

GAIETY

50¢

... reflecting gay life in the south

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King and Queen Tequmen V present the Katie Vaughan Memorial Award to GAIETY editor Gary Poe, for GAIETY's "outstanding contribution to the gay people and the city of Memphis." Dennis Massey makes the presentation for the King and Queen.

Gay Switchboard To Be Established In Memphis

A gay switchboard will soon be operating in Memphis. The plans were announced by the Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force of the Memphis Chapter of NOW.

The switchboard will provide social referrals, professional referrals and crisis counseling. The phone is scheduled to go into operation by late June and will function from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m.

The gay phone line will be staffed by gay volunteers who have completed a course in handling crisis calls.

Pat Dunbar, co-ordinator of

the Task Force, said that the group wanted to do something to educate the community at large and to provide support for all gay people. She said that they checked other communities before deciding on the switchboard as the most practical.

Pat O'Shaughnessy, director of Help Now, has volunteered to train the staffers. She sees the line as much more than an information referral and wants to see the staffers prepared to handle real crisis situations.

Social referrals that the line will handle, will include addresses and facts about local bars for out-of-towners and information on organizations and meetings.

Professional referrals will include information about doctors, dentists, or specialists who are sympathetic to gay problems.

Persons wishing to support this project financially may make their checks out to the National Organization of Women and earmarked for S & L Task Force Switchboard. They should be mailed to 1907 Madison Avenue.

Indiana Code OK's Gay Sex

Gay sex will soon be legal in Indiana as the result of a comprehensive revision of that state's criminal code, the Advocate reports.

The new code was signed into law by Governor Otis R. Bowen in early March. It goes into effect on June 1, 1977.

The code's provisions legalizing gay sex drew little attention until the Supreme Court ruling on March 29, the Advocate stated. Afterwards, however, Indianapolis Republican Leslie Duvall threatened to introduce legislation in 1977 making it a crime again.

Indiana is the fifteenth state to legalize private homosexual behavior between consenting adults. Others include Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington.

Tells GAIETY Staffers in Memphis

Court Ruling "Absurd," Says Capote

By Fred Harris

The U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding state sodomy laws was "absurd," author Truman Capote told GAIETY staffers during a recent Memphis visit. The laws it defended are "ridiculous and unenforceable."

Capote made his statement at a reception following his April 19 talk at the Memphis State University Student Union.

Noting that the Court has made several oppressive decisions recently, Capote added that he has sometimes thought he would like to "bump off" certain justices.

"Especially that Byron White. He's a really treacherous son of a bitch."

Asked his opinion of the gay liberation movement in the United States, Capote said that it wasn't very well organized. A major problem was the current lack of a national newspaper with thorough news coverage.

"There is no single accepted publication to link persons across the country," Capote said. The Advocate has the largest circulation, but it is too dependant on "trashy ads."

A couple of years ago, Capote said, he investigated the possibility of writing about the Dean Corll mass murders in Houston. After looking into the case, however, he dropped the idea.

"The boys who were accomplices in the murders were

quite dull," he said. "Dean Corll would have been an interesting person to interview, but he was dead."

While in Houston, Capote did talk with Corll's mother, though.

"After spending a couple of hours with her, I could understand why Dean ended up as he did."

Although the Houston slayings were played up in the press as "homosexual murders", that wasn't really what they were about, Capote said. Basically they were the insane acts of a psychotic individual, notable mainly because of the large number of victims.

When asked his opinion of the writings of author Gore

Vidal, Capote said that Vidal's most readable book was satire on American sexual mores, "Myra Breckenridge."

Earlier, during a question and answer session following his talk, Capote told GAIETY staffer Martha Brummett that a major figure in his new book, Answered Prayers, is the Lesbian writer, Natalie Barney. Barney, who lived in Paris during the 1920's and '30's, was the friend of many famous writers and artists.

Harris and other GAIETY staffers were able to question Capote at the reception because of the co-operation of MSU Programs Officer Gary Salles.



New San Francisco Head Gay Cops Should 'Come Out,' Chief Says

San Francisco Police Chief, Charles Gain, told a largely gay Harry S. Truman Democratic Club that "...there are 20 closet gays on the city's police force but none who admits to his sexual orientation." Speaking at a recent luncheon, he went on to say, "If they come out, it will help everyone."

Reaction within the ranks of the police department to Gain's "Cop-Out" speech was, as might be expected, less than enthusiastic. An article in the San Francisco Examiner quoted one policeman as saying, "It's disgusting." Another commented that, "First Gain calls us alcoholics and now he's calling us fruits."

Gain scoffed at the assertion that gay policemen might "molest" young boys. "I have to answer that there is no evidence," he said. Police officers must learn "...how to deal with human beings. We will have gays come in to lecture the police force, we will have lesbians come in, blacks, Latins, Chinese, all to talk about their experiences and their cultures." The

basically conservative, white policeman must be exposed to other ethnic, racial and sexual groups, in Gain's opinion, in order to function as a good law enforcer.

A retired officer who for more than ten years was the department's liaison with the gay community claimed, "Gain is already being called 'Gloria' by some of the officers, but

it's just as well if the guys come out of the closet. It will make the other guys less nervous when they see that gays can do the job."

San Francisco Sheriff Richard Hongisto echoed these sentiments, saying, "Sure there are a number of gays working for me...in any case, a gay officer can perform as well as straights."

Gays On Delegate Slate In California Primary

Five open gays will be included on the slates of delegates in California's June 8 presidential primary election, the Advocate reports.

Four of the persons chosen will run on former Georgia governor Jimmy Carter's slate of delegates. These include Larry Littlejohn for his 6th Congressional District (San Francisco) slate, Howard Fox for his 24th District (Los Angeles-Hollywood) slate, Clayton Wells for the 25th District slate (downtown Los

Angeles) and Wesley B. Smith for the 30th District slate (suburban Los Angeles).

The fifth gay person running as a presidential convention delegate is San Francisco gay activist Jo Daly. She is running as a delegate in the 6th District for California governor Jerry Brown.

The number of votes cast for each candidate in each district on June 8 will determine which gay delegates go to the Democratic National Convention in New York in July.

City Job Discrimination Banned In Boston

Boston Mayor Kevin White has issued an Executive Order which bans discrimination on the basis of sexual preference, the Boston Gay Community News reports.

The order, which was sent to all city department heads, adds the words "sexual preference" to Boston's existing Affirmative Action policy.

The mayor's order said that "Each department will not permit its officials, administrators, supervisors or other employees to discriminate on the grounds of race, creed, age, sex, sexual pref-

erence, ancestry, or national origin in regard to any matter pertaining to employment, recruitment and recruitment advertising, leave of absence, rate of pay or other forms of compensation..."

Mayor White's directive affects more than 20,000 city jobs, the News reports, including police and fire fighters.

A spokesperson for the Boston Police Department said that the police will abide by the order. "I see no problem; we fully expect to," he stated. The director of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association said that it would have no official comment on the mayor's action until the text of the directive is studied.

Boston is the thirty-fourth American governmental unit to ban employment discrimination against gay people.

'Lesbian Nation' To Be Theme Of Conference

Over 1,000 lesbians are expected to attend the "National Lesbian Feminist Organizing Conference" in Bloomington, Indiana. The conference will be held on the weekend of July 2 - 5 and is being planned by lesbians in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Michigan.

The Conference is billed as "the first step in our united transition from the Patriarchy to the rebirth of the Matriarchy." A number of workshops will explore the general theme of the conference: "Building a Lesbian Nation."

The conference is open to lesbians ONLY. Registration is \$5.50 in advance and \$7 at the door. To register or request further information, write: National Lesbian Feminist Organizing Conference, c/o Lesbian Feminist Union, PO Box 3764, Louisville, Kentucky 40201.

Atlanta To Be Site of Gay March, Rally

The first Southeastern Gay Pride Week Celebration will be held in Atlanta the week of June 20-27, it has been announced. All gay southerners are invited to participate in the activities.

According to the Gay Pride Week planning committee, the week-long event will include a picnic, a dance, march, and rally. Other activities tentatively slated include a program on the gay rights movement, an ACLU-sponsored discussion of gays and the law, as well as some type of entertainment, possibly a play.



The week will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 20 with a worship service of the Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta. Later that day, a picnic for all gay people will be held in an Atlanta park.

On Saturday, June 26, at 2 p.m. a Gay Pride march is scheduled. It will start at Atlanta's downtown civic center and will proceed to Piedmont Park, where a rally will be held.

Host Groups with members involved in the Gay Pride Week program include the Atlanta Gay Center, the Atlanta Metropolitan Community Church, the Atlanta Lesbian-Feminist Alliance, and the Atlanta chapters of Dignity and Integrity.

Persons seeking additional information should contact the Southeastern Regional Gay Pride Week Celebration Planning Committee, Suite 1976, Confidential Services, 20 Fourth Street, N.W., Atlanta, GA, 30308.

Group Planned For Gay Youth

Plans have been announced to form a gay youth group in Memphis. The group is the result of efforts by a local teenager to provide, "a relaxed atmosphere for teenagers to discuss their homosexuality."

Jim Greene, organizer of the group, says that several Memphis agencies have agreed to help with counseling whenever necessary.

For more information about the group, interested teenagers may write J. Greene, Post Office Box 3937, Memphis Tennessee 38103.

Local Rap Group Disbands Following Poor Attendance

The gay men's rap group is being discontinued because of poor attendance, co-ordinator Fred Harris has announced.

The discussion group, which was held at the Northeast Mental Health Center Annex, 3618 Summer, has met monthly since January 1976. Attendance at the sessions has averaged three or four persons and never exceeded eight.

"The rap group was set up on a trial basis to see if there was any desire for it in Memphis," Harris said. "The response during the first

four months indicates there is not. Accordingly it is being discontinued."

Harris said the rap group was set up after HELP NOW director Pat O' Shaughnessy told him how her agency had received a number of calls from gay people for peer assistance. Gay women could be referred to the Memphis NOW Task Force on Sexuality and Lesbianism C-R, she said, but there was nowhere to send gay males except to the bars. The men's discussion group was intended to fill that gap.

The Candidates on Gay Rights

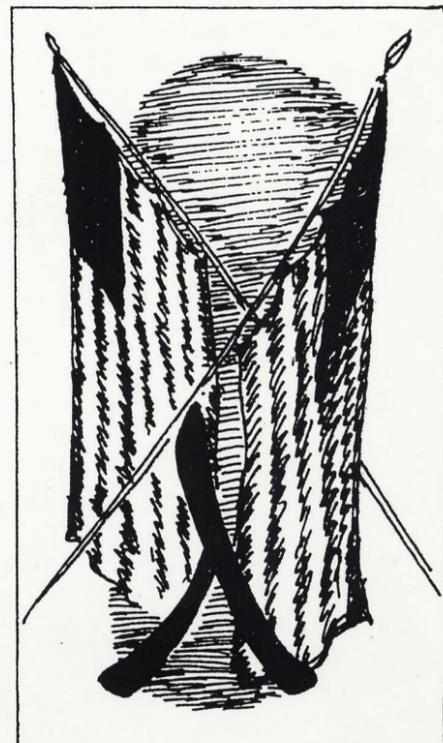
GAY VOTES

A GAIETY Voter's Guide

On May 25, Tennesseans will go to the polls to vote in the state's 1976 Presidential Preference Primary. In an effort to help gay voters cast their ballots intelligently, GAIETY is presenting the major candidates' positions on gay rights.

This survey is concerned exclusively with the candidates stands on gay rights, a subject not generally covered by the straight media. For information on the candidates' positions on other issues, GAIETY encourages its readers to consult daily newspapers, newsmagazines and other sources.

Likewise, the survey includes only the remaining serious contenders in the two major parties. Minor party and one-issue candidates are not considered here, nor are major party contenders who have dropped out of the primary race (Birch Bayh, Henry Jackson, Sergeant Shriver, etc.)



Jimmy Carter

Gerald Ford

The Democratic front runner in this year's presidential race, former Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter, has taken a moderately supportive stand on gay rights issues. This is despite (or possibly because of?) his strongly held religious beliefs. Like most of the other candidates, he has largely avoided being pinned down as to exactly what he would do.

Carter's most positive statement on gay rights was made during a Los Angeles speech on March 12. At that time, the Advocate reports, he said that he would be willing to issue an executive order banning discrimination against gay people in housing, employment, immigration and the military. His only qualms concerned closeted homosexuals "in high security positions who might be subject to blackmail."

Earlier, on Tom Snyder's Tomorrow program, Carter stated that he was "advanced" on the issue of gay rights and favored equal employment protection except where national security was a factor. He did not say when he considered national security a factor, however (in all military jobs, or just a few) and did not clearly answer Snyder's inquiry about whether T/Sgt. Matlovitch should have been retained.

In September of 1975, Carter made the following statement to the Boston newspaper, Gay Community News. "I oppose all forms of discrimination against individuals, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. As President I can assure you that all policies of the federal government would reflect this commitment to ending all forms of discrimination."

When questioned on his position later that year, Carter said, "I never told anyone that I favor total equality." Asked about the federal gay rights bill, he said, "I have not made up my mind on it. I do not feel that people should be abused because of their sexual preference, but I don't know how we could deal with the issue of blackmail in federal security jobs. But with that possible exception, I would probably support this legislation."

Morris Udall

Morris K. Udall, a U.S. Representative from Arizona, has been one of the more progressive candidates in the field of gay rights. This support is not without its limits however.

One of Udall's earliest gay rights statements was made in 1975 to Gay Community News contributor David Brill. It went as follows: "As a matter of general philosophy, I believe that citizens should be entitled to lifestyles of their own preference and that such choices should not interfere with equal opportunities for careers in the private sector or public service, or be used as a basis for discrimination or denial of equal rights in any way. I do not believe that harassment of citizens based on consensual conduct or relationship is a proper use of law enforcement."

Udall was also quoted by the Gay Community News as saying "as a class...there is no justification for treating homosexuals any differently from other people in the armed forces."

In January of 1976, the Arizonian told a gay organization in New York that he supports HR 5452, the federal gay civil rights bill. He has declined to serve as an official co-sponsor for the measure so far, though.

Gerald R. Ford has not said a great deal about homosexuals and their civil rights. What little he has said suggests that while he isn't against them, he doesn't really support gays either. At best, he is less hostile than the other major Republican candidate, Ronald Reagan.

Ford's only known public statement on gay rights was made in response to a question earlier this year in Peoria, Illinois. There, reports the Advocate, a student asked him to "clarify your position on civil rights for gay people."

At first, the President seemed not to know what was being asked and said, "Civil rights for whom?" After the student repeated "for gay people", Ford understood, The Peoria Journal Star reports, and made the following response:

"I recognize that this is a new and serious problem. I've always tried to be an understanding person as far as people who are different from myself...that doesn't mean that I agree with or in what is done by them in their position in society. I think this is a problem we have to face up to, but I can't give you a pat answer tonight. It would be dishonest to say that there is a pat answer."

If Ford's statements are one clue of his stand on gay rights, his actions as President are another. As Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, it is in Ford's power to issue an executive order halting discrimination against gay people there. Barring this, he could have bent the rule to allow much-decorated T/Sgt. Leonard Matlovitch to remain in the Air Force. He did neither, and as a result, Matlovitch is now a civilian against his will. Dozens of other gays continue to be discharged from the service for homosexuality.

If any presidential candidate should feel beholden to gay people, it is probably Ford. His life was saved in San Francisco by gay Marine Corps veteran Oliver Sipple.

The President apparently doesn't see it that way. His only reported response to the gay man's heroic act was a brief, tardy, and not overly gracious thank you note.

It is also perhaps worth noting that as a Michigan Congressman, Ford led an unsuccessful attempt to impeach former Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, a strong supporter of gay rights and civil liberties.

Based on Ford's previous statements and actions, there is little indication that he would do anything to improve the lot of homosexuals if elected President. Instead, he would preside over four more years of not-so-benign neglect.

Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan has avoided making any public statements about gay rights during the 1976 campaign. His comments and behavior while governor of California give some indications of his feelings on the subject though.

As chief executive of California, Reagan did nothing to encourage passage of that state's "consenting adults" bill. Many of his conservative Republican friends were fierce opponents of the measure and fought it tooth and nail in the legislature. Only after Reagan's replacement as governor by Jerry Brown was the sex law reform bill passed.

In the late 1960s, Reagan told an audience at Yale that he believed all homosexual behavior should be illegal, even between consenting adults. He has made no statement to indicate that he has changed his mind since then.

Count Too!

GAILETY

Reflecting Gay Life in the South

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Your Vote Counts

The May 25 primary gives Tennesseans a unique opportunity to influence the selection of our next president. It also provides gay voters with a chance to support those who support us.

Several sensible options are available for gays wishing to cast effective ballots.

Those wishing to support the candidate with the most advanced gay rights stand, regardless of his chances for victory, can vote for Morris Udall.

Those who want to see a southerner in the White House... one who has shown a positive attitude toward gay rights... can vote for Jimmy Carter.

Those who want to improve the chance of the Democrats in November can declare as Republicans in the May 25 primary and vote for Ronald Reagan. Reagan is no friend of gays, but he is the weaker of the Republican candidates nationally. By helping him win in the Tennessee primary (and thus the Republican convention in Kansas City) gay voters can further the likelihood of a Democratic victory in November.

One option which is not sensible for gay Tennesseans is to vote for Jerry Ford. Ford has done nothing to support gay rights as President and has shown himself insensitive toward the issue generally.

The choice is yours. For information on the various candidate's gay rights stands, read the voter's guide on page three. Study up on the other issues as well. But above all, vote on May 25. See you at the polls.

-FH

Progress

I think that we're all glad to see that the Rain Check burning episode has finally gotten bumped off the front page of GAILETY. After three issues of negative news, I'm glad to be leading off with a positive story. The gay switchboard is a very positive idea. It's great that the Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force of NOW has decided to really do something! It's a decidedly progressive step for this city and long overdue.

Toward the end of June, we have a very important occasion for the gay community. National Gay Pride Week is June 20 - 27. Of course you know about the parades and things they do in New York. Well, now the South is beginning to join in the spirit. Atlanta has announced plans for a big parade through the city followed by a rally in the park.

What about Memphis? The S and L Task Force has announced their plans for a Woman's dance on Saturday night, June 26. Then Sunday afternoon, gay women and men are urged to pack a lunch and join in a "Gay Day in the Park." This is a real way to develop a sense of community. Can you imagine a few hundred gay people all having a good time together in Overton Park?

Only a short time ago this would have been almost unthinkable. But things are changing. Let's change with them. Memphis doesn't have to be the armpit of the south. If we get together...look out!

-GP

Goodbye, Fred

Since the second issue of GAILETY, I have been fortunate in having Fred Harris as news editor. Fred has always been a terrifically hard worker and we've spent some long nights alone together...with the paper, that is. Fred spent a lot of time and effort researching the "Memphis Gay History" series, accompanying me to court in West Memphis, and lots more, all because of his dedication to GAILETY.

Fred is leaving us now, moving to Washington, D. C. Every one who works with GAILETY will miss him. It won't be the same. And especially from me, Fred, take care.

-GP

4-12-75

Words

tear so easily

slicing - thrusting - jabbing.

Use them carefully.

Looks and words

stare - glare - shift.

Humanism?

Looks and words and

silence.

I defy.

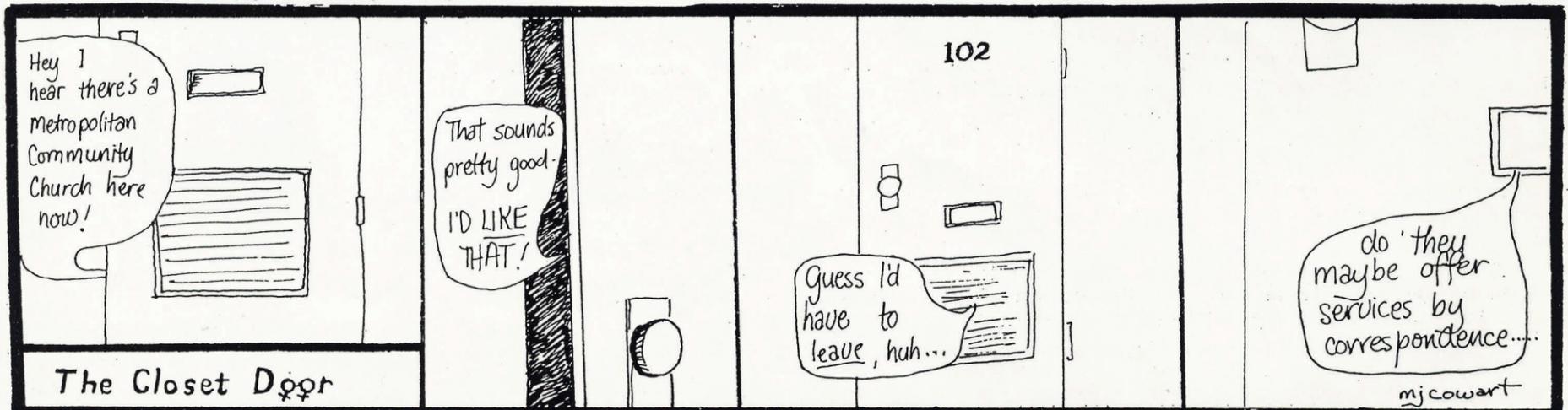
-pgw

Profundity

We the unwilling, led by the unqualified
have been doing the unbelievable
for so long with so little
that we now attempt the impossible
with nothing.

The value of life lies not in the length of days, but in the uses we make of them: a man may live long, yet get little from life. Whether you find satisfaction in life depends not only your tale of years, but on your will.

Montaigne



Lesbian Sleuth Triumphs In Murder Yarn

by Martha Brummett

The Package Included Murder, Joyce Porter, Bobbs-Merrill, \$7.95

The creator of *Dover*, the world's most repellent detective, has outdone herself with another almost as repulsive and certainly equally counter-revolutionary and piggish.

Only this time (to use Del Martin's descriptive phrase) it's a pseudo-male chauvinist pig. The Honourable Constance Morrison-Burke embodies all Steven Gordon's counter-revolutionary and non-woman-identified traits and none of her virtues.

However, it's a good mystery; true to the English model and well done. The Hon. Con (whom I rather liked/identified with, which shows where my head is unfortunately) and her lover, Miss Jones, take a package tour of the U.S.S.R. and just happen to get involved in another murder. The Hon. Con (the book refers to her this way) considers herself quite a detective in the vein of Lord Peter Wimsey (so help me Hecate!) and must, as all good thrillers, carry the team through the sticky wicket or whatever. She is, of course, not at all influenced by the fact that the intended victim is a very attractive woman. However, Miss Jones, dogsbody that she appears to be, sees the situation through, the Hon. Con back in order, and the justice done.

Good thriller, old chap... movement literature it ain't.



Local MCC Offers Love, Companionship

by Charlene Taylor

Friends, I want to invite you to Metropolitan Community Church, the only Christian Church in Memphis designed to meet the spiritual and social needs of the Gay Community.

You've probably seen mentions of our Church in *GAIETY* and perhaps you have felt a bit apprehensive or just turned off to any kind of Church. You say, "The Church has no relevance for me." But MCC is not like any other Church. We are different, not because the majority of us are gay, but because we share a dynamic, loving concern for each other. And it is real!

Our services at MCC provide gay men and women with an opportunity to worship openly and honestly without feelings of guilt or fear of condemnation. They are conducted in

'President's Men' Hails American Press

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." Thomas Jefferson

by Fred Harris

Political corruption is a venerable American tradition. So is the celluloid triumph of good over evil. It is probably fitting that the bicentennial's most touted movie celebrates the exposure of our biggest scandal.

"All the President's Men" is more than just a muckraker though, and far from an exercise in self-congratulations. Instead, it is an un sentimental look at a conspiracy which sought to end American democracy.

The film is practically documentary in its crisp simplicity. Starting with the Watergate burglary, it follows

the efforts of *Washington Post* reporters Woodward and Bernstein to discover who and what are behind the break-in.

At first, they make little headway. A phalanx of tight-lipped secretaries, librarians and Committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP) executives stonewall attempts to open the case up.

Gradually, bits and pieces of the mystery fall into place. A major coup occurs when a highly placed White House operative nicknamed "Deep Throat" risks his career to tell what he knows. His revelations, plus information from other CREEP staffers, open the reporters' eyes as to what they have stumbled upon. The Watergate burglary, they now realize, was just a tiny part of a vast White House conspiracy to steal the 1972 election.

Having made this discovery,

the reporters find themselves becoming the hunted as well as the hunters. They have told too much and aroused the wrath of the nation's most powerful men. Their jobs and lives are now in danger.

Avoids Cliches

In portraying the real-life action, "President's Men" avoids the usual "good-guy/bad-guy" cliches. Woodward and Bernstein are shown not as idealistic do-gooders but hard-nosed reporters, not above browbeating sources for needed information.

The same holds true of their protagonists with the Committee to Re-elect the President. CREEP's exotic name notwithstanding, the "President's Men" are not so much diabolic villains as tongue-tied bumbling. Inept at both crime and government, they confirm "Deep Throat's" caustic comment that "these aren't very bright guys."

While the movie avoids stereotyping its characters, it dramatizes the moral struggle in other ways. These include the skillful use of light and shadows (i.e. the glossy brightness of the *Post* newsroom versus the gloomy parking garage where "Deep Throat" lurks) and of assorted Washington, D. C. landmarks. The reporters are repeatedly shown as puny insects next to massive government office buildings, symbolizing their "David vs. Goliath" struggle with the endless bureaucracy. The Nixon White House at night, with its sickish yellow glow, resembles a contaminated evil castle.

If the film has a flaw, it is the casting of Redford and Hoffman as the two *Post* reporters. Although both do tolerable jobs in their roles, their faces are simply too familiar from other major movies. It would have been much better to have used talented unknowns.

Thankfully, this problem doesn't extend to the other actors. Jason Robards is totally convincing as *Post* editor Ben Bradlee and Martin Balsom and Jack Warden are excellent in their supporting roles. Even the movie newsroom is a faithful reproduction of the original in downtown Washington.

In a sense, "All the President's Men" is a paean to the American press. Twice in the last ten years, the media has alerted the nation to massive governmental evil; first in Southeast Asia under the Democrats, and then in the United States under the Republicans.

If the film is a tribute, it is also a warning. Although Nixon and some of his cronies have been deposed, some of the "President's Men" are still in power, chipping away at our constitutional rights and liberties today.

ACLU Gay Rights Handbook Offers Valuable Information

by Lin Grove

The Rights of Gay People, E. Carrington Boggan and others, Avon Books, 1975, \$1.75.

What should you do if arrested for an offense connected with gay activity?

Answer: Neither resist arrest nor volunteer any information other than your name and address. Do not admit to any actions. Contact a lawyer. If you don't know a lawyer, consult a local or state gay organization, the local branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, or a legal aid or public defender's office.

The Rights of Gay People: The Basic ACLU Guide to a Gay Person's Rights, written by a quartet of writers under the auspices of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), is a book worth buying.

In 10 chapters, our rights are clearly defined, and suggestions and guidelines for protecting them are given. Question and answer format is used.

Seven appendices cover such topics as American laws concerning consensual adult homosexual acts, a gay bibliography, ACLU state affiliates, and gay organizations.

The Rights of Gay People may be purchased from Avon Books, Mail Order Dept., 250 W. 55th St., NY, NY 10019. Price is \$1.75, plus 25 cents per copy for mailing.

Locally, you may find it at the main library, 1850 Peabody, or at the ACLU office, Suite 1501, 81 Madison Building. Phone number is 521-9875. Also, the Community Book Store will order the book if it is not in stock at the time.

such a way as to prove relevant to people from a wide variety of Christian backgrounds, while retaining depth and meaning.

On the social level, the Church sponsors activities throughout the week which enable gay men and women to meet and get to know one another in a casual, unpretentious atmosphere.

We want to continue to grow and to eventually provide job counseling, job referrals, and practical help with food, clothing and lodging to those in need. We believe the truest expression of worship is to make our commitment felt in all parts of the community.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is in the forefront of the battle for gay rights and social justice. Our present pro-

gram of religious and social activity, of social action and Christian friendship is aimed toward one goal: To make the Christian Gospel relevant to both gay and straight people. When gay and straight people learn to accept one another without judging and with Christian love, both groups will have come much closer to the example set for us by Jesus Christ. This ministry can only result in good for all God's children.

MCC is your place to find and share love, interests and talents. The message is simple. God loves you and is concerned that you live a rich and meaningful life.

MCC has already added a dimension to our lives. It has nourished us and given us hope! We hope that you will experience this dimension, too.

THE QUEEN'S MEN BALL



Returning Queen Tequmen IV, Mike Rollins



King and Queen Tequmen V, Bill Goodman and Larry Weaver

The Weekend of May 8,9 was the annual Queen's Men Ball. The theme of this year's pageant was Red, White, and Blue and Gay too. The ball was held in the downtown American Legion Hall.

From the very beginning the mood was festive, exciting. Each table was adorned with red, white, and blue carnations. Dennis Massey, serving as narrator, introduced the Ball Captain and then entered Dan Boudreaux costumed as a metallic court jester.

The debutants entered with their escorts and took their places for the return of King Tequmen IV. The audience jumped to its feet with approval as the reigning King and lovely Queen appeared. As they accepted the greetings of

the crowd and took their seats, the time came for the presentation of the maids.

This year the maids were presented as holidays of the year. There was New Year's Day, complete with giant bubbly glass; Valentine Day, creating a heart as big as all the world; Easter followed with ears for days; and finally Thanksgiving bestowed some rather unexpected blessings.

With the court present, The reception of Grand Duchess Tequmen III (Peter Pan) was the next beautiful occasion.

Finally the high point, the new rulers. King Tequmen V (Bill Goodman) and Queen Tequmen V (Larry Weaver) made the entire pageant complete. But the fun didn't end...not for another 24 hours.

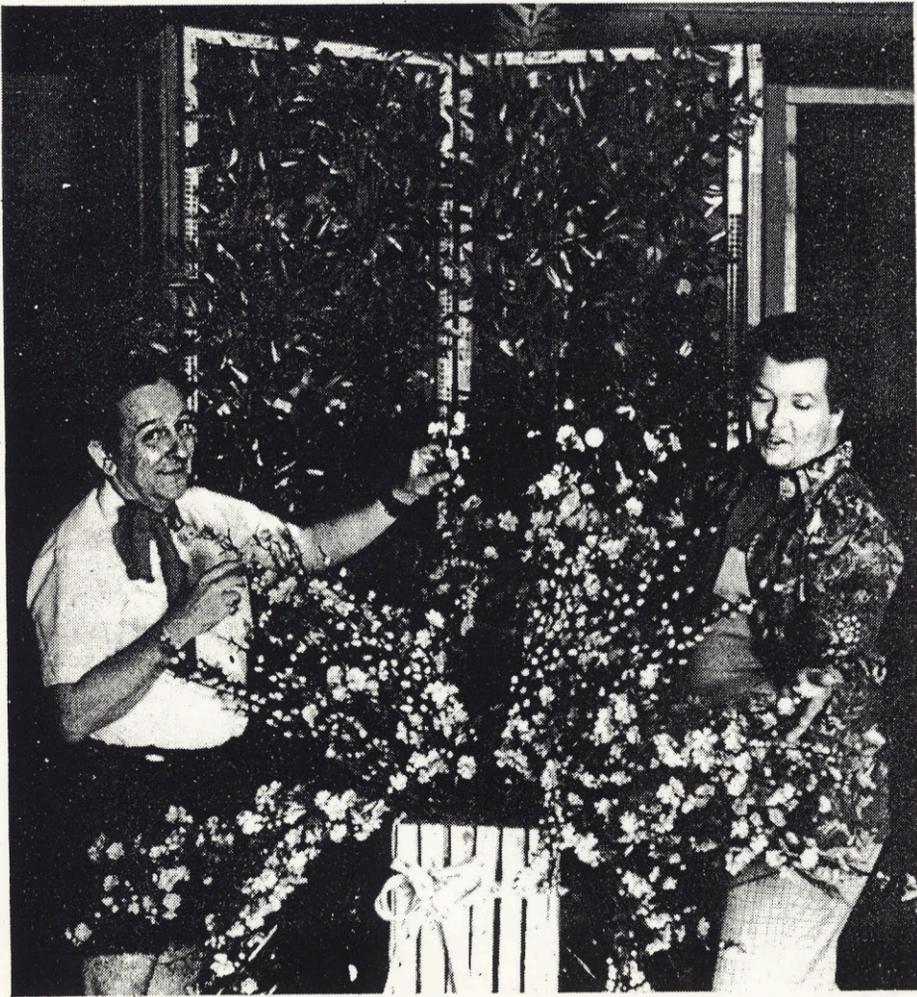


Dan Boudreaux, The Captain of the Ball



Maid Valentine, Bill Griffin

WEEKEND OF EXCITEMENT



Dennis Massey and Chris Arnold arrange the "flowers" for the "garden party."



Everyone wants to get their picture taken with the new King. Left to right, Trixie, Dennis Massey, Vickie Marie, and Liz.

Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m., Apollo Memphis threw a "garden party." The party was in honor of the new King and Queen, the Queen's Men and all their many friends. The Front Page was decorated with Plants and flowers. Music was provided by the Uprisers.

The affair was casual. Sebrina Lea and Lady Rae became southern Belles for the evening, helping the members see that everyone had a good time.



Sebrina Lea (Miss Holiday South)



Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m., B.J.'s Caberet was host for a banquet in honor of the new King and Queen. The banquet was initiated and prepared by Bette Hefner and her gang.



Women's Film Series Opens In Memphis

The Center for Dialogue, The Woman's Media Project of Memphis, and Moonforce Media, Inc. present the first Memphis showing of the National Woman's Film Circuit. The showings will be at the Community Bookshop, 1907 Madison, June 4, 5, and 6.

Show times are 7 and 10 pm on Friday, 3 and 8 pm on Saturday and 3 pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$2.00 at the door and advance reservations are requested.

The films were selected from over 100 entries in the Circuit Festival held in Washington D.C. in August 1975. The six films to be shown will cover a variety of subject matters and discussion will follow each film.

"Woman to Woman" by Donna Deitch provides an engrossing look at women's work and roles through recent interviews with hookers, housekeepers and others. In "Livia Makes Some Changes," a middle-aged housewife deals with her family's opposition when she gets a job.

"Our Little Munchkin Here" explores one episode in a world of an adolescent woman struggling to define herself in her own terms.

"Home Movie" combines recent footage with old home movies as the filmmaker tells how she came to recognize her love for other women and came out as a lesbian.

"Menses" is a wry comedy on the disagreeable aspects of menstruation. "Taking Our Bodies Back" deals with the critical aspects of women's health, including self-help, abortion, birth control and unnecessary surgery.

SPORTS

On May 16, GAIETY staff members held an impromptu pinball tournament at the Front Page. After preliminary play-offs, the two contenders for the championship were Editor Gary Poe and Martha Brummett.

Each won an initial game, before Martha Brummett won the tie-breaker with a score of 79,000 (Gottlieb's "Fast Draw").

Memphis Lesbian Mothers

Discuss Joys, Problems, Hopes, Fears

by Martha Brummett

The unique problems of lesbian mothers have been attracting much media interest lately, perhaps because of the increased openness on the part of wimmin who now feel able to deal with prejudice against gays in a more aggressive manner.

One of the latest child custody cases involving a lesbian mother is that of Mary Jo Richer of Texas. Her former husband gained custody of her nine-year-old child last December. Before the ruling of the court, they lived with Ms. Richer's lover, Ann Foreman, and her eleven-year-old daughter. In other states, however, lesbian mothers have been "granted" custody of their children, and the Michigan Supreme Court has given a general ruling outlawing bias in all such cases.

Rather than simply reporting this news as furnished by the nationwide gay press, GAIETY feels that it would be illuminating to interview lesbian mothers and let them share their experiences with our readers in their own words.

Linda and Carol live in suburban Memphis with a total of four children. They have been lovers for a little over a year, living together since July of 1975.

GAIETY: Let's get things started. How did you two meet each other?

CAROL: Well, we both work and we used to see each other at the Laundromat, and we got to talking. I was using my brother's car to get there and he didn't really like it, and it got to where Linda would come by and pick me up and we'd go together. We'd be talking all the time and got to be good friends, and I guess it just happened.

GAIETY: Is this your first relationship?

CAROL: Well, no, not really. I met this woman once but it didn't work out.

LINDA: Yes, but looking back, there were some girls I used to know...

GAIETY: What I mainly want to know is your situation concerning your children. First, how do you support them?

LINDA: Well, I work in a bank, and my husband was

killed in Vietnam. I get that money. It takes a lot just to live and eat.

CAROL: I'm a waitress and I'm supposed to get money for the children from my ex-husband, but I don't.

GAIETY: You've both mentioned husbands. Does your former husband, Carol, give you any trouble?

CAROL: Well, no, I don't even see him. Even his mama doesn't know where he is.

GAIETY: How open are you with the children?

LINDA: They don't know anything about it.

CAROL: Well, Roger and Lynn think the world of Linda, and they like living with Jackie and David, too. It works out nice because we have the boys in one room and the girls have their room so the grownups have to have theirs. So that's the way it is, and I don't guess there's much...I mean anything too different about it.

GAIETY: In so far as the kids are concerned, their mothers live together to save money?

LINDA: That's what everybody thinks, I mean our relatives and the people in the neighborhood.

GAIETY: Do you ever feel you'd like to be more honest with the children?

LINDA: I don't think we're being dishonest.

GAIETY: I'm sorry. I should have said open.

CAROL: It'd be nice.

Sometimes I get tired of not being able to show my feelings when I want to. I mean here I am loving somebody and we have to be so careful around everybody. But I don't guess they ought to know.

LINDA: It wouldn't help them, that's for sure.

GAIETY: Why not?

LINDA: They'd lose respect for us. It would get around the neighborhood. I own this house, and we couldn't afford to move, not without losing our jobs and everything. We'd lose the kids, too.

GAIETY: That's true. But a lot of wimmin are trying to fight that kind of discrimination.

LINDA: Well, we can't do that.

GAIETY: Are either of you involved in the wimmin's movement?

LINDA: No. We're not like you. We can't afford to make trouble.

GAIETY: You're helping make things better for everybody right now, and I appreciate it. Could you tell me about a typical day perhaps? A regular workday.

CAROL: We have to get up pretty early. The kids have to get out and catch the buses.

GAIETY: Could we get some more information about them?

CAROL: Well, my two are Roger and Lynn. He's nine and she's seven. They're good kids.

(Continued on page 11)

Gay Protest Planned At Democratic Convention

A demonstration calling for the repeal of all consensual sodomy laws and the passage of gay rights legislation is planned for Sunday, July 11, at Madison Square Garden, site of the 1976 Democratic National Convention. Spearheading the plans for the mass march and rally is the New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations (NYSCOGO).

"In light of the recent US Supreme Court decision (John Doe et. al. vs. Commonwealth State of Virginia) in which the Virginia state sodomy laws were upheld," a NYSCOGO spokesman is quoted as saying, "it

is essential that the gay community present a unified, non-violent, militant presence on July 11 in order to firmly impress gay issues upon the consciousness of American politics.

"This year the news media of the globe will be witness to thousands of proud and defiant gay people affirming their human rights and the joy of their lifestyle. The political impact upon the conscience of the American people will be maximized by a massive gay presence at convention time."

TIME FOR UNITY

"The time has come for concerned lesbians and gay men to join in solid unity behind the NYSCOGO demands in order to demonstrate our determination to take the struggle for gay liberation out of the hands of apathetic legislators, and lay our case before the people," the spokesman continued.

A similar demonstration is being planned for the Republican Convention in Kansas City.



Metropolitan Community Church
of Memphis
P. O. Box 4943
Memphis, Tennessee 38104
Where God Does Not Discriminate

For More Information
Call - 725-4673

City Has Active Gay Lib Group, Bar Scene

Jackson, Mississippi Is Escaping Provincial Past

(Editor's note: GAIETY News Editor, Fred Harris, recently traveled to Jackson, Mississippi and visited at length with Mississippi Gay Alliance Secretary Eddie Sandifer. This article is based on information obtained from Sandifer and from other sources.)

by Fred Harris

For some Memphians, Jackson, Mississippi is little more than a gas stop on the road to New Orleans. Others dismiss it as a sleepy, unexciting relic of a Mississippi childhood.

A closer look at Jackson reveals it to be a lively little city with a flourishing gay scene all its own.

As the capital and largest city of Mississippi, Jackson has been a gathering place for the state's homosexuals for many years. For the last thirty years, says longtime resident Eddie Sandifer, it has had gay or "mixed" bars to serve them.

One of the earliest gay bars in Jackson was the Tropic Lounge. Located downtown at the corner of Pearl and Lamar, it had a big curved bar and, according to Sandifer, "was well known all over the United States." It opened in the 1940s and closed about 1952 or 1953.

After the Tropic Lounge's demise, gay people went to the Cellar, located downtown on Pascagoula Street near the police station.

In the late 1950s, establishments popular with gays included Pete's Lounge and the Hitching Post. Pete's had a uniformed guard at the door and strangers had to know a regular customer to be admitted. The Hitching Post was a truck stop on Highway 80, Sandifer said, and was frequented largely by lesbians.

A popular gay nightspot during the early and mid-1960s was the Sportsman's Lounge. It was initially located on Mayes Street north of the Medical Center, but later moved to an ante-bellum house on McDowell Road in south Jackson. The old home eventually burned.

The mid 1960s saw the opening of the Rain Check Lounge. Located in northwest Jackson at 1905 Northside Drive, it was run by a straight woman named Doris and her sister. It was popular with both men and women. The Rain Check had more-or-less regular dancing, a first for Jackson, but since this didn't have official city approval, there was a flashing light system to warn of approaching authorities.

The Rain Check Lounge was Jackson's only gay bar for some seven years during the late sixties and early seventies. It finally closed in late 1972 after the opening of a new club, Mae's Cabaret, earlier that year.

First Legal Dancing

Mae's Cabaret was the first gay bar in Jackson to have officially sanctioned dancing. Owned by Jack Myers (a cousin of Memphis' Rain Check II co-owner Mike Myers) it was located for about six months on Highway 49 in northeast Jackson. In April of 1973, however, it moved to 102 South Parish in downtown Jackson, where it is today.

During the mid-1970s, two other gay bars existed briefly in Jackson. One of these, the Black Lantern, opened in early 1974 and was located downtown on Pascagoula Street. It couldn't attract sufficient business and later became a straight black bar. Another dance bar called Foley's opened in early 1975, Sandifer says, but closed after about eight months. Currently, Mae's Cabaret is the city's only all gay establishment.

Finally, Jackson has several popular outdoor cruising places. A favorite for many years has been Smith Park, located in downtown Jackson behind the governor's mansion.

Gay Organizations

Organized gay activism is a relatively recent development in Jackson. The city's only group, the Jackson chapter of the Mississippi Gay Alliance (MGA) was formed in February of 1974. In the following months, however, it has firmly established itself in the capital city and become involved in a variety of activities.

The Jackson MGA chapter was initially called Gay Liberation of Mississippi, Sandifer said. After learning about the Mississippi Gay Alliance group in Starkville which had been formed a year earlier, it decided to merge with it and become the Jackson chapter of a new statewide organization.

Presently, the Jackson MGA chapter has about 16 dues paying members, Sandifer says. Most of these are white and male, but efforts are being made to recruit more women and blacks.

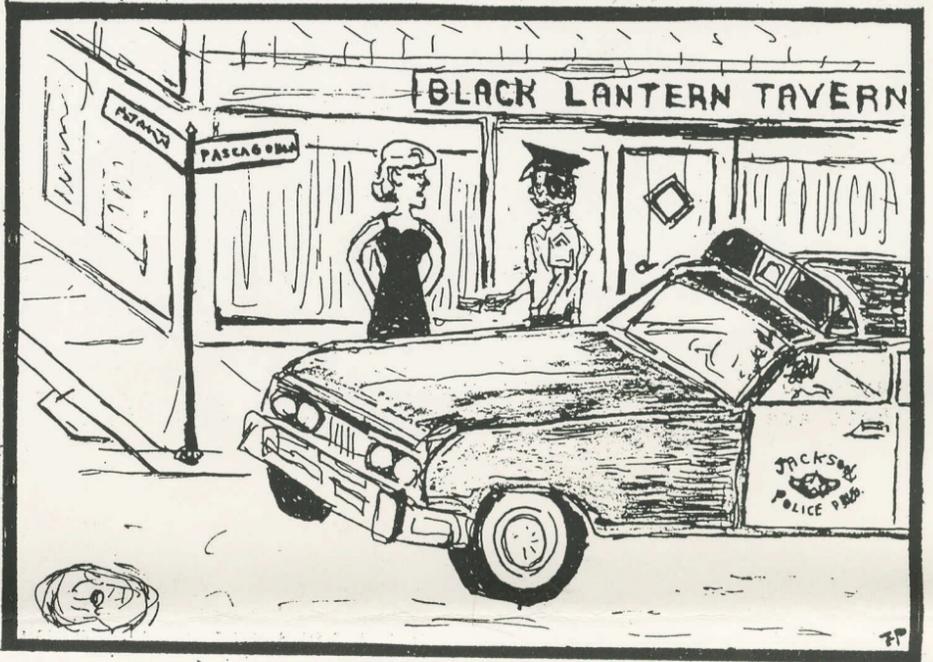
Straight response to the Alliance has been surprisingly good, says Sandifer. Most governmental and social service agencies have been co-operative with the group and the Jackson Clarion Ledger and other local papers have carried

almost all of the Alliance's news releases. "No one ever thought that would happen," Sandifer states.

Among the Jackson chapter's projects are the publication of the monthly MGA newsletter, informational brochures, and the printing and sale of Mississippi Gay Alliance tee-shirts. The group is also involved in setting up a gay crisis and information hotline.

While the MGA is Jackson's first successful gay organization, it is not the first effort at homosexual activism there. As far back as 1958, says Sandifer, he attempted to start a Jackson chapter of the New York based Mattachine Society. Absolutely no one was interested in the idea then and many people were terrified at the thought.

There are presently no lesbian organizations in Jackson, Sandifer says, but several gay women belong to the Jackson Women's Coalition and have input there. Also two local gay women publish a monthly mimeographed newsletter called Lesbian Front, which reprints articles from lesbian and feminist publications around the country.



Besides the activist MGA chapter, Jackson has a couple of gay social organizations. These include a Jackson chapter of the Celtics, a Mississippi Gulf Coast motorcycle club, and an organization of female impersonation devotees. The Celtics chapter holds regular "bike runs," while the drag enthusiasts help sponsor annual "Miss Gay Jackson" and "Miss Gay Mississippi" pageants.

Police-Gay Relations

Relations between homosexuals and the Jackson police department are reasonably amicable, Sandifer says. "There isn't all that much harrassment now in the city." In the past, however, problems have arisen and needed to be dealt with.

One source of friction in the early 1970s centered around drag shows, Sandifer said. This came to a head when vice squad officers stopped a performance. Following that incident, representatives of the gay community met with city legal officers.

After some hesitation, the city admitted that the police had been wrong in stopping the performance. Jackson ordinances did not prohibit cross-dressing per se, they said, but rather "female impersonation to penetrate places where only women could go," (i.e. women's restrooms). In other words, Jackson drag queens could legally perform in the bars but had to use men's restrooms during breaks.

After the drag show squabble was settled, another controversy arose over alleged street solicitations. Jackson police claimed that drag queens were soliciting passerby whistling at them. Several were arrested on prostitution charges.

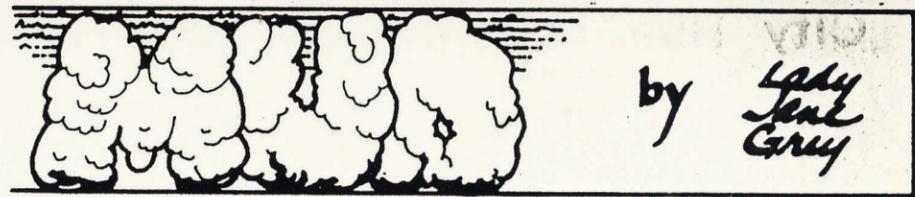
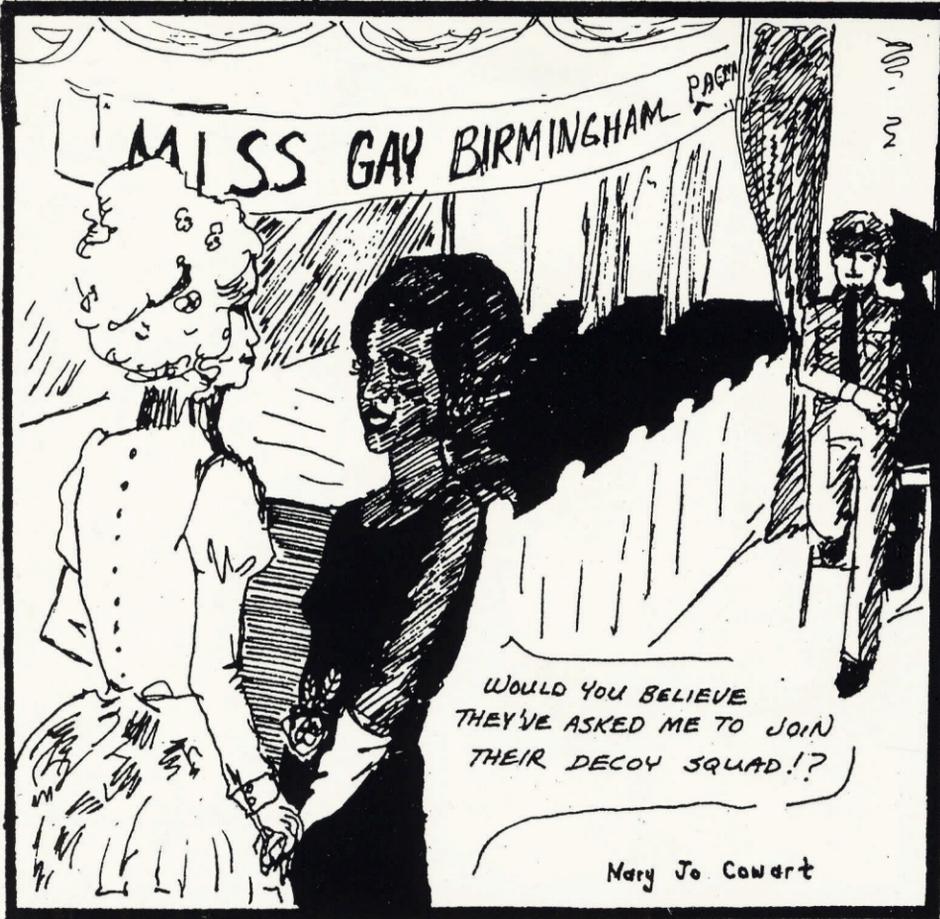
These arrests led to more meetings with city officials, Sandifer said. It was ultimately decided that the impersonators could appear on the streets as long as they didn't solicit pedestrians or motorists.

The most recent police-gay confrontation occurred in late 1975 following harrassment in Smith Park, Sandifer said. At night, cops asked gays for I. D. and then said to leave the "closed" park by a certain time, often immediately. Otherwise they would be liable to "loitering" charges.

When the Alliance investigated the situation, they found that there was no ordinance saying when the park closed. Furthermore, the laws against "loitering" had recently been struck down by the U. S. Supreme Court as unconstitutional.

With these facts in hand, MGA president Sandifer consulted with a local ACLU lawyer to see what could be done. The

(Continued on page 12)



A FAREWELL TO ARMS

1. Your idea of a fun evening is to:
 - A. Grab a cab and cruise the Mid South Mall.
 - B. Jump into a souped up Jaguar replete with driver off to the Four Flames for barbequed oysters, then to the wrestling matches.
 - C. Hash over old times with the girls.
 - D. Seduce a delivery boy.
2. Your idea of a well heeled man is:
 - A. Patent leather pumps.
 - B. Gucci's.
 - C. Cowboy boots.
 - D. Tennis shoes, Converse, of course.
3. A tall, dark, handsome stranger peers shyly at you across the bar, you would:
 - A. Let him take the initiative.
 - B. Approach modestly and ask if he's from around here.
 - C. Put an ad in GAIETY.
 - D. Accuse him of spilling your beer.
4. You see someone in a bar that you have been intimate with. You promised to call, but never did, in fact, you don't even remember his name. He is headed toward you, you would:
 - A. Go to the jon.
 - B. Pretend you have a twin.
 - C. Grab him in the crotch.
 - D. Tell him you have V.D.
5. Your favorite date is:
 - A. Older, graying around the temples, businessman, happily married, two children. He has a station wagon at his disposal Wednesdays and Saturdays.
 - B. A chicken.
 - C. Colored.
 - D. You'd rather be alone.
6. On Sunday, you prefer to:
 - A. Go to church.
 - B. Go to the Font Page.
 - C. Go to George's.
 - D. Bicycle to the country.
7. Your lover is supposed to be having his hair styled, but you see him compromising himself in the company of another. He doesn't see you. You would:
 - A. Smile bravely while leaving through the back door.
 - B. Eat rat poison.
 - C. Try to pick up your lover's friend.
 - D. Ignore it. And your ex.
8. At the annual family picnic, Aunt Sadie asks why you're not married, you would:
 - A. Tell the old bag it's none of her business.
 - B. Light up another Virginia Slim.
 - C. Tell her that you were engaged, but that she had run away with your best friend, and that you aren't over it yet.
 - D. Introduce her to your roommate.
9. The quality you admire most in others is:
 - A. Independence.
 - B. Dependence
 - C. Sense of humor.
 - D. A useable body.
10. Your favorite writer is:
 - A. Homer.
 - B. Jaqueline Susann.
 - C. Lady Jane Grey.
 - D. Mary Roberts Rhineheart.

Birmingham Police Lodge 'Hosts' Gays & Drag Show

Memphians who think it ironic that local gay pageants are held at the hall of the conservative American Legion will find the situation in Birmingham, Alabama even more improbable.

There, gay parties and drag contests are held at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge. What's more, uniformed police stand guard at the door, checking off the names of invited guests.

According to a report in the Atlanta Barb, the owner of the Gizmo, a Birmingham gay bar, recently rented the F. O. P. Lodge there for a large, invitation-only party. The affair was a smashing success and the only awkward moment came when one guest asked a policeman for a "bathroom pass." It seemed that a practical joker friend had told him that gays needed special permission to use the police lodge toilets.

The amused cop informed him that he didn't have to obtain permission to go to the men's room.

The party went so well for **Buddy Haynes Hospitalized At Wm. Bowld**

Buddy Haynes, GAIETY staff member and featured performer at BJ's Cabaret, was hospitalized May sixth with acute pneumonia and an enlarged heart.

After several days in intensive care, he is now in Room 203, coronary care unit at William F. Bowld Hospital and may receive visitors between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

He can also receive telephone calls at 528-7203. (before 9 p.m.)

all concerned that the lodge management rented the facility for gays to use again, this time for the "Miss Gay Birmingham Contest."

Only a few years ago, Birmingham was the scene of considerable police harassment of the gay community. In the words of Bob Dylan, as quoted by the Barb, "The times, they are a changing."

SWAMPTRASH

by Rona Baresit

This month's column is dedicated to all the mothers who read this kind of garbage, especially the low-life s.o.b. who ripped me off for two bottles of poppers at my own party.

This has been a very good month for me. I had a fantastic time at the Cotton Carnival. As a matter of fact, so did everyone on the "Super-Matterhorn" when that whole bottle of poppers spilled at 60 miles per hour! Jae Jae, I promise I won't tell Chuck what that man told you when he saw you in my lap on the "Swiss Bob"!

Next, I wish to thank Ray Jean for buying me all those drinks at the Psych Out and to Richard who set up the table. By the way, Ray Jean, I think Chuck has excellent taste in liquor, don't you? How appropriate that the "Captain" should get us drunk as fish!

Congratulations to Frank & Billy Jo for putting a lot of the busy-bodies in this town in their proper place. More power to you! I'll keep spreading the word ... and if they want it, they can have

it YOUR WAY.

The TOM Ball was a smashing success ... everyone was smashed. So much so that no one even missed Phyllis. Really dear, the flowers were sweet, but there wasn't much left after the bomb squad got finished with them. I hope you and Mickey Mouse had a good time in New Orleans. Did you tell Miss Harrison what a stroke of genius that T-shirt was? Speaking of that, David, you ought to go dancing with your husband..he's fantastic.

Congratulations to the Lady Jane Grey for her exquisite costume!

My compliments this month to the Movie House on Poplar. Never in Memphis gay history do I ever recall seeing as many queens out in public, so sober, so early, and ALL having a good time as I did the opening night of "Saturday Night at the Baths."

That's it for now, girls. Look for Rona at the Apollo Party in Biloxi on the 4th of July. Anywhere there's dirt being thrown, Rona will be there to catch it, and you'll read it in SWAMPTRASH.

Coming next month: the dirt on not one, but two new bars opening in Big M.

To figure your score, give fifteen points for every D, ten points for every C, and five points for every B. Just forget about the As ... they don't count. Now add it up.

0-25: You are a very silly person, crying at Joni Mitchell concerts. You don't like men, but the idea intrigues you. A seeker after security, you demand domination by default.

26-75: You are one of Memphis' "Beautiful People". Loud noise distracts you; crowds protect you. You fantasize about a waiter at Friday's, but settle for a prematurely bald parking lot attendant.

76-115: Nothing pleases you more than to curl up all by your lonesome with a good book. You are very open minded about literature...an amateur art buff...mostly photographs. You are always the smartest person in whatever bar you happen to be in.

116-150: You are very belligerent and offend everyone within a fifty mile radius. You want a dog collar like Juicie's, but she won't tell you where she got it.

Lesbian Mothers Experience Isolation in Suburban Lifestyle

(Continued from page 8)

LINDA: My little girl, Jackie is ten and David is seven, too.

GAIETY: How did you go about disciplining them? Do they accept both of you as parent figures?

CAROL: Mostly yes. But I can't make Jackie mind sometimes, I guess because she's the oldest.

LINDA: About getting up and all, we don't have many problems there. The kids know how to take care of themselves. We have to get ready for work, and we can't really help them all that much.

CAROL: So we all get off to work and school.

LINDA: I get home not long



after the kids do. Then we have supper and do some housework and watch TV usually. We have to save the big things, like shopping, for Saturday. We keep pretty busy.

GAIETY: Where are the children now?

LINDA: They're at church. They have buses, you know, that come for the kids. They spend half their time riding buses.

GAIETY: Do you go to church?

CAROL: No, we were both raised to, though.

GAIETY: Is there any reason why you don't now?

LINDA: Well, it gives us some time together, and I guess we don't feel right going somehow.

GAIETY: Because of Christian prejudice towards gays?

LINDA: I wouldn't put it that way, but I guess that's part of it.

GAIETY: Did you know that there's a gay church in Memphis?

LINDA: We couldn't go to it.

GAIETY: Do you ever go to the gay bars?

LINDA: No, we don't drink much, and we barely make ends meet as it is. Anyway, we have our jobs to think of.

CAROL: I went once, right

after I got divorced. It was so funny, I mean strange. Scary in a way, too.

GAIETY: Both of you have been married. Will you tell me about that?

LINDA: It was what you usually did. And I thought I loved him. I'm glad I've got the kids.

CAROL: Me, I had to get married, know what I mean? I was real young and I guess I didn't know any better.

GAIETY: Do either of you expect to become involved with men again?

LINDA: No. We've got our problems, but I love Carol.

CAROL: And I love Linda/ I hate having to wait on men when I work. Sometimes I think that's all I've ever done in my whole life.

GAIETY: How do you feel about your children growing up gay?

LINDA: I hope they won't.

GAIETY: Why?

LINDA: People don't accept us.

CAROL: Well, I wouldn't want Roger to, but I don't think I'd care if Lynn did. At least she wouldn't make the mistakes I did.

GAIETY: You say you don't have any connection with either the wimmin's movement or the gay community. Is that correct? How do you feel about these things?

LINDA: I do my job and I'm raising these kids.

CAROL: Maybe some day things will be better. I hope so anyway. I'd like to know more about some of the things that go on.

LINDA: I'm glad we don't have to worry much about getting our kids taken away.

GAIETY: As long as you're quiet...

LINDA: It's worth it.

GAIETY: You seem to have a stable relationship that you're both happy in. Do you think of yourselves as lesbians, gay wimmin, homosexual wimmin, or what?

LINDA: I don't really like those words.

CAROL: We're just wimmin who love each other.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: I will not be bound by patriarchal spelling. I am a woman. We are wimmin.

SCORE BOARD

ARE YOU REALLY TIRED, RAY JEAN?

TO NEW ORLEANS: Billy, is it true you're taking home the meat for the lion?" (RD)

ROWENA, Is it true that you're an ex-queen of Apollo?

PUBLIC NOTICE:
We're still going strong after three years.
Terry and Dana Lee

Michelle: Is it true they had to pump your stomach three times during Mardi Gras. (P.S. The Loft telephones the Front Page Daily.)

Jimmy M., I do love you. D.R.

Is it true that Weight Watchers has Sharon Wray on five minnows a day?

Dee Dyke says: Everything Phyllis does has more class.. resignations, etc.

Gay Is Good, Says Mead

Homosexuality is a "perfectly good choice" for some people, anthropologist Margaret Mead said in a recent speech at the Washington Press Club.

"I think that extreme heterosexuality is a perversion," Dr. Mead added, the Advocate reports. She said that homosexuality appears to be increasing because "we decided we don't want so many children."

Barbara, we have got to stop meeting like this at Jacies. We do live together, you know, and Miss White is getting jealous. -Rose

Juicie said Mickey Mouse did it to her.

TO TRG: My first, my last, my everything. All my love, Dana Lee. Happy Anniversary.

Barbara, Pay me NOW! -Rose

The Apollo minutes show someone was missing from the "Movies." Miss P.

If one is without talent, one may run to the nearest dry well, simply because it's a well.

Is it true that Alan (you know who I mean) is forever blowing bubbles?

Sandy Dale: We miss you, come back!

Put a little Gaiety in GAIETY

SAM

You should have seen four quens in a blue pick up truck moving Gary's piano. Gary kept playing at the stoplights, the song? "Butch for a day." You silly things.

Phyllis - that's alright if it's solid gold.)

5/2/76. I was assaulted today for being a member.

GET WELL BUDDY!
the GAIETY staff.

CHRIS: NEXT TIME FOR SURE!!!! PROMISE! Get well soon. Gary.

Catholic? Concerned? Want to know more? Write DIGNITY --a national organization of gay and concerned people. Write: DIGNITY, 755 Boylston St., Room 514, Boston, MA 02116.

Lesbians of Memphis: Your Apathy is Appalling; Let's get organized. a sister.

WANTED TO BUY: One way ticket to Whileaway. L-F science-fiction fans, can we get something going as an alternative to the sexist SFC?

MARTHA, c/o
GAIETY

I OWE YOU

NAME: Rose
THE SUM OF: 219.21 plus utilities and phone bill (approx. \$100.) signed: barbara pierce

Rik - You're a nice guy! (Even if your name is spelled a little queer.)

Phyllis wouldn't hurt a fly ...unless it was open.

Is it true Rose has moved Barbara to the Skyline?

I want to thank all my friends for the phone calls, visits, cards, etc. I received during the time I was in the hospital recently. It's times like these you really find out who your friends are. love, cass

VOTE FOR CORNELIA
CRENSHAW
COUNTY COURT
FEARLESS & FORWARD
THIS AD PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF CORNELIA CRENSHAW

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST
GAY CAUCUS
contact people:
MARTHA BRUMMETT
1948 CARR AVE.
MEMPHIS TN 38104
274-6267
JOHN SCHEBORA
99 N. MAIN ST. APT. 1307
MEMPHIS, TN 38103
525-5554

Prominent Jacksonian Slain

Mississippi Capital Jolted By Gay Murder, Trial

(Continued from page 9)

lawyer advised that a pre-announced open protest against the illegal harrasment would be most effective.

Accordingly, Sandifer called police headquarters the next Saturday and said that he, as a member of the MGA, would be in Smith Park at 10 that night to protest harrasment of homosexuals there.

At first the desk sergeant was dumbfounded by this announcement, Sandifer said. "Why you can't do that," he exclaimed. "I used to chase queers out of Smith Park myself years ago." When Sandifer told him there was no law giving police that authority, the sergeant looked at the city code and finally admitted that he couldn't find a law against it either.

Sandifer then repeated the time of his protest and added that if he were arrested, he would file suit for false arrest Monday morning.

Promptly at 10 p.m., Sandifer arrived at the park to begin his protest. At first he said he was alone, but as time passed, additional MGA members joined him. Before the night was over, a total of fourteen people had come to the park to participate in the vigil.

A bail bondsman had been lined up in case of arrests, Sandifer said, but this turned out not to be necessary. Members of the vice squad showed up, but simply watched awhile from their cars and then drove off.

Following that all-night demonstration, harrasment at Smith Park dropped off to the point of becoming practically non-existent, Sandifer says. Police officials later told him that the harassing cops had been "bad eggs" acting on their own and were not carrying out official police orders.

The Frank Hains Murder

A prime discussion topic of Jackson gays during recent months has been the murder of Jackson Daily News arts editor Frank Hains, 49. Hains, who was well known in both the gay and straight communities, was found murdered in his home on July 13, 1975. His hands had been bound behind his nude body with neckties and he had been killed by repeated blows to the head with a blunt instrument.

Six days later, a 25 year old unemployed janitor named Larry Bullock was arrested in New Orleans and charged with the slaying. On February 19, 1976, he was formally tried for homicide in the Hinds County Circuit Court.

During the pre-trial jury selection, each candidate was asked if he or she could judge fairly in a case where the victim was a homosexual. Every prospective juror said that he or she could, the Clarion Ledger reported.

Bullock's court-appointed defense attorney, Sebastian Moore, claimed that Hains was a promiscuous homosexual with many male acquaintances who could have killed him. To "prove" this, he tried to have admitted as evidence a trunk found in Hain's home containing pornographic homosexual magazines, address books and letters.

Special prosecutor Tom Royals asked that this and other material alluding to homosexuality be banned from the trial. It was irrelevant to the case, he said, and would only inflame the jury.

Judge Russel Moore III initially agreed with the prosecution and refused to admit the material. Hains' alleged sexual preferences were not a central issue, he said. After the defense attorney insisted the pornography was vital to his case, however, the Judge reluctantly admitted it as evidence.

Defense attorney Moore then passed the homosexual pornographic magazines to the largely female jury to inspect, the Clarion Ledger said. "I'm not enjoying this, ma'am," he told one woman as he handed her a stack of material.

The Witnesses

Several witnesses testified for the state against Bullock, the Clarion Ledger accounts reported. The first was Kevin Sessums, a 19 year old youth who had been living with Hains when the murder occurred. Sessums described how he had found Haines lying face down on his bed in a pool of blood.

When asked if Haines was a homosexual, Sessums said, "Yes, I believe he was."

Also testifying were two acquaintances of Bullock, George "Tangle Eye" Lamb, 24, and Michael Bradley, 20. Both said that they knew Bullock and had visited Hains at his home with the accused murderer. Lamb testified that on July 14, Bullock told him that he had killed "Mr. Frank Hains" and had to get out of town.

Bradley, who had been in the Hinds County Jail with Bullock after his arrest, said that Bullock had told him on January 25, 1976 that he had killed Frank Hains with a crowbar.

A third witness, Patsy Warren, said that Bullock had come to her home the night after the murder and told her he had to leave town quickly. He wanted to know whether Memphis or New Orleans was closer. Bullock had earlier told her that he disliked "queers," she said, and would like to "bash their heads in."

A Jackson policeman testified that Bullock had told him that he had been with Hains on the day of the murder.

A major piece of physical evidence were two comic books found at the murder scene. These had Bullock's fingerprints on them. His thumbprint was also on a piece of theatre literature found lying near Hains' body.

During the closing arguments, defense attorney Moore repeatedly emphasized the victim's alleged sexual promiscuity and asked the jury to consider the pornographic materials in the trunk.

Hinds County District Attorney Ed. Peters countered by asking the jury to "think of the evidence and not of the pornography." Assistant Special Prosecutor Royals told them, "Try the correct issue. Don't try Frank Hains; he's already been executed."

Larry Bullock was found guilty as charged by the five-man, seven woman jury after less than a day's deliberation. He was sentenced to life in prison.

"A Pleasant Surprise"

Gay Jacksonians will readily concede that their city is no paradise for homosexuals. Conservative attitudes remain, and there is plenty of room for improvement in gay-straight relations. The standard small city complaint is also heard: "There aren't enough places to go and things to do."

Still, Jackson is a notably up-to-date southern city where gay people are concerned. Persons expecting an oppressive redneck environment are in for a pleasant surprise. Though small in population, the Mississippi capitol is at least as progressive as some of its larger, supposedly more sophisticated neighbors.

So when someone tells you that, like Johnny Cash, he's "goin' to Jackson," don't extend your sympathy. Instead, you might consider joining him to enjoy some gay hospitality, Mississippi style.

FRONT PAGE



What's going on?

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