

Gaze

News of Interest to the Gay Community

FREE!

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Mid-South Gays to Celebrate Gay Pride On Island, River

The Gay men and women of the Mid-South will party on both Mud Island and on the Mississippi River in celebration of Gay Pride Week, June 18-26. Gay Pride Week commemorates the Stonewall Riots and the birth of the modern Gay Rights Movements almost 19 years ago.

This year, GayFest 88 will take place on Mud Island and will consist of booths, games, movies, dances, and other activities to enjoy. Admission to Mud Island is \$1.50; admission to GayFest is free. Concessions, including beer, will be available to those who attend. Hours are from 4-10 pm Saturday and 2-7 on Sunday. Booth spaces are still available for clubs, businesses, and individuals to display information or sell items. A 10' x 10' booth space costs \$10 for retail, a percentage of income for game booths, and are free for organizations distributing information.

On Saturday, June 25, the Memphis Gay Coalition's annual Gay Pride River Ride on the Memphis

Showboat will feature Joyce Cobb and the Hot Shots. Last year this event attracted over 500 people to the three-hour boat ride on the Mississippi. At presstime, tickets were still available. The event has sold out 5 times out of the last six years.

GayFest activities will include the following:

- Film/Video presentations
- Gay Athletic Association Invitational Volleyball Tournament
- "Celebrity" Dunk Tank
- Baking Contest and Sale
- Information booths for Gay and Gay-sympathetic organizations
- Carnival-type games and concessions
- Dance
- Leather Fashion Show

Advance tickets for the River Ride are required and tickets are available at Star Search Video, 1264 Madison, or from members of the Memphis Gay Coalition for \$15 each.

Abby Rubinfeld Returns to Nashville

New York — Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. has announced that Abby R. Rubinfeld, the organization's Legal Director for nearly six years, will retire from her post on August 31st to return to the private practice of law with the law firm of Cheatham & Palmero in Nashville.

Lambda, founded in New York City in 1973, is the nation's oldest and largest legal organization dedicated to the rights of Gay men and women. Rubinfeld has worked for Lambda continuously since January 1983, when she was the very first full-time lawyer hired by the organization.

"Lambda's extraordinary growth in recent years is attributable in no

small measure to Abby Rubinfeld's vision, together with her perseverance in pursuing that vision," said Thomas B. Stoddard, Lambda's Executive Director. "We are saddened by her retirement, but our sadness is tempered by our knowledge that she has heartily earned her return to private practice and by our gratitude for her invaluable contributions to Lambda."

When Rubinfeld joined Lambda, the annual budget was less than \$100,000; and the organization employed only three people. She was the only lawyer on staff until 1986. More than five years later, Lambda employs fifteen people, and the budget surpasses

\$1 million.

"But Abby has done far more than help Lambda grow," said Stoddard. "She has continually identified special needs and tasks for the organization, and then found the resources to accomplish these goals. For instance, she was among the very first lawyers in the United States to recognize that AIDS poses a legal crisis as well as a medical emergency, and therefore she put together the first book on the legal issues arising from AIDS," he explained.

"She also saw the need for a regular forum for the lawyers around the country who work on Lesbian and Gay issues," he noted, "and from that insight she created

the entity now called the National Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Roundtable." The Roundtable meets under Lambda's auspices two or three times every year in different cities across the country. Its primary purpose is to assure coordination and common strategies among lawyers in this area of the law.

"I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to work on behalf of Lesbian and Gay rights as a full-time job for almost six years, but this is a very positive development for me, both personally and professionally, and ultimately for Lambda," said Rubinfeld. "I am

looking forward to returning both to private practice and to Tennessee. I will miss Lambda, but I will certainly remain involved in the movement I have worked so hard to further."

Rubinfeld, 34, grew up in Sarasota, Florida. She graduated from Princeton University and received her law degree from Boston University.

Lambda will begin immediately a search for her replacement. Potential applicants should write Lambda at 666 Broadway, New York, New York 10012 for further information.



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Gazing Bar Exam?

by Vincent Astor

As is mentioned elsewhere, HRH Lady A. has been writing her column for one year, as of this issue. In a position like she finds herself in, she hears a lot of dirt, rumors, news, and much more than her quota of bitching. One comment does stick in the mind, amid numerous complaints. Two of her regular readers in particular have much to say on this subject and have prompted this editorial. The complaint is this: There are no "quiet bars" i.e. drinking establishments where a conversational atmosphere is primary, rather than secondary. Also, all bars look alike, i.e. no themes, no differences in decor, no differences in format or programming.

For those of you who may remember, the much-mourned "quiet bars" were the Entre Nuit, a pretty

old chestnut, and Phase III, its successor. Both were located in the buildings formerly at Cleveland and Linden, across from Crump Stadium, which are now razed. A more recent attempt at such a location was the Aristocrat Club at the Georgetown Inn on Madison, near Marshall. It never really amounted to anything businesswise, though it was very pretty.

Being as objective as possible, here are your choices:

As far as I can imagine, the closest thing that comes to a conversational bar in Memphis is the GDI Clubroom. It has the atmosphere and the lack of noise. It is not very large, intended primarily as a rest area from the showbar, and is subject to the cover charge, when it goes into effect. It does open earlier than the showbar. I suppose that the reason it is not larger is that its predecessor, the French Connection, was very seldom full and never really able to stand on its own. I also suppose that, if customers find it too loud, the music will be turned down—if enough people ask.

All of the bars have Happy Hour, during which it is usually more laid back than during prime time. In fact, J-Wag's, the Pipeline, and Another Bar are pretty popular watering holes at this time of day.

I do not, however, find any one place which is always, how you say, restaurant-conversational. I do not, moreover, find any location that is primarily a restaurant.

The one location which has a genuine theme is the Pipeline. It does specialize in the Leather-Levi scene, although it is not exclusively male. Special events abound, and the owners and patrons work very hard to keep things new and interesting. It takes that sort of thing in any establishment, such as J-Wag's Breakfast Club, the new show formats at GDI, and the live music nights at Barbara's and WKRK.

A point that I have raised before is that, though establishments may look very similar to one another and to those that have gone before, these days they try to be a little bit nicer. Ray's, true, was typical. But since when did a major bar really give a damn about parking: secured, valet, or otherwise? Certainly not when George's first moved to Marshall St. It was catch as catch can. Newer bars such as the late Backstreet, GDI, and Another Bar try to accommodate parking needs.

On The Other Hand

If, say, there is a need for the type of establishments we seem to lack, who would patronize them? Where are all the "old guard" who gave us the glittering balls of a decade ago? What happened to the social clubs which figured so prominently in the Gay life of Memphis? Where are these people? I have seen some at the Pipeline. Some go out only now and then, some do other things. Face it, there are more things to do in Memphis than go to a Gay bar every night of the world. A safe place for Gay people to go and be Gay may not be necessary anymore. Thank God for that! There would still be clubs and balls if the members of same hadn't squabbled

with one another, or got burned out, or moved away, or something. If an organization is viable, desirable, and worth having back, where the hell are they? The Queen's Men tried a comeback. It didn't last very long, despite the hype. I can't say why it folded a second time. Lack of interest, maybe? Lack of new members, maybe? Lack of a real reason to exist, maybe?

It would be nice, just once more, to see a New Orleans-style themed party. A lot of folks don't have any idea how much fun it could be. But when there is so little interest in a dance like Spring Fling or so few attendees at pot-luck dinners or Christmas parties, what do you do? It's all well and good to do something a little different to try to reach

out to Gay people who don't go to bars. But if you can't find them, or they won't come, what then?

I don't have the answers. I have been somewhat involved in this endless effort to do something different once in a while, and trying to excavate some of the dear people I met one time, now many years ago. You can't worry about those you never see. If a Gay entrepreneur wants to fill in this supposed gap in the Gay scene of Shelby County, I'm all for it. But if it doesn't make business sense, it must be for the same reason that Spring Fling sprung—Lack of interest.

Ave, atque, vale.

Lady A.

or, if you prefer, Vincent C. Astor

Commentary

Hey You!

Why Aren't You Coming To GayFest?

by Bill Tracer

It seems I have heard strange mutterings in the wind; talk of fear (paranoia) about going to Mud Island for GayFest. Time and time again the words are said, "I'd go to GayFest this year, if it were not on Mud Island."

The truly ironic thing about this is that all too often these kinds of words are heard coming from those in one of the local Gay bars.

My response to such a person is, "If you're so closeted then what are you doing in a Gay bar!?"

This fear is completely unfounded! It is unnecessary and totally irrational! There is nothing to fear on Mud Island. In fact, it is quite likely one of the safest places to have GayFest.

The Island has 24-hour security, 7 days a week. At night after hours, the place is very tightly locked up. Having, myself, been involved in past Mud Island events, I can say from experience that the Island has very good security.

Also, the actual sight of the festivities is all the way at the extreme north end of the island, separated by more than 200 yards from the nearest island attraction. This area is ideal in its seclusion from the rest of the island, and is still near enough to public facilities when needed.

In other more important ways, it can be deemed quite ideal, as well. The tent is much larger than last year's GayFest; (60' by 120') with a concrete floor and flaps which can

be lowered for privacy.

The dance area will be under the tent for greater convenience and privacy. No one but our own people will be able to see any of us dancing with our same sex partners. Again it is easy to see, that under these circumstances, there is absolutely nothing to fear!

the strings. They have the power and ultimately, control. But, does that mean we must give in to them and cower in our closets? No!!! Being in the closet solves nothing, except to eat away your own self esteem. Unless you take that step out of the closet, unless you take that chance, then you can't really

If there is any phobia that will keep you away from Mud Island for GayFest, it will be heterophobia, not homophobia

If however, I have not yet managed to dispel your apprehensions, consider this: Is the real problem homophobic straights, or is it something more like our fear of homophobic straights? The true problem is in ourselves; our own phobia. If there is any phobia this June 18th and 19th that will keep any of you off Mud Island for GayFest, it will not be homophobia, but heterophobia (the irrational fear of heterosexuals).

I know that there are those who will respond to this point of view as impractical. After all, it is the heterosexual culture which pulls most of

have the pride in yourself which you both need and deserve.

GayFest is a time to party, and GayFest is a time to celebrate our Gay Pride. I want to encourage all who read this to honestly think about your own self esteem. And if you feel you have a little problem with your own Gay Pride, then come to GayFest to see how you can be proud of who and what you are. Let go of your heterophobia, for there is nothing to fear on the island. Come to the island, have a beer or a Coke, and let's party. I'll see you there.

Gaze

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Gaze

Gaze welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be as short as possible and may be edited for length. Gaze will not publish anonymous letters, although names will be withheld on request. Mail your letters to Gaze, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038

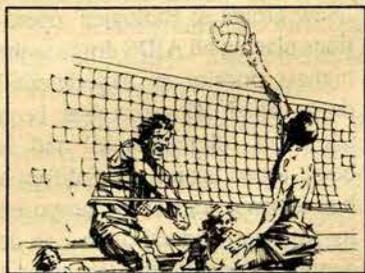
Gay Athletic Assoc. Announces Volleyball Tourney

The Memphis Gay Athletic Association (MGAA) has announced the first Invitational Volleyball Tournament to be held during GayFest, June 19 at Mud Island.

MGAA is encouraging groups and/or businesses to field a volleyball team to send to the tournament. "Any six people is fine," said MGAA president and founder Matthew Presley. "We are more interested in the spirit of competition and in Gay Pride," he said. Banners, signs, and "camping" are encouraged.

The tournament will take place beginning at 2:00 pm at the Mud

Island North End Volleyball Field. An entry fee of \$5 per team is required. For more information write to MGAA, P.O. Box 22914, Memphis, TN 38122 or call (901) 744-0575 or (901) 327-4145. Organizers request that you contact them before June 15 in order to assure proper bracketing.



Bowlers Donate To ATEAC

The Brothers & Sisters Tuesday Night Bowling League has announced the contribution of almost \$1,000 to the Aid to End AIDS Committee patient care fund. According to Carl the president of the league, the decision to donate the money was unanimous. Ordinarily the money raised by a bowling league goes to buy trophies. Carl said, "The bowlers couldn't see the purpose of trophies when there was a much greater need to care for people with AIDS."

According to the treasurer for the league, the only delay is waiting for the last checks to clear the bank to verify the exact donation. The top team in the league was "Lox & Keys." Bowling on the team were Bobby Rolland, Brad Arp, and Marty Katz. The bowler with the high game was Barry Sirls with 267. The bowler with the high three game series was Larry Huber with 652. Jim Maines won both the

high handicap-game and high handicap-series with 290 and 759. The bowlers are already looking forward to the fall bowling season.

The league bowls Tuesday nights at 9:30 pm at Big Daddy's in Poplar Plaza. Anyone wanting to join the fall league can contact Marty Katz at 767-6026 or Warren Kohl at 358-7000.



Gay Bowling League Plans Awards Pot-Luck

A Pot-Luck Awards Banquet was held at WKRB on Monday, June 6. The tournament winners were honored and plans made for next season. This is an ongoing event of the Gay Athletic Association which also holds volleyball each Sunday. Regular bowling nights are Tuesday and Friday. The participants voted this year to give proceeds realized during the season to benefit ATEAC.

Personal Best 5K Run Slated for June 25

Memphis NOW is sponsoring the 3rd Annual 5K Personal Best

Fun Run at Overton Park on June 25, 1988, as reported in *NOW News*. Each runner/walker will receive a packet containing freebies and of course a t-shirt. Those who wish to participate may register at the race.

Volunteers are also needed to help with registration and handing out packets. Additional contributors of free merchandise or discount coupons to be included in the packets are also being solicited. For additional information call the NOWLINE at 452-6983.

4th of July Weekend Benefit

The Pipettes will host their first full-scale benefit at the Pipeline on the 3rd and 4th of July. Small denomination tickets may be purchased from any Pipette or at their headquarters, the Pipeline, starting

News From the Krewe

Blast From the Past was indeed just that: A BLAST! We experienced an aura of fellowship surrounding good times and good friends that has been unequaled in recent times. It is so easy to get caught up in the rush and bustle of everyday life in an era of microchips and VCR's. But at Blast From the Past, it seemed that for a few hours we found ourselves in a time less hurried, more personal. I thought for a moment that I saw Betty selling milkshakes and floats at the bar!

The fifties brought us a growing and learning about ourselves, a nation learning about itself, and both reaching out in new directions. The sixties brought us new ways to have fun, and new ways to look at the world, and new ways to look at each other. A new social conscience sprang forth in the late sixties and early seventies and the message was carried by one of the most powerful avenues ever invented—music. In the eighties we have seen Band-Aid, Live-Aid, Amnesty International, and countless other symbols of love and support carried throughout the world using music. That's what we did at Blast From the Past—used music to lend love and support. Because the eighties brought with it an era none of us will ever forget—AIDS.

Through the music of yesterday, we took the problem of today, and reached out for the hope of tomorrow. Thank you for being there.

Submitted by Aphrodite

toward the end of June. These tickets can be used in many combinations, for admission to the Show, on the 3rd, or to the Buffet and Beer Bust on the 4th. Drinks may also be purchased this way. The show will begin at 9 PM, the buffet will begin in the afternoon the following day. Proceeds will be divided between ATEAC and the Human Response Council.

American Gay Atheists Form Local Chapter

American Gay Atheists (AGA), a non-profit, non-political, educational organization, headquartered in Houston, Texas, has announced the formation of its Memphis Chapter. All Lesbian and Gay Atheists and free-thinkers in Memphis and the Mid-South can write to the following address for further information: AGA Memphis, P. O. Box 41371,

Memphis

AIDS Committee To Open Offices

After over 3 years of volunteer service to the community, the Aid to End AIDS Committee is opening an office and hiring its first employee. The office, expected to be operational, June 15, is located in the Central Gardens District in a carriage house behind St. James Episcopal Church on Central.

Things apparently began falling into place very quickly once they started. First an inquiry about the use of the building was made to the church by church members. Approval was gained by the church vestry to donate use of the building for the cost of its utilities. The AIDS Committee board of directors toured the building and accepted the proposal. "It was literally a deal we couldn't refuse," said Tommy Stewart, President of ATEAC. "The utility bill will vary according to time of the year, but how can you refuse free space?"

The building includes a large meeting area, office, library, and bath downstairs as well as what had been used as a full two-bedroom apartment upstairs. "Initially we'll use the downstairs office and meeting room for support group meetings and establishing an office," said Allen Cook, AIDS Committee secretary. "The upstairs will be used as a storage area until we can get it into shape.

Office furnishings and supplies have been purchased through a grant from the State Dept. of Health and Environment,

Memphis, TN 38174-1371. Or contact the national headquarters at: AGA, P. O. Box 66711, Houston, TX 77266-6711.

The public will have the opportunity to meet real live Lesbian and Gay Atheists, June 18th and 19th, at GayFest '88. During Memphis' official celebration of

but the AIDS Committee is soliciting donations to furnish the rest of the space. A special grant to support Surgeon General Koop's mass mailing of AIDS information to every home in the U.S. has enabled the Committee to install a telephone and will provide part-time staffing for the office. Expansion of hours of the AIDS Switchboard will take place as soon as the person is hired.

"We've been reluctant to hire someone because we've always operated so conservatively," said Cook. "After all, why pay a person, if you can get someone to provide the service for free? Now we've got a grant to hire someone and set up a 'real' office. It's a great step forward for the AIDS Committee."

Cook indicated that most of the records, books, and educational materials of the Committee would be moved into the space very quickly. "Our next step is to hire an executive director or caseworker to do intake interviews, follow up on benefits, and coordinate our activities better. As the organization has grown those of us who are active volunteers have been stretched to the limit," Cook stated. "It won't be a full-time office, but it will still serve the community."

The AIDS Committee has been considering possible office spaces and hiring options for about the last year. Said Stewart, "I'm really excited about this. It's got everything—office space, meeting space, housing possibilities, privacy—it's great!"

Lesbian and Gay Pride, you are invited to stop by and visit with the people of Memphis' newest Gay group. American Gay Atheists is "rightfully proud" to add Memphis to its growing list of chapters.

Memphis contacts are Paul Neuwirth and David Alexander.

McLeod Honored by MGC

Cecil McLeod, Treasurer of the Memphis Gay Coalition since its inception, was honored at a pot luck dinner at WKRB on May 16. McLeod was honored for his contributions to the Gay community as one of the "behind-the-scenes" people. He has been instrumental in arranging Gay Pride activities for many years and has handled the yearly negotiations with the Memphis Queen Lines for the annual Gay Pride River Ride.

McLeod seemed genuinely surprised at the event, which had been billed as a fundraiser pot-luck for the Gay Community Center Fund. While proceeds of the "mini-show" did, in fact, benefit the MGC Community Center Fund, the event was really staged as a ruse to gather members and former members of the Coalition to honor McLeod. Approximately \$126 was raised for the Center Fund.

National News

Reagan Bans Phone Sex

On April 28th, President Reagan signed into law an amendment to Section 223(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 prohibiting any interstate communication by phone for commercial purposes that is obscene or indecent. The Amendment was introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) in December 1987, and passed both Houses of Congress by overwhelming margins. The law will go into effect July 1, 1988.

The measure makes it a criminal misdemeanor to operate commercial phone sex lines that are interstate, international, or operate within the District of Columbia. Previous restrictions on phone sex lines had imposed criminal penalties for lines which were operated in a manner allowing those under 18 to use them. The new law also allows for the imposition of civil fines up to \$50,000 per day for the operating of such systems.

The American Civil Liberties Union notes that while obscenity has a clear legal meaning under a substantial body of law, "indecent

communication" has not been constitutionally defined. A court case challenging the constitutionality of the law is expected.

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) expressed concern about restrictions on the operation of phone sex lines for two reasons: first, in the context of the AIDS health crisis, phone sex represents totally safe sex; and second, NGLTF supports the right of adults to engage in consensual sexual behavior, free of government intrusion or punitive sanction.

"Phone sex services have mushroomed in the last few years, in part because they represent a safe sexual outlet for Gay men," observed NGLTF staffer and attorney Urvasi Vaid. "This vote by Congress continues a trend to enact legislation that is counter-productive in the fight against AIDS. Like amendments which restrict the content of safe sex materials, this bill damages efforts to encourage creative, healthy, and safe sex."

Class Action Suit Dismissed

San Francisco — A U.S. District Court Judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed on behalf of all Americans who have the HIV virus. In the lawsuit, the FDA and NIH were charged with making excessive delays in the development, testing, and licensing of new medication for AIDS and related illnesses. The case, National Gay Rights Advocates v Health and Human Services, was filed last June in Washington, D.C.

"The judge's decision is just plain wrong," said Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director. "We presented evidence of unethical and illegal conduct resulting in serious delays of promising new drugs. Now, the court is going to let the FDA and NIH off the hook."

Jean O'Leary, NGRA Executive Director, said, "It is simply unconscionable that so many people are dying because of delaying action by government officials.

One of the goals in filing this suit was to turn up the heat on these agencies and the community intends to keep the pressure on."

O'Leary noted that since the suit was filed much more attention has been focused on the activities of the FDA and NIH. She said, "The Presidential AIDS Commission has been critical of FDA delays, the FDA itself has now reorganized its 'New Drugs & Biologics' operations placing all AIDS drugs in the highest priority an experimental drug called Ribavirin has been taken off 'clinical hold' and is being tested again, and California has adopted legislation proposed by Attorney General John Van de Kamp to expedite the testing and sale of new AIDS medications in the states."

A decision has not yet been reached on whether an appeal will be filed.

NGLTF Begins Cosponsor Drive for S. 2000

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has launched a cosponsor drive to garner additional support for S. 2000, the Senate version of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (HR 3193). Introduced by Senators Alan Cranston (D-CA) and John Kerry (D-MA) on Jan. 25, the Senate bill would require the Dept. of Justice to collect data on crimes motivated by prejudice based on religion, race, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. The bill is identical to one currently awaiting House floor action.

S. 2000 currently has 4 cosponsors in addition to Senators Kerry and Cranston: Brock Adams (D-WA), Claiborne Pell (D-RI), Paul Simon (D-IL), and Daniel Inouye (D-HI). The House bill has 109 cosponsors.

"Gaining cosponsors is critical to the successful passage of any bill," explained NGLTF lobbyist Peri Jude Radecic. "We will be seeking bipartisan and geographically balanced support."

NGLTF asks all activists to write to their Senators to urge them to cosponsor S. 2000. NGLTF has prepared a briefing packet for activists on S. 2000. The packet includes copies of the legislation, talking points on why it is needed, organizational support statements, sample letters to Senators and sample letters of support to local newspapers.

Copies of the S. 2000 Briefing Packet may be ordered for a \$1.00 postage fee from NGLTF, 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Gay Man Convicted for Supreme Court Protest

A Baltimore man has been found guilty of "demonstrating without a permit" and "unlawful crossing of a police line" after being arrested at the Supreme Court last October. Alexander Willis was one of over 800 people arrested at the Supreme Court demonstration following the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. On April 8th, Washington D.C. Superior Court Judge Peter Wolf found Willis guilty and sentenced him to a fine of \$100, 100 hours of community service work, and a one year supervised probation.

"Considering the symbolic nature of Alexander Willis's 'crime,' the sentence was unnecessarily harsh," said National Gay Rights Advocates Legal Director Leonard Graff. "The government has scapegoated him, and we will appeal. Alex Willis could very likely end up back at the Supreme Court defending his right to free speech from inside the chambers rather than outside on the steps."

MCI Charged With Sexual Orientation Discrimination

(New York, NY) Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc has filed a complaint with the New York City Human Rights Commission against MCI Communications and one of its branch managers. The complaint alleges that MCI violated the New York City ordinance prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination.

David Gatten, an openly Gay man, worked for MCI for three years. During this time he received excellent performance reviews, three management promotions and salary increases. Suddenly, on January 18, 1988, he was fired without any warning by MCI Branch Manager Lawrence Grayson. Grayson, who joined MCI two months prior, told Mr Gatten that he was being discharged because his sexual orientation offended other co-workers.

"The arrogance of MCI's discrimination is outrageous," said Paula L. Ettelbrick, the Lambda staff attorney representing Gatten. "Not only did MCI not follow its own personnel guidelines requiring verbal and written warnings before discharge, but it discharged

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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 organization 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.

This Month

Saturday, June 11 — Card/Game Party, Junk Food Night, 8 pm, Jeff's

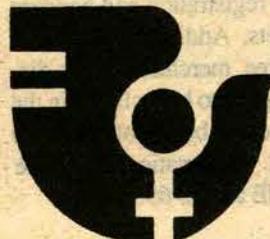
Monday, June 20 — Discussion Group, 7:30 pm, Irwin's

Saturday, June 25 — Cook out at Mike & Ed's, 5 pm

July 4-9 — NABWMT Convention '88 - Boston

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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Gay Dems Call for Progressive Platform

National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs Executive Director Christine R. Riddiough testified before the Democratic Platform Committee May 10. Riddiough called for the platform to send a strong message to the American people. "Today what is smart and what is right for Democrats is to write a platform that clearly shows what the Democratic Party stands for... [I]t is vital that such a platform state... that the Democratic party is the party of social justice for all Americans, the party committed to full civil and human rights for all Americans," she said.

Riddiough called for the Democratic party to address key concerns of the Gay community. "Each of the Democratic presidential candidates has stated their support for action to protect the rights of Gay

people. Our party's platform in addressing civil and human rights issues must clearly state its support for the rights of all people including Gay men and Lesbians," she stated. Riddiough also said that it would be criminal for the platform not to discuss AIDS, noting that, "All the candidates have outspokenly criticized the Reagan-Bush administration for their inaction on AIDS — inaction that has led to the loss of many lives."

Riddiough discussed the increasing problem of violence against Gay people, stating, "The Democratic party should support efforts to combat violence based on

bigotry." She also commented that concerns about family issues must include Gay and Lesbian families. Shew said, "The Democratic party, in recognizing the need for greater support for the American family, should also acknowledge that the American family today bears little resemblance to the nuclear family of "Dick and Jane" books. Support for the family must include support for adequate child care, support for seniors, and support for Gay and Lesbian families."

The platform committee held forums during May in several cities. State parties will also hold hearings.

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National News

National Lobby Day, Report Cards Planned

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has announced plans to organize two days of Congressional lobbying in support of Gay rights to take place during October 6-7, 1988. The National Lobby Days for Lesbian and Gay rights will mark the third time Gay rights supporters have lobbied Congress in mass. During last year's March on Washington, NGLTF and Mobilization Against AIDS organized two days of constituent lobbying in which over 900 people participated.

"In 1979, we came to educate," said NGLTF Lobbyist Peri Jude Radevic, referring to the first na-

tional lobby day held in October of 1979. "In 1987, we came to challenge the legislative system with our agenda, and we had over half a million supporters to back us up on the Capitol steps. In 1988, we are coming back to Washington to demand legislative change."

Added Jeffrey Levi, NGLTF Executive Director, "The Lobby days must become an annual tradition. They provide an excellent way for our community to make our agenda visible to legislators."

The National Lobby Days will have a twofold focus. First, constituents will press legislators to enact bills in the final days of the 100th Congressional session. Second, activists will evaluate the performance of their elected with the presentation of their Report Cards. NGLTF has begun preparation of the Report Cards which will detail members' voting records on key issues of concern to the Gay community.

"Our Congressional Report Cards will give activists a handy format from which to raise our issues and will enable us to point to the support or lack of support the particular member of Congress provided in the past legislative session," explained Radevic.

An information packet to help activists prepare for the October 1988 Lobby Days is available upon request from NGLTF, 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 332-6483.

MCI

Continued from page 4

Mr Gatten because of the homophobia of a fellow employee."

The 1986 New York City ordinance prohibits discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men in housing, employment, and public accommodations. Mr Gatten's case will test the legality of discharging an employee simply because other employees are offended by his sexual orientation.

The law clearly forbids an employer from firing someone because co-workers dislike that person's race, sex, or national origin. Gay men and women must also be free from irrational, homophobic actions in the work place."

The suit seeks reinstatement with back pay and damages. Lambda is also considering a civil action for violation of its own policies, which set forth certain warning requirements before any employee may be discharged.

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ATEAC, HRC Meet To Resolve Differences

A meeting to resolve differences between the Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC) and the Human Response Council was attended by about 10 principals of the organizations June 4 at WKRB. The meeting was held at the instigation of Matt Nelson, Tennessee State AIDS Education Coordinator, who attended with Laurel Wood, director of the statewide AIDS project.

According to Nelson, the meeting was designed to clear the air between the two groups. Nelson indicated that news of a possible rift had reached him in Nashville and the purpose of the meeting was to urge the groups to consolidate their efforts on behalf of people with AIDS.

Human Response Council was formed in December by Bettye Griffin, a clinical social worker at The Med who, at the time, was handling the majority of social work for people with AIDS who were being seen at the Adult Special Care unit there. Ms. Griffin was recently reassigned.

Although her stated purpose was to build a hospice and provide supervised residential care for people with AIDS, Griffin acknowledged that most of the money she has raised has actually gone for patient care "because of the need."

A member of ATEAC expressed concern that there seems to be a misunderstanding regarding how

the money is used and its accountability to the Gay Community. Ms. Griffin said that a financial statement would be ready in "about 2 weeks," but that it would not be available for *Gaze* to print. When questioned why, her response was that HRC was not required to issue a financial statement until the end of its first year of operation and that, on the advice of her attorney, she would not release the information now. However, she said that she would speak personally to anyone about the finances of her organization. Griffin refused to divulge the name of her attorney, indicating that some people do not want to be publicly associated with an AIDS organization.

Ms. Griffin has also been the source of various accusations against ATEAC and Tommy Stewart (president of ATEAC) in particular saying that he has refused to work with her on common clients.

Stewart said he was very upset about the things Griffin has been saying about him and ATEAC, especially to PWA's and funding organizations including Aphrodite. "She'll tell one person she doesn't have money for patient aid because she's saving it to build a hospice, and then tell another she needs money for patient care," Stewart said.

"I'm concerned that she's raising money in the Gay community for people with AIDS, and the Gay community is not getting information as to where that money is going," said Stewart. "[She] has a moral obligation to report to the community what she's doing with the money." Griffin has raised \$5,110 since December. Because a financial statement is not available, it is impossible to determine where the money has gone.

Griffin acknowledged that she has possession of Human Response's checkbook and that her signature alone is required to authorize checks, although two other people have the capability of signing them.

Griffin was unable to provide a complete list of her board members, but named Amalie Weems, Rev. T. O'Neal Criven, Rev. Parker Joyner, Don Johnson (Treasurer), Brenda McDowell (Secretary), Richard Ross (President), and Catherine Kelly as members and officers.

Another controversy surrounds Griffin's promotion of the organization as a "non-profit, federally tax exempt organization" donations to which are tax deductible. Ms. Griffin contends that her lawyers have told her she can state this as long as she obtains tax exempt status by the end of the calendar year. She indicated that the organization is responding to Internal Revenue Service required changes and that the application for tax-exempt status is in process.

According to an IRS spokesper-

son, no organization may claim to be tax-exempt or that contributions to it are tax deductible, before the final determination by Internal Revenue and that "willful misrepresentation" is punishable by fines and potential imprisonment.

Griffin indicated that her position was that Human Response would no longer provide patient assistance and that all of the money would be banked to fund a free-standing hospice although she conceded that it would require action from her board of directors to implement that stand. The treasurer of Aphrodite said that money raised by her organization was designated for patient care and that if the money was to be banked for a future project, she did not feel Aphrodite would support it. A Aphrodite benefit fundraiser for HRC was held May 22 and raised \$1200

Of obvious concern to everyone at the meeting was the fact that a polarization between the two groups was resulting in an increasing number of comments from members of the Gay community and PWA's regarding the two organizations, expressing distrust. Allen Cook commented, "When two organizations like ours end up feuding, the end result is that everyone loses. The bottom line is that our credibility is at stake if another AIDS organization screws up. A lot of times people don't consciously differentiate between two organizations. The end result in this case will be that its the person with AIDS who will suffer."

A recommendation was made for the boards of the two groups to meet on a monthly basis to iron out whatever conflicts may arise, and to assure that services are not being duplicated. Such a meeting would require an approval of the directors of both ATEAC and HRC to occur. An agreement was made to present the proposal to the respective boards for approval.

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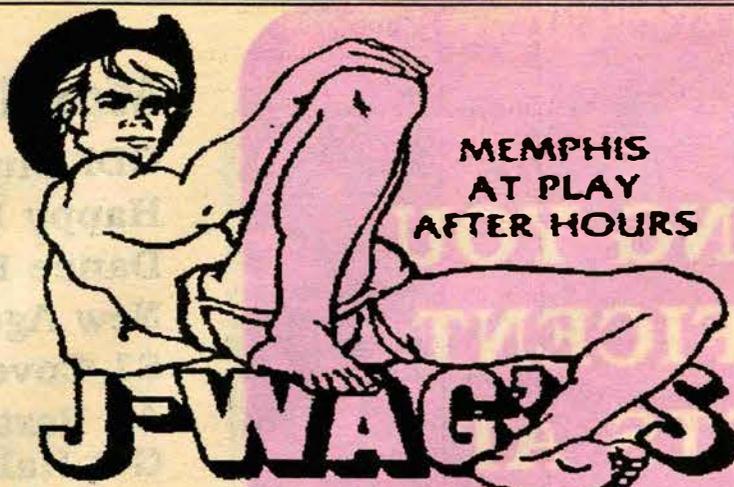
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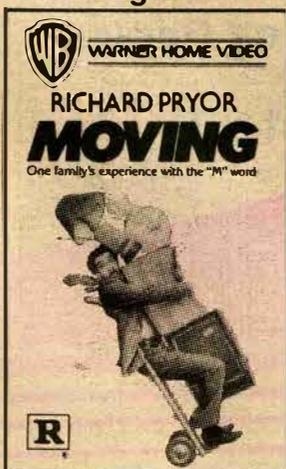
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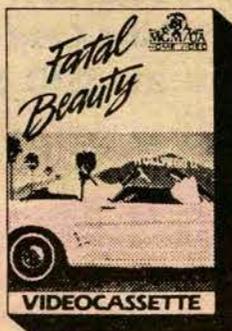
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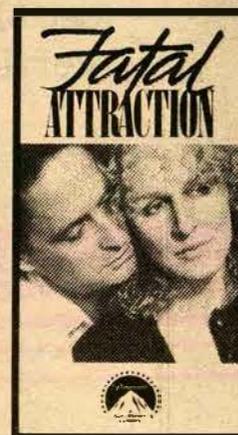
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Health

Gonorrhea, Alias 'The Clap'

Nearly one million cases of gonorrhea are reported annually in the U.S. Another million unreported cases, mostly among teenagers and young adults, are believed to occur each year. Gonorrhea is caused by the gonococcus, a bacterium that grows and multiplies quickly in moist, warm areas of the body such as the cervix, urinary tract, mouth, or rectum. In women, the cervix is the most common site of the infection. However, the disease can spread to the ovaries and fallopian tubes, resulting in pelvic inflammatory disease (PID); this can cause infertility and other serious problems.

Gonorrhea can also be spread from a man's penis to the throat of his sex partner during oral sex (pharyngeal gonorrhea). People can transfer the bacteria from the genital area to the mouth with their fingers. Gonorrhea of the rectum may develop in women due to spread of the infection from the vaginal area, and it also can occur in homosexual men who practice receptive anal intercourse.

Gonorrhea can be passed from an infected woman to her unborn infant during delivery. The infection also occurs in children, most commonly in young victims of sexual abuse.

Symptoms

The early symptoms of gonorrhea often are mild, and some who are infected have no symptoms of the disease; this is one reason why it is so readily transmitted. If symptoms develop, they usually appear within 2 to 10 days of sexual contact with an infected partner, although a small percentage of patients may be infected for several months without showing symptoms. The initial symptoms include a painful or burning sensation when urinating or a yellowish vaginal discharge. More advanced symptoms include abdominal pain, bleeding between menstrual periods, vomiting or fever. Men usually have a discharge from the penis and a burning sensation during urination that may be severe. Symptoms of rectal infection include discharge, anal itching, and sometimes painful bowel movements.

Diagnosis

Two techniques, gram stain and culture, are generally used to diagnose gonorrhea. Many doctors prefer to use both tests to increase the chance of an accurate diagnosis. The gram stain is quite accurate for men but less so for women. The

test involves placing a smear of the discharge on a slide that has been strained with a dye and then examining it under a microscope for the presence of the gonococcus. A gram stain of the discharge from a man's penis or a woman's cervix is correct in diagnosing gonorrhea more than 90% of the time. Test results usually can be given to the patient at the time of an office or clinic visit.

The culture test involves placing a sample of the discharge onto a culture plate and incubating it up to 2 days in order to allow the bacteria time to multiply. The accuracy of this test depends on the site from which the sample is taken. Cervical samples are accurate, for example, approximately 90% of the time. Throat cultures can also be done to detect the pharyngeal gonorrhea.

Treatment

Ampicillin, amoxicillin, or some types of penicillin are recommended for the treatment of gonorrhea. There is increasing concern about the emergence of penicillin-resistant gonorrhea in this country. Fortunately, other antibiotics like spectinomycin or ceftriaxone can be used to treat resistant strains of the gonococcus. Doctors supplement certain of these antibiotics with the drug probenecid. This drug slows down the rate at which the body excretes the antibiotic and thereby increases its effectiveness.

Gonorrhea often occurs together with chlamydial infection, another common sexually transmitted disease (STD). In such cases, the doctor may prescribe a combination of antibiotics, such as ampicillin and tetracycline, to treat both diseases. Women who are pregnant should not take tetracycline.

Regardless of what drug is prescribed, it is important that the patient take the full course of medication and that he or she return to the doctor's office or clinic for follow up. About 7 days after completing the medication, another test should be done to determine whether the infection has been completely eliminated. All sex partners should be tested and given treatment even if they do not have symptoms of infection.

Complications

If the bacteria spread to the bloodstream, they can infect the joints, heart valves, or the brain. The most common consequence of gonorrhea, however, is pelvic inflammatory disease, a potentially

serious infection of the female pelvic organs, which occurs in an estimated 1 million American women each year. PID can cause scarring of the fallopian tubes, resulting in infertility in as many as 10% of women affected. In others, the scarring blocks the proper passage of the fertilized egg into the uterus. If this happens, the egg may implant itself in the tube; this is called an ectopic or tubal pregnancy and is life threatening to the mother if not detected early.

An infected woman who is pregnant may pass the infection to her infant as the baby passes through the birth canal during delivery. Most states require that the eyes of newborns be treated with silver nitrate or other medication immediately after birth to prevent gonococcal infection of the eyes, which can lead to blindness. Because of the risk of gonococcal infection to both mother and child, most doctors now recommend that

a pregnant woman have at least one test for gonorrhea during her pregnancy.

Prevention

Because gonorrhea is highly contagious and yet may cause no symptoms, all men and women who have sexual contact with more than one partner should be tested regularly for the disease. Using condoms (rubbers) during sexual intercourse is very effective in preventing the spread of infection. Diaphragms and spermicidal foams, creams, and jellies that contain nonoxynol-9 also may reduce the risk of transmission. Constant awareness and precautions are necessary because a person who has once contracted the disease does not become immune—many people acquire gonorrhea more than once.

Research

Scientists supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) continue

to learn more about the organism that causes gonorrhea and are working on better methods to prevent, diagnose, and treat it. The appearance of penicillin-resistant strains of the gonococcus underscores the need for a means of preventing gonorrhea. A method has been developed to detect these resistant strains. An effective vaccine against gonorrhea remains a key research priority for NIAID-supported scientists. This work is complicated by the fact that gonococcus is a complex organism that infects only humans. Several experimental vaccines are being developed and testing is underway by NIAID supported investigators.

By using protective measures during sexual activity, by being tested for gonorrhea whether or not symptoms are present, and by taking medication promptly and properly if infection occurs, sexually active people can reduce their risk of gonorrhea and its complications.

Direct Aid Tops AIDS Committee's Expenses

The Aid to End AIDS Committee has spent over \$5,600 in direct patient aid in the first five months of 1988, according to ATEAC treasurer Mark Whitehead. Topping the list of expenditures was money for establishing and running Alpha House, the Committee's emergency shelter for people with AIDS (PWA's).

"We've now serviced six different people by providing the house for long and short term use," said Tommy Stewart, President of ATEAC. According to Stewart, the housing expenses are taking a big bite, but ATEAC is still able to help. Through the donations to the Patient Relief fund, they've been able to provide such things as food, housing, AZT, other medicines, transportation to hospitals and doctors appointments, utilities, and other necessities of life to needy clients. "We've even managed to pay some telephone bills for people when their service was about to be cut off," Stewart said. "ATEAC maintains that basic telephone service for ill AIDS/ARC patients is a necessity."

Stewart says that ATEAC often gets referrals from people who want other bills paid as well. "Sometimes we'll get people who want us to make their car notes or pay the finance company so they can keep their TV's and stereo's. Unfortunately, we don't believe that people who donate to us would want us to pay these kind of bills, so we have to refuse."

Stewart says that ATEAC uses the services of other area agencies

to provide assistance where possible. "I can't even count the number of people we've gotten SSI, social security disability, food stamps, and other welfare payments for. I think we've got a good record for being able to cut through the red tape to help these people," he said.

"Most people don't understand that we have two separate lines of expenses," said Mark Whitehead. "We keep a separate accounting for general expenses and Patient Aid—all funds designated for patient aid actually go to people in need. With the exception of our Auction proceeds, we've spent \$5000 more in patient relief than we've received in contributions for that." Whitehead indicated that the majority of operational expenses—office expenses, phone

bills, brochures, etc.—are paid for out of educational grants received from a variety of sources.

"Grants are beginning to be made available for direct care to patients," said Stewart who went on to say that most grants available to date have been for "education."

"Education is great, and we'll continue to do that," Stewart said, "but we can't pay for AZT and lights, gas, and water with [the money we get for] education. On the positive side, I can say that not one PWA who was really in need has been turned away. Maybe we haven't been able to help them to the extent they wanted, but we have been able to help."

ATEAC is a non-profit, federally tax-exempt organization. All contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law.

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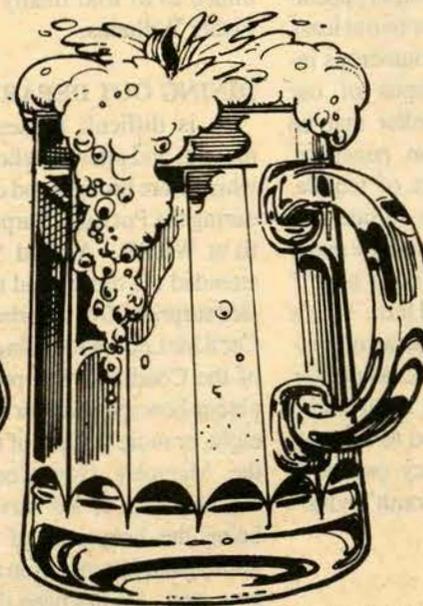
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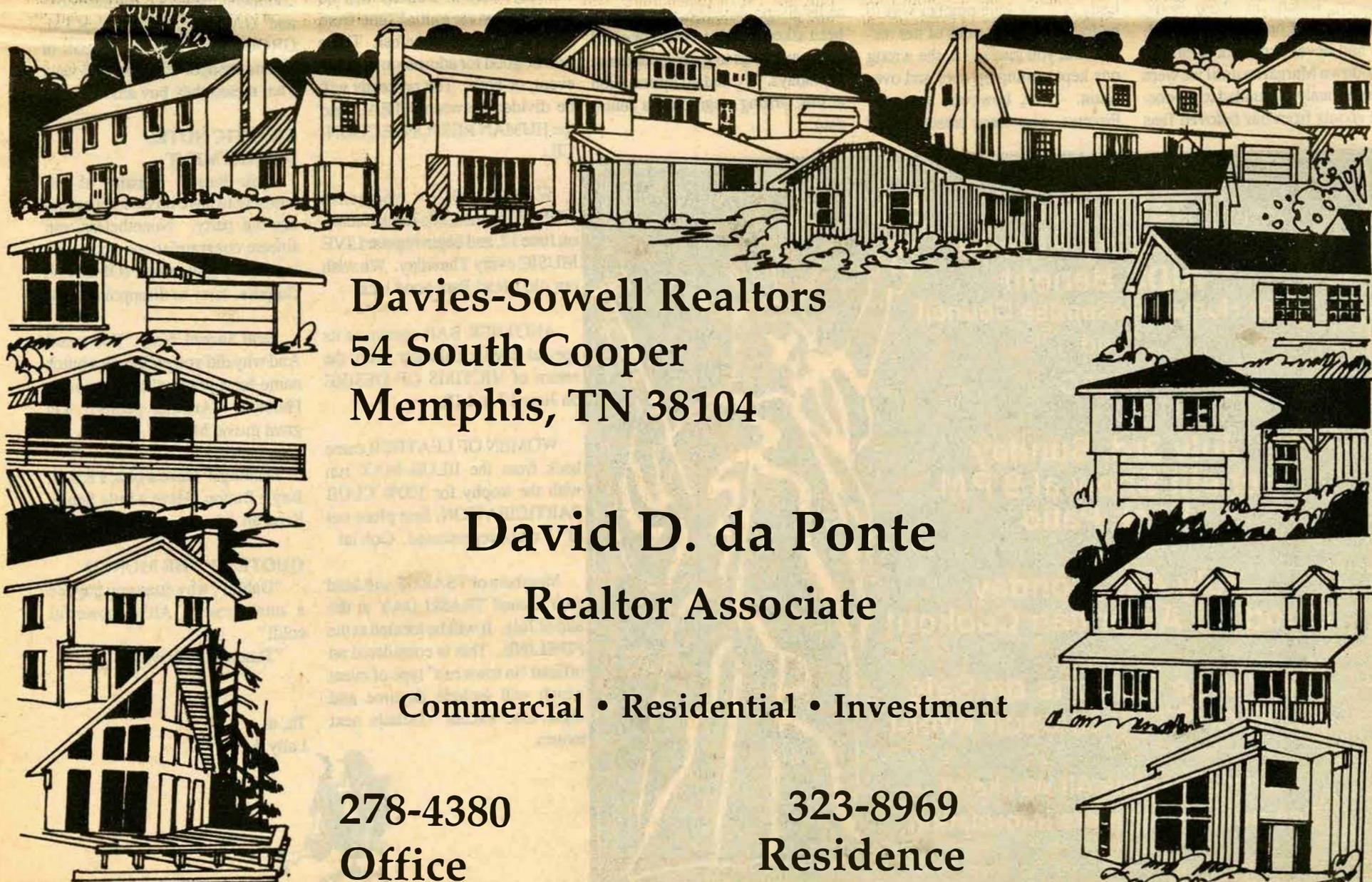
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Quick Clips

by Lady A

It has been a trying month. How many times can one TOQ be embarrassed in a mere 31 days? First, we find ourselves dressed to the nines to attend a pageant that was to have been *three weeks later*. The customers at J-Wag's will be discussing *that* impromptu appearance for another day or two at least. Next, we are shown numerous incriminating photographs of our own self, with a pucker that no man-made object can penetrate, underneath a cataract of tequila. Finally, we appear to do one tiny number at a benefit. Just how many times can the wrong song begin? Several. Our feet still hurt. One's first year anniversary as a colyumnist should be the occasion for more celebration, don't you think? Why, we even decided to take the leap toward legitimacy (watch it Miss) and write this month's editorial.

ON THE BEACH DEPARTMENT

The Pool Party at the Pipeline turned out to be a tremendous success. The back patio was transformed into a Florida-esque environment which, in these parts, comes second only to Maywood. We had never experienced an upside-down Margarita until we were clamorously persuaded to try one. The shouts from our beloved fans

rather brought back memories of *Spartacus* or *Quo Vadis*. Anyhow, the party lasted much longer than the tequila did and will continue to be an annual affair. Oh yes, the Pipettes did perform, and we managed to miss both performances. Therefore, we still are undetermined as to who finally got to be Esther Williams.

DINING OUT DEPARTMENT

It is difficult to describe the mounds and piles of delicious food which were brought and consumed during the Pot Luck Surprise benefit at WKR. Around 50 people attended the dinner and the promised surprise. One surprise was that Cecil McLeod, a founding member of the Coalition, was presented a plaque honoring him for many (is it eight, or more?) years of service to the Memphis Gay Community. Not the least of his services was being the babysitter of the Gay Switchboard base station for a very long stint. He has been the Treasurer of the Coalition since it was invented and remains so. Therefore, heartfelt congratulations to Cecil, and it's about time.

The second surprise was that Lady A's one lone number was to be found on *both* sides of her record and, you guessed it, the wrong one kept turning up over and over again. This, however, gave the Pipettes, who were present, their

golden opportunity to make hay with yours truly, a gesture we will not soon forget.

RUMOUR MILL DEPT.

BACKSTREET has followed TEMPORARY QUARTERS to the Elephants' Graveyard. Jackie Wilson is still involved in arrangements for relocation and nothing has been disclosed so far.

RAY'S ROCKHOUSE, the first Gay establishment to open its doors in the up-and-coming Front Street area, has followed the two formerly mentioned to the Elephants' Graveyard. Danny Ray told us that it had indeed been sold and he is spending his efforts sprucing up ANOTHER BAR. "(I'm) glad to be home. I'm not messing with any other bars," was his reply to our queries about the future. We doubt that the Front St. location will continue to be Gay oriented. There is a strange rumour which links George Wilson with something or other, say it isn't so! After all, as we interminably repeat, we are not interested in rumours. We are interested in *facts*.

The closing of RAY'S prompted the postponement of the FEMALE IMPERSONATOR OF THE YEAR PAGEANT. We were sadly disappointed because we had been asked to judge. Well, one will do many things to get a decent seat, nowadays. We had no information at this writing regarding a future date.

Next month's rumour to be converted into fact will be a tasty little tidbit regarding a little-known saloon in the downtown area. Buried treasure or just so much mud? We shall see.

ATTENTION ALL YOU TACKY BITCHES WHO DISH MEMPHIS ALL THE TIME. We will have you know that HOLLY BROWN, she-who-must-be-observed, will celebrate her 25th year in show business by moving to Memphis. After living all over this country, and hailing from another *continent* no less, she is proving y'all wrong. In spades. G'luck mate!

WOMAN ON THE STREET DEPARTMENT

Speaking of the new Grande Dame of Front St., GDI will be hosting the MISS COTTON BELLE (or was it BALE?) on June 23.

The PIPETTES, those devil-may-care sylphs of the pom-pom, will hold a benefit at the PIPELINE on the 4th of July weekend. The SHOW will take place on Sunday, July 3, at 9 PM, and a BUFFET AND BEER BUST will be held on Monday, July 4. Buttons will be available by the end of June from any PIPETTE or at the bar. These will be good for admission to either event, or both. The proceeds will be divided between ATEAC and the HUMAN RESPONSE COUNCIL.

WKR will showcase NOFAZES, the Little Rock Ladies, on June 12, and begin regular LIVE MUSIC every Thursday. We wish our old friend Pam good luck.

ANOTHER BAR continues its special events calendar with the return of VICTIMS OF DESIRE on June 17 and 18.

WOMEN OF LEATHER came back from the BLUE MAX run with the trophy for 100% CLUB PARTICIPATION, first place out of 15 clubs represented. Ooh la!

Members of TSARUS will hold their annual TRASH DAY at the end of July. It will be located at the PIPELINE. This is considered an official "in town run" type of event which will include daytime and night time events. Details next month.

The APARTMENT held their MR APARTMENT PAGEANT on June 5 at 9:00 PM.

Of course, the BIG events in June will be GAYFEST, held this year on MUD ISLAND (down near the Memphis Belle, belles by the Belle and all that jazz) and the annual GAY RIVER RIDE which closes the GAY PRIDE WEEK celebrations in Memphis. Expect many CELEBRITIES to participate in the DUNK TANK at Gay-Fest. Participants may dunk the editors of GAZE, Allen Cook and/or John Stillwell; or play "Plunk the Preacher" courtesy of Rev. John Mark House of AGAPE CHURCH; they may have the option of dunking the PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE of their choice (we shall see); and may even have the wet last word with the perpetrator of disyere column. Volunteers are still being solicited (!).

We can always count on both BWMT and APHRODITE to have such busy schedules that it would take an entire column to list them. BWMT never fails to list these in their ad and APHRODITE sometimes sends us a column all their own. We, ourselves, would like to commend these two organizations and GAY WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP for consistent support of this newspaper in a very real way. That means they buy ads. Often.

CRYPTIC NOTES DEPARTMENT

Dear Barry: It pains us immensely to have missed your coming out party. Nonetheless, our sincere congratulations upon having finally gotten out. (Of school, chiquita, sorry to disappoint you)

Dear Sharon Wray: You tease! And why did you pick such a butch name for a drag palace? Another Phoenix? Another penny? Oh great gussie Marie.

Dahlings! Have a little PRIDE, Buy a Button. Have a little Sense, Read an Ad

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Dahlin', why doan you buy me a mink coat? Ah'm powerful cold!"

"That's exactly why!"

Ta, ta,
Lady A.



**1st Annual
4th of July Pipette
AIDS Benefit
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Pack-Rats of America, Rejoice!

You've wondered for months, possibly years, what to do with that old pair of heels that you hung up when you gave up your childhood fantasies. What about the three old can openers and coffee pots that have been shoved into the back of your "storage" cabinets for the past few years? And what about that leisure suit and those wild blouses that you know will only come back in style if the Antenna Club is the only bar in town? Worry no more!

Now is your opportunity to discard that old nostalgia and contribute to a worthy cause. The Memphis Gay Pride Committee, in conjunction with Agape New Life Church and the Memphis Gay

Athletic Association, is having a community-wide yard sale, the proceeds of which will benefit GayFest 88.

The date of this "Rubbish Extravaganza" or "Trash Bash" is June 11th. The location is 3838 Forrest, which is the home of Agape NewLife Church (see map).

Your throw-aways would be most appreciated. As a matter of fact, if you have an abundance of discards (two or more boxes full), we will gladly come and pick up your donation. Just call and schedule an appointment with our volunteer staff at (901) 744-0575.

If you feel your "Attic Antiques" could turn a profit, then

consider purchasing a Flea Market booth (\$10) at GayFest 88. The festival is being held on Mud Island this year, June 18th from 4 PM to 11 PM and June 19th from 2 PM to 7 PM. Last year, several flea market vendors increased their personal wealth with very little effort.

But if you're not in it for the money and wish to make a contribution to GayFest 88 in the form of discards or a personal check, call and schedule a pickup or come by the Great Gay Garage Sale on the 11th and 12th. See you there or at GayFest 88. Either way, we're gonna have a party!!

1988 National NOW Conference

The National NOW Conference will be held June 24-26 in Buffalo, NY. A side trip to Seneca Falls, the birthplace of the Women's Civil Rights movement, is slated for June 23rd. Special events celebrating Gay Pride Day, June 26 will be announced. Guest speakers will

include Charlotte Fedders, author of *Shattered Dreams*, an expose of her marriage to John Fedders, former director of the Securities and Exchange Commission under Reagan; and Shirley Chicholm, former Congresswoman and the first woman in this century to run for

president. Entertainment will be provided by comedian Roseanne Barr, singer Judy Collins, and all woman comedy and dance band, Tres Sha Na Na. For more information, call the NOWLINE at 452-6983.



Victory for PWA Job Rights

In a major employment rights victory, a California court has declared that state laws prohibiting discrimination against the physically handicapped protect people with AIDS. A Santa Barbara Co. Superior Court judge ruled in April that Raytheon Corp. illegally discriminated against John Chadborne, a quality control analyst, who was fired after he was diagnosed with AIDS in December 1983. The ruling came after an appeal by Raytheon of a decision in February 1987 by the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission. Raytheon had been ordered to conduct AIDS training programs for its employees, to post notices informing employees of their rights, and to pay back wages to the estate of Chadbourne, who died in January 1985.

NGRA Legal Director Leonard Graff said "Raytheon attempted to convince the court that because 'so little was known' about AIDS at the time of John's diagnosis, the law did not apply to them. However, Raytheon was well informed: medical experts from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the County and State Health Departments, and the company's own doctors had all stated that John posed no threat to his co-workers. The ruling settles the question once and for all."

NGRA Executive Director Jean O'Leary said, "This is a victory for all clear thinking Americans. It proves that discriminatory treatment of people with AIDS is not only irrational and immoral, it's also illegal. We're very pleased with the Court's decision."

CORRECTION

The advertisement for the services of Susan Mackenzie, Attorney at Law appearing in the May issue of *Gaze* was not authorized by Ms. Mackenzie and failed to include a disclaimer required by the Code of Ethics for attorneys.

Gaze apologizes for the misunderstanding which led to this ad being placed.

Spectrum

Legal Group Blasts Insurers

Washington D.C. — Benjamin Schatz, the Director of the AIDS Civil Rights Project of the National Gay Rights Advocates, criticized the response of the insurance industry to AIDS in testimony before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Invited to testify on the issue of HIV (AIDS) antibody testing by insurers, Schatz instead launched a broad-scale attack on the industry's handling of the AIDS crisis. Commission members were told of an industry which engages in widespread anti-Gay discrimination and which frequently discriminates against policyholders with AIDS through delaying tactics, unfair exclusions, and denial of claims.

"The insurance industry cannot demand the right to 'treat AIDS like any other illness' when it wants to eliminate costs by testing while at the same time singling out policyholders with AIDS for discriminatory treatment," Schatz told the Commission. "Insurers have fought all proposals for national health insurance by arguing

that they can manage medical costs better than the government. It is time for them to demonstrate this ability or admit that they have failed to accomplish their mission."

Gay leaders have expressed concern that the conservative dominated Commission, which has previously remained silent on AIDS and which has fought efforts to combat anti-Gay violence, is conducting the special hearings to counteract the Presidential AIDS Commission which has surprised Gay activists with its receptiveness to their concerns. Commented NGRA Executive Director Jean O'Leary: "We are clearly skeptical of the Commission's motives, and we are not about to let ourselves be used. Nonetheless, our community and our nation are in crisis, and we must take advantage of every opportunity to present our views to the public. If the Commission responds in a manner contrary to that of all respected authorities on AIDS, it will only undermine its own credibility."

Celebrate Gay Pride
With Us

Sunday, June 19th

AGAPE NEW LIFE
CHURCH

Rejoicing Gay and Lesbian Pride
by worshipping a loving, accepting God

(Visit our Booths at GayFest - June 18th and 19th)

327-4145

The Help Page

by Becky Caperton

All of us must eventually cope with the loss of someone we love. Yet very little is written on this subject. Even less is usually said about it. The next few editions of my column are going to deal with death. Although for many this is an uncomfortable topic, we cannot avoid the inevitability that someone we know will die. What follows is the first 5 of 10 pieces of advice to remember at a time of grief.

1. Talk about the loss. Shakespeare rightly wrote: "The grief that does not speak whispers the o'erfraught heart and bids it break." Talk about the pain, the loneliness, the anger, the depression - all the feelings that arise - with a good friend, a counselor, or if you prefer, a member of the clergy, who will listen openly without feeling obligated to "fix things."

2. Grief is physical. Bereavement is not only emotionally exhausting but physically exhausting as well. Many survivors feel constantly tired or lethargic, and may feel the need to sleep or rest more often. This is the body's way of processing the emotional stress. Grieving persons need to exercise and eat regularly as soon as they are able. This will help reduce stress, provide needed energy, and even balance out mood swings.

3. Just because someone is dead doesn't make him right. People frequently say, "He would have wanted me to do this." But they didn't always do what the loved one wanted when he or she was alive, so why now?

All obligations to a loved one end at death. Though this sounds harsh and uncaring, survivors need to follow the course of best interest for themselves, regardless of what

the loved one's wishes may have been.

4. It is possible to feel opposing emotions simultaneously. Many of us have been taught to believe that feelings exist in an either/or dichotomy. So why, when someone dies after a long illness, do we feel extremely sad, yet extremely relieved at the same time? The fact is that we can feel both sad and relieved, loving and angry, as we try to make sense out of what has happened. The bereaved should allow all their emotions to emerge and then sort them out by talking with a friend or undertaking some creative expressions, such as keeping a journal.

In addition, it is also okay to wallow. Despair, depression, and deep sadness are all normal reactions to loss and should not be denied or discounted.

5. Releasing pain is not releasing memory. Strange as it may sound, most people are apprehensive about giving up intense grieving. They believe that their sorrow, both public and private, is a sign of caring; and by giving up or lessening it, they may also be diminishing the caring.

In fact, the exact opposite is true. Gradually letting go of pain allows time and space for more vivid and pleasant memories to surface, and become part of daily living.

Next month, I'll finish out this list. In coming issues, we'll be discussing other aspects of death and dying. If you have any questions, suggestions, or issues you'd like to see raised, just let me know!

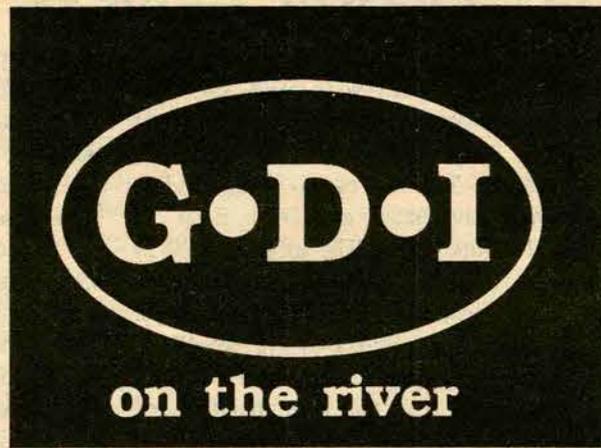
{Becky Caperton is a professional counselor in practice with the Hutt Psychological Group. Got a question? Write to Becky, c/o Gaze, P.O. Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.}

WKNO to Offer "We Are Family"

WKNO-TV, Channel 10 in Memphis, will offer a documentary about Gay families on Wednesday, June 29 at 11:00 pm.

The film, "We Are Family," presents stories of life within three Gay families: one foster, one biological, and one adoptive. In New Hampshire, two Gay fathers share their struggle to bring structure and security into the life of their 16-year-old foster son. In Boston, two Lesbian mothers describe how they help their 11-year-old adoptive son deal with being "different." And in New York City, a Gay father and his two adolescent daughters talk about what it was like when he first "came out." The film is narrated by Public Radio's *Weekend Edition* host Susan Stamberg.

In addition a special "Frontline" edition will feature a program entitled "Who Pays for AIDS?" This program examines the impact on patients caught in the middle of a battle between local governments and Washington over who will pay for AIDS treatment. "Who Pays for AIDS?" aired Tuesday, June 7 at 10:30 pm and will repeat on Sunday, June 12 at 2:00 pm.



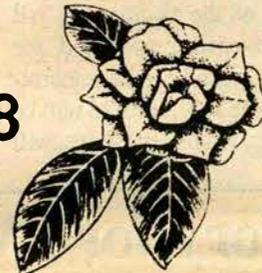
presents

A FANTASY IN BLACK AND WHITE

MISS COTTON BELLE 1988



**THURSDAY
JUNE 23, 1988
10:00 PM**



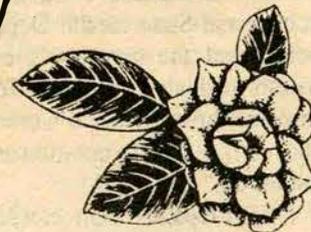
starring

**Miss Cotton Belle 1987
Tomika St. John**

**The Mouth of the South
Summer Holiday**

AND

**Australia's
Holly Brown**



Applications Available

For Information Dial (901) 526-1038

Playing Safe Won't Give You AIDS

For Information on Safe Sex Practices,
Call the AIDS Switchboard

458-AIDS

(7:30 - 11 pm nightly)

Classifieds

RATES FOR CLASSIFIEDS: Personal, non-commercial ads **FREE** > Limit of 30 words (including address or phone number) and a \$2.00 charge for the use of our P.O. Box. Please specify if you want to use our P.O. Box. Commercial ads at the rate of 20¢ per word, \$3.00 minimum. Phone numbers and zip codes are free. \$2.00 additional charge for the use of our P.O. Box. Deadline for ads is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Send to Gaze, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

GWM, 27, 6'1", 165#, brown hair, blue eyes, hairy chest. Looking for GWM, 20-30, no drugs, fats, fems, non-smoker. Reply with picture if possible to Dept.12-KR, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

Escape to Sewanee Mountain. Bed and Breakfast in our Log Home. For reservations (615) 598-5912.

Attractive GWM, 28, seeks warm/caring individual to share work/life with. Must be able to travel. Reply with photo to R. Wright, 1717 Lennox Way, Bowling Green, KY 42101.

GWM, 44, in prison, wishes to correspond with sincere, caring people. Please, no games. Write to: Terry Conger # 10040, Box 607, Carson City, NV 89701.

GWM, 25, 5'9", 155#, BR/BL, interested in working out to keep the body healthy. Seeking GWM, 25-45, with their own body building equipment willing to help a person develop a good workout pattern and willing to work out regularly and more. Send photo if possible. Reply to R. L. Box 750921, Memphis, TN 38175.

GWF, tall, slender, non-role, wishes to write/possibly meet same. Searching for signs of intelligent, sensitive, GWF amidst rampant straightness. Books, films, art. No drugs. Write Dept. S-6, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

GBF, 19, new in Memphis, seeks a peer group. I read, write poetry, play pool, and bowl. I'll answer all letters. I really want friends. Write 648 Marsh, Memphis, TN 38127.

In High School and want to meet someone for friend/possible relationship? GWM, 17, is anxious to meet other High School students. Write to: Michael, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

GWM, 22, 5'11", BR/BR, 185#, not into drugs or bars. Looking for someone 23-30 for one-on-one relationship or friendship, Memphis area. Fems need not reply. Write: B.P.H., Rt3 Box 229 E-4, Byhalia, MS 38611.

Young GWM would like to meet the same of all ages for friendship. Also would like to meet a younger GWM for a special friendship. Write David, Box 22993, Memphis, TN 38122-0993.

GWM, 25, 5'9", 155#, BR/BL. Hobbies: walking, biking, & having long cuddly nights. Seeking GWM, 25-45, for long 69 partner in the early morning. Must be discreet, masculine. Would like someone with a full beard, hairy chest, but not necessary for a good 69 partner. If interested, a photo gets a photo. Reply to Box 750921, Memphis, TN, 38175.

Roommate Wanted. Have 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Parkway village. Looking for professional, mature, adult. References required. Own room with full house privileges. \$250 per month, includes utilities. 365-8968. Serious inquiries only.

For Rent: Midtown 1-BR Duplex apartment. High ceilings, French doors. Wall-to-wall carpeting. Cooper/Young neighborhood. Off-street parking. \$195/month. Call 274-6344.



Take a closer Look!

The Memphis Gay Coalition has been looking out for the Gay Community of Memphis for a long time. We're the folks who operate the Gay Switchboard. We're the folks who publish Gaze news-paper. And we're also the folks who bring you the annual Gay Pride River Ride, GayFest, and a host of other events for the Gay Community.

We'd like you to take a chance and see for yourself what we're like. Attend GayFest, ride on the River Ride, and join us. Our meetings for July are Tuesday, July 5 and Monday, July 18 at the Main Library at Peabody & McLean

Give us a chance and we think you'll stay!

For more information, call 454-1411 or the Gay Switchboard - 324-GAYS.

Memphis Information and Services

MEMPHIS ORGANIZATIONS

Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC): Box 40389, Memphis 38174-0389 - 762-8401.

Agape New Life Church: Worship Sundays at 11:00 AM and Wednesdays at 7:30 PM - 327-4145.

American Gay Atheists Memphis: Box 41371, Memphis, TN 38174-1371.

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

Gay Athletic Association: Bowling, volleyball, camping, and more. Box 22914, Memphis 38122 - 744-0575.

Gay Women's Social Group: 324-6949 or 377-7312

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

Memphis Gay Coalition: Box 3038, Memphis 38173-0038 - 324-GAYS.

Memphis Lambda Center: Meeting place for 12-step recovery programs. 241 N. Cleveland (above United Paint Store), Memphis - 276-7379.

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

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

Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (P-FLAG): P.O. Box 172031, Memphis 38187-2031 - 761-1444.

Phoenix (Gay AA): 272-9549, 276-7379, or 454-1414.

Tsarus:(Leather-Levi club) Box 41082, Memphis 38174-1082.

Wings:(Leather-Levi club) Box 41784, Memphis 38174-1784.

Women of Leather: 181 N. Willett, Memphis 38104 - 278-9321

MEDIA

AIDS Update: newspaper published by the Aid to End AIDS Committee - 458-AIDS.

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

Gaze: monthly newspaper: published by the Memphis Gay Coalition - Box 3038, Memphis 38173-0038 - 454-1411.

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

HELPLINES

AIDS Switchboard: 458-AIDS.

Gay Switchboard: 324-GAYS.

LINC: 725-8895.

Narcotics Anonymous: 276-LIVE.

Rape Crisis: 528-2161.

Suicide & Crisis Intervention: 274-7477.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Becky Caperton, MS: Counseling - 767-3971.

Carole Taylor, MS: Counseling - 458-7098.

Northeast Mental Health Center: 382-3880.

LEGAL SERVICES

Susan Mackenzie, Attorney At Law: 707 Adams Ave., Memphis 38105 - 525-8601.

RESTAURANTS & BARS

Another Bar: 1351 Autumn - 278-9353.

Apartment: 343 Madison - 525-9491.

Barbara's: 1474 Madison - 278-4313.

GDI on the River: 287 S. Front Street - 526-1038.

J-Wags: 1268 Madison - 725-1909.

Pipeline: 1382 Poplar - 726-5263.

WKRB in Memphis: 1528 Madison - 278-9321.

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 Newsroom: 669 Mendenhall Rd S. - 682-3326 & 1803 Union - 726-1622.

Listings in the Information and Services Directory are FREE and published as a service to the Gay Community. If you would like to be listed, call 454-1411. Memphis area business only.

The Memphis Gay Coalition



RIVER ≈ RIDE

WITH JOYCE COBB

**MEMPHIS SHOWBOAT
(Foot of Monroe at Riverside)**

Saturday, June 25

Board 8:30 PM - Sail 9:00 - Midnight

**Tickets are available for \$15 each at
Star Search Video,**

1264 Madison, Memphis, TN

(Visa, Master Card, and American Express accepted)

and at

GayFest 88

June 18-19 at Mud Island

**Money orders should be made payable to
MGC-River Ride. Tickets are non-refundable.**

***MGC sustaining members or above may obtain a
\$3 discount on one ticket if purchased from an
MGC Board member.**