Alternate Publishing 1983; 136 pages, trade paperback, \$4.95.



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## STAINED GLASS



by Judy Powell

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## Unzipped/Enemy — New Male Erotica

*Unzipped A Novella and Six Short Stories* by John Coriolan. Gay Sunshine Press, 1983, 160 pp, \$7.95 quality paperback.

*Enemy* a novel by Robin Maugham. Gay Sunshine Press, 1983, 160 pp, \$7.95 quality paperback.

By Robert Friedman

Perhaps there has never been a time when the particular charms of male erotica were so direly needed, as these days. *Unzipped*, John Coriolan's new collection of stimulative prose, is full of eroticism; the stories' effect, once expectations of character, plot and dramatic action are sheerfully disavowed, is inevitable arousal. The stories are like the drawings by Tom of Finland which grace the volume; large, loving, clear.

The novella which dominates the collection, *The E-V*, starts as a locker room fantasy. Its protagonist, Vin, becomes involved with the events at a sex club. The exhibitionist-voyeur motif is suitably chosen; the reader watches the goings-on in this book just as Vin watches the endless parade of acts at the E-V Club. There is no doubt what fantasy Coriolan grooves on; the quest for physical contact drives his characters. Boy A desires Boy B, fantasizes about having sex, and achieves his desire.

As story vehicles, the Coriolan pieces are somewhat uneven, as you would expect when the characters are mainly transports for their respective penises. But the stories are easy to dip into, and, with every page very stimulating, it's pretty easy to find "the good parts." In addition, Coriolan periodically comes up with a surprising small gem; an unusual or interesting way to describe the action that represents a dramatic departure from the usual jargon.

This is a good time to evaluate just what it is in our sexual fanta-

sies which excites--whether they necessarily include the need to dominate, or whether they can be basically construed as "showboating" (Coriolan's term for exhibitionism) and appreciating. *Unzipped* shows the potential wealth of the latter. As one man says on the last page, "Sometimes these days that's really all I want to do--appreciate and help. It sounds so passive that I don't think I'd ever have had the nerve to admit it out loud if you hadn't told us you felt that way once."

*Unzipped* is, in the final analysis, sweet and naive; every man gets his dreamboat, every boy gets his ultimate desire. In contrast, Robin Maugham's last novel, *Enemy*, also put out by Gay Sunshine, is considerably more bittersweet. This fictional account of an English and a German soldier who confront each other while each is lost in battle is understated and restrained regarding matters sexual. The chronicle of the soldiers' short relationship, as it travels from fear and distrust to love and affinity, serves comment on more modern, liberated male-male relationships. A note appended to the end of the novel informs us that the author drew upon an incident from his life for his last novel. Maugham, author of *The Boy From Beirut*, is the nephew of the late, great novelist Somerset Maugham. His short novel, a weave of flashback, is a quick read.

*Unzipped* and *Enemy* can both be ordered directly by mail for the cover price + \$1.00 postage/handling per book, from Gay Sunshine Press, P.O. Box 40397, San Francisco, CA 94140. They are also available at most bookstores with Gay sections. A free list of current titles is also available from the press in return for a stamped self-addressed envelope.

# It's Hard to be a Woman — Especially When You're A Man

by James Stanley

The debate raged back and forth between the audience at the Confetti Follies. Everyone had an opinion. Who cares if its Ella Fitzgerald live or on Memorex; is Roxie Bleu a man, woman, or unidentifiable species? Most of the crowd at the \$10,000 Follies had never seen a female impersonator before. They'd never seen a floor show at a Gay bar. And nobody had ever intrigued and puzzled Confetti like Roxie Bleu did.

The regular competition lasted four weeks. The contest was billed as "what would you do for \$10,000 in five minutes." The weekly winners and the runners-up returned on Tuesday the 12th of October for the \$1000 prize and the right to compete in the Confetti national finals. Roxie didn't advance to the finals because of the judge's decision; however most people there felt that Roxie was their choice. The audience's reception to her act was amazing.

The Follies had already begun when Roxie auditioned for a spot in the second week's show. She admitted that she was somewhere between leary and paranoid about how the crowd might react. This was her first performance before a "straight" audience. Her introduction at Confetti was "Here's Mr.

Roxie Bleu, the prettiest boy in town." They could have run her out of the bar on a rail. They could have tarred and feathered her. They could have waited outside for her and broken every bone in her cute little body. Luckily for Roxie, their reaction to her act was tremendously positive.

She wore a black leather outfit and mimed the Joan Jett song, "I Love Rock and Roll." Most of the crowd probably thought she was Joan Jett. She looked like more of a woman than Joan. A close associate of mine was present the week that Roxie took first place. He revealed that he heard several people behind him arguing over Roxie's true gender. He heard remarks also like, "That woman can really dance. This lady is the best dancer I've ever seen." I think that many people didn't hear the emcee's introduction for her and therefore had no reason to think they weren't watching a woman.

Roxie received a \$300 prize for efforts that night. The money was used for brakes to remove her car from the spot it'd been parked in for three months! Although the cash was wonderful, the real reward was emotional. Her self confidence and esteem rose to an all-time high. She has competed in four female impersonation pageants, including being crowned Ms. George's. But



Roxie Bleu.

this was different. This was not a Gay bar.

I'd been told that she'd appear at 8:30, the first act after the intermission. I arrived at 8:20, and I promise that I heard men and women asking each other if Roxie would appear. Her appearance two weeks earlier was somewhat legendary among the Confetti faithful. The audience went nuts as they heard the first bars from the song. Roxie disappointed no one. She ran onstage with a new prop, a small red electric guitar. The audience proceeded to get crazy and the energy level was so high that I thought she would have to come back for an encore. I don't think that these people were anticipating Roxie as much as an exciting experience which would be new to most of them. She definitely provided uniqueness.

My original intent after witnessing this event was to report what happened. However, after speaking at some length with Roxie after the show, I decided to interview her to learn more about her.

At our recent meeting, she offered information including the following: Roxie is a 21-year old native of Mississippi who moved to Memphis four years ago. She first went to a Gay bar at age seventeen when she visited George's, where she now regularly appears. She knew about transvestites, but she had never seen a floor show. Roxie claims that the moment she first laid eyes on Renee Williams, things began to change (figuratively and literally). Renee infatuated and spellbound Roxie. Renee inspired the birth of Roxie. After a year or so, she began appearing onstage at amateur night at George's. Eventually she became a regular and she takes her dancing, mime and theatrics very seriously. She spends a lot of time planning and rehearsing. She doesn't just want to do her show, she wants to do a quality show.

Roxie enjoys the performing situ-

ation she presently finds herself in, but the Confetti appearance was important to her as a test of her femininity. She obviously passed the test and related that she doesn't understand why she turned out male. She recalls wondering at the age of eight whether she was a man or a woman. She can't pinpoint any particular reason for the confusion. She feels that the confusion has long since been solved. Basically she thinks she is a woman whose body was created with certain male characteristics. She simply denies to the extent possible the existence of her maleness.

Roxie enjoys her femininity. Her ambition is to be a female fashion model. I don't see any reason why that couldn't happen (depending on the outfit she's modeling). She spent a great deal of time discussing the influence and impact Renee had on her. She misses working with her. Roxie regards any song she performs as a different challenge. The tone and mood Roxie feels from the song dictates how she will try to communicate with her audience. She particularly enjoys a slow, moving number where the dancing is less important than the dramatics. Roxie has a sincere interest in theatrical projects.

Fashion and a sense of modern style are of meaning to her act also. The clothing, accessories and makeup are all integral parts of the performance. I personally enjoy watching her because she appears to be enthusiastic about her routines.

I think that Roxie was great for the Follies and the Follies experience was meaningful in her development as a "woman." I admit Roxie's courage because she had never been to Confetti and had good reasons to expect the worst. I was pleasantly surprised at the reaction of the crowd there. I also think anyone watching the show at the French Connection or George's can come expecting a high quality act. I think that the customer will get what he came for.



## An Interracial Gay People's Organization

### NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

- Thurs., Nov. 3 — Action Committee Meets 7:30; Bylaws and Standing rules  
Tues., Nov. 8 — C/R Support Group: 7:30 Bylaws Review 8:00 "Relationships with our Fathers and Mothers — Past and Present"  
Sat/Sun. Nov. 12/13 — Visit with BWMT/Atlanta (travel)  
Sat., Nov. 19 — C/R Support Group 5 pm: "Membership in BWMT and Same Race Dating" (Bring munchies)  
Thurs., Nov. 24 — 2nd Annual BWMT Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 7:00 pm: This is a POTLUCK Thanksgiving Dinner — bring enough food for yourself and some friends. CASH BAR.  
Mon., Nov. 28 — General Business Meeting 7:30 pm: Main Library Meeting Room A. Agenda: Elections, Christmas Holiday activities, Convention '84 plans.

Watch for news of our BIG, HAPPY, HOLIDAY PARTY — Coming in December.  
For Information on the above activities, Call 274-0532 (Joe) or 276-4160 (Irwin) or Write Black and White Men Together/Memphis, P.O. Box 41773, Memphis, TN 38174.

We are one of 28 chapters in the U.S., Canada, England and Brazil. The international Association of Black and White Men Together is the world's fastest growing Gay organization.



# Ask the Duchess

## How to Start a Conversation

Dear Duchess, You may not can help me, but it is a cheap way to get advice.

My problem is a trick with a live-in lover. I do not want to break this relationship up. I just want his d-k, but he is afraid that would interrupt his relationship.

Can you please tell me how to get in his pants:

I'll start with just one good b---j on this guy. —Duke

Dear Duchess, I am very lonely and would like to meet some new people, not necessarily for sex...just as friends. I've often gone to bars but have trouble starting conversations with people. Do you have any tips on starting conversations without people thinking you're hitting on them.—Al

Dear Al, Come-on lines and introductory conversation in the bars differs very little. (I guess that is one of the hazards of the bar scene.) Many people have strong, straightforward come-on lines, while others have the general, "Do you come here often?" line. With the more general lines, it is difficult to distinguish whether the person is trying to make a hit or just pleasant conversation.

The only tips I can suggest are: Don't come on strong, don't center the conversation around sex, don't get too personal, don't criticize, and don't let the conversation be dominated by "I." Introduce your conversation on neutral grounds: "Wasn't Michelle's number just great," "Have you been next door to the gift shop," "What do they have back there in the leather shop," "Do you shoot pool or shuffleboard?" Continue the conversation on neutral subjects for awhile. After a short time, you'll find out whether the person wants pleasant conversation or if he's just there for a trick.

### Chest or Breasts?

Indianapolis, IN (*Equal Time*)—William Eads, a 30-year-old male go-go dancer who is undergoing sex-change treatments, has been acquitted of public indecency after being accused of baring his "very well-developed breasts" to an undercover police officer.

In deciding the case, Judge Toni Cordingly declared, "The dilemma is whether a person the state attempts to prove is a man can have female breasts."

The undercover officer said Eads whom he paid \$20, performed in women's clothes, then bared his "breasts." Eads' attorney, John Lawson, said the state considered Eads a man for purposes of prosecution and the law does not forbid a man to bare his chest. The judge, however, did find Eads guilty of dancing without a license and fined him \$25.

Dear Duke, Sex is a two-way (sometimes three, four, etc.) personal exchange. Sex, no matter how impersonal it may be, is the giving of oneself to another by choice, unless it is rape.

A vast majority of Gay people believe in monogamy once they have entered into a relationship. If you are not expecting anything in return and he is aware of this, evidently this person believes in monogamy.

He wants to give of himself something that is very personal only to the man he loves.

If this is true, I suggest you not push your desires on him or you may find yourself with one less friend.

I cannot in good conscience advise you on how to get into his pants.

*Need advice? Write: Duchess, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.*

# Gazing Back

by Scott Correll

This, the third and final installment of the Memphis Gay history, will concentrate on our people. Statistics tell us that from Day One of Memphis, 10% of the population has been and is Gay (that puts us at approximately 100,000 Gay people in the Memphis metropolitan area. Statistics also tell us that as a whole Gay people are well educated (usually at least a college degree); leaders in art, theatre, music and fashion; responsible, employed; and have buying power. With what statistics tell us, it stands to reason that through the years there have been numerous Gay civil leaders and influential people. Who they are, where they lived and what they did are lost, probably never to surface. But, Gay Memphis, rest assured that somewhere along Memphis' development, Gays have undoubtedly had some indirect, if not direct, influence on the city's destiny. Even with the growing awareness of Gays today, it is still extremely difficult to identify those who are Gay or sympathetic to the rights and needs of Gays.

It has only been in the last 20-25 years that a real Gay history has evolved, and, like anything, early beginnings have so little documentation. So we get many of our facts by interviews, word-of-mouth, and long stories.

Perhaps one of the first groups, if not the first group, to influence the acceptance of Gays was and is the bar owners. Many of the early bar owners were straight. They owned or managed a tavern which evolved into a place where Gay people were allowed to gather without being harassed by the owner; the owners were aware that we had money and could pay for that beer, and, as long as we were paying, they didn't care who or what we did in bed. Today virtually all of Memphis' Gay bars are owned, managed and employed by Gays. All has not been a bed of roses for the bar owners though. This writer cannot think of one bar owner who has been ex-

empted from police harassment. In the early years, many faced weekly harassment from trumped up charges from having more people inside the establishment that the fire marshall said was allowable, to the police actually sitting outside in a squad car, watching a patron going to his car, taking down his license plate number and later harassing the individual. These owners have often had to pay stiff fines to re-open. Sure they were probably paying the fine or giving some under-the-table money so they could continue to make a living, but in a more indirect way, they were saying, "Hey, these people, Gay people, have a right to gather where they please as long as they aren't breaking the law." Today, except for isolated incidents, the only police harassment is prior to and following a mayoral election. Memphis has grown from a one-or-two-bar town to ten bars, two openly Gay retail stores, one Gay-oriented health spa, and one Gay-oriented hotel. Memphis has practically any type or combination bar one would want.

The second group to influence the Gays is the "drag queen." Ten to fifteen years ago, the female impersonators were constantly harassed by the Men in Blue. They were arrested for no reason other than they were wearing women's clothing. (Back then the law stated, and this is paraphrased, that a male impersonating a woman had to be wearing at least one piece of male clothing to avoid arrest). Well, if one was going to impersonate a woman properly, no male clothing could be visible, and at the time of arrest if that individual showed that piece of male clothing, he was arrested for indecent exposure and resisting arrest; therefore, the drag queen had to go along with the arrest. The early drag queens in Memphis, as in every major city, were some of our first civil rights fighters. They were arrested; they had to face the courts; they were harassed; they were among the first to cry, "Hey, let me be me; this is my life; if I'm not hurting anyone else, leave me alone." Who were the early drag

queens and who are they now? The list could fill this issue and then some would probably be inadvertently omitted. But Hey Memphis, we owe them a big thank you for their fights.

The third group to influence the acceptance of Gays is the political. The political/activist groups are the newest to arrive on the Memphis scene. Through the efforts of political organizations such as "The Memphis Gay Activists" and the "Memphis Gay Coalition," formerly the "Tennessee Coalition for Human Rights," the Gay Switchboard has been able to continue its services: *Gaze* was founded; one of the Southeastern Conferences of Lesbians and Gay men was brought to Memphis; solicitation of support has been sought from local, state and federal politicians, support groups have been formed; Gay Pride Week in Memphis is an annual event; and the list goes on. From the members/supporters of these organizations have come Bill Johnson, Associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee, the producers of Lambda Televideo which brings us "Views from 10%" on cable channel 7, and the "Gay Alternative" radio show on Sunday afternoons on WEVL/FM 90.3.

In recent years, local politicians have supported Gay rights issues. In the '79 mayoral campaign between Otis Higgs and the then-Mayor Wyeth Chandler, Otis Higgs sent a representative to meet with local Gays. Mayor Chandler was also invited but declined the invitation. In the '83 mayoral campaign, invitations were sent to the top four candidates. Mayor Dick Hackett declined (which in this writer's mind determined that I want nothing to do with him), Otis Higgs sent a representative (which says to me that he wants our support but doesn't want to be seen with us), John Ford was present but spoke as the stereotypical politician and D'Army Bailey was present and gave full support to the Gay rights issues.

*Future articles will deal in more specifics regarding these incidents and organizations.*

# Tomorrow May Never Come — a short story

by Rose Camille

A friend came out of the mountains one day last week to shop for the machinery she needs to open a restaurant in the Carolinas. Late in the afternoon, making her last stop at a small store off Peachtree Blvd., she entered to find a solitary saleswoman, alone and on the brink of hysterics.

"I came in" said my friend, "just as the woman was having a nervous breakdown. 'oh' she was saying, 'I left him this morning, only I didn't mean to, it's just that, I'm so afraid all the time, I couldn't stand it. I packed my bags, only I left all the cards at home, and now he won't answer the phone. Oh, My God!" my friend said. She wailed, "What have I done? I'm so confused!" and then she dropped her head on the counter and cried, my friend continued.

"So what was I supposed to do? I started calming her down, 'hold on' I said, 'I'll drive you back so you can get your stuff, just tell me where to go, it's okay, you're not alone.' And I took her over there and then we found a place where she can stay right away...I was with this complete stranger for two and half hours!" said my friend, "and you know, that was the FIFTH case of somebody on the brink of going bananas I'd seen, in one day in this city" she said, "I'm telling you, too many people are cracking up."

"What do you expect with the way they talk about nuclear war every five minutes?" I answered.

My friend looked close into me, pointing her lips and squinting through her dark lashes, "People are so afraid" she spoke softly, and crept gradually back to

"and they're putting it all on relationships because there's nowhere else to go with it. God! No partner can stand up to the pressure, the level of stress and frustration people endure and then turn around, hoping that, the one person in their life can make it better. No one person can make the shit out there feel better!"

We held silent a moment, what more is there to say, we had rammed our conversation nose to nose with the brickwall? single most depressing fact of our lives, and of the lives, we are well aware, of most people around us. How do we live, how do we overcome the consistent daily terror the government nuclear arms build-up has forced upon us. Taking a blade of grass, I picked absently through my teeth, she twirled a short lock of hair, eyes focused on a point high in the sky; this moment we made, as we each had learned to do through the course of our lives, our emotional adjustments--hitched our mental suspenders as it were. We look the cold fact of possible war, possible flash annihilation, possible instantaneous pointlessness and final joke on our existance full in the face, we have learned to do that without wincing; and we make a balance with the other things, reaching anew an attitude of hope; faith that positive energies will finally prevail and these wizards of bombs will never let fly. And we run the mental notes about fate inside our minds just to serve as reminders: this is our time, this is our fate, and railing against the fact that we have to deal in times as scary as these in the first place won't do any good at all. Thus we settled ourselves, and crept gradually back to

conversation.

"It's crazy" she said.

"I know."

We've known it's crazy since first we could think, since we found out about it as little babies since we were in the first grade we've known it's crazy. And we've seen the whole society, the way people act in the U.S.A. determined by it.

We don't understand why there is so much about it in the news these days, we don't know, if half of us are scheduled to die in a hot exchange with 'them' in Moscow, we don't know what the war would be fighting for. What possibly could be an issue major enough to warrant this country's aiming to blow key cities of Russia to ashes, what possible reason do 'they' have in Washington for desiring first-strike capability. And what could possibly save the U.S.A. from retaliation. And I wouldn't wish for Russians to die and Americans 'win' how could people live with that, why should anymore masses be killed? Who doesn't know this cold war is insane and grounded simply in greed, nationalist racist paranoia, traditional animosities, traditional methods among traditionally faltering male egos buttressing themselves through their traditionally harrowing dog-eat-dog ways. Only with such much bigger weapons these days. Why should one head of hair much less a countryside be destroyed due to the capricious plans of those short-sighted lechers of office, whose responses are so outdated, who, myopic as they be, jealously grasp seats of power even while the world's complexities far exceed their own imaginable solutions.

"Those damned trigger-happy cowboys" said my friend. "Yeah. Go make yourselves another bomb ya big stupid dicks" says I.

We listened to the bird's early morning song, the rustle of breeze through the new spring bloom popping fresh from every tree and shrub; we enjoyed the air, accepting this sitting on the back porch as wealth, as a gift. While this garden lasts here is one of the most beautiful places in a worldful of beautiful places.

"When there may be no tomorrow" she pondered, "We all get like, 'I've got to do it now!' And we become very impatient when things aren't how we want them - or else you swing the other way and just don't care, about living, dying, nothing. Then there is this whole other 'eat, drink and be merry' scene going down, 'for tomorrow we die', you know. Who can think straight anymore?"

I'd been seeing these syndromes creeping up too. In some ways the new urgency for living looks positive. We can no longer content ourselves with thinking hazily of what we'd like to do in some future time, we understand there may well be no time but now. There is a collective,

individual shift away from procrastination. We learn to act, and discover through experience that changes we bring upon have ways of making us stronger and not less secure. We dance because we are still here and that can sometimes really feel like something to be grateful for, to celebrate. It is awesome living on the precipice, I know, and even a little perversely exhilarating, so many rules getting trashed, masses of experimentation. A new social and political pattern is taking form in the lives of increasingly large percentages of the population while over our heads the old ways run frightfully amok, exciting our adrenalin; we're so strung out on fear, we'll do anything. Crazy times. Because we go home to our beds and we have a way of readying for death when sometimes a surprise thundershower wakes us in the night. The little child's prayer, 'if I should die before I wake', has new meaning in the 1980's.

This is somewhat to live. I try to look at the benefits: if the living is emotionally intensified, maybe earlier death is a fair trade-off. But this is a cosmic question, a philosophy question to be discussed, if you like, over mellow brandy and a warm fire, during time of reflection and leisure. It is not a question to be forced on a public by government policy, an issue made to be repeatedly met alone in the private horrors of each person's imagination. This is a question we might choose to indulge in our human thinking minds sometimes for the fun of it, not a thing to be confronting every living person in their practical daily consciousness. Peace and not much misery, that's all most people want, and not this greedy bloody fighting for the top.

The woman who left him only forgetting the credit cards because it's all become so frantic; another frightened person wanting to live and never knowing when the hammer will fall and bug us out so she goes off half-cocked we all do the conditions make us scatterbrained.

Peaceable people forced to live in a permanent war economy state. We watch, we feel, we are in touch with another truth. Under the glittering electronic face of U.S. society are so many basically kind uncomplicated souls who understand those who live by the sword die by the sword. The weapons of the crazy man have reached beyond every border, any shelter we seek useless if caught in the vicinity of a target. These insane implements they can't stop making, their war facilities set smack-dab in our neighborhood makes us all the caretakers of the tools for murder; while masses rail against war policy they carry on: they force us to live by the sword. The entire population is under a psychological stress equivalent to that of a frontline soldier's; the strain is telling. As my friend said.

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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-heterosexual; 1462 Poplar Ave. Memphis 38104, 274-3550.

Memphis Gay 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 41082, 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

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 Network : movement, feminist; Box 1787, Little Rock, 72203

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

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

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

GREAT Men of Little Rock, an affiliate of BWMT; social, support movement. (510) 374-3217.

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

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

### Media

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

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

### 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.

# Classifieds

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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.

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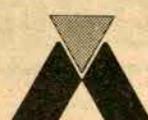
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