

FREE!

Gaze

News of Interest to the Gay Community

Published as a Service of The Memphis Gay Coalition

Volume 8, Number 10

Memphis, Tennessee

October, 1987

George's To Move to Front Street

George's, the queen mother of Memphis Gay bars, is poised for a move downtown.

Frank Cooper, owner of George's and The French Connection, has purchased the old Delta Casket Co. building at 390-400 South Front. The purchase price was reportedly \$375,000.

According to *The Commercial Appeal*, Cooper said he is moving George's because he likes downtown and that many of his regular customers live there. Business has apparently fallen off at the present location on Marshall St. just west of the medical center area.

Plans for the development include opening a restaurant first, followed by the new George's, and then completing the development with apartments and retail space.

Cooper bought the current business on Marshall about three years ago from George's original owners George Wilson and Don Rossignol. He said he plans to keep the name "George's" and will continue to feature female impersonators. He said he feels the club will attract both straight and Gay customers, especially tourists staying and visiting in the downtown and Beale Street area.

Henry Turley, developer of the Paperworks Apartments across the street from the planned development, said he will probably oppose the operation because of the late-hours noise from the bar and disco. He indicated that the project might need a parking variance from the Board of Adjustment.

According to Cooper, the bar will not actually be across from the apartments, but will be in another building that faces Front Street.

Delta Casket has been downtown since 1961 but is moving to an industrial park. The company is a wholesale distributor of caskets and does not manufacture them there.

Tennessee Sodomy Law Targeted for Extinction

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has announced plans to attack the Tennessee "crimes against nature" law. A meeting has been set with ACLU officials, local Gay rights organizations, and Sue Hyde, Director of NGLTF's Privacy Project. The meeting will take place in Nashville on Nov. 7.

The Tennessee "crimes against nature law" criminalizes all homosexual behavior and much heterosexual behavior in the state. Conviction under the current law can result in 5-15 years in prison.

Contrary to popular belief, the law is enforced in Tennessee. Within the last year nearly 300

people have been arrested and charged under the law. Most were entrapped by undercover police conducting a campaign of harassment in the Nashville Parks and have pled guilty to reduced charges. According to Ms. Hyde, "The overwhelming majority of these men were not engaged in sexual acts in the park, but had gone to the park to meet other people."

In the eastern part of Tennessee, two men encountered a district attorney general who decided to "make an example" of them to frighten other Gay people. The D.A. refused to plea bargain with the men, even though their "crime" was

consensual lovemaking in the relative privacy of an automobile late at night. Neither man had a prior arrest record of any kind. They face possible five-year sentences, but will likely be granted probation soon. Even if they are granted probation, they will be convicted felons for the rest of their lives, according to Hyde. "How many of us who have also engaged in the time-honored tradition of 'parking' would expect to endure a public trial and live as a convicted felon for committing this 'crime'?", asked Ms. Hyde.

The Task Force has embarked on a state-by-state crusade to rid the country of the

so-called sodomy laws, since the Supreme Court affirmed the right for states to pass such laws. Without a Supreme Court decision striking down individual state laws, the only way they can be repealed is through the state legislatures.

The meeting is being co-sponsored by NGLTF, the ACLU, the Tennessee chapter of NOW, and several local Gay and Lesbian organizations.

For further information, call Hedy Weinberg at the ACLU office in Nashville at (615) 256-7028 or write ACLU of Tennessee, PO Box 120160, Nashville, TN 37212.

Gay Community Protests

Park Commission Closes Williamson Park to Adult Activity — Volleyballers Ousted

Memphis — Apparently conceding to neighbors' complaints about "undesirables" in Williamson Park, the Memphis Park Commission unanimously voted Sept. 16 to prohibit adult athletics in Williamson Park. According to Bob Brame, Assistant Park Director, "no adult activities" will be allowed in the park.

Williamson Park had been the site of the Sunday afternoon volleyball games sponsored by the Memphis Gay Athletic Association (MGAA) for almost a year. The park was chosen primarily for its location (in midtown on Williamson off Poplar between Overton Park Ave and Avalon) and because the park was relatively private. "It was important for us to have a location where we could play undisturbed and where parents could bring their children," said John Mark House, one of the organizers.

The controversy began earlier this year when the police apparently received some complaints from neighbors alleging loud noise, foul

language, and public urination — activities denied by the MGAA. However, the park restrooms have been closed and locked for some time. "It was obvious they didn't want us here. We even had some neighbors harassing us about being Gay," said House.

Another group which had been playing basketball at the park complained two months ago when their basketball goals were removed without notice. About the same time, Janis Foster, president of the Evergreen Historic District Association (EHDA), complained that noise from the sports was disturbing neighbors in home adjacent to the park.

A source present at a meeting of the EHDA contends that the group seemed to be concerned about the presence of "blacks and Gays" in their park (emphasis ours). As presented to the Park Commission, however, the term used was "undesirables."

"As one of the prime long-term users of the park, we are upset that the Park Commission did not even contact us about the park's closing," said House. "We

had three softball teams playing in their softball league and were planning for football in the fall." The group has begun circulating petitions to have the Commission reconsider its action.

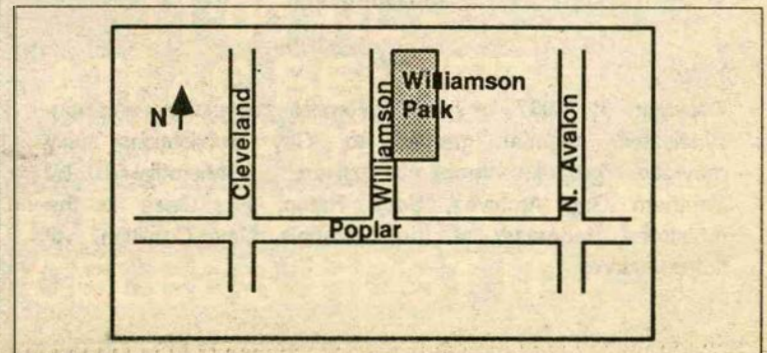
In addition to removing the basketball and soccer goals and the poles for volleyball nets, the Commission voted to close the park from dusk to dawn. Most city parks are closed from Midnight till dawn.

"We don't have a problem with them closing the park at dusk," said House, "but as taxpayers we have the right to use this park. It seems to me unreasonable for the Park Commission to be dismantling existing facilities when there are

so few available." The Commission said that it would add volleyball courts in Overton Park.

"Adding another 40 cars to Overton Park on a Sunday afternoon isn't reasonable either," said House. "What we're really dealing with here is the bigotry of a small group of neighbors

A protest demonstration featuring live music, games, and a picnic was held on Sept. 21, but the Park Commission's new rules apparently were not in force. About 50 people arrived and played volleyball without incident. At presstime the group said they plan to use the park until they are told to leave it.



Gazing

Bork Not Appropriate for High Court

by Allen Cook

We stand now at a point in time which may decide the fate of Gay rights — indeed the right to any sort of privacy.

In recent years, we have seen the Supreme Court take stands contrary to Gay interests. In the *Hardwick* case, we see a decision wherein the Supreme Court condones a state law which prohibits homosexual acts, even those occurring in the privacy of one's bedroom with another consenting adult. The recent *San Francisco Arts & Athletics* case revealed that the Supreme Court believes that Gays should not even be able to use the word "olympic" to describe a quadrennial athletic event.

Currently in Washington another Reagan nominee is being considered for the high court —

Robert Bork. And while Bork presents a polished, academic image in the current hearings, his apparent stands on some issues seem to be waffling. He claims he does hold the same opinions today that he once held. Perhaps the smell of a Supreme Court seat is causing him to rethink his positions. I doubt it.

Bork is a constitutional constructionist — that is, if it isn't referred to directly in the Constitution, it isn't protected. Most of the current Supreme Court Justices view the Constitution as an ever-changing, evolving document. Certainly there are precious few things in 1987 which were even imagined in 1787. Bork's notion of judgements which could only be based on the "original intent" of the individuals who wrote the Constitution, would freeze the Constitu-

tion within the exact historical context in which it was written. It would forever deny the validity to any claim that arose from modern circumstances and render the court incapable of addressing modern concerns. It would have to leave to the states the job of creating laws which, of necessity, need to be consistent nationally.

Judge Bork believes that the Supreme Court should never have recognized a Constitutional right to privacy. He has described the Court's decision in *Griswold* (the 1965 landmark case from which almost all modern privacy cases grow) as "unprincipled," and the logic behind it as "utterly specious." And he has characterized the 1973 case, *Roe v. Wade*, the privacy decision setting forth the right to an abortion, as "unconstitutional" itself. His argument seems to be that because abortion is not mentioned in the Constitution, it cannot be protected by it.

Judge Bork views the "constitutional guarantee" of "equal protection of the law" to be limited almost exclusively to discrimination "along racial lines." Under his interpretation, the general principal of equality would not have been extended to women, the disabled, or to any other group.

Judge Bork claims that the

First Amendment's guarantee of "freedom of speech" should only extend to political statements, disallowing those expressions found in material of a scientific, literary, or artistic nature.

All in all, Judge Bork's views show a radically constricted point of view which could severely alter the way in which the Court views cases and virtually gut many existing guarantees.

Wonder what Bork thinks of Gays?

Of course, we could look at the *Dronenberg* case, in which Bork held that a Navy petty officer with a long, unblemished record could be discharged solely for engaging in private, consensual acts with another adult. Bork affirmed the Navy's policy of discharging Gays from the military.

In 1978, when Judge Bork was serving on a faculty of Yale Law School, he opposed a proposal that the school bar recruitment by employers who discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. He wrote in a memo to the faculty:

"There is no need to rehearse at length the intellectual emptiness of the arguments put forward on behalf of this proposal. Contrary to the assertions made, homosexuality is obviously not

an unchangeable condition like race or gender."

He further wrote:

"The proposal before us is simply an attempt to have this faculty ratify homosexuality, to have us state that it is immoral for society to have any preference on the matter. I do not believe that it is immoral for society or for individuals in it to have such preferences."

Lambda Legal Defense calls these statements shocking and charges that Judge Bork condones discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians, even in a matter as fundamental to one's survival and well-being as employment. They are, in short, homophobic statements.

We agree with Lambda in saying that no person holding such biased viewpoints is appropriate for appointment to the Supreme Court. We urge you to take time now, to write a short note to Sen. Albert Gore, Sen. James Sasser, as well as to Sen. Joseph Biden, the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to tell them to vote against the Bork nomination. They all may be reached by writing to them in care of United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510.



Gaze

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

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Box 3038

A Waddell Tribute

With the passing of Dr. Thomas Waddell, we have lost a true leader and positive spirit in the struggle for Gay rights and recognition.

Without a doubt, his lengthy legal battle with the U.S. Olympic Committee all the way to the ultimate rejection by the Supreme Court took its toll as much as his battle with AIDS.

So the U.S. Olympic Committee doesn't like the use of the word "Gay" with Olympic. They shouldn't mind then if we drop "that" word, but still use theirs.

The Tom Waddell Olympics. At least the Tom Waddell Gaymes. We should never forget. David Reid
West Hollywood, CA

Plaza Theatre Threatened

A group of insensitive real

estate speculators are trying to demolish the Plaza Theatre in the midst of her 35th birthday. We urge you to take a few minutes to write a letter to the editor of the *Commercial Appeal*, 495 Union Ave, Memphis, TN 38101 to protest. Time is of the essence. Bill Kendall
Memphis

March On Washington Should Have Been Front Page News

I am extremely disappointed in Gaze for not promoting the March to Washington, D.C. The September issue should have prominently featured the March as front page material. This is so important to our future and yet Memphis can't fill one bus to go. Knoxville and Nashville have filled three buses. What's our problem? We must push for more

political awareness within our community. We have to take some responsibility for our future or there will be none if Reagan and Co. have their way. If there is one thing the women's feminist movement has taught me, it is that no one will give you your civil rights; you must make it happen by saying to yourself -

Enough is enough!
Vickie Scarborough
Memphis, TN

On The Other Hand...

Thank you for the super expo on the National March on Washington. I hope the Memphis committee has a large response.

Speaking of being informed, please consider running an article for the female readers. *Yes, Robbin there is a Santa Claus! Olivia Records, through which*

continued on page 12



A MAN'S BAR
1382 Poplar - 726-5263

PIPELINE
MEMPHIS



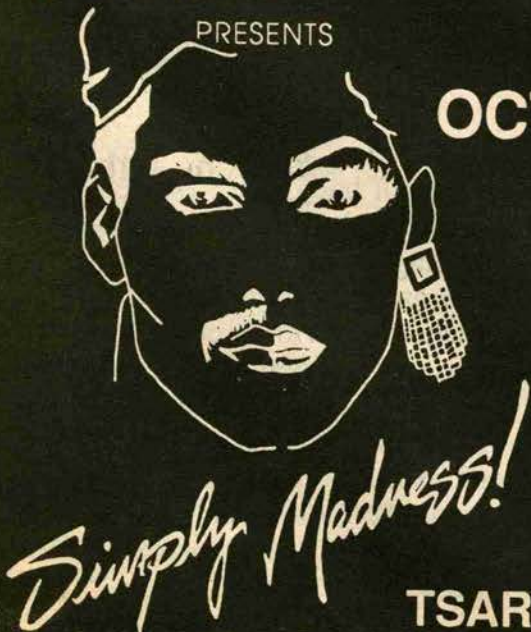
HALLOWEEN BALL

TSARUS

PRESENTS

**OCTOBER 31ST - ALL DAY
SMALL BUFFET**

**11:00 TIL -
ATEAC BENEFIT
CAMP DRAG
YOUR BEST WELL-KNOWN
CELEBS HOST IT**



TSARUS CLUB NIGHT

National News

Momentum Builds for Washington March

Activists in over 200 cities are organizing to bring thousands of Lesbians, Gays, People with AIDS, and civil rights supporters to Washington, DC on October 12 for the second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

According to Pam David, one of 12 full-time national staff members, support is growing around the country. "The march has already been endorsed by over 450 student groups, AIDS service organizations, Lesbian and Gay groups, labor officials, women's organizations, solidarity groups,

and elected officials," David said.

Early reports indicate a massive turnout for the March. According to Arthur Scott, "New York City is sending 500 busses, thousands of people are flying in from California, and planes have been chartered from both Columbus, Ohio and Minneapolis, Minnesota."

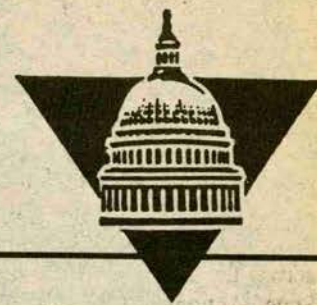
Marchers will gather at 9 am on Oct. 11 at the Ellipse, located at 15th and Constitution, N.W., where a morning rally is being planned. According to Gisele Mills, another full-time staff member, "The People of Color

Caucus is coordinating a multi-cultural event that will involve speakers, as well as music, theatre, and poetry."

"Between the volume of phone calls and the number of information requests, office volunteers are being kept very

busy," said Steven Dwyer, a member of the March staff.

Donations are desperately needed to finance the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and can be sent to March on Washington, P.O. Box 7781, Washington, DC 20044.



"The Wedding" Threatened

The first major equal rights demonstration for same-sex couples is threatened by a lack of donations. After seven months of promotion, the financial support for the demonstration planned for the March on Washington is not adequate to cover basic expenses.

According to Walter Wheeler, President of Couples, Inc., the sponsors of the event, "We have stacks of letters from across the county supporting The Wedding and to tell us that couples plan to attend. Only a few have donated money to support the event. Many people do not realize how much it costs to promote a national demonstration. We have also learned that many couples are planning to participate, but have not contacted us. This has made it impossible to estimate the numbers of people to expect."

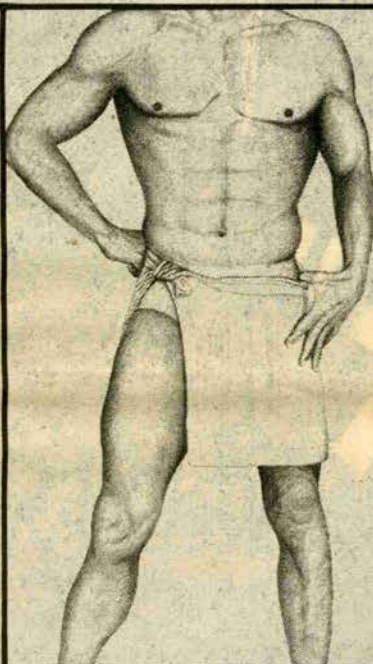
The plans for The Wedding are still proceeding. Several nationally known Gay leaders have agreed to speak at the demonstration, including Rev. Troy Perry of the UFMCC and Rosemary Dempsey from the NOW. A permit to close Constitution Ave. in front of the IRS Building is in the works.

The National March on Washington staff is also making arrangements for the important support items such as the stage and the sound system. Money is needed now to pay for these items.

"I hope we haven't come this close to standing before the federal government and the world to demand recognition of our existing relationships only to lose the opportunity of financial support," stated Carey Junkin, representative

of The Wedding to the National Steering Committee for the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

For more information on The Wedding or to send donations, write Couples, Inc. P.O. Box 13323, Los Angeles, CA 90013-0323. For more information on the March on Washington, write MOW, P.O. Box 7781, Washington DC 20044 or call (202) 783-1828. Please mention *Gaze* in all correspondence.



*Fantasy +
Desire =
L'AGEN
(LA SHÂN)*

**Through His Erotic Dance
He Will Unleash These
Two Inhibitions That Are
Kept Harboured
Deep Inside**

*The Perfect
Party Favor*

272-STAR
Pager Number: After 2
beeps, enter your number,
and hang up

The Rock Backs Down

New York — The Prudential Insurance Company and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund have announced an out-of-court settlement of a suit brought by "John Doe," a life insurance applicant who was not issued an insurance policy following a positive result on an HIV antibody blood test protocol.

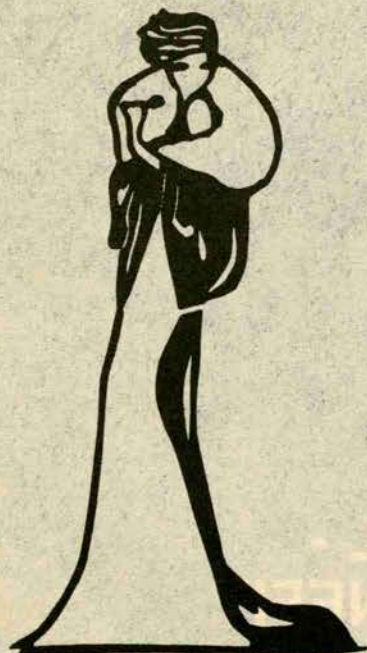
Doe, who has stressed that he did not know his antibody status before Prudential tested him, alleged that he did not consent to have his blood screened for HIV antibodies, that Prudential violated its obligations to keep his test results confidential when an underwriter disclosed the results to a non-employee of Prudential, and that Prudential transmitted the antibody test results to him directly although he had requested they be sent to his physician. Prudential emphasized that its willingness to settle did not signify it admitted any of Doe's

allegations.

Prudential agreed to strengthen its existing procedures for obtaining informed consent for antibody testing and to require signed consent from all applicants after they have been clearly informed that their blood will be tested for HIV antibodies. Prudential agreed to reinforce among its employees its existing policy on confidentiality with an emphasis on the sensitivity of AIDS-related information. It also agreed to clarify its existing policy on communicating blood test results to applicants and on giving those applicants, who so elect the opportunity to have the results conveyed to their physicians who can counsel them regarding the results. In addition, Prudential made a financial settlement with Doe. The parties agreed to keep the details of the settlement confidential.

COMING SOON!

**GEORGE'S
NEW
LIGHT AND SOUND
SPECTACULAR
ON
FRONT STREET!**



GEORGE'S

What is Safer Sex?

Safer sex activities are those which don't involve the sharing of body fluids (semen, blood, urine, saliva, and feces). These include hugging, dry kissing, massage, and mutual masturbation. Activities which are probably safe include anal and vaginal intercourse with a condom using a water-based lubricant and oral sex with a condom or without putting the head of the penis in the mouth. The AIDS virus has been found rarely in low concentrations in saliva, so deep kissing may have some risks. Activities such as rimming, fisting, and anal or vaginal intercourse without a condom are considered unsafe.

NGLTF Starts "State Action Lobby"

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has announced the creation of a major national grassroots lobbying project to press for Gay rights and to fight repressive AIDS legislation in state legislatures across the country. The National State Action Lobby formalizes and expands the organizing support NGLTF has given to local activists through its Cooperating Organization Pro-

gram and through the grassroots work of Anti-Violence Project Director Kevin Berrill and Privacy Project Director Sue Hyde.

The new NGLTF program has two goals: (1) to monitor and lobby with local activists against repressive AIDS legislation at the state level; and (2) to actively support state and local groups seeking passage of pro-Gay legislation.

The Task Force will hire a

lobbyist this fall to oversee this program. The lobbyist will work with state and local groups to organize grassroots support, develop and disseminate training and lobbying materials, and implement strategies to advance Gay civil rights. The Task Force has also announced the expansion of its Cooperating Organization Program to insure the presence of affiliated organizations in each state capital. The Program has

School Life Survey Results

Columbia, SC — The Gay and Lesbian Advocacy Research Project, Inc. has released the first set of findings collected in a state-wide study of the Quality of School Life for Southern Gay and Lesbian Youth. These findings are based on data collected from a recent survey of South Carolina guidance counselors. One hundred forty-two surveys (about 1/3 of the total) were returned. Among the findings:

- Nearly 60% of the respondents reported that they have known a student who was Gay. Less than 25% have chosen to provide students with information about homosexuality or to participate in programs to expand counselors' knowledge about the issue.

- Less than 10% report that students were knowledgeable about AIDS, 1% believe that students in their school know about homosexuality.

- 67% report that all or most students in their school display a negative attitude toward homosexuality.

- The majority of those who have counseled Gay youth report that all or most of these young people experience greater personal difficulties than their heterosexual peers, experience or are fearful of harassment at school, and generally feel isolated from their fellow students.

- 80% report that few or none of the school's faculty are supportive of Gay students.

- Three times as many guidance counselors consider their fellow counselors ignorant about homosexuality (45%) than about AIDS (15%).

- More than 90% believe that sexual concerns of students are legitimate topics for discussion and that the counselor should convey a non-judgmental attitude. However, 46% would inform the child's parents about their son's or daughter's sexual orientation.

According to the study's research director, Dr. James T. Sears, these data "indicate that

school counselors are more aware and exposed to the problems and concerns facing Gay and Lesbian youth in the schools. Most, however, feel ill-prepared to work with these sexual minority students and they perceive other

faculty in their schools as largely unsupportive and blissfully ignorant of the problem." The survey was conducted as part of a larger study and was funded by a grant from the Gay and Lesbian Advocacy Project that examines the quality of school life for Southern Gays.

National News

already recruited 53 national, state, and local member-groups.

"The Gay/Lesbian community is in grave danger from a tidal wave of AIDS-phobic, anti-Gay legislation," said NGLTF Executive Director Jeffrey Levi.

"We must take the offensive in our struggle for equality and justice. The State Action Lobby will support the efforts of state and local activists to defeat or reshape negative legislation before it draws constituent support."

Did You Know?

The leading cause of condom failure is the use of grease-based lubricants. According to the experts, petroleum-based products like Vaseline and most hand creams, react with latex rubber and cause it to break down. The breakdown of the rubber, combined with the friction of sex, cause the condom to tear.

Condom manufacturers suggest using a water-based or silicone-based product if extra lubrication is desired. These products are often marketed as "surgical" jellies or lubricants. Among the better products are Johnson & Johnson's KY-Jelly and Astroglide by Astrolube.

NOW PLAYING

VARIETY SHOW & DINNER

Spend Thursday Evenings With Us!

at

The French Connection

**A fun-filled night to benefit the
Memphis Gay Coalition.**

\$2 donation at the door.

7-8 Tea Time - Long Island Teas 2 for 1

8-9 Dinner Is Served *

10 Show starts

\$3.95 Plate Dinner

October 8 - Spaghetti

October 15 - Fried Chicken

October 22 - Meat Loaf

October 29 - BBQ Chicken

DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT!

**A production of the Memphis Gay Coalition
and The French Connection - 598 Marshall.**

* \$1 from every plate will be donated to MGC and the Gay Community Center.

Local News

Coalition Lowers Membership Fees

In a move designed to get as many members as possible, the Memphis Gay Coalition has dropped its membership fee to 25% of its former cost. Annual memberships are now available as low \$5.

The Coalition is also offering memberships which entitle a person to receive up to a 50% discount on MGC sponsored events such as Spring Fling, GayFest, and the annual Gay Pride River Ride.

Although each membership has voting privileges, higher level memberships offer certain advantages. Memberships are being offered at the following levels:

- Contributing Member — \$5 annual fee includes voting privileges
- Subscribing Member — \$8 annual fee includes voting privileges and a complimentary subscription to *Gaze*.
- Sustaining Member — \$20 annual fee includes above plus up to 50% off MGC sponsored events
- Household Member — \$35 annual fee includes above benefits for 2 people (each additional person in a household may become members for \$10 each)
- Supporting Member — Available to those people who donate at least \$20 to any of the ongoing Coalition funds (AIDS Fund, Community Center

Building Fund, *Gaze*, Gay Switchboard, etc.), includes voting privileges.

In addition, the Coalition is offering members of other Gay organizations the opportunity to become members of the Coalition at a substantial discount. "We feel that if a person is already a member of another Gay organization, they are making a contribution to the Gay community," said John Stilwell, MGC Secretary. If an organization agrees, it can make all of its members members of MGC at the entry level at no cost. Each member can then upgrade their membership as he or she chooses at a five dollar discount. "What that amounts to," Stilwell said, "is that we are offering free memberships to anyone active in another Gay organization — they also get an automatic \$5 discount on any membership level. For example, they could start a mail subscription to *Gaze* for only \$3."

The membership reorganization was passed by the Board of Directors at the Sept. 7 Coalition meeting.

Meetings of the Memphis Gay Coalition are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:30 pm in Meeting Room A of the Main Library at Peabody and McLean.

Steps in the Right Direction

AIDS Walk Fundraiser Slated for Nov.

The Memphis AIDS Coalition (MAC) has announced plans for a fundraising "walk" to take place in Overton Park November 28, the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Dubbed "Steps in the Right Direction," the walk will raise needed funds for education, social services, and research. "We hope to touch the hearts of Memphians," said Dr. Bruce Wolf, president of MAC. "As we all know, AIDS is not a disease of risk groups, but of risk behaviors. Sooner or later,

everyone's lives will be touched by someone who has AIDS," he said.

MAC is currently soliciting area businesses and industries for support of the walk, which is organized similarly to March of Dimes' "WalkAmerica." Participants are asked to obtain pledges for each kilometer they walk in the event. The walk will culminate a series of public education efforts which will take place from September through November.

According to organizers,

50% of the funds raised will go toward educational efforts (media, billboards, literature, etc.), 25% for social services for PWA's (including the potential establishment of an AIDS hospice), and 25% for research to an institution engaged in AIDS research.

ATEAC has pledged its support to the effort by providing day-of-event person-power to assure the smooth running of the event.

For registration forms, or to volunteer your services for the event, call 454-1411.

Aphrodite Does It Again!

A benefit show Sept. 6 at WKRB in Memphis, resulted in over \$1800 being donated the Aid to End AIDS Committee to help AIDS patients. The show featured Aphrodite members and friends performing in a camp show atmosphere. As usual, Aphrodite played to a packed house.

Donations from Aphrodite since 1985, when Aphrodite began raising money for AIDS Patient relief, have totalled \$5609.50. Of that, \$4,525.15 has been spent for rent, medicine, insurance payments, and other services to AIDS patients. The balance in the account (not counting this benefit) is \$1,084.35. "We keep a separate

ledger for money donated specifically for AIDS patient relief," said Tommy Stewart, president of ATEAC. "We try to be careful and don't spend that money if funds from other sources are available. We view this as 'emergency' money for people who are in severe need of assistance."

Many of ATEAC's clients are on Food Stamps and Medicaid which cover food and medical care but do not cover incidentals like toiletries, cleaning supplies, and the like. Most of the individual

patient grants have been small, but with the advent of AZT (Retrovir) and its exorbitant expense, the group fears that its patient relief funds could rapidly disappear.

"When AZT costs \$850 a month for one patient," Stewart said, "a couple of clients in need could wipe out the fund." AZT has been approved for Medicaid coverage and is available under private insurance, but there is often a 2-6 month lag time before patient payments begin under this program.

Time Running Out For Gay Pride Poster Entries

Time is running out for those planning to enter the GayFest '88 poster contest. A \$100 cash prize will be awarded to the winning entry and it will be used in the poster design to promote the 1988 Memphis Gay Pride events.

Entries should be submitted to the Memphis Gay Pride Committee by mail at P.O. Box 3038, Memphis 38174-0038 or at a Gay Pride Committee or Memphis Gay Coalition Meeting. Entries should be submitted in black ink on 11x17 paper or poster board no later than October 15, 1987.

Design Considerations: A successful design entry will

include the legend "GayFest '88". It should also include a distinct graphic element that can be reproduced separately from the complete design on T-shirts, caps, etc. This graphic element must therefore be capable of standing on its own as a symbol for Gay Pride events. The design should be readily reproducible; simplicity is therefore a desired characteristic.

Designs should attempt to convey pride in our Gayness and in the community of Lesbians and Gay men in the Mid-South.

The winning entry will be announced in the November issue of *Gaze*.

GO WESTERN!

The BUNKHOUSE

Memphis' Newest Country-Western Bar

Seven Days a Week
4 PM - 3 AM

Happy Hour
4-7 PM

92 N. Avalon
Upstairs, Across from
the old Pendulum

Memphis Gay Switchboard
726-GAYY
Information
Referrals
Counseling
Staffed Nightly 7:30-11:30 pm

Eight Memorable Suspected Causes of Homosexuality

(Excerpted from *The Gay Book Of Lists* by Leigh Rutledge, published by Alyson Publications, Boston, MA.)

• Loud Disco Music

A 1979 study at Aegean University in Turkey alleged that male mice continually exposed to loud disco music eventually became exclusively homosexual. The university claimed to have discovered that "high-level noise such as that frequently found in discos, causes homosexuality in mice and deafness among pigs."

• Smoking marijuana

In 1986, Reagan-appointed White House drug adviser Carlton Turner announced his belief that smoking marijuana leads to homosexuality. Turner claimed that when he visited treatment centers for drug abusers under 18, he found that approximately 40% of the patients had also engaged in homosexual activity. "It seems to be something that follows along from their marijuana use," he told the press. Similar assertions had been made in 1979 by then-U.S. Senator S.I. Hayakawa (R-CA), who claimed that widespread use of marijuana was responsible for the "huge increase" in homosexuality.

• Astrological Influences

The 1933 book *Strange Loves* by Dr. La Forest Potter devoted an entire section to the question, "Are Astrological Factors in Any Way Accountable for Perversion?" "There may be something more than mere coincidence," Dr. Potter concluded, "in the fact that many persons born under certain aspects, seem to develop sexual abnormalities. In this respect, one born under the sign Libra — the balances — seems to be more than usually vulnerable." Some ancient Greeks and Romans also believed that astrology played an important part in determining sexual preferences.

• Masturbation

During the Victorian era, masturbation was popularly thought to lead inevitably to homosexual behavior. "Typical" young male masturbators were often portrayed in medical literature as having effeminate mannerisms and developing "morbid attachments" to other boys or young men.

• Vasectomy

In 1981, British medical researchers reported the case of a 32-year-old married man who became exclusively homosexual after undergoing a vasectomy. The man claimed to have had no

previous homosexual experiences.

• Too Many Woman Teachers

One early 20th century theory suggested that young boys whose grade school teachers were mostly women were more likely to become homosexuals.

• Atavism

Another early theory claimed that homosexuals were genetic throwbacks to man's primitive

and amoral ancestors. Some scientists thought they saw this substantiated by the high degree of homosexual behavior among so-called lesser animals, including monkeys.

• Uncut meat

An aboriginal society in New Guinea believes that men will become homosexuals if they eat the meat of uncircumcized pigs.

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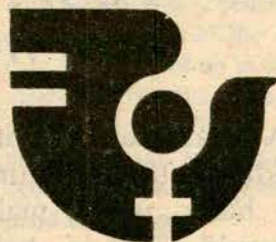
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Book Reviews

House at Pelham Falls

The House at Pelham Falls
Brenda Weather
Naiad Press, \$7.95
Review by Carole Taylor

This is a ghost story of sorts, though more erotic than scary, since the ghost would rather make love to the main character than go booga-booga. The main character, Dr. Karen Latham, has her PH.D. in anthropology with an emphasis area in Incan religion. But don't let that scare off those few of you out there who neglected your Incan studies, not to mention your religion. Anyway, as you might suspect of someone with a bent for Incan religion, Dr. Latham has had her nose in dusty tomes and little else. And what ho, up pops the ubiquitous experienced Gay lady to knock on her closet door. After her first experience in the murky waters of Gaydom, you'd think that dealing with a ghost would be a piece of cake, right? Wrong. Dr. Latham takes a house on the foggy coast

of Maine to squint through the mist of her confusion over the living, only to find out (naturally for the sake of advancing the plot) that she bears an uncanny resemblance to the late Blessing McCartland's even later, younger lover. Blessing owned the house decades ago and died looking much like Ms. Havisham.

Dr. Latham's source of mortal confusion is Maggi England — handsome, stylish, socially conscious, politically correct. And (wouldn't you know it?) with the help of crusty old New England spinster Etta Cavendish, Maggi becomes a resourceful Lesbian ghost buster. (Who you gonna call?)

Weather's book is entertaining light reading, and her narrative is almost painterly in its descriptions of the New England Coast. The characters are well drawn; and the plot is cohesive, drawing on not a few allusions to feminist mysticism and female wisdom.

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Health/AIDS

Gene Type Doesn't Increase AIDS Risk

Berkeley CA — A gene type that some scientists have suggested may increase susceptibility to AIDS appears in new tests not to influence either AIDS infection or the rate of progression of the disease.

New research findings reported Sept. 2, show that men with this particular gene type are no more likely to become infected with the AIDS virus if exposed or to develop the disease more quickly if infected.

Researchers at the University of California in Berkeley School of Public Health reported their new data in a letter in the current issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Their findings refute a recent scientific report from England.

In that report, the British scientists suggested that susceptibility to AIDS infection and disease was related to inherited variation in a particular gene. The gene in question directs production of a protein called "Gc" that carries vitamin D in the blood.

According to an article published in spring 1987 in the British Journal *Lancet*, men who were infected with the AIDS virus or who had the full disease were more likely to have the variant of the gene designated "1f"

The Berkeley scientists found, however, that AIDS

patients and men infected with the AIDS virus were no more likely to have the "1f" type of the gene than uninfected men in their study.

The research team also found no difference in this gene between homosexual and bisexual men from their study and heterosexual people from outside their study.

The scientists point out that genetic variation in susceptibility to the AIDS virus may be part of the explanation for differences in rates of infection and disease among exposed people.

The Berkeley group is continuing its search for genetic factors that may contribute to increase susceptibility to AIDS.

ATEAC Launches Referral Survey

A survey of area physicians, mental health workers, and dentists is being conducted by the Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC) in an effort to determine the availability of health professionals in treating people with AIDS or HIV-positive antibody status.

The 1200-piece direct mail campaign is designed to get responses from the health care community in order to provide referrals for both the AIDS

Switchboard and the Gay Switchboard. One of the questions on the survey is about whether the professional will treat Gay people without prejudice, or being judgmental.

In addition to the survey, the mail-out will contain brochures about services offered by ATEAC, and a copy of the current *AIDS Update*.

Recent national surveys of physicians and other health professionals reveal that many would not treat AIDS or HIV-positive clients if given the choice.

"It's real important that a person with AIDS have compassionate and concerned health professionals treating them," said Tommy Stewart, president of ATEAC. "A number of otherwise good physicians are available," he said, "but a lot of them have really bad attitudes toward Gay people or AIDS cases — They're excellent physicians, but have rotten bedside manners. We're trying to find out which professionals will maintain a good attitude. We figure if they will respond to our questionnaire, they're going to be supportive," he continued.

The list of physicians will not be recommendations, Stewart cautioned, but simply referrals. "We don't have the resources to check up on every doctor who says they're going to treat PWA's. We need feedback from clients to obtain any kind of "quality of care" information.

The survey should be completed by the end of October and will be funded by a grant from the State of Tennessee.

Separate AIDS Switchboard Created

A separate AIDS Switchboard to answer questions from the Gay and general publics about

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As Christ's Church
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For More Information Call:
743-2790 or 744-0575

Or Call The Gay Switchboard

Agape New Life
Church

We meet Sundays at 11 AM and Wednesdays at 7:30 PM to study the word of God and relate it to our modern day lives.

AIDS has been created in Memphis.

The Memphis-based Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC) recently began operation of an additional helpline because of the number of calls being generated. The AIDS Switchboard formerly used the same number as the Gay Switchboard.

"We originally considered having a separate line over a year ago, but the calls didn't justify it," said Tommy Stewart, president of ATEAC. "Now we've been receiving complaints of people not being about to get through. That means the time is right to provide two separate lines."

Cecil McLeod, Gay Switchboard Coordinator, agrees.

"Over the past year, the number of AIDS-related calls to the Gay Switchboard has dramatically increased," he said.

Funding for the Switchboard was made possible by a grant from the State of Tennessee. The current grant is scheduled to run through June of 1988.

The AIDS Switchboard (458-AIDS) is operated similarly to the Gay Switchboard. Operators are connected through a call-forwarding service and provide information from their own homes. Switchboard hours are from 7:30-11:30 PM with live operators. During weekdays, the phone is call-forwarded to the Health Department's AIDS information line.

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YES, AIDS IS DEPRESSING HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU HAD IT?

A small, but dedicated group of individuals is working very hard to educate the community and care for the needs of our AIDS patients - black, white, male, female, straight and Gay. If you think you would like to help or just want to know more about our organization, please attend our next meeting.

Aid to End AIDS Committee
Sunday, October 19 3:00 PM
Red Cross Building 1400 Central

The Help Page

Becky's Space

by Becky Clendenin Caperton, M.S.

It's isn't news to most of you that the Gay community is living with stress significantly greater than the population at large. A lifestyle that is continually described as "different" or "abnormal" has always been stressful. However, the onslaught of AIDS has magnified your troubles, fears, and concerns.

At the risk of sounding trite, I am in the business of caring. It is my job to address the concerns you've got about psychological issues we all face. Just as a cure for AIDS has not been found, there is no cure for the stresses that accompany an alternate lifestyle. I hope that this column can be a dialogue between you and me to discuss whatever you wish.

I am sure many of you are asking: how can a "straight" woman help me? She has not lived through what I have — how can she understand? The easy glib answer would be: you don't have

to have cancer to know it's bad. But that would be an evasive response. So maybe the question is wrong. Are these issues of orientation? No! It is about relationships, families, couples, children. It is about happiness, sadness, work, worry, and more. This column is going to deal with any issues, questions or problems with which you are struggling. The stress and pressures that cause problems don't care what kind of lifestyles we lead. I don't either!

I'd like to hear from you. Any letter that I receive will remain confidential. I will try to answer all letters either in the column or by mail. Please include an address, phone number, or any other way in which you can be reached.

Becky Caperton is a counselor at the Hutt Psychological Group and can be reached at 767-3971. Address letters to her in care of Gaze, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

AIDS Support Groups Up and Running

Three AIDS Support Groups have been started by the Aid to End AIDS Committee. The groups include one for parents, friends, and partners of AIDS patients; one for HIV positive (asymptomatic) persons; and one for AIDS and ARC patients.

The groups are led by Vicki Ford-Freeland, Dan Hammil, and Rick Herrera respectively.

"I don't know what happened," said Tommy Stewart, president of ATEAC, "but all of sudden we were flooded with calls requesting these groups." ATEAC has had such groups in the past, but discontinued them because of lack of participation. The groups are meeting weekly at the Memphis Chapter of the Red Cross, 1400 Central Avenue.

According to group members, the groups are valuable. "It's really important that we meet and talk with other people who are in the same boat," commented a member. "We're able to offer each other support that someone who isn't in our situation can't possibly understand."

Initially, the AIDS and ARC group met with the HIV positive group. After about two meetings, there were enough people to separate and form two groups.

"The issues they discuss are really very different from each other," Stewart said.

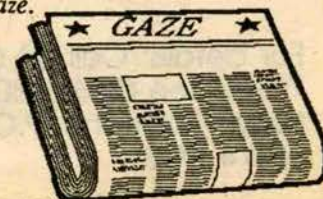
For more information about the groups' meeting times and joining, call the AIDS Switchboard at 458-AIDS (7:30-11 pm) or Tommy Stewart at 272-7827.

Gaze Stringers Still Needed

Most newspapers (Gay or otherwise) use stringers for their news. We'll be glad to print your club, bar, or community organization news, if you'll just let us know what happened, when, and where.

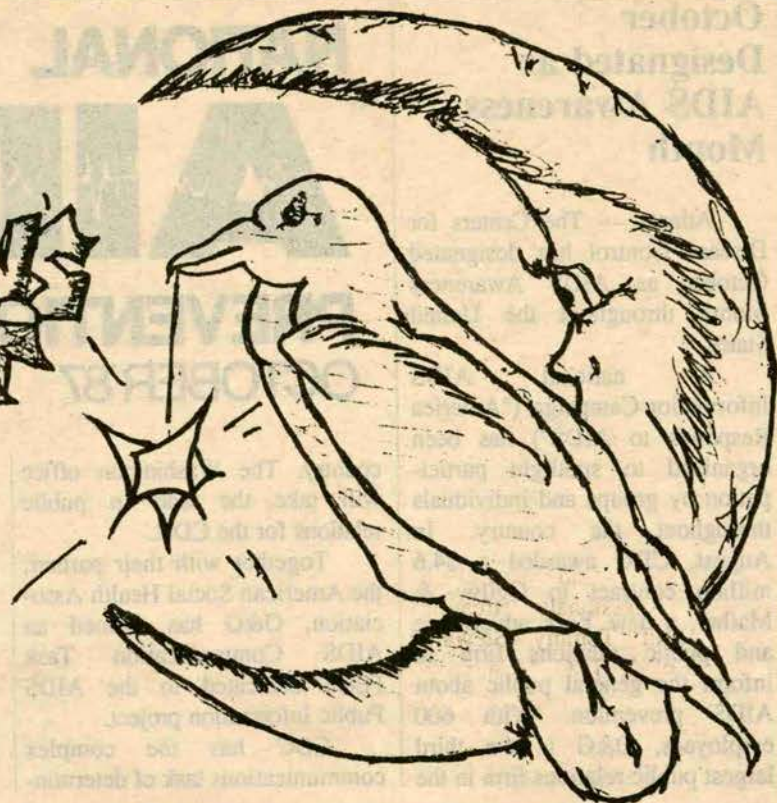
Here's all you have to do : Get your facts together, type them up and send them to Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038. or, if you can't type (or don't want to) simply call 454-1411 and dictate your story or facts to us over the phone. If no one is there, use the answering machine. Don't worry about style or writing skills — that's what editors are for.

We can't be everywhere, but you can. Get involved. Help Gaze.



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AIDS Disability Coverage Expands

New York — The federal government has apparently reversed itself and will extend Social Security Disability payments to people with AIDS who meet the newly expanded definition of the disease.

Thousands of people with AIDS-related dementia or emaciation but who did not meet the strict definition of AIDS had been excluded from Social Security disability and Medicaid health coverage. Effective September 1, these will be

included. The CDC had been criticized for maintaining a strict case definition after it became apparent that other conditions characterized AIDS. Those patients with Kaposi's sarcoma, pneumocystis pneumonia, and several other opportunistic infections have always qualified for benefits.

Three months ago, the CDC added AIDS-related dementia and emaciation to its list of illnesses recognized as confirming an AIDS diagnosis. However, the

Social Security Associate Commissioner for Disability, said on June 1 that the agency would not recognize this wasting affliction in automatically approving disability benefits.

In addition to the monthly cash payments of up to \$480, the disability benefits also entitle people with AIDS to housing allowances and automatic coverage of the Medicaid health program for the poor.

ANSWERS

458-AIDS

7:30 -10:30 EVENINGS

Spectrum

Anti-Gay Violence Stats Bill Introduced in House

Washington — At the urging of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the American Psychological Association, the ACLU, and other groups, Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) introduced legislation on August 7 to provide for the collection of data on crimes that show prejudice based on sexual orientation, race, color, or religion. Although other bills pending before congress call for the collection of statistics of crimes motivated by prejudice, they do not include a provision for the documentation of anti-Gay incidents.

Crimes covered under the bill, known as the "Hate Crimes Statistics Act" (HR-3193), include "homicide, assault, robbery, burglary, theft, arson, vandalism, trespass, threat, and

such other crimes as the Attorney General considers appropriate." The bill calls for the annual publication of data collected under the act and includes a confidentiality provision requiring that data acquired "shall be used only for research and statistical purposes and may not contain any information that may reveal the identity of an individual victim of a crime."

The "Hate Crime Statistics Act" occurs at a time when a growing number of states are considering legislation to collect information on the scope of crimes motivated by bigotry, including anti-Gay violence. Data collection bills have been introduced in California and New York and have become law in Maine and Connecticut.

Condom Facts

Did you know what all condoms sold in the U.S. must pass the same strength tests? While one size may fit all, one style may not. Experiment with different brands and types. Since they all pass the same tests, you can be assured one will work just as well as another.

BWMT *memphis*

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.

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

CALL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT GROUP ACTIVITIES, DISCUSSION GROUPS, TRIPS, ETC.

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

October Designated as AIDS Awareness Month

Atlanta -- The Centers for Disease Control has designated October as AIDS Awareness Month throughout the United States.

A national AIDS Information Campaign ("America Responds to AIDS") has been organized to spotlight participation by groups and individuals throughout the country. In August, CDC awarded a \$4.6 million contract to Ogilvy & Mather, a New York advertising and public relations firm to inform the general public about AIDS prevention. With 600 employees, O&G is the third largest public relations firm in the

NATIONAL

AIDS

PREVENTION MONTH OCTOBER '87

country. The Washington office will take the lead in public relations for the CDC.

Together with their partner, the American Social Health Association, O&G has formed an AIDS Communication Task Force dedicated to the AIDS Public Information project.

CDC has the complex communications task of determin-

ing the most appropriate target audiences, developing the best messages for those audiences, and ensuring that the messages are delivered and received. Materials produced in conjunction with the Campaign Staff of CDC's AIDS Information and Education Program will be used in the fall campaign and during 1988.

New AIDS Treatment in Clinical Trials

Montreal — The beginning of clinical trials of a new therapeutic approach for the treatment of patients with AIDS in the U.S. and England has been announced by Medicorp, Inc., a Canadian-based biomedical company which manufactures the treatment.

The pilot program will take place in St. Stephens and Westminster Hospitals in London, and the Bronx VA Hospital in New York. The Research and Development Committee and Human Studies subcommittee of the Bronx VA Hospital and the Ethical Review Committees of the London hospitals have reviewed and approved the clinical protocols at each institution.

Briefly the process uses plasma collected from healthy volunteers who test positive for a particular type of antibody. The donated plasma is then processed and administered to patients who are afflicted with AIDS. "The therapeutic approach is known as passive immunotherapy," says treatment developer Dr. Abraham Karpas. "In the initial trial, there was no side effect attributable to the treatment. Although there was insufficient data for statistical analysis, there was considerable subjective improvement in the patients noted by both the medical and nursing staff."

Memphis AIDS Coalition Founded

The Memphis AIDS Coalition (MAC), a new organization whose major goal is AIDS education, has been formed in Memphis. The organization was formed jointly by ATEAC and the Memphis Chapter of the American Red Cross.

According to its charter, MAC's purposes include the dissemination of "information and resources" regarding AIDS in the Memphis community.

The group originally began meeting as an effort to expand AIDS educational resources throughout the community. Over 100 people attended the first meeting in February.

"The people naturally fell into about five different groups," said Rebecca Locke, Assistant Chapter Manager of the Red Cross. "We determined that there were representatives from the religious, educational, medical, business, and social service professional communities." These groups, according to Locke, were holding separate meeting to determine specific goals and objectives for their areas. Those

goals and objectives are now being developed into proposals for educational efforts.

As an example, Wolf pointed out the groups involvement is catalizing and preparing AIDS-education curricula for the Memphis City Schools. MCS recently announced AIDS-education as part of its "family-life" curriculum and will present it to students as young as fourth-graders.

"The organization is really a 'group of groups,'" said Dr. Bruce Wolf, president of MAC and AIDS treatment researcher. "We have representatives from universities, churches and religious organizations, businesses, health care services, blood banks, social service agencies, etc. It's a really broad-based community effort." Wolf has been active in AIDS education for some time and recently formed the MAC Speakers' Bureau which has presented over 60 presentations in the last two months.

For information about MAC, call Rebecca Locke at the Red Cross at 726-1690.

Casey Donovan Dies of AIDS

Calvin Culver, known to millions of Gay men as Casey Donovan, star of dozens of Gay films, has died of AIDS. Culver died August 8 of an AIDS-related respiratory failure on his way to visit his parents in Key West, FL.

Culver, 42, was a resident of New York City and had been conducting all-Gay tours through the Hanns Ebenstein Travel agency in recent years. He had recently discontinued his long-running advice column in *Stallion* magazine.

Culver starred in Gay films over a 12 year period starting in the early 1970's. He is probably most remembered for his performance in Wakefield Poole's classic work of eroticism,



Pipeline Going All Out For Halloween

A drag show at the Pipeline? Horrors! Well, Halloween will indeed bring what promises to be the camp drag show of death to Memphis presented by Tsarus.

"We're going all out to put on a really FUN camp drag show," said Dennis. "A lot of our patrons are planning to do numbers (show numbers, that is)." Among the performers, many of whom request their full names not be printed include Dennis himself, Skeeter, Buster, Sharon, Ed. H., Larry G. (!), Bruce (!!), Chris D., and Jim. Lady Ray has consented to perform the Tennessee Waltz, and a contingent from the symphony may also perform.

The feature of the evening will be a rendition of "God Bless America" (Kate Smith's version undoubtedly). Also performing will be "cabaret girls" and

possibly some male strippers. Cigarette "girls" will be circulating throughout the audience hawking popcorn, cigarettes, etc.

The show is planned for the Pipeline patio area where a stage will be built over the fountain pond. While there will not be a door charge at the front door, a donation will be taken at the patio. All proceeds and tips will be donated to the Aid to End AIDS Committee.

The Pipeline will be featuring specials all day on Halloween with a small buffet. The show will start at 11:00 pm.

— Submitted by The Pipeline

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas to Gaze about the goings-on in the Gay community. Thanks, Dennis!

Lesbian Wins 7-Year Battle with Army

Milwaukee—The U.S. District Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled in August that Sgt. Miriam Ben-Shalom must be reinstated as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves even though she is openly Lesbian. Ben-Shalom was discharged in 1976 when she told her commanding officer that she was a Lesbian.

Although the Army reinstated her in 1980 under a federal court order, Ben-Shalom contended the military made her

life difficult in order to get her to resign. She filed contempt charges against the Army in 1983. The 7th District Court twice before ruled in her favor.

In addition to reprimanding the Army for not "fully reinstating her," the court further ordered the Army to guarantee that no retaliation would be taken against Ben-Shalom. "For example, her assignments and orders must not be tainted in any way by her professed off-base Lesbianism. Put more simply, the Army may not make Ben-Shalom's career more difficult or burdensome because of her sexual preference," reads the order.

Houston AIDS Hospital To Close

The corporation that operated the nation's first hospital dedicated entirely to the treatment of AIDS patients and research, says it will phase out the facility because of losses exceeding \$7 million in its first year.

The Institute for Immunological Disorders was opened under an affiliation agreement between American Medical International, Inc., and the University of Texas System.

But AMI officials notified UT System regents that the company will end its affiliation agreement in a year, according to the *Houston Chronicle*.

AMI officials announced in March that the hospital would no longer accept indigent patients because it was providing about 50% uncompensated services. Officials estimate that AMI had provided \$2 million in indigent care, although it initially committed only about a quarter of a million dollars to that area. AMI also reduced the institute's staff in April

Odds & Ends

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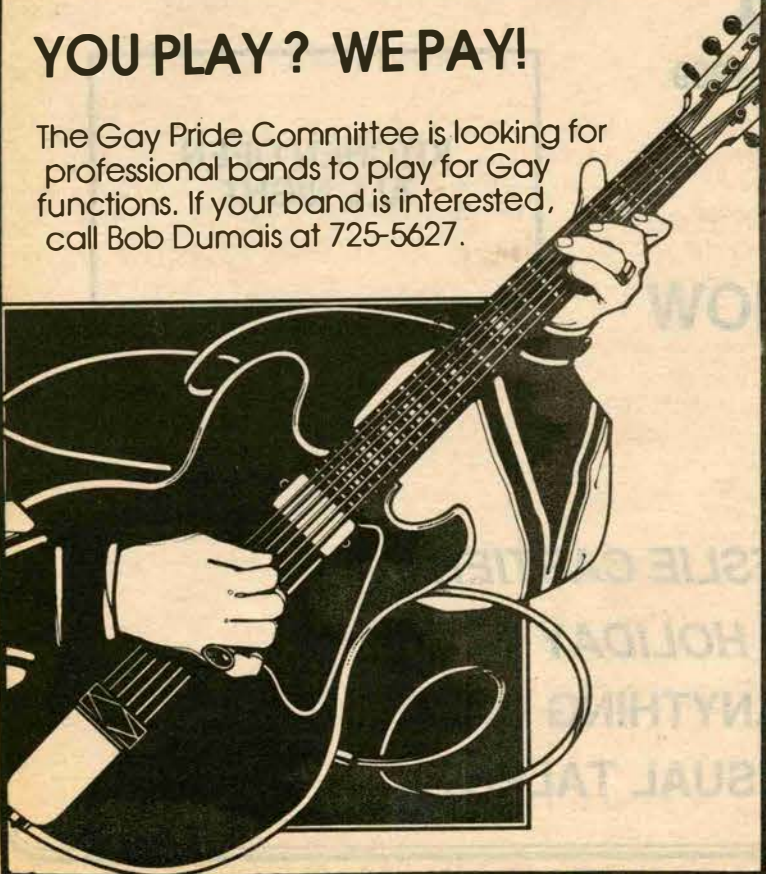
A Gaze subscription is only 8 bucks a year and it does come in a plain envelope. So what's the big deal?

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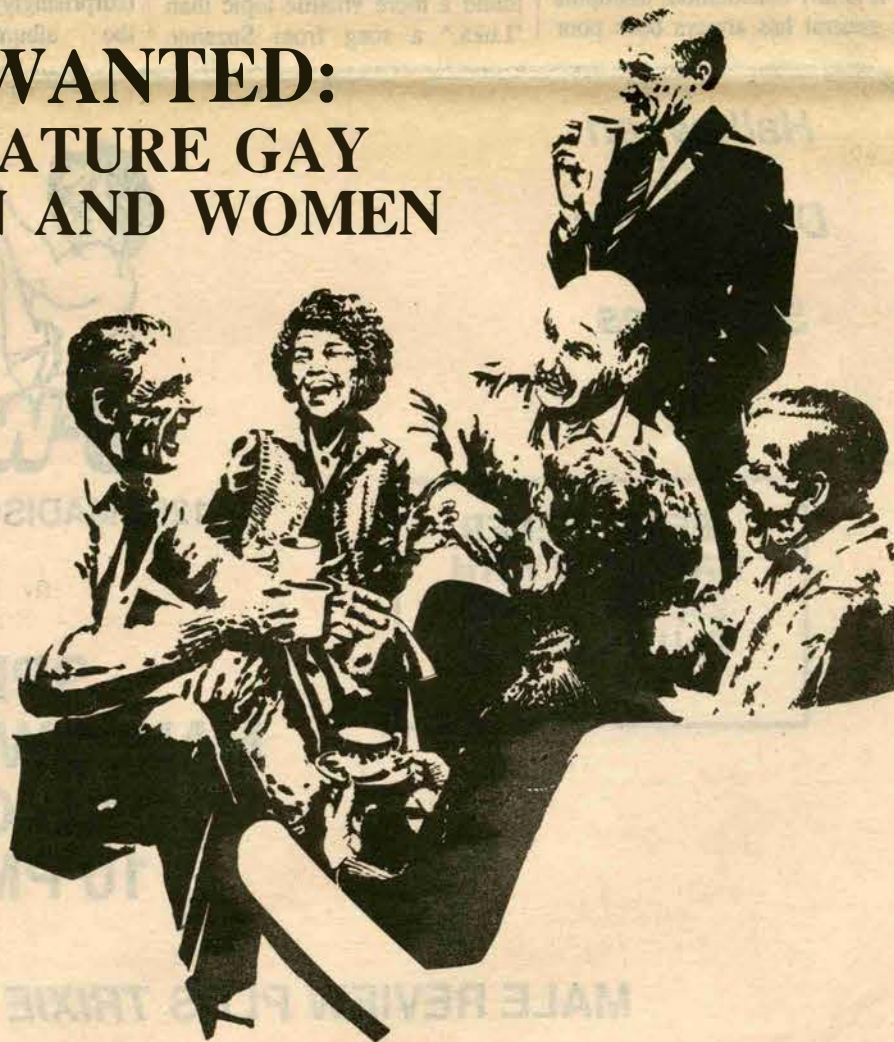
Send \$8, along with your name, address and zip to Gaze Subscriptions P.O. Box 3038 Memphis, TN 38173-0038

YOU PLAY? WE PAY!

The Gay Pride Committee is looking for professional bands to play for Gay functions. If your band is interested, call Bob Dumais at 725-5627.



WANTED: MATURE GAY MEN AND WOMEN



A new social group is being formed. Meet and mingle with other Gay men and women like yourself. A social function is being planned now for mid-January. We are especially interested in reaching the non-bar-going Gay population over 30 who would like to meet new people. If you are interested in meeting other mature, settled (but not necessarily coupled) Gay people, call 454-1411 for more information.

Box 3038

continued from page 2

there actually exists Feminist music.

Olivia also puts out a catalog with movies, books, legal aids, posters, art, cards, games, jewelry, concert tour info, travel guides, children's lit, and much much more.

I recently received a request from Goldenrod Distribution, which is the regional distributor for Olivia and the other women's music label, asking me to be the outlet in Memphis. They wrote: "When Gaze reviewed Holly Near's *Don't Hold Back* recently, we didn't have an outlet to direct people to. We're going to give it a try and see what kind of support we get.

Karen Flowers
Raven's Nest
Memphis

And Speaking of Support...

All of you are doing a fine job and it is discouraging that more support does not show up. If it is any consolation, Memphis in general has always been poor

at "supporting" - civic clubs, opera, cultural activities - but don't give up. You are doing a good thing and everything is better for your efforts.

Pinkie
Memphis

My Name is Luka...

There are women who would probably say that I get perverse pleasure out of sparking political debate in an assembly. I'll agree I am guilty of initiating conversation guaranteed to draw heated response, but only in an attempt to inform those who haven't already heard a particular bit of news, and to promote a broadcast of information from those who know more.

I've really had some fun recently with the White Plains, New York chapter of the National Organization for Women who announced last week that they had elected a 49 year old male as their new President.

But in all my attempts to inform my community, I've never found a more volatile topic than "Luka," a song from Suzanne

Vega's second album entitled, *Solitude Standing*.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the recording, the words are very clear and straight forward:

My name is Luka. I live on the second floor. I live upstairs from you. Yes, I think you've seen me before.

If you hear something late at night - some kind of trouble - some kind of fight, just don't ask me what it was.

I think it's because I'm clumsy. I try not to talk too loud.

Maybe it's because I'm crazy. I try not to act too proud.

They only hit until you cry, and after that you don't ask why, you just don't argue anymore.

Yes, I think I'm okay. I walked into the door again. Well, if you ask that's what I'll say, and it's not your business anyway.

I guess I'd like to be alone with nothing broken, nothing thrown.

Just don't ask me how I am.
© Waitersongs

At this writing, *Rolling Stone* magazine places the album at 21 on a chart representing the 50 most successful albums on the mainstream market; and in the June issue, you can find a (surprisingly) lengthy review of the album according to

professionals. Much time was put into the history of her career, the performance of her producer, and the other plus or minus affect this album will have on he future.

What they couldn't predict was what "Luka" would do to conversation in homes across America. The light it would shine on the deplorable issue of abuse in this country. The emotion it would bring to the surface.

According to David Browne of *Rolling Stone*, "Only a writer as skillful and subtle as Vega could write a potent song about child abuse that gets your feet tapping while putting across its point."

It is this "point" that is the center of the explosive debate, and the variety of opinion is equal to the number of persons solicited...

"Young children will listen to her song and assume their own abuse is standard."

"She [Suzanne Vega] is making light of a very sad situation."

"It's merely a documentary."

"The life of abuse is a harsh reality, not a pretty song."

"The harsh reality is the abuse, the pretty song is the child."

"It should be taken off the air."

"She deserves a standing

ovation."

The point to this writer is that, where there was once silence, there is now vehement shouting.

I applaud Suzanne Vega's courage to address an issue which much of the nation is subjected to, and the rest of the nation would simply rather not hear about.

Dee Pierce
Jacksonville, AR

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PLUS NACHOS
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**KITCHEN OPEN
ALL NIGHT**

**SPECIAL
HALLOWEEN SHOW
NO COVER
10 PM UNTIL**

**MALE REVIEW PLUS TRIXIE - AND - LESLIE CARTIER
PLUS SPECIAL GUEST SUMMER HOLIDAY
SHOW US YOUR TALENT - WE WILL TRY ANYTHING ONCE
PRIZES FOR THE BEST AND MOST UNUSUAL TALENT**

SUN.

Male Revue

Showtime at 11:00 PM

\$4 Cover

Beer Bust 7-11

75¢ Well Drinks

All Night

Open

7 pm - 2 am

WED.

Talent Night**

Showtime at 11:00 PM

\$3 Cover

Beer Bust

8-11

75¢ Well Drinks

All Night

**Talent winner will appear
in regular show on Friday.
\$60 cash prize to winner.

**6th Miss Mess
Memphis Pageant**

Hosted by Melena and
last year's winner
DAVID RANDOLPH

Friday, October 30

Showtime 11:00 PM

\$250 in Cash Prizes*

(\$25 Entry Fee)

For entry information, contact Melena
at 526-1038

*based on 8 contestants

**George's Halloween
Costume Contest**

Saturday, October 31

\$100 - Best Costume

\$50 - Runner Up



GEORGE'S
600 Marshall

**FRIDAY &
SATURDAY**

George's Playgirls
Showtime at Midnight
\$5 Cover
Beer Bust 8-12

Quick Clips

And so, we come to the end of another hectic month. We were so completely surrounded by butchitude for the first weekend of September that our corset has not fit quite the same since. By the way, we have noticed that we have achieved a tad more notoriety than heretofore (if such a thing is possible) and that readership is satisfactory.

However, we do not bite. We might not print what you ask us not to print, if you're real sweet, but we cannot read the minds of every faerie in West Tennessee. Input is highly desirable, and details are even better. So do not be afraid to get in touch with your Aunt Endora if you have some hot tea to share.

WARM FUZZY DEPARTMENT

A certain writer for this newspaper was given an extremely high compliment by the members of the Wings Club (who brought you the Flight 3 Run and the Mr. Southern Leather Competition). Needless to say, the recipient was most grateful and quite touched. Thank you, gentlemen.

WEEKEND IN HEAVEN DEPARTMENT

Labor Day weekend, we were inspired to set aside our chiffon

and seek alternate company and pastimes. We attended most of the events of the Wings Flight 3 Run (translates "gathering" to you squares) and found them to be most enjoyable. Details are such that a person must attend to really appreciate them (yes, girl, just dream whatever you wanna, she's not telling), but the weekend highlight is worth mentioning.

Memphis hosted for the first time a regional Leatherman competition, Mr. Southern Leather. The winner, who should

have appeared on a magazine cover (and actually has), will represent this area in the Mr. International Leather Competition, a very prestigious annual event. Eight contestants were judged in three categories, relating to dress and deportment. Department is a word seldom seen outside of Jane Austen novels these days but it is appropriate in that the masculine (a positive term as opposed to macho, actually a negative term) deportment of an individual is a fundamental part of the Leatherman image and of the Leather scene in general. The competition was so keen that there were ties for first place more than once. It is gratifying to know that, judged by a panel composed of in-town and out-of-town experts, a representative from Memphis did place as second alternate.

Also, a certain local entertainer found herself trapped backstage for quite a long time with these eight fine specimens of manhood who spent most of their time changing clothes. She has still not quite recovered.

MUSTN'T LEAVE OUT THE LADIES

Here let it be known that Aphrodite has done it again. After the gala Mr. Southern Leather Competition, it was time for the girls to strut some stuff. This took place in the form of an enormously attended cocktail party on the rear patio at La Pipeline. Representatives of the club dispensed many cups of "Purple Puzies" to all and sundry. After our third, we just had to admit to the ladies present that Aphrodite can indubitably come up with the best puzies in Shelby County. For a first taste of same on our part, well, you have truly accomplished something.

SO THAT'S WHAT WAS BEHIND THAT DOOR DEPARTMENT

We fairly trip over a new Saloone of Gay at least once a column. This month was no exception. Lurking behind the double doors to the left, as one turns to the right to attend the Pendulum, was a fallow space. It was relegated to storage of heavy, ugly, useless items and, as such storage areas inevitably do, became a benefit show dressing room on occasion.

Much to our pleasant surprise, this intimate space has been transformed into a pleasant Country and Western bar known, appropriately, as the Bunkhouse.

The small size, and proportional small dance area and juke box, do not hinder other bars of this type that we have attended in other fair cities besides our own. It is friendly, good for conversation, and nicely decorated. I would expect no less from the same experts in the matter of men being men who brought us Men of Leather. I did hear the other Man's Man establishment referred to as "that other place" (was that a catty remark from a bastion of butch?) but also took note that no dress code of 10, 15 or 25 words or less

Is there a DOCTOR in the house?

or a Lawyer,
or a CPA,
or a Dentist,
or a Psychologist,
or an Optometrist,
or...

WHO KNOWS?

Unless you advertise — No one knows — Next year the Gay and Lesbian Community in Memphis will spend tens of millions of dollars on these services. Most of the time, they are forced to settle with someone who maybe doesn't understand the unique problems facing today's Gay community.

The Gay and Lesbian Guide of Memphis is going to change all this. A project to benefit GayFest '88, the guide's professional design and once-a-year publication offers the total Gay and Lesbian community a complete listing of the services available to them.

DON'T BE LEFT OUT!

Show the gay community that you have Gay Pride and welcome their hard-earned dollars. Place your ad today. Deadline is October 15th.

For more information call 743-2790, 454-1411 or send in the handy coupon below.

Send Coupon to:
Acropolis Publishing Company
P.O. Box 22914
Memphis, TN 38122

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Nature of Business or Service: _____

**MEMPHIS' ONLY 24 HOUR
GAY BAR**

**BROKEN TILE
DANCE FLOOR
NOW OPEN
8 PM TO 5 AM**



**NOW
FULL MENU
PLUS
SHORT ORDERS
AND
TUE-WED-THUR-SAT
FOOD SPECIALS**

1268 MADISON (901) 725-1909

MONDAY - MALE STRIPPERS - DRAG QUEENS - BEER BUST - 8-12 - \$2.00 COVER

TUESDAY - VEGETABLE BUFFET - ALL YOU CAN EAT - 7-10 - \$2.95

WEDNESDAY - MEAT LOAF DINNER WITH 2 VEGETABLES AND ROLLS - 7-10 - \$2.95

**THURSDAY - SPAGHETTI - SALAD - GARLIC BREAD - 1ST BEER INCLUDED - 7-10 -
\$3.50**

FRIDAY - MALE STRIPPERS - 10:30-12 - BEER BUST - 8 TO MIDNIGHT - \$3.00 COVER

**SATURDAY - RHONDA RIMMER LIVE WITH 50'S, 60'S & 70'S DANCE MUSIC - TRY
OUR DANCE FLOOR
ALSO COUNTRY FRIED STEAK DINNER WITH 2 VEGETABLES AND ROLLS - 7-10 -
\$2.95**

SUNDAY - PATIO COOKOUT - 5 UNTIL 7 - BEER ON PATIO - 10¢ DRAUGHT 3-10 PM

FULL MENU SERVED 8 TO 2 AM EVERY NIGHT

**CHICKEN FINGERS
FRENCH FRIES
COLE SLAW
\$2.95**

**JUMBO (HOMEMADE) TAMALES
SPANISH RICE
RE-FRIED BEANS
\$2.25**

**HAMBURGER STEAK
FRENCH FRIES
SALAD
ROLLS
\$3.50**

**STUFFED CRABS
FRENCH FRIES
COLE SLAW
\$2.75**

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. Please specify if you want to use our 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.

GWM, enjoys light bondage, submissive bottom man, seeks dominate top man for fun and friendship. Write to Art, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

Jewish Lesbian Daughters of Holocaust Survivors. We meet for support and networking and welcome contact from other Jewish Lesbian Daughters of Hfolaocaust Survivors. The next

meeting is scheduled for November 13-15 in upstate New Hampshire, and semiannually after that. A partners group has been formed for Lesbians who are in relationships with JLDHS. Membership is not dependent on both partners. For information write Box 6194, Boston, MA 02114 or call (617) 321-4252.

Youthful 31, muscular, handsome, romantic, Christian, seeks, same with hairy chest and nice smile, with intentions of permanent relationship. Letter and Pic if possible. Send to J. F. Box 12245, Memphis, TN 38182-0245.

GWM 31 Cute, Blonde/Blue, husky, well-educated, seeks short small endowed blonde, (25-35) for one to one relationship. No air heads or druggies. Call Steve at 726-6583. You won't be disappointed.

GWM, 21 Cute, True Male. Seeking cute under 24 for serious! young male relationship. Call Ty (615) 896-8230. Love only one and live a lifetime.

For Rent, Midtown - Roommate wanted to share large home. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$187.50/month + utilities. Call 728-4912.

GWM, 24, 6', 170#, wants to meet GWM 19-30 for friendship. Will answer all. David, Box 22993, Memphis, TN 38122-0993.

GWF, 32, non-barfly, trying to come out. Willing to meet other GWF professionals. Interests include breeding Dachshunds, camping, fishing, wood working, crafts, and other hands on projects. Reply Dept 10-B, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038. Phone (901) 377-7312.



Quick Clips

continued from page 14

seemed to be necessary (women and elephants never forget).

RUMOUR MILL DEPARTMENT

One of my multitudinous readers has asked me, to ask the world at large:

"Who was the twinkie who ripped the wig off of Kelly Greene at the Pendulum during the show?" All right, Mary, that really took some nerve.

Our deepest sympathy and congratulations to Miss Sukey Louise of Memphis ESQ. upon the purchase of her new manse, Chez Merde.

By the way, dirt is dirt, but what happens every time you get a little bit tight and engage in questionable activities on a

certain patio is not really newsworthy, so don't lose any sleep. What goes on in your office, now,.....

Well!!!!!! Now, I've heard everything. Number one, brother mine, now you have no secrets. Number two, you certainly know how to make a good first impression. Number three, have you ever considered lobbying as a profession (you seem to be so good with politicians)?

Vell, Mein Musikdirektor, who wouldn't conjecture what was transpiring?

You miss the party and later admit you were in a room locked up with three organs going at once and very deeply involved. Sounds murky to moi.

Ta, Ta
Lady A

FREE PERSONALS

Information and Services

MEMPHIS

ORGANIZATIONS

Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC): Box 40389, Memphis 38174-0389.

Agape New Life Church: 327-4145

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): 85 Union, Memphis 38103 - (901) 521-9875.

Black & White Men Together: Box 41773, Memphis 38174 - 272-3705, 278-7092, or 726-1461.

Frontrunners of Memphis: Box 40311, Memphis 38174-0311.

Gay Athletic Association: 744-0575.

Gay Women's Social Group: 324-6949.

Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: 1462 Poplar Ave, Mem-phus 38104 - 274-3550.

Memphis Gay Coalition: Box 3038, Memphis 38173-0038 - 726-GAYY.

M-PAC: Box 40311, Memphis 38174-0311 - 278-2970.

Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite: Box 41822, Memphis 38174-1822.

National Organization for Women (NOW): Box 40982, Memphis 38104.

Parents Together: 274-6262.

Phoenix (Gay AA): 272-0609 or 278-0475. If no answer, dial 454-1414.

Tsarus: Box 41082, Memphis 38174-1082.

Wings: Box 41784, Memphis 38174-1784.

MEDIA

AIDS Update: newspaper.

Gay Alternative: radio program, Mon. 6:00-7:00 PM, WEVL, FM 90 - Box 41773, Memphis 38174.

Gaze: newspaper - Box 3038, Memphis 38173-0038 - (901) 454-1411.

The Personals: Gay Computer Bulletin Board - 300 or 1200 Baud - 901-274-6713.

HELPLINES

AIDS Switchboard: 458-AIDS

Gay Switchboard: 726-GAYY.

LINC: 725-8895

Narcotics Anonymous: 276-LIVE

Rape Crisis: 528-2161.

Suicide & Crisis Intervention: 274-7477.

RESTAURANTS & BARS

Another Bar: 1351 Autumn - 278-9353

The Apartment: 343 Madison - 525-9491.

Back Street: 94 N. Avalon - 725-1530

Barbara's: 1474 Madison - 278-4313

The Bunkhouse: 92 N. Avalon - 276-4440

The French Connection: 598 Marshall - 526-1038

George's: 600 Marshall - 526-1038.

J-Wags: 1268 Madison - 725-1909.

Pipeline: 1382 Poplar -726-5263

MISCELLANEOUS

Airport Adult Theatre: 2214 Brooks Rd E. - 345-0657.

The Book Mart: 852 S. Cooper - 278-9546.

Cherokee Adult Book Store: 2947 Lamar - 744-7494.

Fantasy World: 1814 Winchester - 346-2086.

Getwell Book Mart: 1275 Getwell - 454-7765.

Getwell Adult Book Store: 1617 Getwell - 745-9054.

Men of Leather: 1266 Madison - 722-8963.

Paris Adult Entertainment Center: 2432 Summer - 323-2665.

Star Search Video: 1264 Madison - 272-STAR.

Tobacco Corner News-room: 669 Mendenhall Rd S. - 682-3326 & 1803 Union - 726-1622.

Veteran's Cab Co: 525-6681.



NOTICE OF ELECTION

A nominating committee appointed by the president of the Memphis Gay Coalition has presented a slate of officers for its 1988 fiscal year. In accordance with the bylaws, nominations were accepted from the floor on September 7. No additional nominations were forthcoming.

On October 5, MGC members will vote to elect the following officers and three of the four nominees for at-large board positions.

President - Carol Molder
Vice President - Matt Presley
Secretary - John Stilwell
Treasurer - Cecil McLeod

At-Large Board Nominees

Bob Dumais
Evelyn McNeil
John House
Debbie Holden

The election will be held at 7:30 PM, Monday, October 5 in Meeting Room A of the Peabody Library