

AIDS

A Public Service of the Aid to End AIDS Committee

UPDATE

Doctor's Dilemma: To Reveal or Not?

The delay in Liberace's funeral and the debate over the accuracy of what was listed as his cause of death has brought the AIDS disclosure issue to the forefront of the medical ethics surrounding the disease. Should a doctor disclose the cause of death or should that be private information?

Liberace's doctor faces possible disciplinary action in California for suppressing the fact that Liberace died of an AIDS-related opportunistic infection.

The Washington, DC-based AIDS Advisory Committee insists that the correct cause of death should be listed so that the public may know the true extent of the epidemic they face. Jeff

Levi, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) insists that as long as the case is reported to CDC for its statistics, what goes on the actual death certificate is unimportant.

"The doctor is supposed to make that report before the patient dies. So, from an epidemiological standpoint, what's on the death certificate is irrelevant," he said. "The reason that people are interested in Liberace's cause of death has nothing to do with protecting his sexual partners," said Levi, "it has everything to do with morbid curiosity."

Herbert Buzbee, executive secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Coroners

and Medical Examiners feels, "it should be reported, it just shouldn't be made public."

"I think it's a private thing between the deceased and their family," Buzbee said.

Laws for reporting AIDS as a cause of death vary among the states, so it is difficult to know how often doctors falsify death certificates. Furthermore, the actual cause of death is not usually attributable to AIDS but to an opportunistic infection brought on by the disease. For example, an AIDS patient may actually die of pneumonia or Kaposi's sarcoma as the result of having AIDS.

AZT Approved for Sale

Washington — The federal government has approved the first drug for the treatment of AIDS. Azidothymidine (AZT) was approved March 20 for sale after clinical trials demonstrated to the FDA that it prolongs the life of AIDS sufferers. The drug is not considered a cure for AIDS because it does not kill the virus. It does, however, inhibit an enzyme required for the virus to reproduce and, therefore, prevents the virus from spreading further.

AZT will be marketed under the name Retrovir by Burroughs Wellcome Co., (BW) of Research Triangle Park, N.C.

The drug is administered in capsule form which must be taken every four hours. Estimated cost for treatment for one year could range as high as \$10,000.

AZT is derived from herring sperm in a complex chemical process. The drug suppresses bone marrow in many patients, thereby reducing the number of infection fighting blood cells.

Retrovir is in short supply and BW has outlined a distribution system intended to see that the drug goes first to those patients who closely match those successful in the test.

AIDS Employment Discrimination Ruled Illegal in California

San Francisco — In a sweeping victory for people with AIDS, the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission unanimously ruled that persons with AIDS are protected against job discrimination. In a case pursued by National Gay Rights Advocates, *DFEH v. Raytheon*, the 7-member commission awarded back pay to the estate of John Chadbourne, and indicated that California employers who continue to discriminate based on AIDS will be required to pay punitive and compensatory damages. A former Raytheon quality control analyst, Chadbourne was barred from returning to work

by Raytheon upper management who "believed," contrary to medical evidence, that he might casually transmit AIDS in the workplace. The commission ruling directly contradicts the U.S. Justice Dept. memo issued last year that allows employers to discriminate on such a "belief."

"The commission has made it clear that AIDS related employment discrimination will not be tolerated in the state of California," noted Jean O'Leary, National Gay Rights Advocates Executive Director. "The commission has done what all right-minded Americans should do with the U.S. Attorney General's

opinion: ignored it."

"The commission's unanimous decision is a green light for people with AIDS to successfully contest their dismissals," commented NGRA Legal Director Leonard Graff. "California employers are now on notice that AIDS-related employment discrimination is irresponsible, illegal, and, from now on, expensive."

John Chadbourne died of AIDS-related cancer on January 6, 1985. His estate will be administered by Joyce Harris and Ann Woods, a lesbian couple who cared for Chadbourne during his illness.

AIDS Spread Slows in Prisons

Once called the nation's breeding grounds for AIDS, the spread of the disease apparently has slowed in prisons. Although there was a 61% increase in AIDS cases in prisons in 1986, the number of cases in the general population increased by 83% during the same time.

Theodore Hammet, author of

the National Institute of Justice study, explained the slower rise as a result of "a controlled environment." He indicates that drug needles are hard to get in prison and that prisoners have cut down on (homosexual) sex because of the AIDS scare.

So far, New York's prisons have fared the worst with

over 400 cases, almost all among drug users. The data in the study included all federal and state prison systems and 33 city and county jails.

Among the other study findings:

- There had been 1,232 AIDS inmates by the fall of 1986
- Three quarters of

Memphis Stations May Accept Condom ADS

Some stations in Memphis will accept condoms ads while others still will refuse them, according to a recent report in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*. Whether or not a station will accept condom ads seems to depend on the time of day requested and the "tastefulness" of the ads.

Alex Bonner, General Manager of WHBQ-TV, has indicated his station will not accept condom ads because he feels the people in this area would "resent that advertising on TV."

During the last month a number of stations nationally have begun accepting condom ads after Surgeon General Edward Koop indicated that knowledge of methods of protection from AIDS was extremely important.

Initial reaction to condom ads run on WXYZ in Detroit were running about 2-1 against with many callers saying the ads promoted promiscuity. However, 700 phone calls later, the reaction is now 5-1 in favor, according to WXYZ General Manager Jeanne Findlater.

In San Francisco, KRON-TV reports it has received 400 phone calls and 168 letters since Jan. 27 when it began running the ads. 74% of the response has been favorable.

In Indianapolis, WRTV reports that fewer than 10 of its 500 phone calls have been negative.

In Boston, news that WLVI would accept condom ads prompted 100 letters and 300 phone calls, 80% positive.

Major television networks are still holding out saying that such ads would offend "significant portions of their audience" and that AIDS and birth control are best dealt with in the context of their news and in some cases entertainment programming.

AIDS prison cases are reported in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania

● Only Colorado, Nevada, and South Dakota screen all

inmates for AIDS.

Prison officials have resisted suggestions that prisoners be issued condoms.

AIDS Discrimination Cases In The Courts

Discrimination in Employment

A licensed practical nurse has filed a complaint against his hospital employer after he was fired due to unfounded rumors that he has AIDS. Frederick Laredo, Jr. alleges that the action by Trigg Memorial Hospital in New Mexico has violated the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (which prohibits discrimination based on physical handicap), breach of contract, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

According to the complaint, Laredo, who was hired in 1981, was briefly hospitalized in August 1984 because of physical problems unrelated to AIDS. At that time, Laredo asked to be tested for HIV antibodies, but he never received the results. In June 1985, Laredo underwent confidential HIV testing at another facility and although he tested positive, he did not and does not have AIDS or ARC. The

complaint further alleges that in November 1985 Trigg requested and received a letter from Laredo's physician saying that Laredo had no medical problems which would interfere with his job. In February 1986, Trigg administrators suggested to Laredo that he go on leave with pay and seek early retirement or transfer to another hospital. Their reasons for doing this, according to the complaint, were suspicions that potential patients were avoiding the hospital because of rumors that a nurse there had AIDS. Laredo assented to the leave-with-pay status, but he was subsequently placed on leave without pay in apparent violation of the hospital's policy as outlined in its employee handbook. The handbook states that employees can only be terminated for serious offenses, such as mistreatment of patients, fighting, or theft.

The hospital is also faced with a charge of handicap dis-

crimination filed with the state Dept. of Human Rights. If a violation is found, the hospital would be subject to sanctions that could include suspension from participation in the Medicaid program.

The Legal AID Society of San Francisco has filed two AIDS-based discrimination complaints on behalf of a department store salesman who was fired after he was diagnosed as having AIDS. The complaint filed in December with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and the state Dept. of Fair Employment and Housing alleges that Neiman-Marcus (N-M) discriminated against Bruce Kears by refusing to permit him the opportunity to be placed on medical leave, and that N-M violated his privacy by informing other employees of his condition. Kears is seeking reinstatement and lost wages and benefits.

Kears contends that N-M announced at a managers meeting that Kears had AIDS, that he was suing the store, that civil rights activists would be harassing N-M, and that no one was to talk with Kears. These actions, Kears maintains, violate state laws against breaches of confidentiality and against retaliation for asserting civil rights.

AIDS and civil rights groups have called for an N-M boycott to protest the store's discriminatory policies.

Discrimination in Public Accommodations

A complaint was filed against an Austin, TX nursing home that refused to admit a man with AIDS. The complaint claims that Four Seasons Nursing center's refusal to admit Donald McEnany because he had AIDS violates Sect. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as well as state antidiscrimination

laws. The complainant seeks declaratory and injunctive relief as well as compensatory and punitive damages and costs.

According to the complaint Donald McEnany was seriously ill with AIDS-related chronic meningitis and was in urgent need of full-time nursing care and services. On October 3, McEnany's brother applied for Donald's admission to the home but was explicitly refused because Donald had AIDS. Although Donald died Dec. 6, the brother is continuing to pursue the case. Fifteen other Austin nursing homes also refused to admit Donald, and complaints of handicap discrimination have been filed against four of the them with the Austin Human Relations Commission. A city ordinance prohibiting AIDS-related discrimination took effect Dec. 20.

New Classifications for HIV Infections Proposed

by Larry Prater, M.D.
Reprinted from *The Gayly Oklahoman*

The centers for Disease Control (CDC) have proposed a new classification for HIV infection. There are varying stages of the disease.

HIV I: Primary HIV infection — As with most other viral diseases, symptoms will occur within one to four weeks of exposure. The most common symptom is fever which may occur in almost all infected persons. Other features of recent infection may include transient or permanent lymph node enlargement, rash, aching muscles or joints, diarrhea, and, more rarely, meningitis (an infection of the lining of the brain). HIV can be cultured (grown in the laboratory) from blood within the second week of exposure. The T-helper lymphocyte is the primary cell infected. This is the cell which directs most of the activities of the immune system. Only a small fraction of T-helper cells are infected, probably fewer than one in ten thousand. Usually within the first two months of infection, at least two major immunological events occur which defend the infected person against the spread of the infection: (1) production of an antibody (a protein in the blood) to HIV, and (2) recruitment of suppressor T-lymphocytes. The latter may form a mantle or shield about the HIV-infected cells, thus keeping them in a dormant state in lymph nodes but not circulating in the blood unless some stress to the

immune system reactivates them.

Asymptomatic seropositive — Positive AIDS antibody test and healthy.

HIV III: Persistent generalized lymph node enlargement — Persons in these two groups have antibody to HIV but are in seemingly good health. The only difference is that those in stage HIV III have lymph nodes greater in size than one centimeter (about 1/3 of an inch) in at least two sites excluding the groin. The most common site is the armpits followed by the back of the neck. In both these groups, HIV can be found in the genetic material in certain cells of the lymph nodes; but the virus is held in check by HIV antibody, suppressor T-cells, and other factors, thus minimizing progression of the disease. In some individuals, the amount of virus in the bloodstream may be so minimal that one cannot culture it from the blood. However, one must assume that the blood and semen (or vaginal fluid) from such individuals is potentially infectious.

Most persons in HIV II or HIV III groups have a normal or nearly normal number of T-helper cells in the blood. Thus, they can handle most infections as an uninfected person does. However, most will have an increased number of suppressor T-lymphocytes which presumably play a role in keeping HIV in a latent state. Thus the ratio of helper-to-suppressor T-lymphocytes is usually less than 1, whereas in an uninfected individual, it is usually

greater than one unless another infection is present. Persons in stage II or III of HIV infection may progress to Stage IV; however, many remain in stages II or III for years (or hopefully decades).

HIV IV: Symptomatic HIV Infection — This includes several subgroups including AIDS Related Complex (ARC), AIDS opportunistic infections, AIDS related tumors, and neurological diseases related to HIV.

HIV IV ARC: Auto-immune disease — Many individuals in this group have what is termed autoimmune disease, that is, they are making antibodies which are directed against their own cells. This implies more disorganization than deficiency of the immune system. Since genetic material of HIV is incorporated into a small fraction of the T-helper lymphocytes, the immune system sees these cells as foreign and will make antibodies to destroy them. Unfortunately, these anti-lymphocyte antibodies may also react with uninfected T-helper lymphocytes, thus destroying the healthy portion of the immune system. For unknown reasons, the partially damaged immune system may make antibodies against nerve sheaths (covering of nerves) causing painful neuritis or weakness, against platelets (blood clotting cells) causing bleeding, against red blood cells causing anemia, and against numerous other types of cells.

HIV IV: ARC "Minor"

Infections — Persons in stage HIV IV usually have fewer than 400 T-helper cells per cubic millimeter (the normal is 700 or more). This lack of helper cells impairs the immune defenses against certain common microbes such as herpes simplex, herpes zoster (shingles), cytomegalovirus (CMV), candida (thrush in the mouth), seasonal viruses, and various bacteria. These infections may occur in people who have not been exposed to HIV, but usually are not so severe. Fever, diarrhea, and skin problems are often disabling. (HIV may become reactivated and cause some of the symptoms.) These problems are collectively termed AIDS-Related Complex (ARC). Some of these individuals undergo further depletion of T-helper lymphocytes; if they fall below 200, risk of AIDS defined opportunistic infection exists. Fortunately, some individuals with ARC may improve and revert to stage II or III for extended periods.

HIV IV: Kaposi's sarcoma — In some cases, abnormal lymph channels may proliferate in lymph nodes, skin or internal organs. The resulting growth is called Kaposi's sarcoma. A significant number may have adequate numbers of T-helper cells and thus remain free of opportunistic infections for several years.

HIV IV Lymphoma — Lymphomas are tumors of the cells of the immune system involving lymph glands and also the brain. These also occur in

persons not infected with HIV, but when found in the presence of HIV or the HIV antibody, are defined as AIDS.

HIV IV: AIDS Opportunistic Infections — In these individuals, marked depletion of T-helper lymphocytes occur allowing overgrowth of certain microbes which are normally held in check by an adequate immune system.

HIV IV: Neurological disease — Since HIV resides in brain and nerve tissue, neurological problems are common, even without full-blown AIDS. Symptoms may include memory loss, personality changes, fatigue, poor coordination, inability to concentrate, and weakness.

Co-factors — Numerous co-factors have been shown to stress the immune system causing reactivation of the dormant HIV infection. They may also activate factors which suppress the immune system's combat equipment. Such co-factors include exposure sexually transmitted and certain other infectious diseases, lack of sleep, excessive sun exposure, inadequate nutrition, smoking, nitrites, excessive alcohol, and emotional stress, to name a few. It has been shown in animals that semen is immunosuppressive, and thus deposition of semen into the rectum (where access to the blood stream is likely) may be a co-factor even with no virus present. Avoidance of these co-factors may play a major role in keeping HIV-positives on the healthy end of this broad spectrum of disease.

Dr. Prater is a psychiatrist who writes a regular health column for The Gayly Oklahoman.

Bishops: Condoms No Answer

Dallas — 150 Roman Catholic Bishops who met in Dallas Feb. 12 did not believe condoms are the answer to preventing AIDS. They said that it would be wrong for priests to warn parishioners to ignore the church's teachings to protect themselves with condoms according to *USA Today*.

The bishops were attending a conference on religious ethics and medical issues.

While Catholics have a responsibility to help AIDS victims, Msgr. William B.

Smith of New York said the church must maintain its hard line against contraceptives, homosexuality, premarital sex, and divorce. He agreed it was not easy and that the United States "probably isn't open to our point of view."

The bishops contend distribution of condoms only encourages unhealthy sex. If a priest were to do that, "the person is going to think the priest is giving permission," said Bishop Anthony Bevilacqua of Pittsburgh.

Gay Advocates Opposing Mandatory HIV Testing

National Gay Rights Advocates urges all Americans to join a writ-in campaign opposing mandatory HIV testing. The campaign will attempt to influence the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, a government institution under the auspices of the Health and Human Services Department. In a move signalling a possible change of policy, the CDC held two days of meetings in February to discuss imposing mandatory HIV testing on all hospital patients and applicants for marriage licenses. NGRA, the national public interest law firm working for gay rights, opposes mandatory testing as "detrimental

government to impose mandatory HIV testing when it is unwilling to take the lead in prohibiting AIDS related discrimination," noted Benjamin Schatz, Director of NGRA's AIDS Civil Rights Project. "Until basic requirements such as insurance coverage and confidentiality of test results are guaranteed for those tested, NGRA will continue to oppose mandatory antibody testing that is ineffective in halting the spread of the disease."

All statements opposing mandatory HIV testing should be directed to Walter Dowdle, Deputy Director-AIDS, U.S. Center for Disease Control, 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30333.

First Lesbian Transmitted AIDS Case

Philadelphia — The medical journal *Annals of Internal Medicine* reported February 15 what appears to be the first case of woman-to-woman transmission of AIDS.

The case involves two women, one of whom is an IV drug user who, according to the report, developed AIDS-like symptoms several years ago. The other woman, who claimed she never used IV drugs, developed

similar symptoms in 1984. She did acknowledge oral and manual vaginal contact with the other woman as well as mouth contact with the other woman's anus. Both women stated that they regularly had bleeding as a result of sexual activity. The Centers for Disease Control has since stated that it is possible for one woman to pass on the virus to another woman through sexual activity.

AIDS Funding Hiked

President Reagan has proposed a budget of \$533.5 million in AIDS funding for the fiscal year 1988 which begins in October. This is 28% more than this year's funding level and 150% more than the original administration request for 1987. The proposal also calls for \$97 million to be used by the Dept. of Defense and the Veterans Administration for antibody testing and AIDS treatment for veterans.

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) said that even with the increases, the proposed budget does not come close to the money needed to implement the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences.

Last October, NAS recommended an expenditure of \$1 billion in federal funds for AIDS research and another billion for AIDS education by 1990.

AIDS Education Computer Program Available

Edwardsville, Kansas — A small computer software company is attempting to dispel the cloud of confusion over AIDS, and turn a profit, too, according to a recent report in *USA Today*. The company, Substance Abuse Education (SAE), is offering a \$50 IBM-compatible program wherein students will be able to run through 20 questions. If the student gets an incorrect answer, the computer lists the correct answer and explains the rationale behind it. Animated graphics show how the virus destroys the immune system. Students can also type in questions anonymously and answer them in class discussions. SAE offers programs on several medical topics including alcohol and drug abuse.

Sect'y of Ed Warns of 'Condom-mania'

Austin, TX — Education Secretary William Bennett recently reiterated his stand regarding school children stating that AIDS education should emphasize restraint as opposed to condom use to prevent the further spread of the disease.

The Weekly News reports that Bennett states that a more realistic and honest way of preventing the spread of AIDS would be to teach "a straightforward moral lesson of restraint."

"Condom-mania, which is what I see around in some quarters

right now, will not save our children," stated Bennett. "To focus exclusively on (condoms) is like teaching our children that when they drive drunk, they

should drive slow." Bennett said that AIDS was just one more reason to discourage sexual activity among students.

CDC Backs Down on Mandatory Testing

The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta has backed down from recommending mandatory testing for all patients entering hospitals and for all persons applying for marriage licenses. The CDC held a hearing on the proposal Feb. 24-25 in Atlanta at which the proposal was assailed by virtually every recognized expert in the United States. It was also condemned by a coalition of 22 Gay and AIDS groups.

CDC reportedly expected about 250 to show up for the hearings, but participants numbered almost 900 plus about 100 reporters.

Some Gay and AIDS activists were pleased with the results, but legal experts cautioned that the federal government seems determined to promote wide-scale testing. Speculation is that federal authorities will promote the plan as "routine" rather than mandatory. Much of the concern centers around what will be done with the results and the lack of safeguards for AIDS-related discrimination.

"I worry that we may get routine testing down the line, and it may be the same in many cases as mandatory testing," said Katherine Franke of the Employment Law Center. "Semantics is everything because some court will decide what 'routine' testing means."

According to the *Bay Area Reporter*, Franke said, "Routine testing can be coercive. It puts the burden on the person to say they don't want the test. For many people, refusing would be awkward and difficult." Frank handles cases of AIDS discrimination.

A coalition of 22 AIDS and Gay groups issued a detailed statement which condemned mandatory testing and stated that they felt it would drive many people away from health care.

Federal testing guidelines are due out in about three weeks and will be reviewed at cabinet level. While the plan will be a recommendation only, it is expected to have great influence on local and state health authorities.

Memphis AIDS Coalition Off and Running

An ad hoc AIDS advisory group has been formed jointly through the efforts of the Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC) and The Memphis Chapter of the American Red Cross. The group met for the second time on March 18 at the Red Cross Building. About 75 people attended.

Participants included representatives from religious, educational, social service, business and government, and medical disciplines.

The purpose of the group, according to organizers, is to determine which of the many issues facing society regarding AIDS needs to be addressed, and then to prioritize them and develop action plans.

Each of the five groups is expected to develop into a task force with its own agenda. Many of the issues, however, will require groups to cooperate.

Among the needs identified by the coalition were:

- To educate all sexually active people on AIDS prevention methods.

- To develop plans within churches to respond to members who may develop AIDS.

- To create a speakers bureau and materials and to make that group's availability known to the general community.

- To develop an educational packet of materials which would be made available to every school library and public library.

- To develop ongoing staff development plans for the area's health care workers, including non-degreed workers

A steering committee with two members of each group was selected to plan further meetings.

The next meeting of the Memphis AIDS Coalition will be Wednesday, April 22 at 2:00 PM at The Red Cross.

Aid to End AIDS Committee General Meetings

April 19, May 17, June 21

2:00 PM
Red Cross Building
1400 Central Avenue

ATEAC Support Groups Now Available
PWA's, HIV-Positive, Family & Friends
For Further Information, call
762-8401

Answers To The Most Frequently Asked Questions About AIDS

How can you tell if you have AIDS?

Early symptoms of AIDS include unexplained fever, night sweats, swollen lymph glands, yeast infections, unexplained cough, loss of appetite, fatigue, diarrhea, shortness of breath, or a large unexplained weight loss (10 lbs or more in a month). Since these symptoms are general in nature, the presence of any or all of them should NOT be considered cause for alarm. There is no definitive diagnostic test for AIDS. The HIV (formerly HTLV-III) antibody test only shows that a person has been exposed to the virus. It does not necessarily mean that a person has or will develop AIDS. A complete blood analysis is necessary to determine if a person has a depressed or damaged immune system. According to CDC guidelines, for a person to have AIDS, he/she must have a depressed immune system AND one or more of the opportunistic infections associated with the disease, i.e. Kaposi's sarcoma, pneumocystis carinii pneumonia, disseminated histoplasmosis, etc.

Who gets AIDS?

Anyone can get AIDS. Sexually active men who have sex with other men promiscuously account for about 73% of the cases. 17% of the cases are the result of sharing needles in IV drug use. Anal receptive intercourse without a condom and IV drug use are considered to be the practices most likely to transmit AIDS.

What is the incubation period of AIDS?

The AIDS virus may lie dormant for many years before presenting itself as AIDS. The longest recorded case is currently 7 years. An infected person without symptoms during this time may pass the virus on to other people without knowing it.

What precautions should I use around someone who has AIDS?

There is no evidence to show that AIDS can be transmitted other than through sex or the exchange of blood or semen. There is ample evidence to suggest that casual, day-to-day contact cannot transmit the disease. Precautions similar to those used in preventing the spread of Hepatitis-B are suggested. Avoid the sharing of razors, toothbrushes, drinking glasses, towels, etc. However, it should be noted that no cases of transmission through these means has ever been proved. There is absolutely no evidence that you can catch AIDS merely by touching an AIDS patient.

If that is true, why do we see health care workers dressed in masks and gloves?

An AIDS patient generally has an impaired immune system and easily catches diseases a healthy person would ward off. The gloves and masks are often used to protect the patient from germs, rather than the nurse or doctor from AIDS.

Can I get AIDS by swimming in a pool with an infected person?

There is no evidence to support this. The AIDS virus is a weak one. Chemicals in pools would kill the virus on contact.

Can mosquitos spread AIDS?

There is no evidence to support this. However, there is a possibility that AIDS could be spread through extremely dirty conditions (open sewers, garbage and filth lying around, etc.) much like hepatitis. If mosquitos could spread AIDS, the number of cases of AIDS would be spread evenly in the population, not confined to certain groups.

Can I get AIDS from a toilet seat?

No, not from a toilet seat, doorknob, or touching a person with AIDS. Exchange of semen or blood is required. There is no evidence to support transmission through contact

with sweat or tears. Although the HIV virus has been isolated in the saliva of some patients, there have been no cases where this has been shown to be the means of transmission.

What sex practices are considered unsafe?

Anal and vaginal intercourse without a condom is considered unsafe. A condom may reduce the risk by a factor of 12. Manual/anal and manual/vaginal intercourse (fisting) is considered unsafe because of the likelihood of blood vessels being broken allowing the virus to enter the bloodstream. Fellatio (sucking) is considered unsafe if the semen is ingested. Risk is reduced by withdrawal before climax. There is a possibility of absorption of the virus through mucous membranes, especially if sores or bleeding gums are present. Oral/anal contact is considered unsafe regardless of the presence of AIDS. AIDS may be transmitted by blood contaminated feces. This act will almost certainly transmit parasites, hepatitis, and various forms of dysentery.

If my partner and I are monogamous, can we get AIDS?

If you and your partner have truly monogamous longer than seven years, there is little likelihood of you contracting AIDS. One of the other of you would have had to have been infected prior to the start of your monogamous relationship. AIDS results from the passing of the virus from an infected person to an uninfected one. It is NOT caused by any certain sexual practice, although certain practices are conducive to its spread.

What is the prognosis of an AIDS patient?

AIDS is considered to be a fatal disease. Virtually all victims diagnosed over 4 years ago are now dead. 90% of those diagnosed three years ago are dead. There is no current cure, although some drugs are promising and are prolonging some AIDS patients' lives.

Is there a vaccine?

No. Researchers are working on a vaccine, but the best case scenario would make it available in 5-6 years, if then.

How dangerous is getting a blood transfusion?

Since the development of the HIV antibody test, it has been applied to all donated blood. The risk of contracting AIDS from contaminated blood is less than 1 in 500,000. Fewer than 1% of AIDS patients have contracted the disease in this manner. Today, all donated blood which tests positive is discarded. The HIV test has made the receiving of blood from transfusion much safer. IV Drug users and men who have had sex with another man in the last 10 years are encouraged NOT to give blood. If presented with a situation where it may be embarrassing to refuse, the donor should tell the technician that their blood should be used for research purposes only. No other explanation is necessary. Blood banks maintain a very close confidentiality of their records. There is not now, nor has there ever been a danger of getting aids from donating blood.

Where can I get the test?

The HIV test is not a diagnostic test and does not actually detect the presence of the disease. A positive test merely confirms that the person has been exposed to the virus and has developed a non-protective anti-body. An HIV-positive person may never actually develop AIDS, but should consider him/herself a carrier. The test is available by appointment from major metropolitan health departments. In Memphis, call 576-7714 to make an appointment. The testing is completely confidential. Taking the test may invite severe psychological pressures in those not prepared to deal with a positive result. A confirmed positive test shows only that a person has been exposed. It does not indicate that a person has AIDS, can transmit it, or will develop it. In the absence of any other symptoms, we do not recommend taking the test. All persons in

high risk groups should behave as if they are carriers and abide by safe sex guidelines.

What is AIDS-Related Complex (ARC)?

20-30% of the people who test positive to the HIV antibody test may develop a condition known as AIDS-Related Complex or ARC. ARC does not generally involve those opportunistic diseases associated with AIDS. Some researchers believe that ARC is a pre-AIDS condition and may eventually develop into full-blown AIDS. Others, however, believe it to be a milder form of the disease.

If I test positive to the HIV test, will I get AIDS?

Approximately 15-20% of those who test positive to the HIV test will develop full blown AIDS. Perhaps another 20-30% will develop ARC. Approximately 50% of those testing positive will be affected in some way to a greater or lesser degree.

How many cases of AIDS are there in the area?

As of January, 1987, there have been approximately 153 cases in Tennessee since 1982 when records began being kept. Of these approximately half are dead. There have been approximately 83 cases in Memphis and West Tennessee. Since the disease increases geometrically, there will probably be 300+ cases in Tennessee by the end of 1987, with over 150 in Memphis/West Tennessee alone.

Nationwide, there are over 30,000 cases which meet the strict case definition of the Centers for Disease Control. Because of the strict guidelines on which AIDS cases are diagnosed, the reluctance of some doctors to report, and the lack of required reporting, there are, perhaps, 5-7 times as many people actually ill with AIDS as are reflected in CDC statistics.

The Only AIDS Vaccine Available Right Now is At Your Drug Store. It's Called a Condom.

FREE!

Gaze

News of Interest to the Gay Community

Published as a Service of The Memphis Gay Coalition

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Memphis, Tennessee

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Arizona Gov. Sticks Foot in Mouth

Phoenix, AZ — Arizona governor Evan Mecham, a conservative Republican, recently blasted Gays as living an "unacceptable lifestyle."

Mecham made the statements in a statewide radio broadcast. During the broadcast (on which he accepts listener questions via telephone), a caller asked for his position on Gays. The caller claimed to be Gay and Mormon.

Mecham, who is also a Mormon, said, "If you are a member of the same church I am, you have evidently changed your lifestyle, because the church I belong to does not allow homosexuals to participate under any circumstances."

The governor added that homosexuality is "not as you would suggest, an alternate lifestyle. It is not an acceptable lifestyle." Mecham disputed the callers estimate of 200,000 Gays in Arizona saying, "anytime you can assemble 200,000, I'd like to talk to all of you at once."

The reaction from Arizona's Gay community was immediate. B.J. Budd, of Tuscon's Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said, "I haven't faced this kind of bigotry since Anita Bryant in 1978."

Because of other policies, Mecham, who replaced Democratic Presidential aspirant Bruce Babbitt, might face a recall attempt very soon, according to the *Arizona Republic* of Tuscon.

Anti-Gay Groups Expose

USA Today reports that a secret group posing as Gays in classified ads is revealing the sexuality of respondents. According to Chicago Gay and Lesbian Alliance officials, the group has been placing ads in a local Gay newspaper seeking responses from Gay men and then revealing the fact that the respondents are Gay to neighbors, landlords, and employers. "The Great White Brotherhood of the Iron Fist" first placed the ads in January and is crusading for "the complete ruination of homosexuality."

Anti-Gay Violence Rising Across U.S.

More than 2,000 attacks against Gay men and women were reported in the 1985 report by the Violence Committee of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). The group emphasizes that the number is only a fraction of the actual number of occurrences.

Statistics for 1986 are still being compiled and are expected to be much higher. Not only are more cases being reported but there seems to be an "AIDS backlash."

According to Kevin Berrill, director of the Violence Project of NGLTF, there is now some fear associated with AIDS, coupling with the hatred of Gays. "Not only (do they think we) are a scourge on society, but we're going to kill everybody. They're looking for the bad to get worse.

That has definitely escalated those kinds of cases."

Berrill feels that the conservative trend in the United States, anti-homosexual stands by the Catholic Church, and anti-Gay comments from elected officials have added fuel to the anti-Gay backlash.

David Scondras, Boston's first openly Gay city councilman said, "The issue is we live in a society that condones and encourages violence against Gays and Lesbians."

According to the report, the assailants are generally young men 18-25, who travel in groups of three or more.

Gay communities across the country are fighting back, demanding better protection, an improved working relationship with local police departments, and more

expedient handling of their cases in the courts, according to *USA Today*. Many cities are now actively seeking Gay men and women for their police forces so Gays will be more comfortable in reporting assaults.

Many cases go unreported because of the victim's fear of exposure and ridicule by authorities.

San Francisco's Community United Against Violence (CUAV) cites about 50 cases a month reported to its hotline. New York City reports a 50% increase in the number of anti-Gay cases over 1985. In Philadelphia, the annual rate of violence against Gay people was four times higher than against the general population in large metropolitan areas. "AIDS has created a climate that it's OK to beat up on Gays," said Diana

Christensen of CUAV. "That's why we've seen the numbers go up to a high level."

In a one-night period in Phoenix, Arizona, a Gay bar was firebombed and three cars were set on fire. In another incident, exits to a Gay bar were blocked after tear gas was thrown inside.

Ten people beat up Bob Hegyi, executive director of Arizona's AIDS Information Line, after he left a bar. He lost two teeth, had three ribs broken, and has bruised kidneys as a result of the beating.

In New York a Gay man came home late one night, followed by three young men who began taunting him saying "You faggots give us AIDS." Kicking him, one of the assailants yelled, "Don't make him bleed. If we get blood on us, we'll get AIDS."

GayFest Set for Stonewall Day

GayFest, a Gay and Lesbian celebration, will provide something a little different this year during Gay Pride Week in June.

GayFest is the brainchild of John Mark House who presented the idea to the Memphis Gay Coalition's Gay Pride Committee last month. It involves creating a combination bazaar/flea market-type atmosphere in which organizations, businesses, and individuals can display their materials and raise money.

Tentative arrangements have been made to use the parking lot adjacent to the former Barracks on Marshall St. as well as the interior space if needed. Booth spaces will be sold to organizations which can, in turn, use the space to raise money. About half of the 30 spaces have been sold.

Among the booths will be a fun activities, food concessions, a flea market area, arts and crafts area, and a "marriage portrait" booth. At least two service-oriented businesses are planning promotional booths. The booth spaces rent for \$25 for the two-day event.

Gay Fest will run on Saturday, June 27 from 7pm-2am and

Sunday afternoon from 3pm-11pm.

"In recent years, the Gay Pride picnic has been on the wane," said Vincent Astor, Gay Pride Committee Chair. "We've been searching for something different to offer our community in a space which was public, but non threatening. We approached Frank (Cooper, owner of George's) with the idea and he agreed," Astor continued.

Current plans include getting an awning, tent, or canopy to cover the area, wiring the area for electricity, and lighting it sufficiently.

"There's a great diversity in the Gay community. We'd like to see every aspect of it represented at GayFest," said Astor.

Reaction to the idea has been good, according to organizers. The Aid To End AIDS Committee plans to have a food concession; the Women's Social Group will handle drinks. Other groups are planning games, displays, and information booths.

The Memphis Gay Coalition is sponsoring a dunk tank and is soliciting ideas as to who would be a good "dunkee." "Mayor Hackett is out," said Allen

Cook, President of MGC. "We're really looking for someone who would be willing to be dunked in the spirit of good, clean fun."

One other idea, as yet unconfirmed, involved a dart-and-balloon game with a twist — the

balloons would be inflated condoms.

For more information about GayFest or to reserve a booth space, call the Gay Switchboard at 726-4299 or *Gaze* at 454-1411.

Southeastern Gay Conference Slated

The 12th Annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, May 14-17.

The Conference will feature nationally prominent speakers, exciting workshops, lively entertainment, and a host of other events for your enjoyment, education, and growth. According to Eric Lawrence and Ed Coleman, Conference Steering Committee Co-chairs, "As Lesbians and Gay men, we are faced with some of the most serious and dangerous times in our history. Our health and happiness and lives depend on unity and knowledge and action." The Conference will provide a forum and classroom to share in solidifying common goals and ways to attain those goals.

Keynote speakers are Chris

Riddiough, President of the Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs, and Steve Schulte, activist and Mayor of West Hollywood, CA. AIDS Keynote speakers are Todd Shuttleworth, PWA, and Dr. Ron Wright, Broward Co. Medical Examiner.

The entertainment will include internationally known comic Robin Tyler and The Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida.

Workshops under consideration include grassroots organizing, homophobia, politics, videos, fundraising, religion, literature, alcohol and substance abuse, police relations, media, legal issues, and Lesbian health concerns. Other topics include helplines, anti-Gay violence, ageism, networking, burnout, and feminism.

Continued on page 8

Gazing

Working On A Sense of Pride

by John Stilwell

I know it's only April and Gay Pride month isn't until June; but I figure with the Memphis Gay community, I need to hit them earlystart them thinking and get them rolling in the right direction. But how do you motivate a community like ours? What sort of event can you have that will really be a celebration of

Gay Pride but still be safe enough for those people who are unwilling or unable to be out?

Big cities like San Francisco and New Orleans have huge parades that always hit the media. Frankly, it's an impressive show and if you can pull it off - good for you. But Memphis isn't San Francisco and that sort of thing just doesn't work here. It was tried here for several years with ever decreasing numbers. But even at it's best, it wasn't that impressive. Unless you have large numbers, it just

falls flat.

Now, don't get me wrong. I liked the marches and rallies that we had here. That may be because I never did anything like that in the sixties when it was popular and maybe I just had to get it out of my system. But I think it was more than that. The march was exciting - I felt proud and brave to be walking down the street in broad daylight declaring that I wasn't afraid to say that I was Gay. The speakers at the rallies were interesting, thought provoking, and always inspiring. We we all joined hands and sang together, it gave me a real sense of family and oneness. It's a shame those experiences couldn't have been shared by more people.

But facts are facts, and Memphis, Tennessee will never see the likes of the parades in other cities. Besides, marches and rallies are pretty much passe

these days. Those parades are for the show - to make a statement to the general public about the numbers and the solidarity in the Gay community. Sadly, we haven't reached that stage in our progression yet. Before we can make a statement to the general public, we have to get our act together and find ourselves. We have to establish that sense of family and oneness in ourselves and truly become a community first.

I think the Coalition is tuned in to that need and all of our efforts are being focused in that direction. Keeping the River Ride in mind, we're working on ways to reach more Gay people and to bring them together in more meaningful ways. If you've ever been on that boat, you know what I mean. We see people that we've never seen before (and won't see again until the next River Ride). Then the sense of our number and the being together in one place is really inspiring.

So how do you keep that going and keep building on it?

The Coalition's Spring Fling - "A Touch of Class" - is one way. Although it is a fundraiser, the funds are to be used to make Gay Pride week bigger and better and hopefully to include more people. The dance itself gives us the opportunity to get dressed up

and go out for the evening with friends. Hopefully, it will have enough "Class" to entice some of the seldom seen community out to see what's going on. And maybe there will be enough support and enough enthusiasm to make more events like this possible.

But what about Gay Pride? Well, with revenue raised from the Spring Fling, it was hoped to make the Gay pride picnic more of an "event." Getting the various groups involved, getting more people involved, get people out to attend - really making it a celebration. And that brought us back to the old problem of finding some place big enough to hold the event, open and public enough to be making a statement of Gay Pride, and out of the way and protected enough to bring out those people who are afraid or unwilling to attend Gay functions (many of those folks on the River Ride).

In the midst of everything, an idea for a street festival came out and was immediately well received. In lieu of the traditional picnic, a street festival became the focus of all attention. Through the generosity of Frank Cooper and David da Ponte, we had a location that was both open and safely secluded. The festival would give every organization the chance to get out and raise money

for their group while at the same time be working together for the benefit of the whole community. The festival atmosphere would lend an air of celebration and would offer Gay people the opportunity to get together, and meet one another. With everyone from the leather/levi groups to the women's groups to the religious groups involved, there should be a very good mix of people to meet and talk with. But most important, working together and bringing more people together would build on our sense of community.

So start thinking about it. There will be places to sell your arts and crafts or those things that you no longer need, places to just show your work, places for Gay businesses to promote themselves, and we even encourage people who would like to entertain (singing, stand-up comedy, juggling, or what-have-you). So start getting excited and enthused. I think it's going to be a great capper for Gay Pride Week. And for the Memphis Gay community, it will be making a statement of Pride and commitment to one another, to the people who are really important and who really need to hear it - ourselves.

Gaze

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

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Box 3038

Gaze encourages letters from its readers. Letters should be as short as feasible and addressed to Gaze, P.O. Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

Beer Bust Blues

I am writing to complain about one of the so-called leading Gay bars in Memphis, otherwise known as George's.

I have been going to this bar ever since it has been on Marshall and never had reason to complain until now. I don't know if it's because the new owner is losing money and his patrons or what. But I was there two weeks ago and they charged me and my lover \$5 apiece to get in, which I didn't mind. The part that made me raise hell was when I had to pay \$1.25 for every Coke that I drank while I was there.

The \$5 at the door, I understand is about what other bars charge for a 4-hour beer bust, but at least they do have Cokes and juices on the beer list.

I guess the question that I would like answered is why can't the owner work out something for his patrons that don't or can't drink alcohol? Either let them in free and give them a different cup that the bartenders will know is for non-alcoholic drinks. Or is he just trying to run half of his customers off for good?

I and a lot of my friends (who don't drink or can't drink) will not be back as long as the \$5 cover only covers beer. It's not right for the people who drink to be able to pay \$5 and drink free for 4 hours and the non-drinkers to have to pay extra for non-alcoholic drinks.

I would like to hear how other people feel about this issue. Terry

Burlison, TN

Softball Is Not Dead

Despite a lack of major interest in the idea of a Gay softball league, those interested persons who perceive a much

greater image of what an Athletic Association could offer Memphis, should rest assured that all is not lost.

I still have a few tricks up my sleeve and an assortment of fund-raising ideas that have yet to be tried. With the Spring weather and the greening of the grass, most people tend to enjoy outdoors even more. Perhaps the enthusiasm levels will increase with the amount of sunshine. But then again, maybe Memphis isn't ready to commit to such a radical idea as being seen out and open, and heaven forbid we should be viewed as anything more than the stereotypes that straight Memphis wants us to be.

This attempt at editorializing (preaching) is the most tactful way I know to wake people up to the potential that is being wasted on non-participation in outlets other than bars and parties. We lack the motivation that comes with logical progress. So often I hear the comment that Memphis just isn't ready for this, or isn't

continued on page 8

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ROBIN FLOWER &
THE BLEACHERS
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AND SPECIAL GUESTS

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LEA DELARIA
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SPEAKERS/AUTHORS

JO ANN LOULAN (Lesbian Sex)
NAN HUNTER (Director, A.C.L.U.
National Lesbian/Gay Rights
Project)
SONIA JOHNSON
(Going Out of Our Minds)
JOYCE HUNTER, M.S.W.C.S.W.
(Director, N.Y. City Institute for
the Protection of Lesbian &
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TICKETS — 350 cabin spaces available (showers & toilets in cabins). Cabins hold 12-24 women (bunk beds) \$115. Camping 4 days \$95-\$105 - sliding scale (if working PLEASE pay top of scale). Camping 3 days (Sat., Sun. & Mon.-very limited) \$80-\$90 sliding scale. Children 8 and under free; 9-16, \$20 to help defray food costs. All children MUST be pre-registered for childcare by April 20th. U.S. currency only. NO PERSONAL CHECKS after April 20th. Money order, certified check, cash only. For tickets, send self-addressed, **legal size**, stamped envelope to: **SWCMF, 13514 Hart Street, Van Nuys, CA 91405 (818) 904-9495.**

ABOVE TICKET PRICES INCLUDE: 4 days & 3 nights of music, comedy, lectures, workshops, crafts show, raquetball, basketball, tennis, swimming, dance every night, hot showers, camping, food & FUN!

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We encourage women to do workshops. Share professional skills, different cultures, interests, etc.

If you wish to be listed in the program send a short description of your workshop or if you wish to play on the day stage send a tape. Send these along with your ticket order by April 20th. Festival ENDS Monday, 3 P.M.

TICKET ORDER FORM: More than 1 person per envelope - use an extra stamp per person.
At Gate, tickets \$10.00 more- CASH only. 13

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

* \$115—Space in cabin (very, very limited) \$ _____

\$95 to \$105 Sliding Scale—4 days (camping) \$ _____

\$130 R.V.: no hook-ups; (includes 1 ticket) \$ _____

\$20 Additional for workshift substitution \$ _____

\$20 per 9-16 yr. old woman (and 9-10 boy) \$ _____

\$80 to \$90 very limited Sat. noon to Mon. passes (camping) \$ _____

TRANSPORTATION: I am willing to give rides from Atlanta to Festival (name will go on list and be given to those needing rides) _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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To fly: To be regional contact

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Work-exchange — write detailed letter, re: skills & situation or call.

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National News

Court Strikes Down 'Fear of Disease' Bias

The United States Supreme Court, in a 7-2 decision, ruled March 3 that a federal law prohibiting discrimination against handicapped people also protects workers with contagious diseases from employment discrimination.

The case was heard as a result of an appeal of a Florida elementary school teacher who was fired because she had tuberculosis. Gene Arline, the teacher, contended that TB was a handicap under federal law and sued the school board of Naussau County.

Although initial reaction of the Court was that the law might not be applicable to people with AIDS, many are confident that the Court's decision will work in favor of people with ARC and AIDS in the future.

"We conclude that the fact that a person with a record of physical impairment is also contagious does not suffice to remove that person from coverage," under the act, wrote Justice William Brennan in the majority opinion. Brennan also added that AIDS was not applicable in this particular decision.

Benjamin Schatz, director of the National Gay Rights Advocates' AIDS Civil Rights Project, was not concerned about Brennan's comments about AIDS. "Justice Brennan's footnote doesn't decide the issue of AIDS discrimination cases," said Schatz. "I think that the court has made a very broad and clear decision about discrimination, and I have no doubt that it could be applied to future cases."

According to Schatz, the Naussau County school board relied on a U.S. Justice Dept. ruling that communicable diseases were not handicaps and that "fear of contagion" was a legitimate reason for terminating an employee.

Brennan was joined in the majority by Justices Marhsall, Blackmun, Powell, Stevens, O'Conner, and White. Chief Justice William Rhenquist and recent appointee Justice Scalia dissented.



NGLF Publishes Paper on Anti-Gay Violence

The national Gay and Lesbian Task Force has announced the publication of its white paper, *Anti-Gay Violence: Causes, Consequences, Responses*. Originally submitted as testimony at last October's groundbreaking Congressional hearing on anti-Gay violence, the white paper summarizes existing research on anti-Gay violence, describes the official response to the problem, and recommends policies and programs to remedy it. The 29-page report also includes 8 charts and tables and a selected bibliography on the subject.

"This report is a comprehensive and authoritative overview of anti-Gay violence," noted Kevin Berrill, Director of NGLTF's Anti-Violence Project. "I believe it is a valuable resource for anyone wishing to understand the problem and what to do about it. It can be used to educate law enforcement, criminal justice, and victim service professionals, as well as legislators, policy makers, and educators."

The report costs \$5 and can

be obtained directly from NGLTF, 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Dignity Chapters Ousted

San Francisco — Several chapters of Dignity, the Catholic Gay organization, have felt the repercussions of the pope's recent anti-Gay edict.

Bishops in Pensacola, Florida and Buffalo, New York are no longer allowing local Dignity groups to meet in church facilities. Groups in Atlanta, Georgia and Dayton, Ohio may meet similar barriers soon, according to The Advocate. In addition, the New York Times has reported that the Bishop of Brooklyn has announced he will no longer allow any group that condones homosexual activity to use the diocese's churches, hospitals, or colleges for meetings or religious services.

Dignity national President Jim Bussen said, "It's a travesty for the bishops to enforce this terrible letter from Rome," and urged local Dignity chapters to take a "strong, militant stand" against the position of church hierarchy.

Canadian Military Polled on Attitudes

Toronto — 8,000 members of the Canadian Armed Forces were polled on their feelings about admitting Gay people to the military, according to the Toronto *Globe and Mail*.

Commenting on the military survey, Gen. Terrence Liston claimed that the armed forces have unique problems when it comes to the question of whether to end discrimination against Gay people. For example, in the crowded conditions on board a ship, "it means you're going to have a homosexual 18 inches away from you when you go to bed."

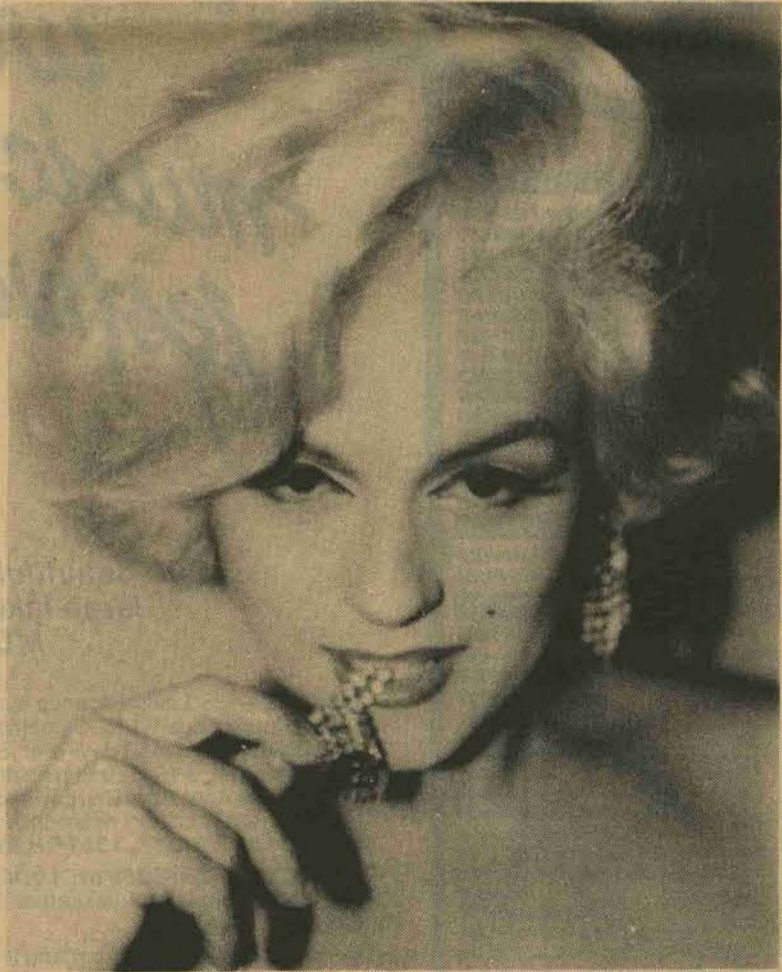
In a commentary on the poll, also in the *Globe and Mail*, Alan Stewart asked, "Would the government validate the stupidity of bigotry by taking a survey if the bigotry question were against any group other than homosexuals? Probably not? — Martin Heggstad in *Gay Community News*"



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April 3, 1987
One Show Only
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Marilyn, Cher, Barbra Streisand
Bette Davis, Judy Garland

Beer Bust 8-12



George's
600 Marshall
Memphis

Memphis

Gay Parents' Support Network

by A.N.

This is to announce a special birth and to report on the status of the Memphis Area Gay Parents' Support Network

Alexander David was born to Jan and myself on February 1, 1987. Our second son weighed 9 lbs, 9 oz. and thanks to the support of our friends, he, his Moms, and his "big" brother are all doing well.

The Gay Parents' Support Network formed last November with about 15 regular members, Lesbian mothers brought together by a concern for providing the best for their children (two or three Gay fathers have called to express interest in our objectives, but none has attended a meeting. We encourage you all to come.) The purpose of the network is to provide support, encouragement, and resources to Gay parents on behalf of their families and themselves. The group collectively has fifteen children, ranging in age from 4 weeks to 16 years. About half of the members conceived their children as Lesbians, using either artificial

insemination or a sperm donor. The other half have children from a previous marriage and thus are dealing with custody and visitation situations with an ex-husband.

Our January guest speaker was Kelly Stark, a Memphis attorney. Kelly spoke to us about some of the legal aspects of protecting our families. She discussed child custody laws and practices in Tennessee, the legalities involved in adoption, artificial insemination, child custody and visitation, child support, and the rights of sperm donors. Kelly also provided us with information to familiarize us with the Tennessee Court systems and public agencies like the Dept. of Human Services.

As a follow-up, we scheduled Julia Harrelson, a representative from the Dept. of Human Services, to be a guest at our March Meeting. DHS policies regarding Gay parenting, child welfare, and Memphis area daycare were topics of discussion. Future subjects the group will

address include financial counseling, parenting and relationship counseling, child development, and family health care insurance. Child-centered social events are also planned.

We would like to encourage all Gay parents, as well as those contemplating parenthood, to join and share your experiences with us. We have a lot to give one another. There's no reason to agonize over what to tell your two-year-old when he wants to know why he has no Daddy (It's one thing to tell him Daddy lives in California, quite another to explain you never intended for him to have a Daddy). Or to have no one to turn to when your ex-husband succeeds in turning your 15-year-old daughter against you.

Our meetings are usually scheduled for the third Sunday of the month from 2-4 PM. Your children are welcome — and if they can't come, bring pictures of them!

For more information and meeting locations, call Alix after 5 PM at 743-3649.

Risk Survey Needs More Answers

A survey of men at risk for AIDS in the Memphis area is in need of more respondents.

The confidential survey, being conducted by Dr. Robert Norton, is attempting to gauge the level of knowledge about AIDS of Gay and bi-sexual men. It also attempts to determine whether or not the educational efforts being aimed at the risk community are effective.

The survey is part of a pilot study which may be funded nationally to determine the true scope of the AIDS problem in the nation.

"A San Francisco study showed that about half of the men at high risk for AIDS infection have stopped having unsafe sex — that means about half have not," said Dr. Norton. Norton contends that so far, the educational efforts mounted have not been enough and, in many cases, have been too vague.

"A considerable number of people did not know that AIDS is transmitted by semen," he said.

The seven page survey has been available in Memphis area bars and has been distributed through the Memphis Gay Coalition and Black and White Men Together. Norton stresses that the survey is strictly confidential and there are no identifying marks on either the survey or return envelope which would identify the person responding.

Preliminary results show a number of interesting facts:

- Most area men at high risk do not know their antibody status
- The most trusted source of information is a Gay newssource
- The least trusted source of information was doctors
- Many people did not know there was a local AIDS information line.

Answers to AIDS Questions

726-4299 7:30 PM - 11:30 PM

AIDS SWITCHBOARD



GayFest '87

June 27-28
A Celebration of Gay Life

GayFest will have food, games, prizes, arts & crafts, and information presented to the Gay Community by the Gay Community.

Show your Pride — Reserve booth space now for your club, organization or business. Flea Market and crafts spaces also available. Booth spaces are 8' x 8' for \$25.

Deadline for reservation is June 1, 1987. For further information or to reserve a booth, call 454-1411.



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FULL MOON BLOW OUT PARTY
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Bring your bottle, show us
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SUNDAY chow time 6-8
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Spectrum

National Women's Music Festival

The National Women's Music Festival (May 29-May 31) will provide three full days and evenings of music, laughter, learning, talking, playing, and growing. Although music is an important part of this festival, its emphasis is the broad spectrum of workshops, special conferences, networking, and seminars. The Festival will again be held on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana utilizing its convenience and comfort.

Last year, over 140 women presented workshops on all areas including the Women's Spirituality Conference and the Writers Conference. Offered again will be a Women's Classical Music Series, an Older Women's Series, and the Music Industry Conference.

The Writer's Conference will provide a forum for both accomplished and aspiring writers in all genres, and will include networking sessions and hands-on writing workshops, as well as

lectures on a wide variety of writing-related topics. The featured speakers will be: Mary Daly, author of *Pure Lust: Elemental Feminist Philosophy*, *Gyn/Ecology*, *Beyond God the Father*; Cheryl Clarke, feminist poet of *Living as a Lesbian*; and Nancy K. Bereano, editor and publisher of Firebrand Books.

The Women's Spirituality Conference will feature Hallie Austin Inglehart, leader of Womanspirit workshops and author of *Womanspirit: A Guide to Women's Wisdom*; Sonia Johnson, excommunicated from the Mormon Church for her support of the ERA and author of *Housewife to Heretic* and *Going Out of Our Minds: The Metaphysics of Liberation*; and Kay Gardner, New Age composer of lyrical, improvisational, and experimental music designed for meditation, relaxation and healing.

Three afternoons of Performers' Showcases will

feature the best in local and regional artists. This year's performers include Kris Purdy, Lynn Lavner, Sherry Shute & Band, Mimi Fox, Susan Whiting, Connie Kaldor, Elisa Odabashian, Jennifer Berezan with Nina Gerber, MC Judy Fjell, and special guests Susan Herrick, Sheila Gostick, JoAnn Loulan, and Betsy Lippitt.

There will be three nights of music, poetry, and comedy. Friday night's Mainstage Concert includes: Tracy Chapman, Kate Clinton, Ferron, and MC Sue Fink. Saturday night's concert includes Marie Rhines, Deuce, and Sweet Honey in the Rock. Sunday's Mainstage will feature Barbara Higbie, Heather Bishop, and Tret Fure with her band.

Registration costs \$74. Room and board on campus is available. For more information and a brochure write to: NWMF, P.O. Box 5217, Bloomington, IN 47402 or call (317) 637-4938.

Flavored Condom Gel Offered

Plainfield, NJ — For those who practice safe oral sex, a New Jersey company has come up with a product called A Tasty Kind of Love, according to *The Weekly News*.

Tasty Love is a flavored gel which comes in a soft plastic tube and is designed exclusively for oral, not lubricating use. Flavors are approved FDA natural flavor blends.

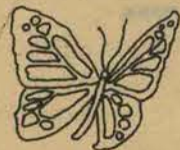
Tubes cost \$5.95 plus \$1.50 in shipping, and can be procured by mail: A Tasty Kind of Love, Inc., P.O. Box 2596, Muhlenburg Station, Plainfield, NJ 07060-0596.

Frontrunners Revitalized

Now that Spring has arrived Frontrunners of Memphis has been revitalized and now meets at Overton Park every Monday through Thursday at 5:30 pm at the pavillion, just off East Parkway.

Organizers encourage bicyclists to come help set the pace.

To join Frontrunners of Memphis, call Matthew for further details, 901-744-0575.



Huey Backs Program to Train AIDS Doctors

Hollywood - Huey Lewis & The News has donated \$250,000 to help launch AIDS training programs for doctors, according to *Variety*. The program will be sponsored jointly by the the University of California- San Francisco and San Francisco General Hospital.

The program will be aimed at training physicians who finished medical school before the AIDS epidemic began. Selected Bay Area doctors will be the first to take part in the program, with doctors from around the country and world ultimately participating.

Lewis' donation includes \$60,000 earmarked for four San Francisco community service programs that provide support services for AIDS victims. The four are: The Shanti Project, The Hospice Program of San Francisco, the Coming Home Hospice, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Midler, LaBelle Raise Big Bucks

The quintessential Beverly Hills matron (these days, anyway), Bette Midler, raised \$10,000 recently by taking a print of her new movie *Outrageous Fortune* to a benefit

for AIDS Project of Los Angeles.

"I can't think of a worthier cause in the country or the world than this cause," said Midler. As a token of APLA's appreciation, Midler was awarded a keychain condom holder which she called "sooooo tasteful."

Patti LaBelle held a concert in Philadelphia Feb. 20 which raised an estimated \$40,000 for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR). LaBelle said she got the idea for the benefit after having a chat with Elizabeth Taylor who is national co-chair of AmFAR.

Asked if she was concerned about being linked with such a controversial disease, LaBelle said, "I'm controversial. For all I know, I might have it (AIDS) one day. The disease can affect anyone. There are a lot of sick people in the world, and it's not the ones with AIDS."

Jerry's New 800 Number

For those of you still into harassing Jerry Falwell, he has a new toll-free number. One caller reports having called the number 200 times in one day. Each call costs Falwell about \$1. The number of 1-800-322-6722.

By the way Falwell rated lower on a favorable rating scale than Soviet premier Mikhail Gorbachev in a recent Gallup Poll.

Should be interesting to see what he does with the PTL Club now that Jim and Tammy are gone.

THE BIBLE

AND

HOMOSEXUALITY

What Do They Have In Common?

Starting in May, every Wednesday night at Agape New Life Church we will study "Homosexuality and the Bible — Coming to Grips With Being A Gay Christian".

This six week study will focus on finding out the truth about what the Bible actually says about homosexuality. Is it wrong? Or is this something that has crept into our philosophy over the past 2000 years? Join us as we cover indept the Old and New Testaments and discover what God really said.

At Agape New Life Church we believe God created us as we are — gay — and God wants us to be happy and content in God's love.

To find out more about this study or any of our regular services call us at:

327-4145

Agape New Life Church

We meet every Sunday at 11 AM for Worship, Praise & Prayer. We encourage EVERYONE to attend. We don't discriminate.

Watch For Our Vacation Bible School Coming This Summer!

Spectrum

Britain to Close Doors to PWA's

London, England — The Home Office, the agency which controls immigration into the United Kingdom, has developed a plan they feel will halt the spread of AIDS there.

The immigration officials plan to detain and expel all travelers suspected of having AIDS. The plan mandates that officials will detain immigrants based on a sight diagnosis. Once detained, the traveler will be submitted to a medical examination. If the person is found to have AIDS, he or she will be expelled from the country.

Since a sight diagnosis of a PWA is tantamount to trying to identify, on sight, any person with cancer or heart disease, opponents fear the plan will end up using arbitrary data like perceived sexual orientation, race, or nationality.

The plan is expected to be approved by Prime Minister Thatcher's Cabinet soon. "Our heterosexual population is relatively clear of (AIDS)," stated a British AIDS specialist. "Our problem is, how do we keep it that way?"

NOW Has New Officers

There have been executive officer changes in the Memphis Chapter of the National Organization for Women, caused by the resignation of Susan McKenzie. Taking over as president of the chapter for the duration of the term is Deb Tinan. Lauren Beyer has been appointed as First Vice-President.

In other NOW News, the April and May general meetings will be held at the Highland Branch library at 7 PM the first Tuesday of the month. The June meeting will be back at the regular meeting place in the main library.

Free Resources for Gay Couples

Partners newsletter offers a free annotated list of "Resources for Gay and Lesbian Couples." The list contains information on social, political, and support groups around the country who serve Gay and Lesbian couples. Books and audio-visual materials are also listed.

To receive a copy, send a self-addressed, stamped business-sized

envelope to *Partners*, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109.

Partners: The Newsletter for Gay and Lesbian Couples, is an eight-page monthly containing features, interviews, news, media reviews, and articles by readers and professionals. According to publishers Stevie Bryant and Demian, "*Partners* provides practical information and ideas couples can use to develop satisfying and successful relationships." *Partners* is available by subscription for \$36 per year.

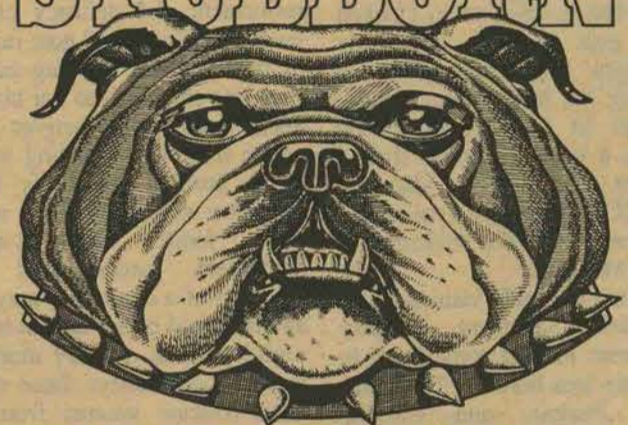
Maryland Sodomy Repeal Bill Introduced

Annapolis, MD — In response to the Supreme Court's Hardwick decision, State Sen. Julian Lapidus has introduced a sodomy repeal bill to the Maryland legislature. Maryland law provides penalties of up to ten years in prison and \$1000 fines for crimes of oral sex or "any other unnatural or perverted sexual practice" between a person and another "person or animal." This is the first time a repeal measure has been introduced since

1980. Lapidus introduced the bill because "long time stumbling block" Joe Owens no longer chairs the House Judiciary

Committee. Owens previously had stated that his committee would never "authorize queers."

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Tuesday — \$1 Beer Bust 8 to Midnight
Saturday — 10 PM — No Cover - Comedy Shows with ??????

PATIO COOKOUTS STARTING IN APRIL!

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Feature

Faerie Tales From The Middle of Nowhere

by Endora, Lady Astor

It turned cold last night. Several blankets were required, but I slept warm; and now it is morning. My borrowed bed is upstairs, level with three windows. The silence of deep night has given over to chicken and goat noises. Somebody overslept, but is now out milking the herd. Going briefly outside on a necessary errand wakes a body up better than a shower. Has anybody started a fire? (Comfort takes some doing up here.) So I do. Welcome to Short Mountain.

I am presently visiting Short Mountain Sanctuary, a Gay commune located somewhere in the gray area between Timbuktu, Hush Puckne, and Chitlin' Switch. The primary contact with civilization is a car battery and National Public Radio. This is one place where "they can't find you," a mist enshrouded location which does indeed exist in Cannon County in East Tennessee.

Short Mountain is a great place for a mental regroup. In the winter, day may be as silent as night. In warm months, the multitude of country sounds makes one aware of life's melodies overhead, underfoot, and all around. Company or solitude

is available; friendliness and welcome are hallmarks.

I know you're not gonna believe this, but roughing it can be fun (not in the sack, pottybrain). This is communal living; the idea is that everyone helps. A city girl of great refinement and delicacy can be taught the fine art of goat milking or discover that splitting kindlin' may be very much to her taste. A guest cook (who arrives fully aware that she is dealing with a wood burning stove) is thrice welcome, especially when armed with food. Those whose butchitude encompasses the wielding of a chain saw may find an emotional outlet in that highly useful pastime. A very moderate daily fee can relieve those of the most delicate natures from the above tasks, but the desire to chip in is infectious. Having to find the "little house behind the big house" (known in these here parts as the Chapel) for certain personal purposes is more than compensated for by acres of hiking space, friendly neighbors, the prettiest springs and autumns around, and the option to wear whatever you choose or not choose.

The residents are primarily male; but many women visit, mostly during the two yearly Gatherings. Special private space

can be set aside if desired. The scenery is fine, both growing and walking; and new faces turn up all the time. Whenever there is company, as is frequently the case, every night is special. After dinner pastimes include pleasant conversation, dressing up (you name it, so long as it's comfortable), and warmth. The fantasy of a nonstop orgy is tempting, but false. Affection abounds, however. Everybody hugs everybody, and touching is something as natural as speech. Everything from world news to philosophy, from farm matters to git-down dishing takes place by the light of kerosene lamps indoors or firelight outdoors in warm weather.

The Gay lifestyle contains many facets and subcultures. One of these is a rural group of Gay people, country/farm oriented or communal. Many refer to themselves as Faeries. Short Mountain hosts two week-long Faerie Gatherings each year, one in the spring and one in the autumn. These coincide with two ancient celebrations, the beginning and end of the growing season. The group assembled is varied, fascinating, co-sexual, and full of interesting outlooks and philosophies. Many of these earth and open spaces oriented people are more aware, active, and concerned about Gay issues and politics than your average disco diva who may be more immediately affected by a sudden shift in opinion. Surprising, n'est-ce pas?

The main thing one should expect from a visit to Short Mountain is uniqueness. Every visit is different, every person finds something special. Finding a special person is sometimes possible, finding friendship is normal. Learning that fresh goat's milk does not taste at all like feta cheese is pleasant; the frequent absence of meat can be an interesting change. It is the ultimate getting away from it all,

in a Gay atmosphere. As the roads curve more, the driving gets slower. As the pavement turns to gravel and then stone (do not take your low-slung furrin' sports car), the city seems far, far away. Time changes. There will be welcome when you arrive; and you can count on a little glow which you will carry with you afterward, and which may bring you back again.

With affection,
Endora, Lady Astor

(Short Mountain Sanctuary)

consists of two hundred acres, mostly woods, old fields, steep hollows, and narrow ridges. Right in the middle of the tract is an antebellum log cabin and a huge barn. Nearby is the spring for drinking water. It is located roughly between Murfreesboro and McMinnville, specifically between Woodbury, and Gassaway and Liberty and Dowelltown. For more information and detailed directions, write to Short Mountain Sanctuary, Route 1, Box 98A, Liberty, TN 37095. (No, there isn't a phone, Ernestine.)

Softball

continued from page 2

open enough for that. Well, it isn't Memphis that isn't ready, it's the older crowd that has had it too easy for too long. Maybe they suffered for the things that they achieved, but are we, The Up and Coming Generation, going to sit back on the same laurels that our predecessors laid out for us, or shall we create a new, more stable framework for those that follow and for ourselves as well?

The Memphis Gay Coalition, Aphrodite, Tsarus, Wings, the bars, and the Athletic association *all* require your help to grow. It's time to put forth a little more effort and get involved in your community before the fear and oppression that comes from ignorance (the AIDS epidemic) places us all in a position of chaos. With a little optimism, and a lot of help, we can build a strong, unified, and proud community. Matthew Presley, Memphis

Ancient Porn

Archaeologists in Pompeii, Italy, recently unearthed the remains of a sailors' bathhouse and, much to their dismay, found five rather explicit murals of Gay male orgies, according to *The Weekly News*.

However, these paintings will not be made available to the public. Instead, they will be open only to "genuine, unemotional scholars." In accordance with King Francesco's orders of 1819, these paintings, as well as all other erotic objects found at Pompeii, will be kept locked away in a private chamber in Italy's Archaeological Museum.

SE Conference


continued from page 1

Registration for the Conference is \$22 (\$27 after April 15, \$35 at the door) and includes membership in SECLGM. Accommodations at the Sheraton Hotel including an extensive

meal package are \$245 for single, \$185 double for 3 nights/four days.

For further information, contact the Memphis Gay Coalition or write Southeastern Conference, P.O. Box 22508, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335.

BWMT



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BLACK&WHITE
MEN TOGETHER

An Interracial Gay Organization for All People

Statement of Purpose

Black and White Men Together of Memphis, Inc. is a Gay interracial organizations committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. To these ends, we engage in educational, political, cultural, and social activities as means of dealing with racism, sexism, homophobia, and other inequities in our community and in our lives.

Sunday, April 5 - Wine and Cheese, Joe's, 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 8 - Discussion Group: "If I Were Mayor of Memphis," Irwin's, 7:30 PM

Saturday, April 18 - Yard Sale, 2015 Court, 8 AM - 1 PM

Thursday, April 23 - Discussion Group: "What I Would Like the Easter Bunny To Bring Me" Irwin's, 7:30 PM

For details: Call Bill (272-3705), Jeff/Mark (278-7092), Joe (274-6280), Irwin (726-1461) or write BWMT/Memphis, P.O. Box 41772, Memphis, TN, 38174-1773



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