News of Interest to the Gay Community

Gaze

FREE!

Volume 5, Number 7 | Memphis, Tennessee | July/August 1984

Small Group Attends Rally — River Ride Sells Out

Memphis — A sell-out crowd of 400 Gay women and men spent the evening of June 30 plying the waters of the Mighty Mississippi on the fifth annual River Ride of the Memphis Gay Coalition. And once again, nature shined on the collection of Gays aboard the Mississippi Queen III.

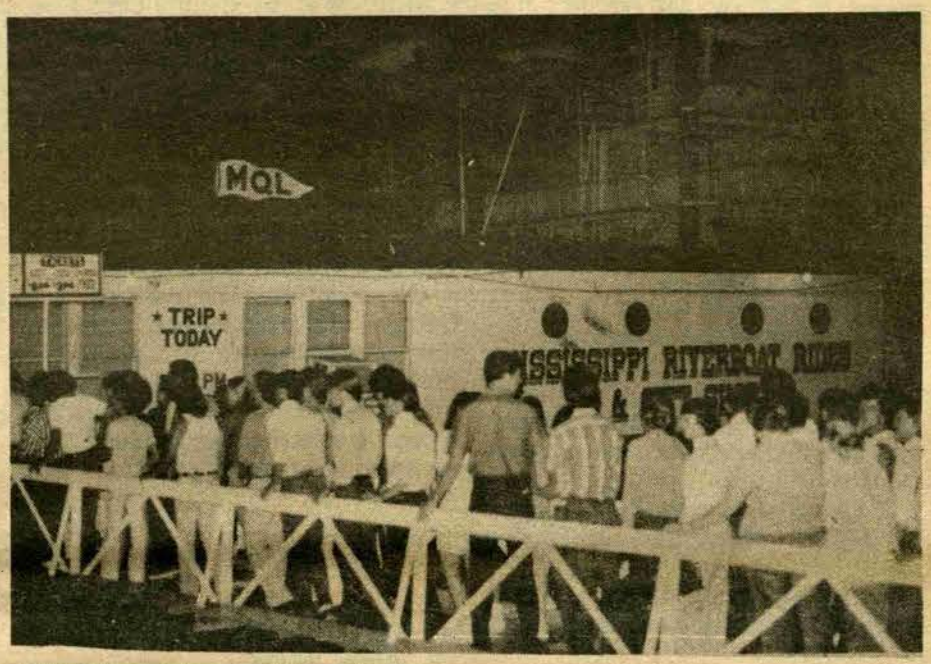
Boarding at 8:30 pm, many of the group came directly from the Gay Pride Rally held prior to boarding in Court Square in downtown Memphis.

Eddie Sandifer of the Mississippi Gay Alliance was this year's keynote speaker. Sandifer called on Gays to form coalitions with other human and civil rights organizations. He noted that just because we are fighting for Gay rights doesn't mean that we should ignore other issues.

The theme of this year's rally was "Unity and More in '84."

Other speakers included Linda Dolbi, State President of the National Organization for Women; Ric Sullivan, president of the Memphis chapter of the ACLU, and Vincent Astor, representing the Gay Political Caucus and the Human Rights Campaign Fund's "SOS '84" campaign.

A group of about 50 gathered in the shadow of the Porter Building and the statue of Hebe to hear the speakers. Portions of the rally were videotaped for presentation in August on cable channel 7's "Views from 10%."



Jail Can't Segregate Gays Without Hearings

Memphis — A federal judge ruled June 29 that the Shelby County jail cannot segregate Gay prisoners against their will without giving them a hearing first.

In a 16-page ruling, Judge Odell Horton ruled that even though Gay inmates are often segregated for their own protection, "they are entitled to some procedural due process in the form of a classification ruling."

The decision is the result of an April lawsuit filed by 12 inmates in the county jail who claimed constitutional rights infringement resulting from their segregation from the general prison population. They claimed that since they were segregated, the jail often ran out of food for them since segregated prisoners were the last to be fed. In addition, they claimed mental and physical cruelty as the result of limited exercise and association opportunities.

According to articles in the *Commercial Appeal*, the Gay inmates were segregated for their own protection against sexual harrassment and abuse.

Judge Horton affirmed the jail's right to segregate prisoners under certain conditions, if jailers could justify their decision. However, he also said that the Gay inmates who are segregated should be allowed to participate in as many jail programs as possible which are available to other inmates. Judge Horton said that each case involving segregated inmates should be reviewed frequently and such segregation should not be considered permanent.

In releasing his decision, Horton did not award monetary damages, but asked jail officials to submit a proposed plan for conducting a classification hearing for its Gay inmates within 30 days.

Thanks for the Vacation!

This issue is the combined July/August issue which is generally delayed to include Gay Pride activity coverage and to provide the staff some much needed relaxation. Our next issue will be published August 24.

Gaze Name May Change

Gaze is being forced to change its name.

In a surprising move June 29 (during Gay Pride Week), Bill Johnson, former editor of *Gaze* and director of the ACLU office in Memphis, essentially told the editors of *Gaze* to get a new name for the publication. Apparently, Johnson owns the copyright on the current name and is withdrawing permission for its use.

In a letter to editors John Stilwell and Allen Cook, Johnson states, "I will be moving out of state this fall, and because I own the copyright for *Gaze*, I must ask you to obtain your own copyright. This will necessitate a name change and an application for copyright under a new name.

"I request that this be done as quickly as possible, but it is necessary that it be in effect by the time you publish the October issue," Johnson continued.

Gaze began publishing in December 1979 under Johnson leadership which continued for 3 years. Johnson abandoned the newspaper after the November 1982 issue citing weariness. "I guess I am just tired," he wrote in a rambling editorial. "I realized last weekend that I had no time for my friends. I also realized that I didn't have many friends. I had not had the time to have them."

Since that time Johnson has virtually abandoned any association with two other local Gay organizations he helped organize. Once influential with the Memphis Gay Coalition and the Memphis Gay Political Caucus, Johnson dropped out of both of them.

"I sincerely regret that he has done this," said Allen Cook, current co-editor. "We wrongly assumed that the newspaper's name was copyrighted by the Memphis Gay Coalition. The newspaper has never been a private enterprise. If Bill (Johnson) wants to be so petty as to withdraw permission to use the name *Gaze*, I suppose we will have to comply." Cook indicated that verification of the copyright is underway and a new name to be copyrighted by the Memphis Gay Coalition will be forthcoming.

"*Gaze* would never have existed in the first place had it not been for the Memphis Gay Coalition," Cook said. "It has always been listed as a publication of the MGC. We want to make sure that this kind of thing never happens again," Cook concluded.

Gazing

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

An Accident of Birth

By Allen Cook

The incredible logic of the federal government often defies explanation. Take two instances which happened this past month as examples.

After arduous debate and many political maneuverings, Congress passed a bill which would allow illegal aliens who have been in this country longer than three years to stay. Most of these folks sneaked into the country, mostly across remote, unguarded borders.

Richard Longstaff, an Englishman, entered this country 20 years ago complete with passport, visa, etc.; subsequently set up a business in Texas; and has lived as a productive member of the American society. He is being deported. Why? Because he is Gay. The government says that he was Gay twenty years ago and lied on his entrance questionaire.

Twenty years ago, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) had a policy which, in effect, classified homosexuality as a mental defect. Mental defectives are prevented from entering this country. "Are you a homosexual" is a routinely asked question of any foreigner who seeks admission. However, a few years ago, the Public Health Service, the agency responsible for screening people with potentially communicable diseases, etc., refused to certify homosexuals as "mental defectives." Armed with that fact, all any Gay person had to do to enter the country was to deny being Gay. The PHS certainly wasn't going to challenge their statement.

But woe be to anyone who was found later to be Gay. They would and will be deported. The Catch-22 seems to be this. If you deny being Gay, you are acceptable. If you hedge, or are found later to be Gay, you face possible deportation.

Consider also the case of Boy George, the eclectic lead singer of the group Culture Club. A great deal of speculation has centered on the question of his Gayness. In recent weeks he has revealed that he has had homosexual affairs, but vows he is "bi-sexual." Sure. Probably the only reason he has skirted the issue (pardon the pun), is because of the potential effect of the INS rulings. Can you seriously imagine the U.S. government formally opposing Boy George's entrance into the U.S. on the basis that he is a "mental defective"?

Gay Americans are often complacent about the laws regarding Gay people. Time and time again, I hear of people who fail to get involved because the issues do not directly impact on them. This is true not only of the Gay community but generally. Realistically, when one Gay person endures unfair discrimination, we all do. Or at least we all have the potential to endure it. So what if the law is virtually ignored. As we see in the Longstaff case, it can be instituted anytime the authorities care to against anyone by whom they may feel threatened.

Another example is the so-called sodomy law. It also is rarely enforced in consensual situations. That is, if the parties do it in the privacy of their own bedroom. In such a situation, it is highly unlikely they would be hauled off to jail and be publicly ridiculed. So why have that law on the books in the first place? The only possible reason is to have it there in case someone needs it. Need I ask who?

(Incidentally, there have been rare cases where consensual partners have been charged with sodomy after having been seen in their homes through an open window. I doubt seriously if there is a case on record of someone having been charged with fornication (also against the law in many states) in similar circumstances.

What we have here is a gross impingement on the civil rights of Gay people. Those of us who work publicly get incensed by things like the Longstaff case because it is so unfair. It brings home the point that the only reason we are welcome here is because of an accident of birth.

A Gay Community Center

by Allen Cook

The state of Tennessee has recently passed a law which increases the legal drinking age from 19 to 21. A federal law which provides penalties to states which do not raise the drinking age has passed Congress and been signed by the President.

Legally, at least in Tennessee, a 19-year-old can still drink as long as he has attained that age by August 1, 1984 or if he or she is in the military. A lot of concern is being expressed regarding what is going to happen to those under-agers. Are they going to continue to drink? Will they have their older friends buy them drinks or bottles or six-packs? Will they try to sneak into nightclubs?

Drinking establishments, often hit with the problem of forged ID's are very likely simply going to raise the age of people admitted to their clubs to 21...across the board. They are not going to want to deal with the nightmarish unfairness of letting one 19 year-old in and denying admission to another. So the question for the Gay community, becomes, what is going to be done for the younger Gays?

The question is not new. For years, the Memphis Gay Coalition has been grappling with the issue. Afraid of the "recruitment" accusation from the straight community, not even a Gay Youth rap group has been instituted. It is felt that any such group would need an "above reproach" leader...a clergyman, a psychologist or the like. No one dares touch the subject.

What the Gay Community needs is a non-alcoholic venue for Gays to meet in a safe environment. Such a place would provide a needed service not only to the under 21 group but to any Gay person who does not like alcohol.

What this Gay community needs is a Gay Community Center. A place which could serve as a non-alcoholic bar on the weekends and a meeting place for Gay community groups during the week. It could be rented out for private parties where liquor or beer could be served. Sound impossible? If you answer is "yes", then you are engaging in negative thinking.

I'm not so naive to believe that there would be no problems. Such a place would have to be squeaky clean. No liquor. No drugs. No backrooms. Just a place where Gay people could meet one on one, dance to the music, enjoy Gay life, develop relationships and generate positive energy.

Such a place could conceivably house the MCC, provide meeting space for Gay service organizations, a place to hold benefits to support Gay services in the community. The list is endless . . .

But would it work? That's a question I can't answer. Should we try? The answer is a resounding YES!

The Memphis Gay Coalition is currently conducting a feasability study into the possibility of a community center such as the one described above. The Coalition welcomes your comments and input as well as your volunteer help. This could be the most ambitious and significant project the group has ever undertaken. We urge anyone interested to write Box 3038, Memphis, Tennessee 38173-0038 or call the Memphis Gay Switchboard (726-GAYY) to express your support.

Gaze

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

Gaze is nonprofit and produced by volunteers. We assume no liability for claims made by advertisers. Appearance in this publication is no indication of sexual orientation or identity. We welcome materials submitted by readers but reserve the right to edit or reject such materials. Subscriptions are $8 per year to cover mailing costs. Gaze is published monthly by the Memphis Gay Coalition.

Co-Editors:
John Stilwell-Allen Cook

Staff Writers:
Charlie McMullen, Houston Butler, Carole Taylor, Timothy James, Jeff Thompson, Bob Dumais

Syndicated Features
Dr. Harvey Thompson, M.D., Rev. Larry J. Uhrig, Max Angst, Bruce Billings

Nashville Correspondent:
Jeff Thompson

Nashville Reporter:
Timothy James

Typesetting & Layout:
Allen Cook, Bob Dumais, Cecil McLeod, John Stilwell

Circulation:
Cecil McLeod, Jeff Thompson, John Stilwell, Timothy James, Bob Dumais

Advertising Information:
(901) 454-1411

National Advertising:
Joe DiSabato
Rivendell Marketing
666 Sixth Avenue
New York, NY 10010 (212) 242-6863

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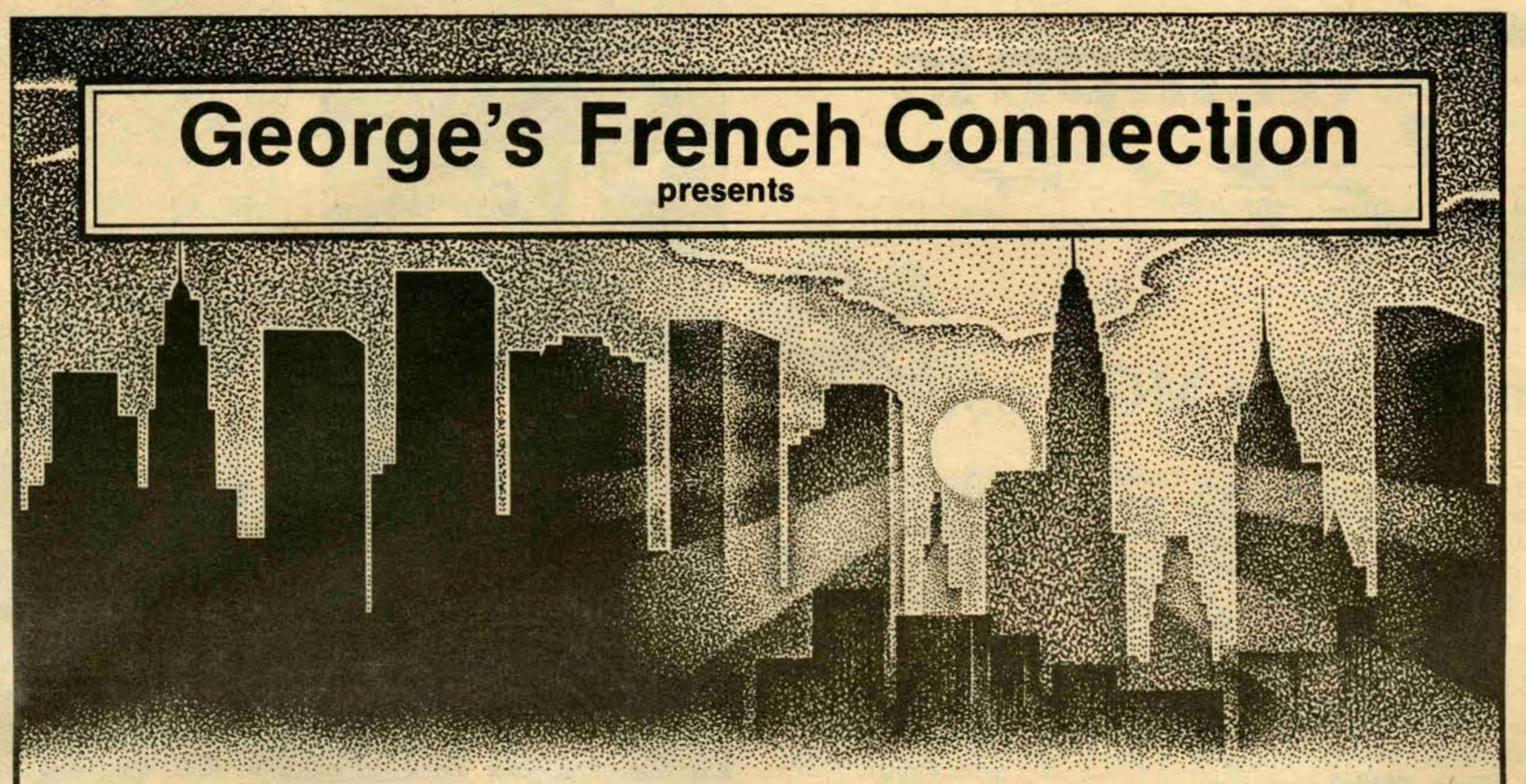

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MISS GEORGE'S

Special Program for the evening start[redacted] 10:30

Memphis

Benefits Net MGC $900

In a flurry of benefits during Gay Pride Week, the Memphis Gay Coalition received $900 for its operations including the Gay Switchboard and *Gaze* newspaper.

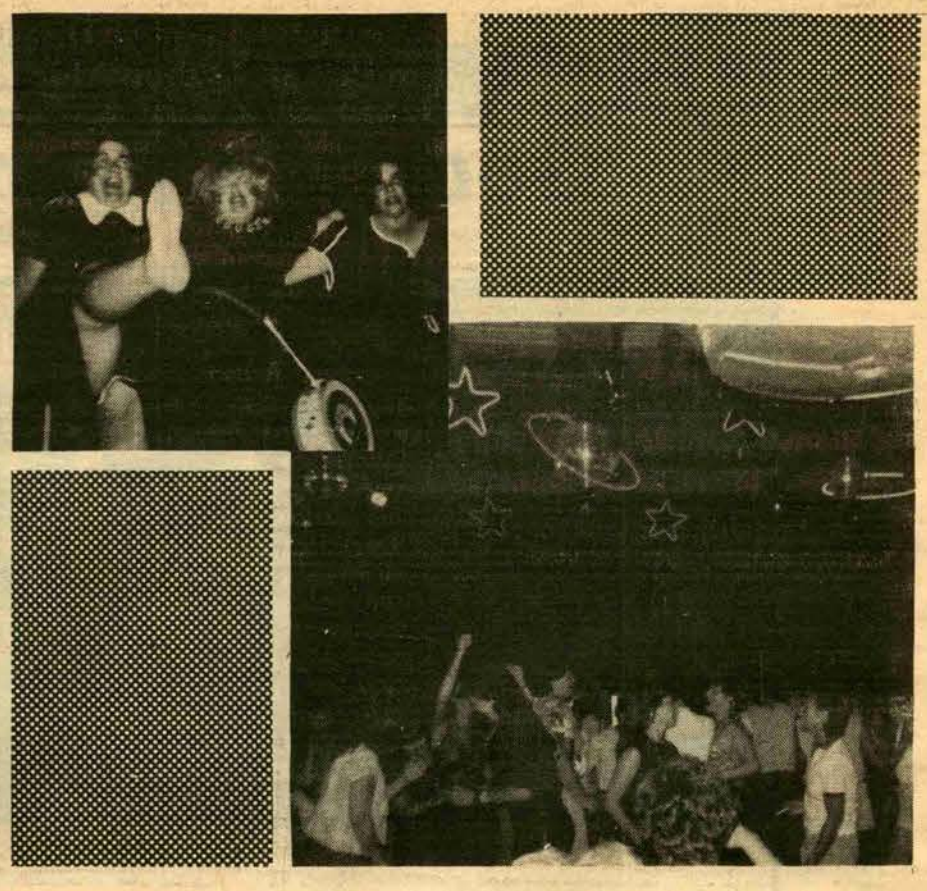
The first benefit, on the evening of the Gay Pride Picnic (June 24) was put on by Ladies Plus, a new Gay service organization. Last month, Ladies Plus staged a benefit for the Metropolitan Community Church which resulted in a $500 donation. Their second benefit, a bring-your-own-cooler party staged at the Psych Out II resulted in a $700 donation to the MGC.

The occasion marked the first time three Memphis bar owners appeared on stage at the same time. The finale, "Lookin' For a City", featured Sharon Wray (The Eighth Day), Gigi Parola (The Pendulum), and Barbara Pierce (P.W. Bumps) in a rowdy number that had to be seen to be believed. The Psych Out II, closed since early spring, was opened especially for the event by Sharon Wray who donated the space. The crowd of about 150 paid $2 at the door and tipped heavily during the show.

A second benefit, organized by "Leslie Carter" was held across the street at George's on Wednesday, June 27. That benefit, for the Gay Switchboard, featured Blue Crystal, Lady Astor, Crystal Stevens, Sharon Cabbot and the host Leslie Carter. About 100 people attended the show which featured a production number ("There Is Nothing Like a Dame") dedicated to the members of Ladies Plus and featuring five Switchboard volunteers. Another highlight of the show came when the Lady Astor did her inimitable imitation of Lily Tomlin's "Ernestine" answering the Switchboard. Responding to a caller, Ernestine asked, "Sir, are you experiencing respiratory problems?"

Both benefits were unsolicited by the Memphis Gay Coalition. They arose from individuals and organizations which saw the need and mobilized their efforts to meet that need.

MGC officials expressed appreciation for the efforts and promised that the money would be well spent.



Top: Bar owners Sharon Wray, Eighth Day (left), Gigi Parola, The Pendulum (center), and Barbara Pierce, P.W. Bumps (right) perform a number at the benfit organized by Ladies Plus for the benefit of the Memphis Gay Coalition's Gaze and Gay Switchboard. Below: The audience of about 150 dances after the show.

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TQM Float Highlights Cotton Carnival

It didn't make it on TV or win a prize, but The Queen's Men made quite a splash at the Cotton Carnival parade this year.

As you may remember, TQM became an official Carnival krewe this year and as such was invited to participate in the grand parade. From all reports, their participation was an all-around success.

The 10 by 29 foot float was decorated according to this year's theme, "King Cotton Goes to the Movies." The Queen's Men chose "The Phantom of the Opera" as their float theme.

Sporting hand-made and decorated costumes made of felt, about 10 members rode the float throughout the parade tossing the krewe's dubloons to the eager crowd.

Apparently because of the length of this year's parade (it was teamed with the Cotton Maker's Jubilee Parade), Channel 30 was forced to cut short its coverage after about 90 minutes. This resulted in the tail end of the parade being missed by those watching at home.

No prizes were awarded this year because it was determined that some of the judges were not present for the whole parade.

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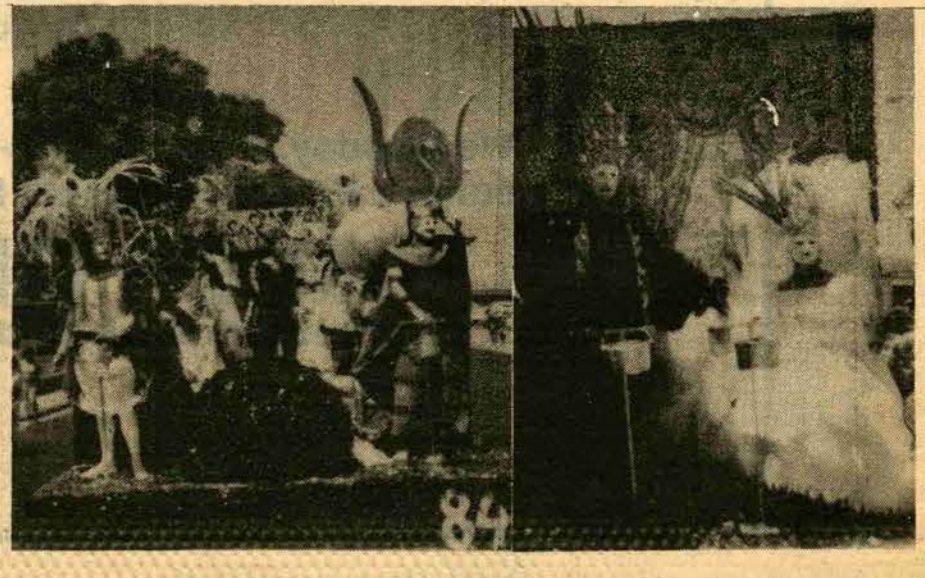

June 19, 1984

Mr. Wayne Newsome
523 Malcomb St.
Memphis, TN 38112

Dear Wayne:

Cotton Carnival '84 was a tremendous success and I would like to personally thank you and your organization for your involvement and contribution toward making this year one of the best.

Your participation in the Grand Parade was outstanding! Carnival needs more groups such as yours, and with your enthusiasm it should encourage other people to know that Carnival can be fun.

We are looking forward to Carnival '85 and appreciate your efforts and cooperation in making it truly a citywide celebration. For your professional assistance and support, my sincere thanks.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Trippeer
President

RAT:hw

Memphis Cotton Carnival Association Mid-South Fairgrounds/1060 Early Maxwell Blvd./Memphis, TN 38104/(901) 278-0243

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Spectrum

Miss Gay South Arkansas Pageant Held

by Geoff Johnson and Alan Lane

The first annual Miss Gay South Arkansas Pageant was held on Saturday, June 23rd. The Pageant was hosted at the Star Light Lounge in El Dorado, Arkansas. The Star Light Lounge is the only Gay bar in south Arkansas.

The standing room only crowd was entertained by Maxine Ray, Lady Baranessa, Billy McBride, and Crystal Renee. The mistress of Ceremonies was the "Grand Emporeress of Arkansas" - Tuna Starr.

The Pageant had four contestants: Jennifer Welch from Texarkana, Arkansas/Texas; Gypsy from Camden, Arkansas; Fabrage from El Dorado; and Scarlet Gray from Hampton, Arkansas. The contestants were judged on talent, personal interview, and evening gown.

The Star Light Lounge had only recently been having shows every two weeks. Many thought that would never happen. Then came the Pageant - another first! El Dorado was considered the "Belt Buckle" of the Bible Belt of south Arkansas. Next year's pageant will be even larger and better. There are only four other cities in Arkansas that have Gay bars: Little Rock, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, and Hot Springs.

The contestants elected Jennifer Welch as Miss Congenitality. The judges selected Scarlet Gray as 2nd runner-up, Gypsy as 1st runner-up. The 1984 Miss Gay South Arkansas is Fabrage. The Miss Gay Arkansas Pageant will be held in Little Rock on July 14 and 15.

The Star Light Lounge is open Tuesday through Sunday, 7 pm til. It is located east of El Dorado, off U.S. 165, on the old Calion Road. The Star Light Lounge (formerly the Hideaway) phone number is (501) 863-9701.

PFOG Publishes Pamphlet

Washington, DC— The Washington-based Federation of Parents and Friends of Gays has issued its first publication, a pamphlet entitled "Homosexuality As Viewed From Five Perspectives." Written by Marcia Weitzman, a professional counselor and sponsor of the PFOG chapter in Woodland Hills, CA, the pamphlet consists of a common-sense overview of the way Gay children, parents, families, counselors and communities react to homosexuality.

The pamphlet also includes a three-page bibliography of books and articles. Copies are available for $2.75 from NF/PFOG Library Service, 5715 16th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011. Discounts are available for multiple copy orders.

European Values

Paris, France — The European Value System Study group has released the results of a poll of the moral and social values of nine European countries. The study included attitudes toward homosexuality.

Nearly 12,500 individuals replied to a questionnaire providing 11,000 pages of analysis and 1,125 pages of general conclusions. France scored the highest on all questions with the Netherlands and Ireland following behind.

On a scale of 100 to 1,000 (with 100 being the least tolerant), Holland proved to be the most tolerant on the question of homosexuality with a score of 564, followed by Denmark with 517. Italy and Spain proved to be the least tolerant.

Generally the poll showed that tolerance was highest in areas where religious belief was least strong.

Radical Faeries to Gather

A spiritual gathering of "Radical Faeries" will be held August 31 through September 7 in a secluded nature preserve outside Los Angeles. It is being organized by the LA Star Circle of Faeries, who are inviting Gay men everywhere to attend.

"The faerie movement began several years ago as a quest to find a uniquely Gay spiritual expression," a Radical Faerie spokesperson said. "The faerie movement has embraced Gay men of many interests, including holistic healing, metaphysics, Eastern thought, politics,neo-paganism/goddess worship, and many other things."

Because the gathering will be outdoors, those attending should bring either a tent, sleeping bag or a bedroll. Rain is unlikely but nights may be cool. Three vegetarian meals will be served a day and dishes, eating utensils and a water jug should be brought. There will be showers but electricity may not be available. Pets, drugs and alcohol are discouraged.

The week-long gathering will cost $96. For more information on the Radical Faeries or this faerie gathering, write Star Circle, 4550 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 190, Hollywood, CA, 90027, or call (213) 930-1576.

It's Wilde's Time

San Diego, CA — While some Gays continue to boycott Coors beer, a team of Sacramento Marketers are trying to sell a beer targeted specifically to the Gay market. Named "Wilde's," after Oscar Wilde, the beer is produced at the Pearl Brewery in San Antonio, Texas. According to the *Bay Area Reporter*, the company promises to return 35% of the profit to local Gay service and sports organizations.

In its first test city, San Diego, the Gay brew seemed to encounter some problems from the local Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC). Overzealous agents descended on a neighborhood bar and confiscated its supply of Wilde's. An ABC agent further instructed delivery trucks not to deliver the suds to over 40 bars which had requested it.

An official from the ABC said that Wilde's promoters had not properly filed a notification of their prices and did not sign a "territorial agreement" as required by law, according to *The Empty Closet* (New York).

The beer was back on the shelves by evening of the next day and Wilde's brewers are currently working out their legal problem. Meanwhile, they have announced plans to market the brew nationwide in all Gay bars and restaurants.

New Rights Organization Formed

Washington, D.C. — A group of politically involved Gay men and women, all of whom share a conservative to moderate political philosophy, met on May 14 to discuss the formation of a new national organization to be called the Concerned Americans for Individual Rights.

Almost 100 people attended the meeting, which was held at the home of a Washington lobbyist.

The purpose of the group will be three-fold:

1. To serve as a counter force, primarily within the Republican Party, to the increasingly strident anti-Gay rhetoric of the New Right and the Moral Majority.

2. To conduct public forums and symposiums on issues of importance to the Gay community, primarily to educate and promote a better understanding of Gays and Gay rights issues among Republicans and other moderate to conservative politicians.

3. To provide an additional voice....coming from a more conservative perspective....that could speak out on issues of importance to Gays and Lesbians.

Bruce Decker, owner of the San Francisco-based political consulting firm Cypress Associates, and spokesman for the group, said that "there is a tremendous pent-up frustration among Republican and conservative Gays over the GOP's current direction on this issue."

Decker said that he and many of those present at the meeting are convinced the majority of Gays in this country are not liberals or radicals but moderates and conservatives falling within both major parties.

News of the meeting was picked up by the press, and caused considerable interest in official Washington. Among the major newspapers writing stories about the CAIR organizational gathering were the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.

"We are willing to go anywhere there is sufficient interest to discuss our plans and enlist support," Decker said. "I hope anyone who is interested in helping us will contact me at 415-824-2424, or write to CAIR, c/o B.O. Box 15145, Washington, DC 20003."

As soon as we have enough support lined up to ensure adequate financing for the balance of the year, we plan to name an executive Director and open a full-time Washington office," Decker added.

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TQM Meeting August 12

The Queen's Men will hold a special meeting upstairs at The Other Side, Sunday August 12 at 6:00 PM. Officers of the organization will be elected at this time. Refreshments will include Bloody Marys. Also, videotapes of the 1984 Cotton Carnival Parade float which TQM sponsored and award party will be shown.

Attendees are requested to use the Madison Ave. entrance for the event.

Fatties United

Chicago—Chicago and the American Congress Hotel will be the site of the national meeting for big Gay men and their admirers. The 4th Girth & Mirth Convention will convene over the Labor Day Weekend, August 31- September 3, 1984

The Convention is under the auspices of Chicago Girth and Mirth Incorporated and will offer a series of social activities and program presentations. The meeting's theme is "In pursuit of Girth and Mirth" and features members' responsibility to their community through politics, mass communication and religion. The program also examines personal responsibility as this relates to both physical and personal appearance. The latter subject will be illustrated by a fashion show.

Socially, the Convention offers attendees a large variety of events including a reception, brunch, bar crawl, banquet, various tours and other attractions.

More than 100 representatives from clubs for "big men" are expected to attend. Their registration will begin at 4:00 PM, August 31. Member registration fee is $75 and covers the complete program including three meal functions, entertainment features and all program material. Non-members can register at $90. The $15 differential will give automatic membership in Chicago's Girth and Mirth or can be applied to membership dues in the Girth and Mirth or similar club of the registrant's choice.

For more information write to: Girth & Mirth, Inc., P.O. Box 14384, Chicago, IL, 60614.

Kudzu II

The Leathermen/Atlanta have announced the formation of their first annual run, Kudzu.

The Leathermen/Atlanta have participated in several runs (Atlanta 4-Ways '81 and '82); and held the first single club inter-city run (Atlanta) last year on their 4th anniversary.

This year, the Leathermen/Atlanta will host Kudzu 1 over the Labor Day weekend, August 31 through September 3, 1984, with enduros, bike events, people events, picnics (charcoaled steaks), ballgames (Braves vs. Cubs), tours, poker run, and a send off/wind down party poolside at the Club Baths in Atlanta. Pin and T-shirt included in the package.

Run fees for the 4-day run are $85 until July 31, $95 from August 1 until August 30, and $105 at registration. Limited housing is available on a first come basis.

Clubs are asked to bring colors if available.

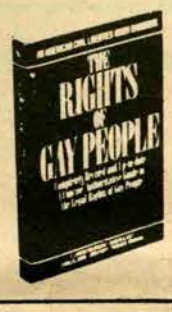
All inquiries may be addressed to: L/A Kudzu 1; P. O. Box 8595; Atlanta, Ga. 30306; Attn.: RAC. Or call (404) 624-3664.

GRNL Calls for Immigration Overhaul

Washington, D.C. — On Tuesday, May 29, 1984, the United States Supreme Court declined to review the case Longstaff v. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Therefore, the decision by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans stands, and Richard Longstaff will not be able to become a U.S. citizen.

When he entered the United States, Longstaff replied "No" to the INS question "Are you afflicted with a psychopathic personality?" In 1952, Congress made "psychopathic personality" grounds for exclusion from the United States, and the INS is using this provision as a basis for keeping aliens who are homosexual or bisexual out of the country. Longstaff, who was born in England, moved to Texas several years ago, and now owns several clothing stores in Dallas and Houston, is being denied citizenship solely on the basis of his homosexuality.

Vickey Monrean, Executive Director of Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), stated, "The Longstaff case clearly demonstrates the need for revision of the exclusionary sections of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Tourists and immigrants can be blocked from entering the United States solely because they are Gay.



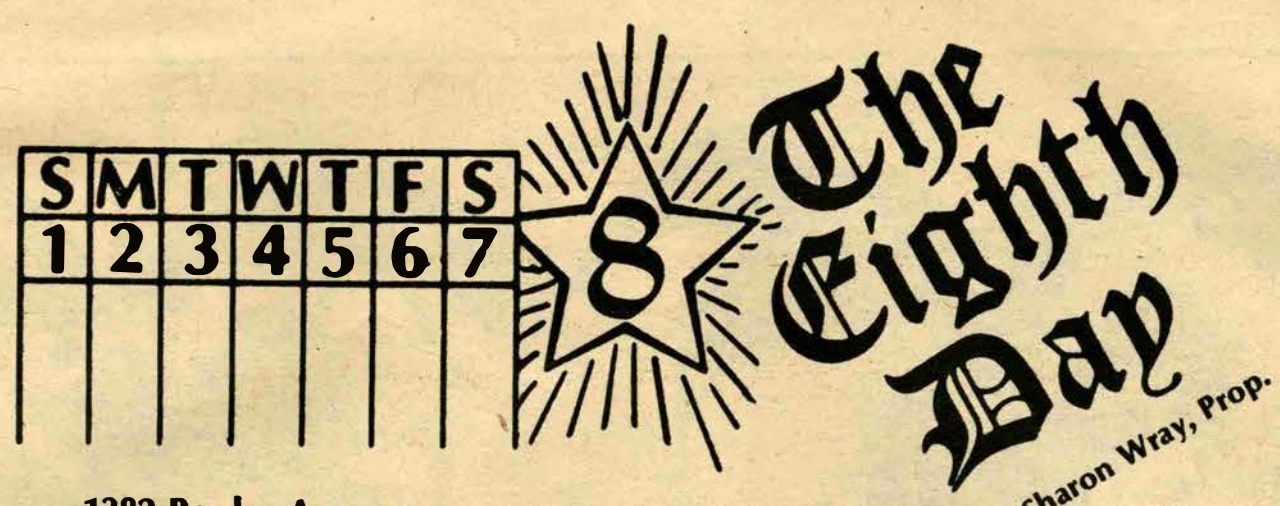
Newly Revised!

THE RIGHTS OF GAY PEOPLE

Thomas B. Stoddard, E. Carrington Boggan, Marilyn G. Haft, Charles Lister, & John P. Rupp

An American Civil Liberties Union handbook describing the rights of gay men and women under present law, the common problems they face and how the laws can and should develop. 208 pp.
To order, send $3.95 plus $1 for postage and handling to: Literature Department, ACLU, 132 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036. Also available from Bantam Books at your local bookstore.

ACLU Handbooks



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Gay Rights Are Civil Rights

by D.E. Pickett

All people are entitled to the basic rights of employment, housing and worship. All people also includes Gay women and men. Self-righteous citizens feel that homosexuals should not have the same rights that they enjoy. I feel that all consenting adults should have all the rights that our heterosexual brothers and sisters are accorded.

Gay rights are truly human rights. If rights for homosexuals are denied or legislated away, whose rights will be done away with next? Perhaps the American Indians will again be denied the rights of all American citizens or maybe it will be deaf people or blind people! Everyone is entitled to the job of their choice — if qualified — the right to worship as Christians. Many of our good citizens feel threatened by homosexuality. They have been indoctrinated to believe that all Gays are bad, that all Gays are interested in converting all straights to their lifestyle. Untrue!! We only want to live a life granted the same rights as everyone else.

Here are some facts that many straights are aware of but few wish to see or admit. Rapes of both males and females are most often perpetrated by straight men. Occasionally they are assisted by straight women. The cases of Gay men and women being raped, beaten, and murdered are not given much publicity because much of the public feels it is just punishment for being Gay. If a Gay man does commit rape and murder, you will hear about it for months. Every television and newspaper will shout the story. This kind of story is used to reinforce the indoctrination of the heterosexual community. They are being taught all Gays are bad, evil, rapists and murderers. If this is the case, then is it not true all heterosexuals are bad and evil because they rape and murder too?

Homosexuality is not a lifestyle of choice but a biological need to live as God created us. Because of public and religious homophobia many homosexuals were forced into a heterosexual lifestyle in which they are miserable. Some have barely escaped the closet with their sanity. Some are still in the closet going quietly and desperately mad. No one in his or her right mind would choose a lifestyle that can and often does cause family and friends to turn away. A heterosexual lifestyle is unnatural for a homosexual. Many straights feel homosexuality is contagious. If it is, why aren't children reared by Gays homosexually oriented?

Some good Christian Ministers argue that the Bible condemns homosexuality. This is untrue and they are being misled. The Bible does not say anything about homosexuality. Homosexual is a word which did not even exist before the 1870's. It was coined by a German psychologist; therefore homosexuals could not have been mentioned in the Bible. What was mentioned was men lusting after men and women lusting after women. The operative word is "lust." I get so terribly tired of ministers preaching that all homosexuals live in sin and cannot be Christians. The Savior of us all Jesus Christ said, "Whosoever believes in me shall not perish but have everlasting life." "whosoever" means everyone not just heterosexuals. How can "good, righteous Christians" presume to sit in judgement on any of God's people?

Those opposed to Gay rights are unable to present a logical, rational argument. The arguments they put forth are strictly emotional and not based on fact. However, the argument for Gay rights is based on truth and logic. If so many people were not indoctrinated to be fearful of Gays and looked around they might realize we are everywhere. In any given city, we are 10% of the population. We are in all professions including the ministry. There may be one of us in your very own family. We are no different than heterosexuals. We have all the same dreams, needs and desires. We want to be accorded the same basic rights as all the other citizens of the U.S.A.

GRNL Director Testifies on Anti-Gay Discrimination Policies

Washington, D.C. — The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law, chaired by Rep. Romano Mazzoli (D-KY), heard testimony from Gay Rights National Lobby Executive Director Vickey Monrean and from National Gay Rights Advocates representative Don Knutson on a bill to reform current immigration exclusionary policy. Introduced by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), H.R. 4509 rewrites the exclusionary categories currently contained in the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act to eliminate those exclusions against Lesbians and Gay men.

"Reform in this area is long overdue," Monrean told the subcommittee. "This policy has advanced no legitimate civic purpose, but has inflicted a considerable degree of gratuitous damage on individuals, families, and society as a whole.

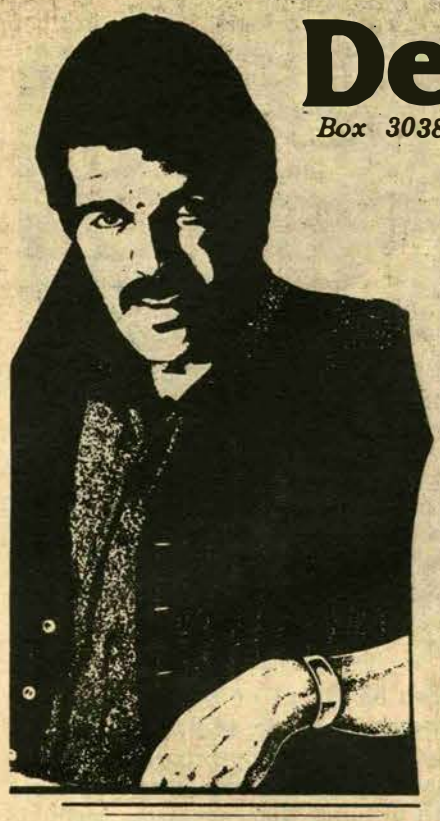
"A previous Congress, caught up in the hysteria of McCarthyism, provided a situation that is morally, politically, and socially intolerable," Monrean concluded. "This sends a message to the Gay community in the United States that it is only an accident of birth that makes us welcome here."

In response to a question from Congressman Frank, Dr. James Mason, Director Center for Disease Control, agreed that the class of medical exclusions in present law needs to be reformed. It is the current medical exclusion that is used to bar the entry of Lesbians and Gay men into the United States. Congressman Frank asked Dr. Mason if the exclusion of Lesbians and Gay men was proper under the medical exclusion category. Dr. Mason answered, "No."

Rep. Frank's bill will face action during next session of Congress.

Dear Butch

Box 3038, Memphis, Tennessee 38173-0038



Relationships Should be an Adventure

DEAR BUTCH: I'm an older man (almost forty) and I have met and fallen in love with a young man (in his mid-twenties). David and I have been seeing each other for several months and have talked about becoming lovers but there is a problem.

David has only been out for about six months and he's very excited about being Gay, going to the bars and having sexual experiences. I don't care for the bars, I'm pretty much a homebody and I'm ready to spend the rest of my life with one man.

David wants to have an open relationship (both of us able to have sex with others) while I prefer a strictly monogamous relationship. I know other people it works for but I have my doubts. But to be fair, I know a lot of people who have "monogamous" relationships and one or both partners sleep around on the sly.

What do you think I should do? —Mono or Poly?

DEAR M OR P: A Gay relationship is a non-traditional relationship yet Gay women and men try to make them work with traditional rules and regulations. What they don't realize is that this is an adventure and each of us has the opportunity to make a better, stronger, longer lasting relationship than any straight relationship if we remember one thing: every relationship is different.

What works for Jack and Joe or Sally and Sue may not work for you and David. You have to set up the rules and regulations and boundaries according to your own personal needs. They have to be something you are both comfortable and happy with. But be careful. The more restrictions and the more rules you build into a relationship, the easier it is for one of you to mess up. You will each need room to grow and change and the relationship needs enough freedom in it to grow and change with you.

As for David, trying to tie him down or restrict his activities may result in him leaving because he feels "trapped." He has to be ready to settle down on his own. However, if you don't feel good about an open relationship, by all means, do not agree to it just to "keep David. You'll only make yourself miserable.

Try to come up with mutually agreeable terms. If you can't, make the most of the love and friendship you share and look for a lover in someone else.

As for those "monogamous" folks you mentioned, feel sorry for them. They have thrown away the most important elements of a good relationship — honesty and trust — and if you don't have that, you don't have anything.

DEAR BUTCH: Three years ago I married Darrell. He is a wonderful man, I love him dearly but I have never been sexually interested in him, although he is a very handsome man.

continued on page 25

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Music

Margie Adam — *Here is A Love Song*

by Charlie McMullen

There is not a better testament to women's liberation than to have such dynamic and talented women, such as Margie Adam, be THE force behind progressive music and its push for change today.

Natural grass roots of progressive culture and the music it inspires is part of the strength that keeps feminist record labels and performers like Adam successful.

Adam feels one of her challenges in writing is to make what seems political into "language of the heart" by creating "an atmosphere in which men as well as women can feel some kind of support for extending and making connections with one another." Margie Adam herself was a reluctant performer. A 1973 appearance at a women's music festival was to be only a showcase of her songwriting for other singers to use. Says Adam, "I think I resisted performing because I had never seen a style I wanted to pattern myself after." Response to her natural style, however, turned immediately into a grass-root support following. There seemed to be a new interest in strong, intellectual, healing music (especially among women) and this gave Adam the impetus to start her own record company. Even an appearance on the Today Show and offers from major record companies do not take away Adam's enthusiasm for alternative work. "I'd love to see a subsidiary company of Warner Bros. take on this phenomenon and use all the machinery it has at its disposal to promote and distribute women's music — powerful, concious artistry. But I'm not holding my breath." Maybe its more noble and natural for a performer to inspire people to talk about issues and the humanity to change the world than to promote hero-worship (Ha!) and $30 concert ticket prices.

Adam's newest album is not overtly political but rather loving in its tone. *Here Is A Love Song* is exactly that — entirely an album of love songs anchored by jazz-fluenced piano — and "her voice which at times evokes Joni Mitchell or Judy Collins." The melodies are voice-inspired, though rooted in the piano, and give listeners the easy feeling that open-voiced singing gives singers — a feeling of flying and contentment such as on the song *Consequences and Time I Spent With You.* A vibraharp and a tenor sax add a twist to the lyrical quality of the music: I literally got an ironic or reaffirming feeling *(You Take My Breath Away, Cook Around You, How Many Ways)*, for the other instrumentals, including Adam's voice. This ironic feel has the same effect that, say vibratto in a voice has on other vocal qualities like range, color, inflection. One quality enhances or reaffirms other qualities like the vibraharp does for the other instrumentals, vibrato does for other vocal parts and the lyrics on this album, though not openly political, enhance the instrumentals and vocals by their subtlety. A unity is achieved here. Love songs with a thread of humanity and progressiveness and a touch of unifying human politics.

Here Is A Love Song is called "state-of-the-art" women's music and that is close to the truth. It is sensitive and concerned and could very well be considered a loving child of its mother, the women's movement.

I'm glad the day is over when artistry, like Margie Adam's, is considered political because it is 'out.' I'm glad the day is here men can be proud of the sensitivity of women's music and learn that the unity invented by progressive music is born of necessity. Subtly, we are all finding that necessity really is the mother of invention or at least the coverer of convention..

MARGIE ADAM

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Hot Wax

by Houston Butler
The Other Side D.J.

Billy Preston is back on Megatone Records with some of his hottest dance music since the early days of "disco." Using breathtaking keyboard wizardry over a high energy beat, he has fashioned the stuff of which comebacks are made.

"And Dance," Side A, is a simple upbeat party song with more R & B influence than you can shake a stick at. With plenty of fun breaks and a catchy hook, it holds together quite well.

"Kick It" has the real punch on Side B of this 12". From the Linn drum introduction right through to the climax of this jazzy funk instrumental, the grooves sizzle. Over the uncluttered beat and bassline, Preston struts his stuff from one hot break to another. Some real nice music incidentally made for dancing.

Top 15

1. WHEN DOVES CRY — Prince
2. AND DANCE/KICK IT — Billy Preston
3. COMING OUT OF HIDING — Pamela Stanley
4. WHEN YOU WALK IN THE ROOM — Ramming Speed
5. LEGS — Z Z Top
6. GO GO YELLOWSCREEN — Digital Emotion
7. HEARTBEAT— Psycodelic Furs
8. BREAKDANCE — Irene Cara
9. I'M THE ONE — Charade
10. LOVE TRAP — Astaire
11. DESIRE — Paul Parker
12. DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME — Yarborough and Peoples
13. RIGHT BY THE MOON — K. Barre
14. THE UPSTROKE — Agents Aren't Aeroplanes
15. WHO'S YOUR BOYFRIEND — Eric

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With Wings Like Eagles

by Rev. Larry J. Uhrig

Rev. Uhrig is the pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, D.C.

A Norwegian tale tells of a boy in the woods who found an egg in a nest, took it home, placed it with the eggs under a goose, and watched until it hatched out: a strange creature with deformed feet, unwebbed and clawlike, that stumbled as it tried to follow the goslings. Its beak was not flat; it was pointed and twisted. Instead of the lovely cream-colored down of its foster family, it had ugly brown plumage. And, to top it off, the tiny bird made a terrible squawking sound.

Then one day a majestic eagle flew over the barnyard, swooping lower and lower until the misfit bird lifted its head and pointed its crooked beak into the air. It stretched its wings and began to hobble across the yard, flapping harder and harder until it caught the wind and flew, higher and higher. It soared away from the barnyard and through the clouds themselves. The awkward barnyard bird had discovered what he was; born an eagle, he had been trying to live like a goose.

Dr. Robert Schuller tells this story in his important book, *Self Esteem*, and it reminds me of many of us who were born eagles and try to be geese. An epidemic sweeps through the Gay Community, one of low self-esteem. The problem is worse than any health issue that confronts us, but gets less concern from the press or the public. When issues of physical health are discussed, for example, many people refer to AIDS as "Gay cancer," as though they are willing to believe that the disease is specifically attached to our community and lifestyle.

Underlying this kind of thinking is an often serious sense of guilt, even an expectation that there is a "curse" on Gay people. I continually hear people buying into that myth that they are necessarily of lower worth because of their sexual preference.

Not long ago, I received a letter from a man that ended like this: "So, let's be clear among ourselves: stable and happy relationships exist, but they are rare, rare, rare. The usual pattern, especially for washed-up, fat, balding, aging Gays is one of solitude, compulsory celibacy, and unrelieved misery." "Unrelieved" was underscored three times. The letter was signed "Unloved Professor."

On a physical, and therefore ephemeral level, the general low self-esteem felt by many Gays expresses itself in our bodies. If we don't feel very good about ourselves, we often try to prove that we are not lovable by making ourselves fat, and by not taking care of our appearance. One observation I can make from my own counselling is that a major barrier to the health of Gay men and women has been turning oppression inward, eating until we are sure that no one wants us.

The real question has to do with our management of all resources. We must take control of all the dimensions of our lives: physical health, money management, mental health, self-esteem. Being liberated means making our own choices, and that means establishing our own standards of acceptible behavior, of goals, success, and worth. How do you feel about yourself? Have you even thought you were worth thinking about, worth spending some time with?

Let us make a conscious attempt to choose health, rather than acceptibility, to embrace our natural selves. Change can occur only after we have met life on its own terms. We must first allow things to be OK, as is, before we have any power to change things.

Accepting the reality of being Gay does not mean accepting anyone's version of what that "has" to mean. We can never accept an image of ourselves from others. We must never buy into that, or allow others to reinforce it. We were born to love ourselves, and we can, and we must.

The healing of our self-esteem is our most important agenda. Too many of us have for too long lived like geese when we were born eagles. We stumble in crowds of people who look at us, thinking that we don't fit.

It is for *us* to affirm ourselves and decide what is "fitting." Not one of us has to stay in an unhealthy place, a bad job, or an unsatisfactory relationship. Not one of us needs to accept condemnation, or to be rejected as "abnormal." We must shed guilt, fear, anxiety and shame, become self-affirmed beings with positive pride in just what we were created to be.

So start to fly! You *can* love yourself; and the truth is that others will never start loving you until you love you.

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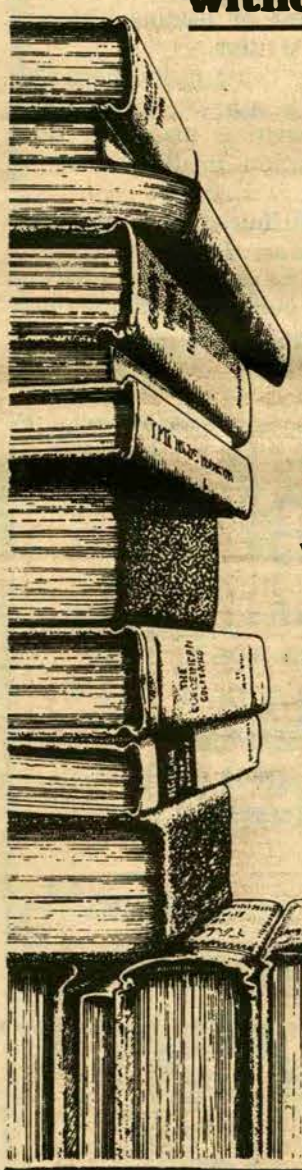


In Washington, there are people who prevent Gays and Lesbians from entering this country.

In Nashville, there are people who think they can control the sexual behavior of consenting adults of any sexual orientation.

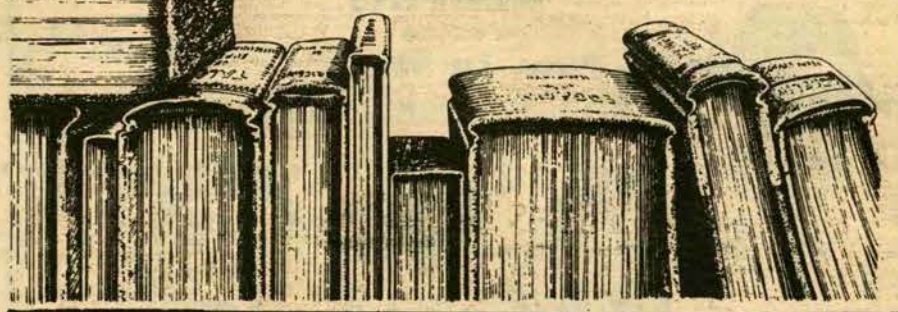
These people have a theory—homosexuality is wrong and can be controlled or eliminated through regressive laws.

They also have a plan of action, enabling them to get their repressive legislation passed.

We also have a theory—men and women are entitled to full protection of their rights regardless of sexual orientation.

And we have a plan of action. With your help, our theory can become fact.

The Memphis Gay Coalition meets the first and 3rd Mondays of each month at the Main Library, Peabody and McLean, 7:30 p.m. Meeting Room B. Join us!



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Books

Two Books for Summer Reading

Knights Press, a new publishing company specializing in Gay fiction, has announced its first two titles, *The Alexandrian Drachma* by Don Harrison and *A Man of Taste* by Clayton R. Graham. Both books are available in trade paperback volumes at $6.95 each, for summer reading.

Harrison's book is a historical romance, set in Egypt in 1831. It involves two Englishmen who journey up the Nile in order to bring back an obelisk as a trophy for their English castle. They end up crossing the desert to search for the lost tomb of Alexander the Great, and find new meaning in their lives. On the way, they meet a rich assortment of characters, find a mysterious hidden monastery and are guided by the mystical powers of a golden coin, the Alexandrian Drachma.

According to the book jacket "The scene shifts between the drawing rooms in Cairo and the Island of Philae, 600 miles up the treacherous Nile; from the luxurious private baths of Arundale, the Trader, to the desert camp of the brutal Tuaregs. Exotic high adventures await Edward and Alex in this colorful and exciting novel."

Harrison is a writer who pays meticulous attention to historical details. One can believe the color, the sights and sounds of the 19th century market in Cairo, the ruined temple on Philaw, or the native *dahabiyah* sailing up the Nile. His first book, *The Spartan*, was received with critical acclaim, comparing him to the late Mary Renault. According to advance notices, *The Alexandrain Drachma* moves him a step further in his writing career and places him squarely in the forefront of leading historical (and Gay) writers.

Currently living in southern California, he is also an artist and is presently writing his third book for publication in the winter of 1985.

Totally different from Harrison's book is *A Man of Taste*, Clayton R. Graham's first novel. It is a hilarious take-off on people who fancy themselves infallible in cultural fields.

There are many sly jests when Reginald, the trendy, tasteful hero, meets young Willie, a down-to-earth man who accepts people for what they are, not what they possess. Reggie's butler, Winston, is the personification of the most outrageous Gay behavior imaginable. Yet before the book is over, the reader comes to admire Winston for the way he has come to terms with the Gay life style he *chooses* to live. This is one of the funniest Gay love stories of this or any year.

Graham is a welcome new-comer to the Gay novel field. His sense of humor is sophisticated, his digs at society have gentle barbs which hit the mark each time. The reader will laugh, while agreeing with him and will find himself saying "How true, how true."

Both books are handsomely designed trade paperback volumes, priced at $6.95 and may be ordered from local bookstores. Knights Press welcomes inquiries from authors. For information, write Knight's Press P.O. Box 454, Pound Ridge, N.Y. 10576.

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Our Endangered Rights

The American Civil Liberties Union announced the publication of a major new book, *Our Endangered Rights: The ACLU Report on Civil Liberties Today*, edited by ACLU President Norman Dorsen.

Our Endangered Rights, a review of American freedom by 17 leading ACLU experts, measures where, since the Warren years, the country has gained or lost ground in the safe-guarding of constitutional rights, and where the new battlelines are now being drawn.

"The civil liberties landscape is uneven, uncertain and sometimes treacherous," writes Dorsen who is Stokes Professor of Law at New York University, in his introduction.

Dorsen continues, "The good news is that in 1984 Americans, far more than most peoples, on the whole enjoy 'rights': the liberty to express oneself, to guard one's privacy and to receive fair and equal treatment at the hands of the government as a matter of law and not at the whim and sufferance of officials high or low ... But there is a darker side. What we think of as the birthright of freedom for all Americans is continually under siege and for many others, the situation is even bleaker."

"*Our Endangered Rights*," Dorsen concludes, "is an homage to the best of our national heritage, and a regretful criticism of the worst."

How does the state of the economy today affect the exercise of rights, particularly for the disadvantaged? What is the effect of the resurgence of religion in public debate? In our clogged courts and prisons, is there such a thing as true criminal justice? How effective — and dangerous — is the Administration's vigorous program of direct executive action to limit First Amendment rights? What are the new and hidden forms of discrimination in the areas of racial and sexual justice?

To answer these questions, *Our Endangered Rights* looks not at constitutional texts but at the way rights actually work in daily life. The authors explain the significance of current legislation and court cases and describe how Congress and the courts interact and concretely carry out their abstractly defined roles.

Our Endangered Rights, published by Pantheon Books sells for $11.95 in paperback and $22.50 in hardcover. The book may be ordered from the ACLU's Literature Department, 132 West 43rd Street, NY, NY 10036, at a cost of $8.25 paperback, $17.25 hardcover, plus $1 for postage and handling.

Writers Needed For Women's Books

Lez Press, a new woman's publishing house formed in Portland, Oregon by two Lesbians, is actively seeking submissions.

Lez Press will publish quality work of interest to Lesbians, as well as feminist- and Gay-oriented material, which because of its nature is not generally considered by major publishing houses. The editors are interested in publishing novels and short stories, nonfiction, and art suitable for printed publication (collections of black and white drawings and photographs). They are especially interested in plays with Lesbian subject matter. No poetry, please.

Authors are encouraged to submit double-spaced typed manuscripts. Submissions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Aphra Press, a new publisher of feminist books, is seeking two creative works of Lesbian fiction for publication during 1985.

In addition to fiction, Aphra will also publish Lesbian/feminist biographies and short stories. Aphra does not plan to publish poetry.

Inquiries and typed manuscripts may be sent to: Carolyn Netzer, Editor; Aphra Press; H. S. J. Box 867; Springfield, Mo. 65801. Manuscripts will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Balanchine claims that Diaghilev loved ballet only because of its sexiness. He said he heard Diaghilev mutter "Beautiful!" at the premiere of "Apollo," and when he agreed, the impresario said, "Not the ballet, you ninny! Lifar's ass!"

Gay Book Club Offers Memberships

For those who are interested (or better yet, impassioned) about the health and welfare of Gay and Lesbian literature and its creators, there is a new and important force emerging on the immediate horizon.

The Century Book Club is currently launching a national campaign to attract members and promote its monthly selections. The difference between Century and the myriad of clubs in the country is its personnel and intent. The Century Book Club is run by and for Gay men and Lesbians.

Publishers and writers have reacted to the creation of the Century Book Club with great enthusiasm. An ever growing number of titles continue to be submitted to the club by both major publishing houses and small presses.

Each month, the club will offer two featured titles (Main and Alternate) for men and two featured titles for women. The four inaugural titles are: *The Great Urge Downward* by Gordon Merrick, *Amateur City* by Katherine V. Forrest, *Golden States* by Michael Cunningham and Sheila Ortiz Taylor's *Faultlines.*

Many of Century's major selections will be offered on an exclusive basis or in special editions. All titles will be discounted and bonus coupons will be awarded with purchases. Additionally, an Editor's Corner will carry popular titles, new works, "missed opportunities," collections and gift items, again at substantial discounts. All mailings are confidential.

Unlike its counterparts, the Century Book Club has *no* minimum purchase, *no* membership fees, *no* charges for postage or handling, and *no* involuntary purchase system (the kind that involves those universally hated postcards that need be mailed only if you *don't* want the book-of-the-month).

"We think the club can be a great resource," says Managing Director Mark Bernard. "We'll be able to reach the vast numbers of people who are unable to find Gay titles or visit Gay bookstores. We'll be able to publicize some wonderful works that would otherwise just fade away. *Golden States* is a perfect example. It's a beautifully written and very funny book that had no advertising budget whatsoever. The chances of it surviving in the marketplace were very small. But now that it's a selection of the club, maybe it can find the audience it deserves."

The Century Book Club will allow Gay and Lesbian literature the exposure and attention that can only result from a major promotional budget. In an industry with tremendous product and limited advertising capital, it is an unprecedented opportunity for even the most well-known Gay and Lesbian writers. Some of the writers to be featured by the club are Felice Picano, Andrew Holleran, Jane Rule, Judy Grahn, Joseph Hansen, Audre Lord and Quentin Crisp.

"This is a business, but it's a business where everyone involved loves what they're involved in, continued Mr. Bernard. "There are certain things we want to do here. After we build a strong foundation of members, we'll be able to rescue out-of-print books on the one hand and support new writers on the other. The possibilities are extraordinary...."

The final words on the subject come from a letter attached to one of the first membership applications. It read simply, "It's about time."

Interested book lovers may join Century's confidential mailing list by writing to 1560 North La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90028.

As a postscript, the staff of the Century Book Club would like to add that the categories of "men's books" and "women's books" are for the convenience of the members. Crossreading is strictly encouraged.

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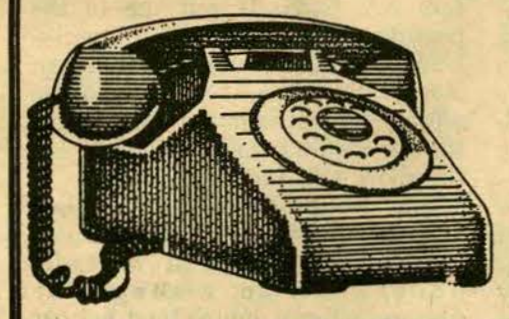

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Nashville

Jerry's Girls — Hardly 'The Best of Times'

by Jeff Thompson

After giving the Great White Way "the hit of a decade" — *La Cage Aux Folles* — what does an award-winning Broadway composer do next? In a disappointing move, Jerry Herman has created *Jerry's Girls*, a plotless, uninspired, musical retrospective of his previous Broadway hits. The Broadway-bound show stopped in Nashville at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center downtown in late May. At best, *Jerry's Girls* is an elaborate commercial for the current *La Cage* and a spectacular treat for truly devoted fans of Jerry Herman's music. At worst, it is an unabashed ego trip for Herman, a shameless "cash-in" on Herman's past success, and a disjointed hodgepodge of styles and ideas. Its worst sin is in its being a definite step down for one of Broadway's most remarkable talents, the unique and usually dazzling Carol Channing.

Co-starring in *Jerry's Girls* with Channing are singer/actress Leslie Uggams (most recently seen in Broadway's *Blues In The Night* and NBC-TV's "Fantasy") and the original *Annie*, Andrea McArdle. This is the first appearance in a Jerry Herman musical for both Uggams and McArdle — but Carol Channing is the effervescent superstar who has played the title role in Herman's *Hello Dolly* three thousand times. Five up-and-coming young actresses support the stellar trio in the endless pastiche of Herman songs drawn randomly from his shows, *A Day In Hollywood, Dear World, Hello Dolly, Mack and Mabel, Mame, Milk and Honey, Nightcap*, and *Parade*. *Jerry's Girls* concludes with a clumsy *La Cage Aux Folles* medley which does justice to neither the musical nor the show.

The curtain rises on a shimmering, silver, Art Deco setting, punctuated at center stage by a winding staircase used effectively for the stars' entrances. A pianist is seated at a grand piano in the hollow of the chrome stairwell. The action of the play is simply one Herman musical after another, performed by one, some, or all of Jerry's ladies as they model costume after costume. At first glance, one is reminded of that excellent Broadway revue, *Blues In The Night*, which starred first Leslie Uggams and then Della Reese (and was reviewed in the October 1983 **Gaze**). Both *Blues* and *Girls* place a pianist on stage to accompany three diverse women with songs in their hearts. But that is where the similarity ends. *Blues In The Night* forcefully offers a rich unity of theme (the blues). *Jerry's Girls* is like an emotional roller coaster, roaring through "hills" and "valleys" at top speed, but never really stopping to savor any of them. How can an audience be expected to assimilate when a typical, poorly planned trio of back-to-back songs is the urgently merry "We Need a Little Christmas" (from *Mame*), the melancholy and subtle "I Won't Send Roses" (from *Mack and Mabel*), and the sprightly "Tap Your Troubles Away" (from *Mack and Mabel*)?

The musical's total lack of plot and dialogue is sorely missed during the many exasperating lapses of continuity. The songs, plucked out of their contexts, virtually scream for some sort of explanation. Yet none is given before or after a puzzling song such as "Look What Happened to Mabel" is performed. For much of the audience, frustration ensues; the theatregoers cannot help but wonder, **what did** happen to Mabel? "The Tea Party," the three stars' joint number snatched from *Dear World*, is amusing — especially since *La Cage*'s own "Cocktail Counterpoint" seems to have been patterned after it — but what does it really **mean**?

In *Jerry's Girls*, Carol Channing is at her most vacuous. Saddled with unflattering makeup, a self-parodying wardrobe, and irritating comedy routines (such as one in which she delivers a monologue while affecting a speech impediment), Channing mugs gamely through the evening's mishmash — and saves her worst for last. Her final solo is an appalling murder of the title song from *La Cage Aux Folles*, done at an unbearably slow tempo while a scantily clad Channing makes like a cross between a campy Marlene Dietrich and Lucille Ball, but unfunny nevertheless.

However, the Broadway-bound musical's finest aspect is the sensational talent of Leslie Uggams, the graceful veteran of TVs "Beulah," "Sing Along With Mitch," "The Leslie Uggams Show," "Roots," "Backstairs at the White House," and "Fantasy." Her considerable acting talents aside, Leslie Uggams is one of the true stand-out performers in the music industry today. Her ability to "put over" many different types of songs is a pleasure to behold indeed. Some of the finest moments of *Jerry's Girls* are provided when Uggams steps into the spotlight and delivers "It Only Takes a Moment" (from *Hello Dolly*), "I Won't Send Roses," and *La Cage Aux Folles*' pride anthem, "I Am What I Am." A truly magical moment is when Uggams perches atop the grand piano and emotes her way through a torch song rendition of "If He Walked Into My Life" (from *Mame*). Uggams demonstrates that it only takes a moment to lift *Jerry's Girls* from mediocrity to excellence.

The spendor of "If He Walked" is followed immediately by another **low**. All eight of Jerry's ladies introduce the title song from *Hello Dolly* by singing its two commercial variations — "Hello Lyndon" (as the song was renamed and lent to President Lyndon Johnson's successful 1964 election bid) and "Hello Hardees," an unappetizing ode to the hamburger chain. Needless to say, dredging up "Hello Dolly's" pair of commercial bastardizations only serves to cheapen the bona fide version of the showstopping song. It is to be applauded that Jerry Herman has **turned down** requests by **both** the Democratic and Republican parties to use his "The Best of Times" (from *La Cage Aux Folles*) as a 1984 campaign theme song. Herman and *La Cage* producer Allan Carr maintain that "The Best of Times" is "apolitical" — as it should be.

In addition to its on-stage shortcomings, *Jerry's Girls* has been plagued with unnerving bad luck since it opened its forty-week tour in south Florida in February of this year. Early in the tour, Carol Channing suffered an on-stage fall (probably during "Tap Your Troubles Away") and fractured her elbow. She was forced to perform with her arm in a cast for a while after that. Then, on Thursday, May 3, when *Jerry's Girls* was playing New Haven, Connecticut, Channing came down with acute laryngitis — and missed a performance for the first time in her forty-three-year-long career! "This was a virus," she explained later. "One of those that hits you hard. It put me in the hospital for twenty-four hours. Usually if I can't sing I can stand (on stage) and at least explain to the audience what is going on, but this time I couldn't make a sound." So, the show was dark that night.

One week later, on Thursday, May 10, during the show's stop in Toledo, Ohio, Andrea McArdle **underwent an emergency appendectomy**, which kept her out of *Jerry's Girls* for two weeks! McArdle's role was taken over temporarily by Deborah Graham, who has been seen in *They're Playing Our Song* and *Snoopy*. It was the energetic Graham who very capably performed McArdle's material when *Jerry's Girls* opened in Nashville at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, May 22.

The next night (May 23), Andrea McArdle returned to the show in a limited capacity — only to see Leslie Uggams **drop out** of the remainder of the Nashville run! The condition of Uggams' comatose, seventy-two-year-old mother has worsened dramatically — the woman died in a New York hospital while her famous daughter was en route from

continued on page 20

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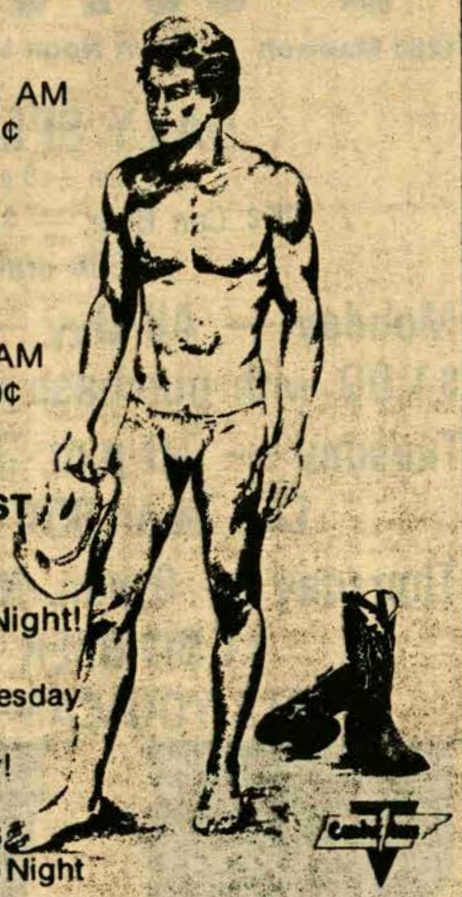

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Miss Music City Crowned At Cabaret

by Timothy James
with Jeff Thompson

On Wednesday and Thursday, June 13 and 14, The Cabaret sponsored the Miss Music City Pageant as part of its seventh anniversary celebration. Nashville's premiere video/disco/show bar awarded a one-thousand dollar First Prize to the winner of the competition.

Four striking and talented contestants participated in the event. They were Joann Delite, Dawn Dupree. Alana Kela, and Leslie Rajeanne.

The first evening of the two-night Miss Music City Pageant featured the sportswear and evening gown competition with Kela and Rajeanne . That was followed by the talent competition between Delite and Dupree. The second night (June 14) was just the opposite, presenting Delite and Dupree in sports and evening wear, followed by Kela and Rajeanne's talent competition.

Although the June 13 show began twenty minutes late, it started out with a bang! The recorded overture shook the walls, The Cabaret's famous video effects began, and Cabaret male lead Gary Broderick came out in style. Dressed in a very sharp tuxedo, Broderick proceeded to introduce the competing foursome in the "Parade of Contestants." The female impersonators all looked beautiful and the small crowd extended them a large welcome.

Miss Continental Tennessee First Runner-up Stephanie Wells entertained the audience marvelously during the contestants' costume changes. After Wells' set, Gary Broderick introduced the five judges — Chuck Burgess, Jeff Kent, Betty Lee, Lorraine Santi, and Marge Vaughn. Gary Broderick stressed to the judges and the audience that there weren't very many contestants in this year's competition, but that the four impersonators were of "high quality."

Contestant No. 1, **Leslie Rajeanne** of Chicago, first appeared in a beautiful three-piece outfit. During his talent competition, Rajeanne' burst out of the dressing room and darted through the crowd while lip-syncing "I'm Coming Out." A long, streaming, red veil flowed behind him. Leslie Rajeanne wore a gorgeous red sequined dress and was the very image of Diana Ross! During his taped accompaniment's segue from "I'm Coming Out" to "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," Rajeanne disappeared backstage. In what was almost an instantaneous costume change, Leslie Rajeanne reappeared, now clad in a fascinating off-white dress with a long wrap made out of what looked like white fox tails. During the question and answer session, the Chicago performer was asked, "Who or what was the greatest influence leading to your present lifestyle?" Leslie Rajeanne gratefully named his employer, James Flynt, who is active in the Gay community and who has "endeavored to bring straights and Gays closer together."

continued on page 20

Statewide Meeting Slated for October

by Tommy Powell with
Jeff Thompson

Nashville — The second annual Statewide Meeting of Lesbians and Gay Men will be held on Saturday, October 13, 1984, at the Metropolitan Community Church in Nashville (131 Fifteenth Avenue, North).

The 1984 convention's keynote speaker will be Vicki Monrean, Executive Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby. Ms. Monrean is the former special assistant to the president of the National Organization for Women. During her association with NOW, Monrean was in charge of direct mail fundraising — and the women's organization enjoyed significant growth.

Commenting on her present position as Executive Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby, Vicki Monrean states, "Our work will create a movement that cannot be denied. [GRNL will] lobby Congress from Washington, D.C., from every region, and from every community to end the discrimination that shadows all of us." Monrean is determined "to convince Congress that this is the 1980's and not the 1880's!"

Beginning at twelve noon on Ocotber 13, the Statewide Meeting also will welcome Memphian Irwin Rothenberg, who will report on the international meeting of Black and White Men Together which was held recently in Atlanta. Plus, there will be a special program on rural Gay life and the fascinating phenomenon of rural Gay "collectives." Other activities are still being planned.

The Statewide meeting of Lesbians and Gay Men will be sponsored jointly by the Memphis Gay Coalition, the Metropolitan Community Church of Nashville, and the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights (Nashville). There will be a strictly optional, two-dollar registration fee for the meeting. For further details and registration information, contact the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights at Post Office Box 37202. *(Tommy Powell is an official of Nashville's TGCHR.)*

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'Strike Force" Bomber Captured

A former mental patient from Texas was arrested June 11 after his car exploded in Mason City, Iowa. He is suspected of being the person responsible for setting 24 pipe bombs in three Midwestern states since. May. The notes attached to the pipe bombs were signed "North Central Gay Strike Force."

Earl Steven Karr, 24, was arrested for possession of unregistered firearms. He was listed in fair condition in a St. Paul, Minnesota hospital.

Authorities began to suspect that the pipe bombs were the work of one person early in June. According to an Associated Press story, Karr was traveling from state to state planting the bombs. Bombs were found in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. "The devices were so similar that it has to be the same guy," police detective inspector Rudolph Will of Milwaukee states.

Karr claims that someone is trying to set him up. However, explosives and pipe bomb parts were also found in his room. He said that fact and his car exploding "could cast suspicions on me."

Karr's sister indicated that her brother had grown up in a typical middle-class family but had exhibited mental and emotional problems from the age of six. Recently he visited her and during this time showed an increasing interest in explosives. She said that she thought he could be potentially harmful to himself or others.

Karr told the *Des Moines Register* that he had tried the homosexual lifestyle when he was younger "but it's not for me." He had been hospitalized but was released in September. He lived with a friend until leaving for Minnesota a couple of months ago.

Although neither authorities nor Gay Rights groups in the area had even heard of the North Central Gay Strike Force, some contend that it could, in fact, exist. Tim Campbell, editor of the Minneapolis Gay newspaper *Equal Time*, theorizes that it may be a group of Gay rural survivalists who are reacting to a wave of anti-Gay sentiment in the area. In recent months, a Gay judge has been removed from office and the state's equivalent of the local vice squad has reportedly been engaging in entrapment activities with Gays as targets.

No Spying Here

San Francisco — Mayor Dianne Feinstein says she did not authorize an undercover "spying mission" on Gay bathhouses, according to the *Bay Area Reporter*. Rather, she said she authorized a "rapid, one-time check," on whether or not there is sexual activity in the baths.

Mayor Feinstein said the investigation was necessary because she had been receiving conflicting reports on the situation. She said she needed the information in order to make policy concerning the AIDS epidemic. In a statement issued June 4, she defended the action by saying that under current licensing laws the bathhouses are subject to an inspection twice a year.

New Gay PAC Forme

New York — A new Gay Political Action Committee has begun an effort joining a number of other PAC's in raising money for state, local and federal candidates throughout the country. An announcement was made jointly by Vic Basile, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund and James Roman, Chairman of FAIRPAC, the new committee.

"As races heat up across New York City and State, FAIRPAC will contribute funds to office seekers committed to equal rights for all New Yorkers, including Gays and Lesbians," Roman said according to *The Weekly News* (Miami). He said that it was an "embarassment" that there was not a Gay rights bill in New York City.

Vic Basile said that he was encouraged by the number of local or state PAC's being organized throughout the country and does not view FAIRPAC as an erosion of HRCF's territory. He said, "I view them as a key to the long-term success in attaining Gay rights legislation, and HRCF will work with them whenever possible."

Twenty percent of the proceeds of HRCF's fundrasier dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel will be donated as seed money to FAIRPAC.

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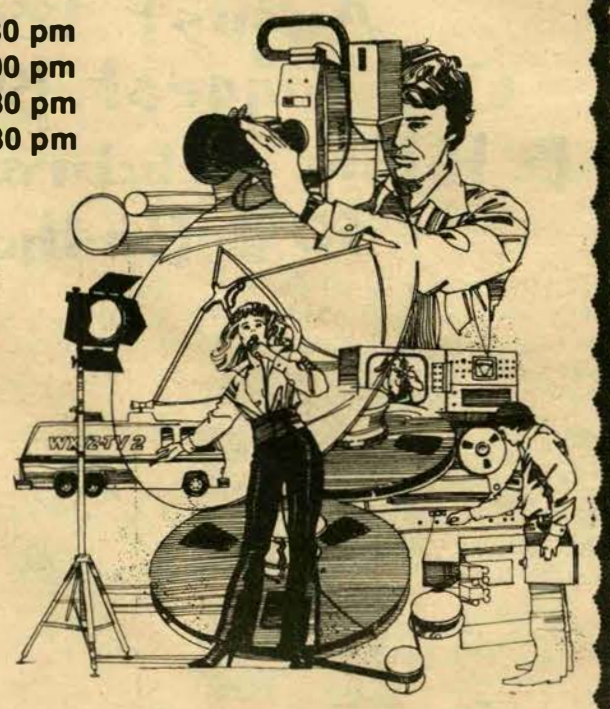


August's Program features video of the Gay Pride Rally & TQM's Cotton Carnival Float

Hackers Censored

New York — If you have a home computer and want to use it to communicate with other people, you might have your messages deleted. Many home computer buffs subscribe to systems which put them in touch with other computers and users. One of the largest of these subscriber systems, CompuServe, recently notified a subscriber that messages in which "Gay" or "Lesbian" were used would be deleted from its electronic bulletin board, the New York *Native* reports.

CompuServe director Jeffrey Wilkins sent the following unfriendly message to user David Schultz: "...(We) require that certain standards of expression conform to the tastes of our general audience as we perceive them."

Schultz had apparently put up a message about a Gay-operated trip to Puerto Rico. The company's own censor had agreed that the message was not obscene, but it was, nevertheless, repeatedly deleted.

CompuServe, owned by H & R Block, suggested that a friendlier spot for Gay specific messages might be in the company's "Alternative Lifestyle" directory.

Baths Denounce Closings

More than half a million dollars has been pledged by the members of the Association of Independent Gay Health Clubs (IGHC) to help the San Francisco bathhouses continue their fight to preserve the freedom of sexual expression.

According to IGHC spokesman, Stan Berg, "There is no proof that bathhhouses are promoting the spread of AIDS, Indeed, there are many (including the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, and the Gay Men's Health Crisis of New York) who say that the closing of the baths would have little effect on the spread of AIDS and that closing of the baths might substantially reduce the number of educational outlets available to the Gays who engaged in such activity." In fact, it is feared by many that these actions may lead to more extensive spreading of the disease as Gay men are driven to unsafe, unclean locales to have sex.

The IGHC position states: "With the announced intention of the San Francisco Public Health Director to initiate new legislation in San Francisco banning all sex in bathhouses and other Gay meeting places, it has become apparent that the straight community and even a few traitorous Gays in the midst of the community (notably SF Supervisor Harvey Britt, columnist Randy Shields, and Deputy Sherrif Larry Littlejohn) have decided that Gays should not longer have the right to freely express their sexuality."

According to Berg, "The IGHC will cooperate with any reasonable effort to stop the spread of AIDS, but it is unreasonable to think that Gay men in particular will stop having sex."

The IGHC has committed itself to educate its members on how to have what is termed "safe sex."

Gay-Themed Play Cancelled

Nelson, New Zealand (*Gay Community News*) — A play about a transvestite elocution teacher and his 12-year-old pupil has raised the hackles of the righteous here, according to *Pink Triangle.*

After performances of "The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin" earlier this year, letters in the Nelson *Evening Mail* charged that the play was repulsive, disgusting and "insidious pollution." A series of six subsequent shows was cancelled by the Board of Directors of the Sutter Gallery, proposed staging site of the play's second run. One other community in New Zealand has cancelled the show because it is "too controversial."

But at least one letter writer attended the play and saw nothing about which to become agitated. B. Francois wrote: "I went to see (the play) so that I could form my own opinion and came away wondering what all the fuss was about."

Children's Book Draws Flack

Also from New Zealand, a new book soon to be released there by Gay Men's Press will be a non-sexist children's book.

Titled *Jenny Lives With Eric and Martin,* it is about a young girl who lives with her father and his male lover. Aimed at children between six and ten, the book has been translated from the original Danish text and features photographs of a normal weekend. It is designed to explain a homosexual relationship to children and is set around an incident when a homophobic neighbor insults Jenny and her fathers. In Britain, Conservative member of Parliament, Geoffrey Dickens said in the House of Commons that Gay Men's Press could expect hell from him - although he hadn't read the book.

Gay PAC Thanks Reagan

Washington, D.C. — Vic Basile Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, sent President Reagan a letter of appreciation recently for a statement he made at a press conference June 14 in which he affirmed his opposition to discrimination.

The President's remarks came in response to a reporter's question asking Mr. Reagan if he supported a congressional measure to outlaw job discrimination against Gay people. Mr. Reagan replied that he "is opposed to discrimination . . . period." When pressed on whether he supported the specific bill, he claimed not to be familiar with it.

Basile described the President's statement as encouraging and expressed hope that "it signals a new beginning in the pursuit of fairness in the treatment of Lesbians and Gay men."

In California, former Governor Reagan spoke out against a state initiative which would have banned Gay people from teaching in the public school system. His action was considered a significant factor in defeating the measure.

Basile's letter to Reagan said, in part:

"Your forthright denunciation of discrimination in any form. . . is encouraging to the millions of Lesbians and Gay Americans for whom societal abuse is a fact of life."

Senator In A Sex Club

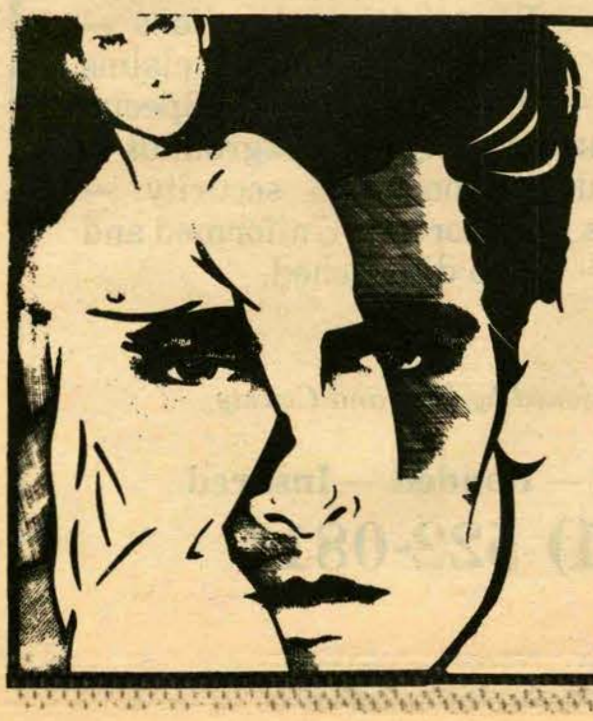
Washington — Sen. Roger Jepson (R-Iowa), co-sponsor of the Family Protection Act is usually in the news preaching about moral issues. However, a few weeks ago, he admitted that in 1977 he mistakenly visited a sex club. He says he thought it was a health spa. According to reports, a notice on the membership application (which he signed) clearly stated that "nude modeling, nude encounters and rap sessions" were offered to members. Jepson stated that "after observing the place, which was supposed to have an exercise machine and whirlpool, I saw it was not what I thought it was. I saw it was a seedy place. I left immediately."

Tattoo Settles

Los Angeles — Herve Villechaize, the 3-feet, 11 inch midget best known for his portrayal of Tattoo on Fantasy Island, has settled a four-year-old lawsuit against *Hustler* Magazine, according to *The Weekly News (*Miami). Although details of the settlement have not been disclosed, Villechaize filed a $3 million defamation suit against the publication in May 1980 after *Hustler* portrayed him in a cartoon as a sex-craved deviant.

The suit alleged that Villecahize was depicted as "engaged in acts of homosexuality, bestiality and sodomy."

TWN says that the magazine will print a statement in its September issue that the cartoon parody was not intended as an attack on the actor, but that *Hustler* "will not pay him any money." Villechaize had evidently asked in April for a $31,000 settlement and an immediate retraction from the magaine.



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Military

Sgt. Perry Discharged

On Friday, May 11, Sgt. Perry Watkins was discharged from the Army after his appeal for a rehearing before the full Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco was denied. Although Watkins received an honorable discharge, he will be unable to collect retirement benefits because he was not allowed to finish his last six year tour.

Watkins has been openly Gay since being drafted. When the Army initially tried to discharge him, a ruling from Judge Rothstein in Federal District Court in Seattle ordered the Army to allow Watkins to serve out his tour. Army regulations, however, call for discharging Gays unless the regulations are "proven to be repugnant to the Constitution or to statutory authority," and a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco overturned Judge Rothstein's decision on the basis she did not have the power to force Watkins' superiors to disobey Army regulations.

According to Jim Lobsenz, the ACLU attorney representing Watkins, the refusal to rehear the case before the full board kicks the case back to Rothstein where Constitutional issues which were not argued in the initial case will be heard. Lobsenz has requested a summary judgement on those issues and fully expects Rothstein to rule in Watkins' favor.

When informed of the decision on May 8th by his commanding officer, Watkins was given two weeks to straighten his affairs and get off the base. Friday, two days later, his Sgt. Major told Watkins he had orders from base officials that Sgt. Watkins was to be discharged by that evening. They had even gone to the point of putting an F-16 fighter jet on standby in case routine military transportation could not be arranged.

Watkins was discharged on Friday, May 11 at Fort Dix.

"If it had to happen, I'm glad it happened now..." Watkins told reporters. Expressing relief that it was finally over and talking of plans to tour and talk about his experiences, Watkins said, "The Army has done me a favor. They have forced me to rethink my life and to decide what I really want to do."

NGTF Challenges Defense Dept

New York — Shortly after Sgt. Perry Watkins was discharged from the Army, the National Gay Task Force filed a class action lawsuit which challenged the Department of Defense in discharging people because of their homosexuality.

More than 5,000 veterans have had their military service characterized as less than honorable for conduct (being Gay) that did not affect the performance of their military duties, according to NGTF sources. Virginia Apuzzo, Executive Director of NGTF said the practice is "Especially abhorrent in light of the dedication and pride which Gay men and Lesbians have served and are serving their country.

The suit was filed on behalf of a Gay woman, Lilli M. Vincenz, whose military service was characterized as less than honorable because she engaged in homosexual activity off base while she was off duty. NGTF wants to have all similar discharges recharacterized as "honorable" unless the military can adequately demonstrate that homosexual conduct directly or adversely affected performance of military duties.

Apuzzo indicated that a dishonorable discharge can stigmatize a veteran making it almost impossible to get a civilian job.

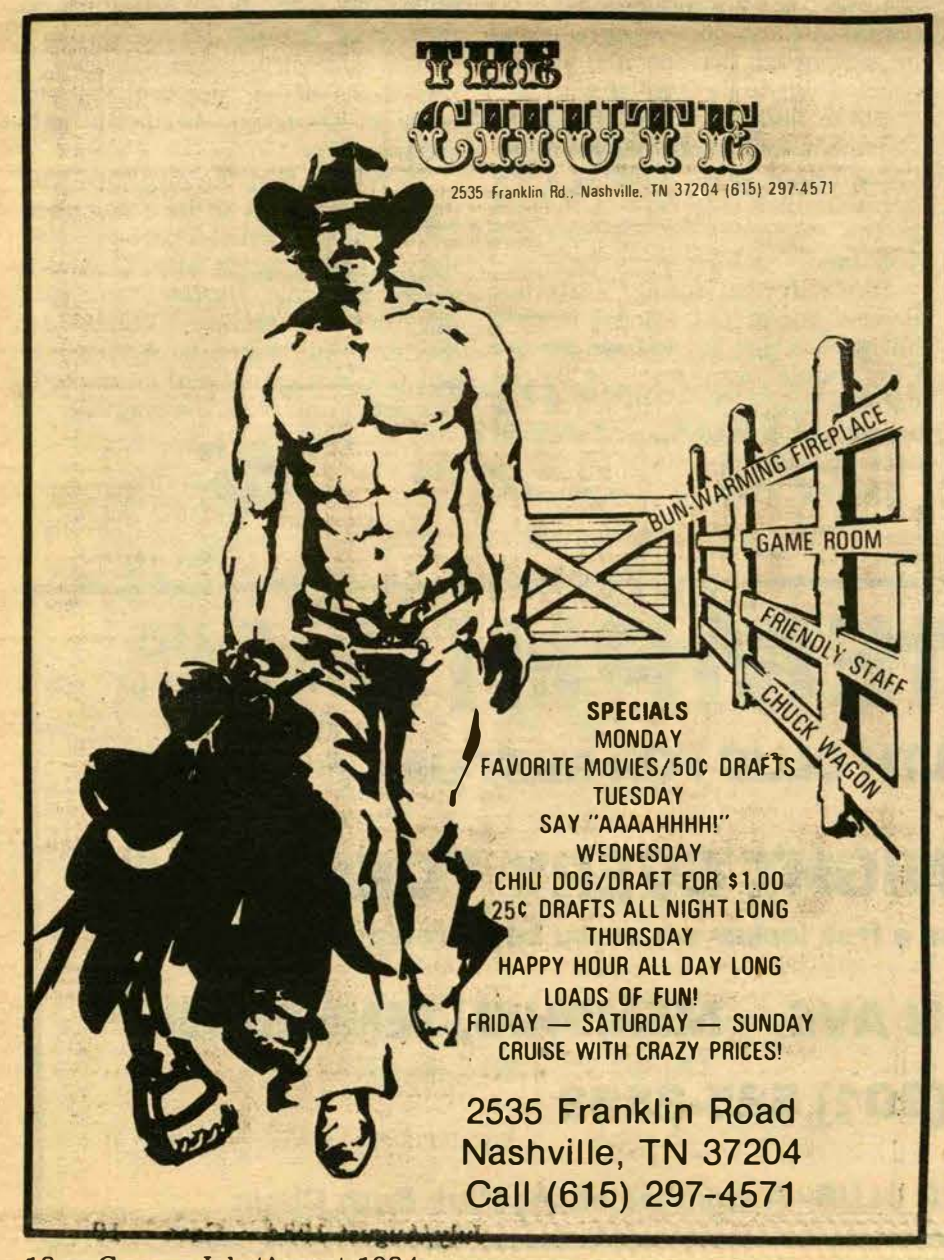
Secret Navy Report Revealed

A Navy report, made in 1956 but kept secret until recently, found that Gay women and men could be acceptable members of the military and serve in sensitive security positions. The Crittenden Committee (originators of the report) indicated (that) "there have been many instances of individuals who have served honorably and well. despite being excusively "homosexual." However, the committee recommended that homosexuals still be discharged from the Navy so that it would not appear that the Navy was more tolerant of Gays than the general public. It suggested telling Navy recruits that homosexuals should be viewed like "person(s) who would walk into a house and kill the occupants, for homosexuality is a killer too."

The report was obtained through the Freedom of Information Act by Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-CA). It was based on two studies one of which involved 183 men known to be Gay before WWII and the other of 75 Gay men already in the military who were allowed to remain as a test of Gay soldiers.

The committee said a "nice balance must be attained in changes of policy to ensure that public sensibilities are not offended in any attempt to promote a forward-looking program. It is not considered in the best interests of the military departments to liberalize standards ahead of the civilian climate: thus, insofar as practicable it is recommended that the Navy keep abreast of developments but not attempt to take a position of leadership."

According to a syndicated article by Larry Bush, the 658-page report was prepared by a special commission of Navy and Marine officers appointed by the Secretary of the Navy and chaired by Navy Capt. S.H. Crittenden, Jr.



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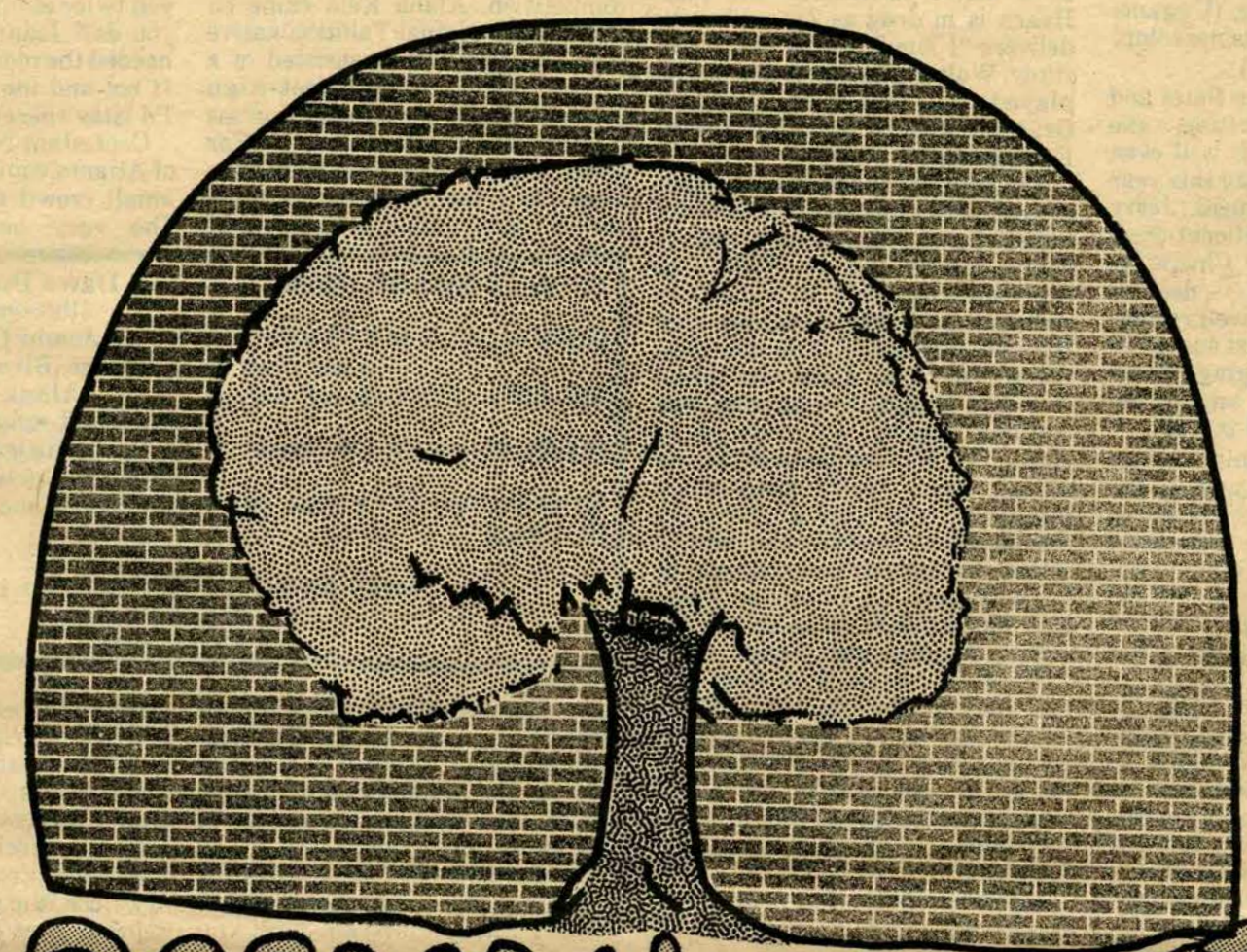

Across the Street

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Nashville

Jerry's Girls

continued from page 14

Nashville to her bedside. (Uggams rejoined the musical at its next stop, Wilmington, Delaware.)

Because of its definite flaws and its jinx-like bad fortune, one wonders if *Jerry's Girls* will even make it to Broadway late this year — or if in fact it **should**. Jerry Herman and his magnificent show tunes — as well as Channing, McArdle, and Uggams — deserve better than an ill-conceived recapitulation of Herman's past successes in a lackluster packaging which does not do justice to **any** of the terrific songs contained therein.

What amounted to a mini-version of *Jerry's Girls* was staged at the thirty-eighth annual Tony Awards ceremony, telecast live from New York on CBS-TV on Sunday night, June 3. Carol Channing was on hand to portray both Dolly and Mame — and Leslie Uggams delivered her dynamite rendition of "If He Walked Into My Life" — but also participating in the musical salute to the work of Jerry Herman were Julie Andrews, Robert Goulet, Robert Guillaume, Dorothy Loudon, and the marvelous Tony Randall. Reprising their Broadway roles of the title characters in the ten-year-old musical, *Mack and Mabel*, were Bernadette Peters and the great Robert Preston. *(Mack and Mabel*, whose fascinating songs are a high point of *Jerry's Girls*, has been revived and currently is touring the country with TV's "Matt Houston," Lee Horsley, as its star.)

The Tony Awards' salute to Jerry Herman concluded with two scenes from *La Cage Aux Folles*, performed by Les Cagelles, Gene Barry, and George Hearn themselves! Barry and the Cagelles sang and danced Act One, Scene One — and then, to present the final scene of the first act, George Hearn appeared and sang "I Am What I Am." Surprisingly, he was dressed in a man's tuxedo! In the play, Hearn is in drag as Zaza when he delivers "I Am," just as his understudy, Walter Charles, was when **he** played the scene on CBSTV's Grammy Awards show on Tuesday, February 28.

The evening of the Tony Awards proved to be a glorious *trouvaille* for Mssrs. Jerry Herman and Harvey Fierstein's *La Cage Aux Folles*. The then-ten-month-old musical won Antoinette Perry trophies for Herman (best score), Fierstein (best book), Arthur Laurents (best director), Theoni V. Aldredge (best costume designer) — and for George Hearn, for his fabulous portrayal of Albin, the middle-aged drag performer who "puts a little more mascara on" to find "the best of times" for himself and the man he loves. Finally, *La Cage Aux Folles* was named Best Musical for the 1983-1984 Broadway season!

While in Nashville in May with the cast of *Jerry's Girls*, Carol Channing and Leslie Uggams commented publicly on the success of Jerry Herman's *La Cage*. Channing proclaimed that it is "the hit of a decade; you can't get a ticket for years."

Uggams added, "The music from *Cage* is very universal. It works...with everybody in the audience."

"And why shouldn't it? Carol Channing declared. "Did any of us come out like the assembly line intended us to be? We were all supposed to look like Jane Wyman, but nobody did — except Jane Wyman."

Miss Music City

continued from page 14

The first dress worn by Contestant No. 2, **Alana Kela** of Chicago, was a dazzling, multi-colored, sequined creation. Kela looked as if he were wearing a rainbow! Then, during his talent competition, Alana Kela came on stage in an original Tahitian native costume. The outfit consisted of a grass skirt, a four-foot-high headpiece, and some type of grass matting around the midriff. For effect, Kela sported what must have been four-inch-long fingernails which really added to the overall look. Alana Kela sang two Tahitian dance songs, one in the Tahitian language and the other in English. During the question and answer period, the Chicagoan was asked, "If you had a child, would you try to influence his-or-her lifestyle toward homosexuality or heterosexuality?" Alana Kela insisted that he "wouldn't want a child" at all.

Contestant No. 3, Joann Delite of Birmingham, first walked onto the stage in a brillant, gold-sequined dress. During his talent competition Delite wore a pink waitress uniform (complete with white apron and red high heels) and energetically lip-synced Donna Summer's "She Works Hard For the Money." Joann Delite later came out in a sharp, three-piece, businesswoman's suit that made him look like a page right out of *Vogue*. During the question and answer session, the Birmingham performer was asked, "If you have a confirmed booking somewhere, but another club wants you on the same date, and will pay you twice as much money, what will you do?" Joann Delite replied, "If I needed the more money, I'd go for it. If not and the (first) club was cool, I'd (stay there)."

Contestant No. 4, **Dawn Dupree** of Atlanta, captured the fancy of the small crowd at The Cabaret from the very beginning. He first appeared in an ultra-modern, blue-and-black striped dress, along with a black leather "mugger's hat." During his talent competition, Dawn Dupree donned a replica of Barbara Streisand's costume from the movie "Yentl." Lip-syncing "The Way He Makes Me Feel," Dupree showed great acting ability as he mimicked Streisand's actions from the movie perfectly. During the question and answer period, the Atlanta entertainer was asked, "If a TV station decided to cover this pageant, and a reporter asked you what you expected to gain from this

continued on page 21

TALENT AWARD ($250) ..... **Dawn Dupree** (sponsored by Illusions, Atlanta, Georgia)
HONORABLE MENTION ..... **Joann Delite** (sponsored by After Dark Show Lounge, Birmingham, Alabama)
SECOND RUNNER-UP ($250) ..... **Alana Kela** (sponsored by Baton Show Lounge, Chicago, Illinois)
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MISS MUSIC CITY USA 1984-1985 ($1,000 and Plaque) .. DAWN DUPREE

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Official
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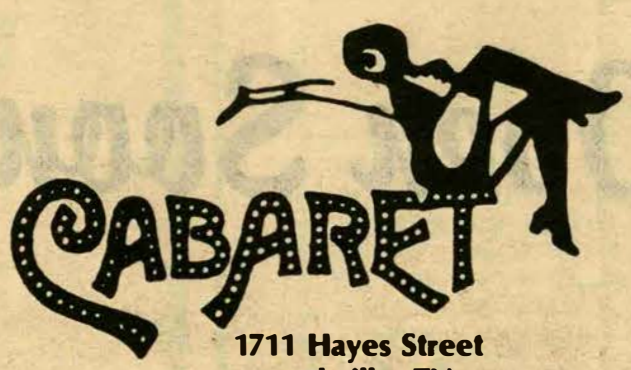
Wednesday, August 22, 1984



1711 Hayes Street
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(615) 320-7082

Entries MUST Be In By Wednesday, August 8!

Counterpoint

It Must Be An Aardvark

by Carole Taylor

In the March 1984 issue of *Seventeen Magazine*, a featured article on the cover compelled me to read a magazine that I fortunately stopped reading about twenty years ago. I say fortunately because judging from the article in question, the thinking of the editorial staff was arrested about then and has not been granted parole.

I was barely able to make it through the entire piece because of swelling waves of nausea at each paragraph, so to save you the trouble and to make my letter to those mental convicts in New York clear, I will attempt a synopsis. My letter is reprinted following the review.

Author Sally Helgesen, about whom we know nothing, begins her article (Why Girls Have Crushes On Girls) with a ditty about her own frequent and numerous crushes when she was in college and before. She says that "...crushes on older girls are a common — if seldom discussed — part of growing up... And because such crushes have a lot in common with the crushes we also get on boys, they are sometimes a source of worry, particularly nowadays, when teenagers are more aware of the existence of homosexuality than they were in generations past. Sometimes, girls find themselves wondering if they might be lesbians (her lower case); a few become mistakenly convinced that they are."

The author goes on to say that most women "can remember having had older-girl crushes themselves at one time, and many now regard such experiences as a normal part of growing up." She quotes one of her two authorities, a teacher at an all-girl academy, as saying that the objects of these crushes are usually "popular, well-dressed, ahtletic types who often have aloof personalities that make them seem quite mysterious to younger girls." (!)

Ms. Helgesen calls crushes a time-honored tradition that remains in English boarding schools something "particularly encouraged because instructors are considered proper role models for young girls." She then goes on to describe her own late teen feelings for other girls, and that she "began to feel disturbed by the specifically physical nature of these infatuations and started to wonder if they might perhaps be evidence that something was wrong with her.

Now, however, she concludes lengthily, she can "look back upon it all from the safe distance of adulthood " deciding that (you guessed it) it was just a phase she was going through.

The author's other "authority" is a "high school teacher and part-time counselor in Pennsylvania" who approves of crushes (as long as the girl comes to her senses and grows out of them) as a "safe way to learn about love while avoiding the kinds of complications that love and intimacy can bring."

This astounding and enlightening treatis on "same-sex infatuations" ends with the advice that if one finds that "simple hero worship is becoming complicated with other feelings" then the confused in question should "seek out a trustworthy adult you can talk about your concerns with." The last line: "Aside from this particular situation, though, it's best to regard older-girl crushes without undue embarassment, accept them as a natural and even helpful part of growing up, and understand that you will outgrow them when you finally feel mature enough to be all the things you once could only admire from afar."

Sally, Sally . . .I began to feel as if I had fallen into a time warp, that an Edsel would lumber up with a load of ponytails and pink-poodled skirts, that Sally, perhaps, had just escaped from a cave in the Yucatan filled with the insight of society that only a hermit can attempt. Imagine yourself, again, at 15 or 18 reading this version of your feelings. I did. So I responded:

Seventeen Magazine
Triangle Communications Corporation
850 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Editors:

I would like to extend my congratulations to Sally Helgesen ("Why Girls Have Crushes on Girls" — March 1984):

On announcing that thinking like a Lesbian, feeling like a Lesbian and acting like a Lesbian is common. Although not Lesbian.(If it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, and swims like a duck, it must be an aardvark. . .)

On having one of the great minds of the 1950's when heterosexuality was still mandatory.

On reaffirming that schoolgirl crushes are just a "phase" as we've always been told. (Now all those 18 year old Lesbians out there can relax and get on with husband hunting, according to the manual.)

Several million of us out here take issue, if not with your premises, at least with your conclusions. However aggravating, it isn't irresponsible to print something with which people will disagree. But it is irresponsible to print something which perpetuates fear and prejudice and inaccuracy. Obviously, Ms. (Miss? Mrs?) Helgesen suspects the fear and prejudice available to her, if not the inaccuracy, which attempts to strangle women who fear the label, because she is so relieved to discover that she isn't one, that she's healthy after all.

After years of mental indigestion caused by rancid legends and stale old husband's tales, I was relieved to discover that I'm healthy after all, too. I was relieved to discover that I am a normal, intelligent , successful, healthy Lesbian.

A substantial number (the Kinsey Institute, among others, suggests 10%) of your past, present and future readers are Lesbians, and the ones who are still teenagers have enough insecurities without being told by an uninformed "authority" that whom and why they love is something they'll outgrow. The attitude of the article shows minimal social conciousness and even less concern for scholarship.

You do an enormous disservice to your readers when you ignore or fail to even investigate extensive research and publication on the subject, reporting instead essentially nothing more than what your mother told you while in the throes of wishful thinking.

Sneak over to your local library and read Kate Millet's *Sexual Politics*, Mary Daly's *Gyn/Ecology*, and Adriene Rich's *Of Woman Born* and "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Experience." Amazing what information is available when one looks.

Or you might speak with one of us. My number is given below should you care to. Or you might just look around the office. We are everywhere, we are everywhere. Probably right over there at that desk across the hall. You know the one: "the well-dressed, popular athletic type" that became "mature enough to really be all the things you once could only admire from afar."

Sincerely
Carole Taylor
Memphis, Tennessee

Miss Music City

continued from previous page

activity, what would you say?" Dawn Dupree declared that he had always wanted to be an entertainer. "By being in this pageant" he said, "I can meet a lot of people and make friends, whether I win or lose. That's what counts!"

The winner of the Miss Music City Pageant looked grateful and overwhelmed when he was crowned late Thursday night, June 14, at The Cabaret. He was showered with congratulatory applause from the excited audience.

Gaze *and Jeff Thompson welcome Nashvillian* **Timothy James** *to the newspaper's Music City staff.*

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Health

Understanding Retrovirus - The Cause of Aids

by Harvey Thompson, M.D.
with
Mark Hardwicke, M.D. and
Sandy Pomerantz, M.D.

Complicated as the story is, the Gay community needs to learn about a new enemy, retrovirus. This is an attempt to eliminate confusion on the subject, explain the unique properties of retrovirus and recount its discovery and relationship to AIDS.

How do you tell the difference between a male and female chromosome? Easy. You look in their genes. Retroviruses, too, have a unique genetic structure; they consist of a single strand of genetic material, RNA, surrounded by a protein coat. Many viruses contain RNA rather than DNA, the genetic material of animals, plants, and bacteria.

Retroviruses are singular, however, in having an enzyme that converts their RNA into DNA in an infected cell; the name "retrovirus" denotes that they function in the opposite way from the usual situation. The DNA thus formed is able to insert itself directly into the DNA of the infected cell and stay there indefinitely.

Retrovirus has long been suspected as a cause of cancer in humans since early in this century, when one of them, the Rous sarcoma virus, was found to cause cancer in chickens. They are thought to act by turning on oncogenes in the cell. Oncogenes are normally present in the cell's DNA, and under certain circumstances produce a protein that causes the cell to begin uncontrolled growth: cancer.

Oncogenes are normally kept "switched off," or repressed, in the mature cell. However, the DNA produced by some retroviruses seems to be able to overcome the repression, "switching on" the oncogenes, thus causing cancer. The phenomenon is well known in animals, but had not been shown in humans until recently; as a result, these viruses are much better known to veterinarians than to physicians.

However, a human form of retrovirus was finally discovered in 1980 by Dr. Robert Gallo. The virus was isolated from an unusual cancer: T-cell leukemia. This virus, HTLV-1, was suspected as a possible cause of AIDS because it affected the helper T-cells, which are exactly the depleted portion of the immune system associated with AIDS.

There were things about HTLV-1 that did not fit the theory, however. First, it causes proliferation of cells; leukemia is one of the fastest-growing forms of cancer. AIDS, on the other hand, is marked by the disappearance of cells. Second, some areas where HTLV-1 is common, notable Japan, have low rates of occurence for AIDS.

Later, Dr. Gallo found a second human retrovirus associated with what sounds like a butch form of cancer called "hairy T-cell leukemia." Again, though, this did not seem to fit the clues for an agent causing AIDS.

The third time seems to have been the charm. Dr. Gallo found another retrovirus, HTLV-3, to be a better candidate for the cause of AIDS. His papers supporting this claim were published in the May issue of *Science*. HTLV-3 may very well be the same one that a French group discovered a year ago in a patient with Gay lymph node syndrome, a virus they named lymphadenopathy virus (LAV). The French group more recently discovered yet another virus in a patient with AIDS, called immunodeficiency associated virus (IDAV).

The suspicious thing about HTLV-3 and its French relatives is that they cause destruction of the cell they infect, the helper T-cell, rather than causing them to become cancerous. Because AIDS seems to be a consequence of the destruction of T-cells, one of these viruses is likely to be proved its cause.

In lymphadenopathy, better known as Gay lymph node syndrome, a relationship between it and AIDS is still not clear. The best guess is that patients with lymphadenopathy have been exposed to retrovirus, but for some unknown reason, they do not develop the full-blown picture of profound immunosuppression seen in AIDS. It may be that infection with other viruses (herpes, cytomegalovirus (CMV), or hepatitis-B) may set the stage for retrovirus to enter the helper T-cell and destroy it.

Kaposi's sarcoma presents another riddle, though. If these retroviruses cause destruction of cells, rather than cancer, why is this cancer one of the most common manifestations of AIDS?

The answer to this riddle may have been provided two years ago by Dr. Gottlieb of UCLA. He predicted a "two-virus theory" involing CMV. That virus is found in Kaposi's cells, and has been suspected of causing the disease. In order for it to appear, however, the immune system must be so weakened that it cannot perform its usual function of destroying the cancer cells early, before they get out of hand. That is where the second virus, our retrovirus, comes in.

Discovering a cause for AIDS is an important first step in understanding and ultimately controlling the disease. It does *not* mean that AIDS is cured, or that we can go back to the carefree "good old days." It opens possibility for developing a vaccine, which Dr. Gallo and others are working on; but vaccines take several years to develop when they are possible, and we are not certain that a vaccine *can* be produced.

Antibiotics for viruses are almost nonexistent; acyclovir is a good example, and it works only for herpes. If one can be developed to combat retrovirus, it is unlikely to appear for several years.

For the sexually-active Gay male, the news that a cause for AIDS may have been found should be welcome and exciting. However, it is by no means an excuse to relax. All the recommendations concerning risk reduction in sexual practices still apply, as stringently as before.

In conclusion, congratulations for making it this far, AIDS is confusing, and retroviruses even more so. The bottom line is that a big step has been made, and additional information from this point on will only make it easier to explain one of the most bizarre epidemics in medical history.

And, with luck and diligence, that information may result in discoveries that make AIDS a fascinating footnote in that history, not a plague that threatens millions of men all over the world.

Blood Test for AIDS

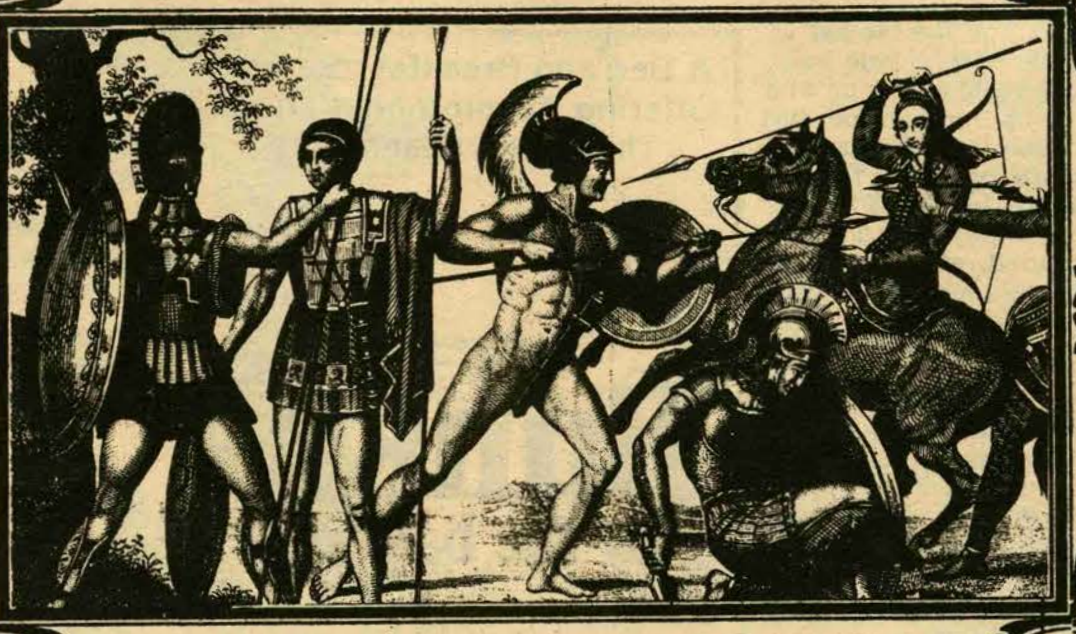
The Journal of the American Medical Association reports an "easy-to-do" blood test to identify AIDS in people before the symptoms appear.

The test is used to search for high levels of a protein component called beta-2 microglobulin. Blood tests on 40 apparently healthy Gay men showed that five had elevated levels of beta-2 in addition to the white blood cell abnormality commonly associated with AIDS. In 18-24 months five men developed AIDS symptoms, but none of the others did.

The test is currently available in most commercial laboratories.

Officials note that a positive test will not absolutely show AIDS, however, because elevated levels of beta-2 accompany other diseases as well. However, the test does show who should be monitored closely for later onset of the deadly disease.

The Gay Old Days



"Since Spyros has been bodybuilding you can't keep a stitch on him."

Even in private letters to one another, Peter Tchaikowski and Gay brother, Modeste, referred to homosexuality as "Z," or simply "the."

The Truth About AIDS

Evolution of an Epidemic

On April 23, 1984, Federal researchers at the National Cancer Institute announced that they had isolated the virus believed to be the cause of AIDS, the acronym for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. With the announcement comes hope that a blood test can be developed to screen prospective blood donors for AIDS, and that eventually, a vaccination will eradicate the disease. But no one with AIDS has yet been cured and, in the last five years, the disease has spread quickly enough to be called the most virulent epidemic of the century. The U.S. Public Health Service has called the AIDS investigation its "number one priority."

The Truth About AIDS: Evolution of an Epidemic, written by medical journalist Ann Giudici Fettner and William A. Check, Ph.D. (be be published by Holt, Rinehart Winston on June 29, 1984), is the first comprehensive, authoritative examination of the medical, social and political dimensions of the disease. In an advance review, *Booklist* wrote:

> *Fettner and Check have produced an exemplary chronicle about AIDS. In carefully explaining the profound clinical aspects of AIDS, the authors offer a factual and stunning detective story recording the discovery of the condition, the theories as to its etiology, and the unending search for a vaccine or cure. Especially fine are the discussion of the political and social aspects of the disease that affects us all.*

Straightforward enough for nonscientists yet comprehensive enough for health professionals, *The Truth About AIDS* describes in detail the massive medical search that led to the discovery of the AIDS virus and continues in search of a cure. Documented are the findings and opinions of world renowned medical experts, as well as the discoveries and possible cures revealed by the disease detectives who have been dedicated to the AIDS epidemic since its onset. Fettner and Check compiled their book by traveling across the country to interview prominent researchers who were at work on the AIDS mystery at the Center for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, and other major medical centers and hospitals. The authors also attended all the key symposia and conferences on the subject, and spoke with scores of victims and leaders in Gay communities and other affected areas. The authors provide appendices listing resources — doctors, researchers, and key lay persons who participated in personal interviews and/or are quoted in the book — and an anotated selected bibliography.

But *The Truth About AIDS* goes beyond the facts, to put into perspective the myths and misconceptions surrounding AIDS and, once and for all, seperate phobias from facts in order to discourage "AIDS hysteria." Blame for the epidemic has been placed by some on those minority groups which are most often afflicted. As *The Truth About AIDS* points out, these minority groups are only victims whose bodies have offered the proper environment for the virus to infect — no group is to "blame." *The Truth About AIDS* discusses the political and social implications of AIDS and covers such issues as the difficulty of obtaining research funding and the lack of cooperation among medical groups and health agencies. An analysis of ways in which the Gay "lifestyle" has been affected by the threat of the disease is also included. The emotional traumas of victims and those close to them are elucidated in case histories, and the authors offer high risk groups vital information such as prevention guidelines, how to recognize symptoms, treatment of opportunistic infections, and experimental therapies.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Medical writer Ann Giudici Fettner is the author of the bestselling book *Potpourri* and has served as a health advisor to the government of Kenya. She is a freelance writer and lives in Washington, D.C.

William A. Check, Ph. D. is a microbiologist and is former editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association.* He is a widely published author of articles about medicine and science and lives in Atlanta.

Dr. Bijan Safai, who has written the introduction to *The Truth About AIDS*, is the Chief of Dermatology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He is a world-renowned expert on Kaposi's sarcoma.

A Separate Peace Dept: Walt Whitman, who nursed Union soldiers, and Peter Doyle, an ex-confederate soldier, were nonetheless very civil with each other.

BWMT Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

BWMT invites you to our first annual Fundraiser Dinner. Come enjoy a delicious Spahetti Dinner and show with us and your friends.

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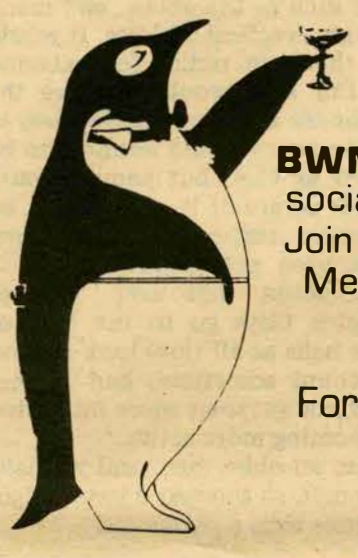

BWMT is an interracially Gay, social and politically active group. Join us in our fight for equality for Memphis' Gay and Lesbian community.

For Information Contact:
Ken: 722-8003
Bill: 274-8703

BWMT memphis

An Interracial Gay People's Organization

Calendar of Events - Everyone Welcome

Monday, July 23: **General Meeting,** 8:00 pm, Library Meeting Room A.
Thursday, July 26: **CR/Support Group,** 8:00 pm
Sunday, July 29: **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** (see ad above)
Thursday, August 2: **Action Committee Meeting,** 8:00 pm
Sunday, August 5: **BWMT Brunch at the Benchmark Hotel,** Noon
Tuesday, August 14: **CR/Support Group,** 8:00 pm
Saturday, August 18: **Steering Committee Meeting,** 5:30 pm
Thursday, August 23: **CR/Support Group,** 8:00 pm

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

For further information, call Irwin at 726-1461 or 726-4299 (Gay Switchboard) or write: Black and White Men Together of Memphis, Inc., P.O. Box 41773, Memphis, TN 38174

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.

Good Suggestion

Dear John,

I want you to know that I heard your interview on a talk show a week or so ago, and I think you did a fine job of it. It was good to hear a rational discussion, and I'm sure you made a good impression.

Also, I enjoy reading *Gaze* and am sure that it is no easy job to keep it going. It seems you are getting a little more support now than a year so so ago.

One suggestion I have about the paper, however, is that there is no mention of sports activities. I have noticed that in most cities they have Gay teams in softball, bowling, tennis and other events, and yet I never see anything like this mentioned. You might run an announcement that if anyone is interested in forming, for instance, a bowling team or a softball team (since it is summer) they could write to *Gaze* and you could put them in touch with one another. The softball team could even be entered in the Park Commission events. I am sure there are many men in this community who would welcome a chance to participate in an ongoing event such as the above, and many Gays are excellent athletes. It would give them an outlet for exercise, and I'm sure would improve the Gay image in Memphis. Needless to say, the teams would not have to be labeled as Gay, but people would become aware of it, and I think, be pleasantly surprised. The teams might even get sponsors.

I doubt that even 10% of Memphis Gays go to the bars or dance halls at all (just look around and count sometime) and I'll bet this would get some more interested in becoming more active.

I am an older man, and we have never met, so thought a letter might be better than a phone call

Bob
Memphis

Reader Thanks George

I am a true reader and believe in *Gaze*.

In reading the June issue, I came across a letter from a close and very respected friend of mine, George. Well, after reading George's letter I went back to my collection of *Gaze*. (I try to get and keep every copy. I like re-reading them). I re-read the letter from the unknown assailant.

For one thing, where did he go to school? (Now my spelling isn't that good but I do know how to spell. If I am not sure I go to the dictionary.) Does this "illiterate" not know how to spell Gay?

I support George. If it weren't for him there wouldn't be the Gay community as it is now. This person needs to get his/her s--t together and not attack anyone without reviewing the past.

I have said Thank You to George in many ways for what he has done for me and all concerned. I'd like to say Thank You, George again.

This person (if he/she is truly Gay should go up to George and thank him as well as ask George to forgive him/her for what he/she said in the May issue of *Gaze*. And then go back to school to learn how to spell Gay. It's capital G A Y, not gaye.

Bobby
Brownsville, TN

Gay Teacher Can Be Fired

The U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco has ruled that a high school guidance counselor could be fired for revealing her sexual orientation to a secretary.

In a 2-1 decision, the Court reversed an earlier $40,000 judgement won at the trial level in the case of *Rowland v. Mad River Local School District*. National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) participated in the case in support of Rowland.

NGRA Legal Director, Leonard Graff said, "We firmly believe that Ms. Rowland's First Amendment Rights were violated. In addition, there is an equal protection of the law problem. Obviously, straight teachers would not be discharged for revealing their sexual orientation.

Jean O'Leary, NGRA Executive Director said, "The impact of the court's ruling is that it's fine to be a closeted teacher but expect to get fired if you come out. This is not an acceptable position for Gay people in America in 1984." O'Leary said that NGRA would help with the briefing and strategy in filing for a rehearing by all of the judges in the Court of Appeals.

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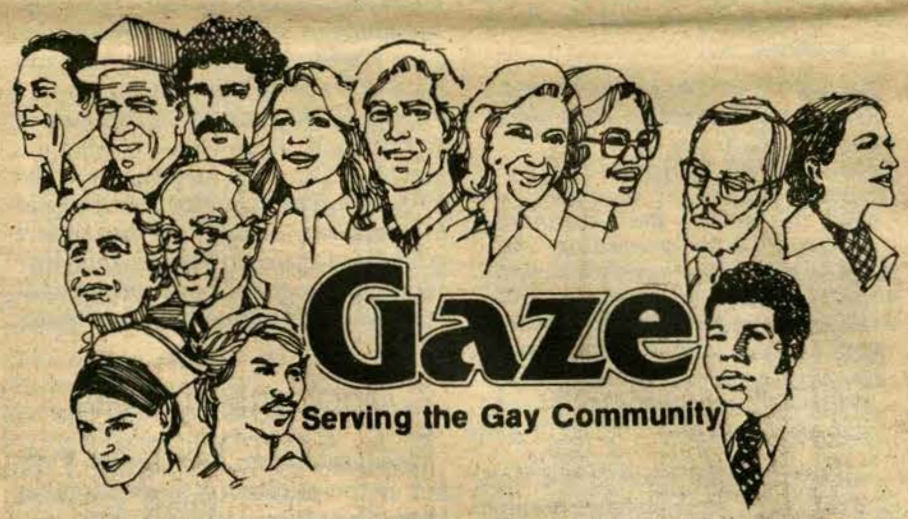

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Dear Butch

continued from page 9

About a year ago I met a woman. Through Madge, I learned to accept the feelings I have always had for other women and I am very happy with Madge and becoming more comfortable with my Gay feelings.

Darrell has never questioned my comings and goings and has never been pushy or insistent in the sex department. I appreciate his kindness and consideration and want to keep his friendship but I'm afraid of hurting him.

What should I do? — Torn

DEAR TORN: You are doing a grave disservice to Darrell. For all "kindness and consideration" you should pay him back with honesty and truth, not deception.

You've reached a point where you are ready to go on to a different life. You should let Darrell do the same.

From what you've said about him. I believe you can tell him the truth and that he will understand and remain your friend.

DEAR BUTCH: I am so tired of hearing straight people accuse Gays of recruiting people from the straight community because we can't reproduce and that is the only way to keep our community alive.

What can you say to these folks? —Confused.

DEAR CONFUSED: Haven't you noticed how many straight men have "done laps" disease? And it seems to be setting in earlier and earlier in them. Who would want to recruit them?

Besides recruits would be competition for all those good-looking hunks and the competition is already stiff enough.

Gays To Cover Demo's Convention

The NGN Radio Network announced it will broadcast from the floor of the 1984 Democratic Convention if San Francisco.

The announcement marks the first time in history a news organization whose broadcasts target Gays will provide such coverage.

The network says it expects to expand its news schedule to facilitate convention coverage in addition to its regular news broadcasts.

Commenting on the coverage, Bernard Lawson, Executive Producer, said "Our coverage will appeal to anyone with an interest in human rights. We expect a lot of interest in Gay issues at the convention and we will focus on that, but not limit ourselves to it."

NGN News has already enlisted the consulting services of high-ranking Democratic politicos to help organize the network's coverage. NGN News has hand-picked a team of political analysts and reporters to broadcast coverage of the event.

The NGN Radio Newtork has affiliate stations in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Berkley and Guerneville, California; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; New York; Europe; and two stations in Australia.

The network expects to add several stations to the network before convention coverage begins.

Anti-Gay Groups Asked To Testify

Washington — Calling homosexuality a "tragic sexual perversion" leaders of the New Right are urging Democrats and Republicans to reject platforms which endorse freedom of choice on abortion and advocate special rights for Gays.

Two organizations, the Moral Majority and the Free Congress Foundation sent letters to both major political parties' platform committees requesting that they be allowed to testify before the panels during its drafting sessions.

According to *The Weekly News* (Miami), Paul Werich, president of the Free Congress Foundation, called current efforts to "elevate a tragic sexual perversion to a legally protected status equivalent to that accorded to racial minorities is an insult to those minorities, a gross distortion of constitutional intent and a moral outrage." He continued, "Anti-family forces are eroding both the moral and practical foundations of America."

Will ERA Allow Same-Sex Marriages?

Constitutional experts recently told a Senate subcommittee that the proposed Equal Rights Amendment would give civil rights to Gays, including the right to same sex marriages, according to *Gay News.*

This opinion differs from previous assurances from advocates of ERA that the amendment would address only the issue of women's rights. The feeling is that the measure may be doomed if it could be interpreted as giving Gays civil rights protection.

"The ERA invites not simply a re-examination, but rather a rejecting of ancient generalization about sex, sex roles and rights in general in the context of sex," said Raymond Marcin, a law professor at Washington's Catholic University.

Social Security Urged to Expedite AIDS Claims

New York (*Gay Community News)* — Representative of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) and several AIDS service organizations met with members of the Social Security Administration (SSA) recently to establish communication between that agency and Gays. Among the issues raised by the Gay organizations were inordinate delays experienced by some persons with AIDS before gaining access to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and failure on the part of some state disability determination officers to follow SSA guidelines for expediting applications for AIDS claimants.

One representative at the meeting who has AIDS told the government officials, "Only after much frustration and countless inquiries on my part, and only after I had to endure repeated requests for irrelevant information and a six-month wait, did I finally receive benefits."

Among the specific steps that the SSA was urged to take to expedite AIDS benefits were: adoption of special service numbers for receiving application from persons with AIDS and implementation of systematic follow-up procedures for AIDS claims and designation of SSA personnel to specialize in AIDS claims and work with AIDS service volunteers.

SSA Commissioner Martha McSteen agreed to expedite handling of applications from persons with AIDS and pledged better communication by her agency with AIDS service organizations. Virginia Apuzzo of the National Gay Task Force, said the meeting "demonstrates a willingness on the part of Social Security to be more responsive to the needs of persons with AIDS and to move beyond the helpful, but not wholly adequate, policy initiatives that they have made in the past year."

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TQM Float

continued from page 4

While the entire parade was not available for the video audience, TQM spokesman Wayne Newsome said that there was a video camera on hand to capture their premiere on tape. According to reports, the look on the faces of those in the reviewing stand upon seeing the float and costumed krewe was worth the time and effort put into it.

Newsome says that Cotton Carnival officials were pleased with the manner in which the krewe conducted itself during the festivities and encouraged their participation next year. (Ed. Note -- That letter appears elsewhere in this issue.)

Next year the Cotton Carnival theme will be "King Cotton Looks At the Funnies." Newsome says that TQM plans to do a float based around Gary Larson's cartoon "The Far Side" which appears in the *Commercial Appeal*.

At an awards party held June 3 upstairs at The Other Side, the 1984 Queen's Men Grand Duke (S. Graves) and Grand Duchess (Gigi Parola) were presented. Past Duchesses Sharon Wray and Barbara Pierce and Grand Dukes Jimmie Shankle and Danny Ray were also in attendance.

This year's President's Award was presented to Terry Delgado and B. Coin. Ball Captain's Awards were received by Mike Rollins, Greg Baker and Danny Ray.

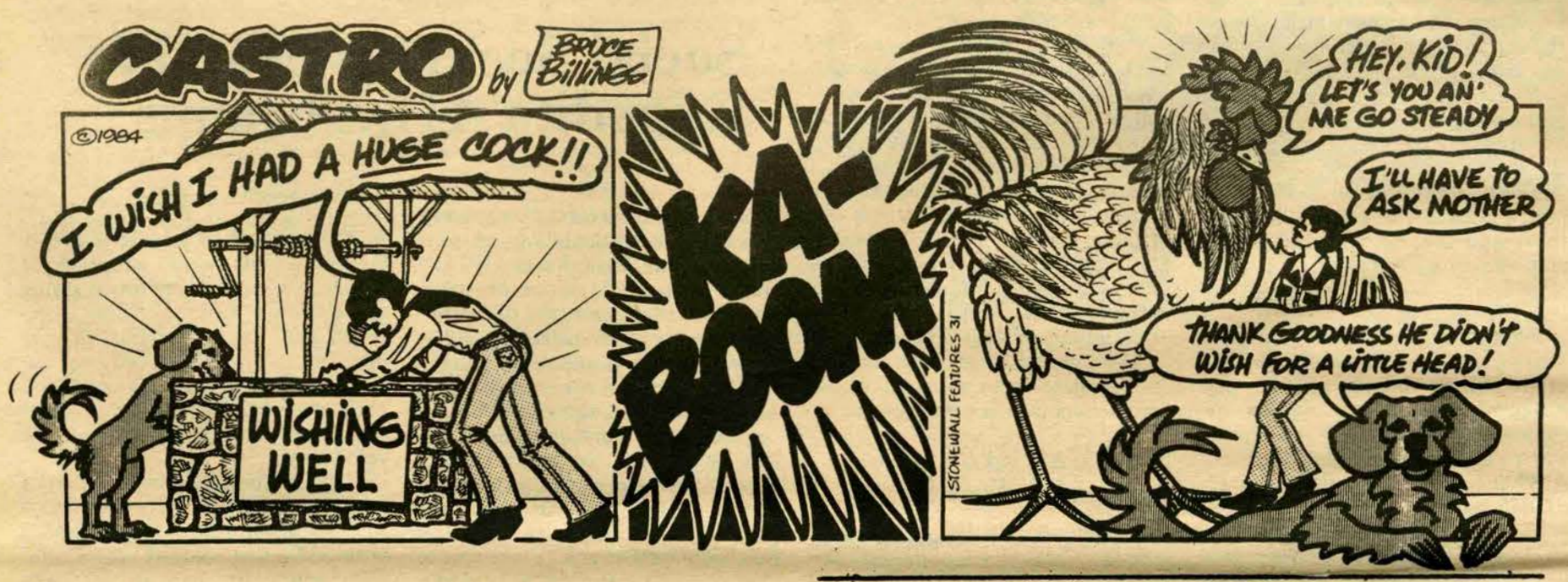
Five thousand specially minted dubloons which had been thrown along the Cotton Carnival Parade route were also presented to guest at the party.

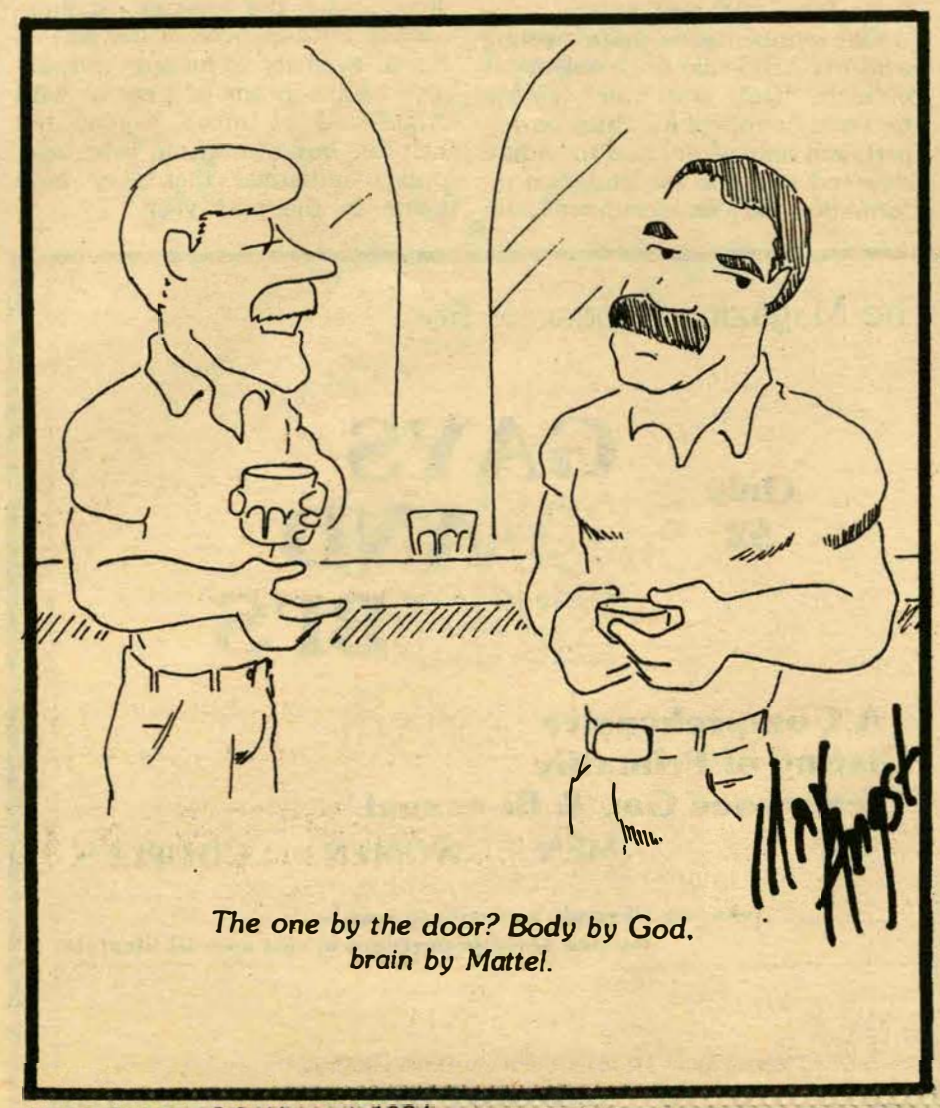
TQM is a private social organization which encourages both male and female members. More information can be obtained by contacting any member.

Health Care Study Funded

Minneapolis — The Ms Foundation recently awarded $10,000 to the National Gay Health Education Foundation to fund a study of health care for Gay women in the United States.

The one-year study will identify where health care services for Gay women are needed throughout the country. According to the *Washington Blade*, a large emphasis is being given to Third World and working class Gay women.





The one by the door? Body by God, brain by Mattel.

Classifieds

RATES FOR CLASSIFIEDS: Personal, non commercial ads FREE. Limit of 30 words (including address or phone number) and a $2 charge for use of our P.O. Box. Commercial ads at the rate of 20¢ per word. $3 minimum. Phone numbers and zip codes are free. $2 additional charge for use of our P.O. Box. Deadline for ads is 5 days prior to the publication date which is usually the last Friday of the month. Send to *Gaze*, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

TOM WILSON'S albums and cassettes, *Gay Name Game* and *All-American Boy*, are available at ENCORE, 1266 Madison.

NATIONAL GAY CONTACT CLUB — Men/Women. Low rates. Send SASE to: NGCC, P.O. Box 28781, San Jose, CA 95159.

LITTLE ROCK — Looking for correspondents, to cover news, sell ads, aid in distribution. Write *Gaze*, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038 or call (901) 454-1411.

BAILEYTON — Wanted: ambitious person to aid in distribution in East Tenn., cover news, and sell ads. Write *Gaze*, Box 3038, Memphis, TN, 38173-0038, or call (901) 454-1411. Commissions paid on ad sales!

CHATTANOOGA — Help us spread the news in East Tenn. Cover news, help distribute, sell ads. Commissions paid on ad sales. Interested? Write *Gaze*, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038 or call (901) 454-1411.

CLARKSVILLE — Make some extra money in your spare time. Help by covering news stories, distributing and selli
ting, and selling ads. Commissions paid on ad sales! Write *Gaze*, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038 or call (901) 454-1411.

JOHNSON CITY — Help us keep you informed. People needed to cover news in East Tenn, sell ads and help distribute *Gaze*. We pay commissions on ad sales! Write: *Gaze*, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038 or call (901) 454-1411.

KNOXVILLE -- We need your help! Person or persons to cover local news in East Tenn, aid in distributing *Gaze* and selling ads to help cover shipping costs to cities in East Tenn, Write: *Gaze*, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038 or call (901) 454-1411. Commissions paid on ad sales!

Information and Services

MEMPHIS

ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union — (ACLU): general movement; 81 Madison Bldg., Suite 1501, Memphis, 38103, (901) 521-9875

Black and White Men Together: support/movement; Box 41773 Memphis, 38104, (901) 276-4160 or 274-0532

Gay Advocacy Project: movement, ACLU and MGC, 521=9875

Gay Catholics: Call 725-1698 for recommended Sunday Mass.

Ladies Plus: service organization for men and women, public. Call 725-9877 before 3 pm daily.

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

Memphis Gay Coalition: movement, public. Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays of the 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 38173-0038

Metropolitan Community Church: non-denominational; Call 274-8355 for worship and Bible study schedule.

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

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

National Organization for Women (NOW): movement, feminist; Box 40982, Memphis, 38104

The Queen's Men (TQM): social, private membership, no address listing

Phoenix: Gay AA; meets Wed., 8 pm Fri., 10 pm; Sun., 8 pm. 2009 Lamar, 365-7153.

Tsarus: social, levi-leather/motorcycle, private membership, Box 41082, Memphis, 38111

MEDIA

Gaze: newspaper, monthly; Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038 (901) 454-1411

Lambda Televideo: TV, monthly program Views from 10%, cable channel 7, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038

HELPLINES

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

Rape Crisis: 528-2161

Suicide and Crisis Intervention: 274-7477

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

Adams Family Restaurant: Home cooking, 1782 Madison, 725-7336.

The Eighth Day: bar, pizza/beer, 1382 Poplar, 725-9877

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

George's: showbar, large disco; 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, large disco, restaurant, showbar, late hours. 12 N. Cleveland, 726-9245.

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

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

Rumors: bar, disco, video, late hours; 616 Marshall, 527-6348.

MISCELLANEOUS

Book Cottage (Overton Square): mainstream book store, includes section of Gay/Lesbian novels and nonfiction; 2113 Madison Ave., 726-5857

Club South: baths, TV room, sauna, spa, lockers, rooms, 628 Madison (901) 525-2582. CBC affiliated.

Encore Cards and Gifts: cards, gifts, ceramics, posters, etc. Large selection of Gay/Lesbian fiction and nonfiction. 1266 Madison Ave., 722-8963

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

Men of Leather: clothing, accoutrements. 1474 Madison (in the rear of Jackie's). (901) 458-8342

Mid Town Video: Video cassette sales and rentals; 1264 Madison

Tobacco Corner Newsroom: mainstream newsstand, carries Gay periodicals. 669 Mendenhall Rd. South, 682-3326.

NASHVILLE

ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): general movement, legal Box 120160, Nashville 37212

Conductors: Levi-leather club; Box 40261, Nashville 37212

Lifestyle Health Services: confidential clinic specializing in STD's 1729 Church St., Nashville, 37203, (615) 329-1478

Metropolitan Community Church: non-denominational; 131 15th Ave., N., Nashville TN 37202

Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights: movement, Box 24181, Nashville, TN 37202

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

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

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

B. Palola's: Restaurant, bar, 1812 Hayes St., (615) 320-0713

Cabaret: Bar, disco, drag shows; 1711 Hayes St. (615) 320-7082

The Chute: Restaurant, bar, 2535 Franklin Road., (615) 297-4571

Crazy Cowboy: bar; 2311 Franklin Road (615) 383-9493

Juanita's 224: bar, 224 Capitol Blvd. (615) 255-9841

The Jungle: bar, restaurant, patio, shows, 300 4th Ave., S. (615) 256-9411

Slippo's: 2106—A Eighth Ave. S. bar, (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

ACLU of Arkansas: general movement, legal; Box 2832, Little Rock AR 72203

Arkansas Gay Rights: general movement, Box 3115, Little Rock, AR 72203

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/BWMT: support/movement: Box 3123, Little Rock, AR 72203, (501) 374-3217

Metropolitan Community Church-Little Rock: non-denominational, Box 1964, Little Rock 72203, (501) 666-2404

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

Parents and Friends of Gays: movement/support. Box 1839, Batesville, AR 72501

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

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

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

Discovery II: 1021 Jessie Road, (501) 664-4784

Lil's Country Pub: 1701 University, Little Rock, AR (501) 663-8682

The Palladium: 101 S. Victory, Little Rock, AR (501) 372-2372

Silver Dollar Bar: 2710 Asher Ave., Little Rock, AR (501) 663-9886

MISCELLANEOUS

University Adult Arcade, 6316 Asher Ave., (501) 568-2952

MISSISSIPPI

ORGANIZATIONS

Gay Switchboard: information, referral, counseling; (601) 355 - 7495

Integrity/Mississippi: religious, Episcopaleans (all Gay Christians welcome) Box 4235, Jackson, MS 39216 (601) 355-7495

Lambda Group (Gay AA): meets Sat., 8 pm, 4872 N. State St. c/o Box 8342, Jackson, MS, 39204

Metropolitan Community Church: non-denominational, Box 8342 Jackson, MS 39204 (601) 355-7495

Mississippi Gay Alliance: movement; Box 8342, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 355-7495

BARS AND RESTAURANTS

Bill's Disco and Show Bar: 207 W. Amite, Jackson, MS 39201 (601) 969-9765 (Th-Sat only)

Emerald City: 2912 Old Canton Rd. Jackson, MS 39216 (601) 366-7315

Jack's Saloon: 208 W. Capitol, Jackson, MS 39201 (601) 354-9588

Jill's: (at Jack's) see listing above.

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