

GAIETY

50¢

... reflecting gay life in the south

Vol. II No. 2

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August, 1976



Gay Pride Picnic

A picnic to celebrate Gay Pride Week was held June 27 at Audubon Park. The crowd numbered about 35 persons at it's largest, with people coming and going from noon until 3 p.m. Both sexes and all segments of the gay community attended.

Spirits were up despite the relatively poor attendance and the hot, muggy weather. Everyone brought their own lunch and musical entertainment was impromptu. Two lovely Italian Greyhounds circulated about the group making friends and sharing lunch.

The picnic attracted little outside attention despite a lambda banner prominently displayed. Buttons with gay related messages were sold and received with enthusiasm.

Though not at all comparable to the marches in Atlanta, New York, and other cities, the picnic was the first organized attempt by the gay community to celebrate Gay Pride Week in Memphis.

Lesbian Lifestyle Unacceptable — N.O.W. Leaves

The Memphis chapter of the National Organization of Women will no longer meet at the First Presbyterian Church. The decision was made because the church barred the NOW Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force from meeting there. NOW has previously held all of its meetings at the downtown church.

At the July NOW board meeting it was decided that if the S&L Task Force could not meet at the church none of NOW's meetings would be held there. The next day NOW chapter president Julia Howell and vice-president Holly Peters met with church leaders who had requested an appointment.

The church stated that

Women's Dance

The NOW Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force sponsored a women's dance on June 26 at the Newman Foundation. The dance was attended by about fifty women, including some women from Louisville who were visiting and happened to see a poster.

Even though the live entertainment by Indigo was cancelled at the last minute, the records and tapes supplied by the Task Force women provided excellent lesbian and feminist atmosphere and fine disco dance music.

Beer, soft drinks and a varied selection of foodstuffs were available. The atmosphere was pleasant and relaxed--lots of talking and dancing.

The endeavor was such a success that another women's party has been scheduled for August 7, at 8 p.m. at 1116 N. Parkway. For further information call NOW at 276-8878 or Pat at 393-8742 after 5 p.m.

some of the Task Force goals are incompatible with theological position of the United Presbyterian Church. They were upset that the Task Force suggests that a homosexual lifestyle is a valid choice.

Officials stated that the Presbyterian Church supports 90 per cent of NOW's goals. Ms. Peters questioned how they could support feminism without recognizing a woman's right to choose her own lifestyle. The Clerk of Sessions stated that they had prayed and thought a lot about it, but felt they should bar the S&L Task Force from meeting at the church. Ms. Howell informed them that NOW would no longer meet there if the Task Force were asked to

Vaughan Sent to Penal Farm

John A. Vaughan, former owner of the Psych Out, the Closet, and the Tango Palace, was jailed July 30 on a conviction of a felony: tapping an electric line. The action was taken after a motion for suspended sentence was denied by Judge Bernie Weinman.

Vaughan was convicted by a Criminal Court jury on May 20 of tapping the lines of Mem-

McDermott, Cheatham

Grand Jury Action Likely

Charges against Austin McDermott and Alan Cheatham stemming from the January 6 burning of the Rain Check Lounge are expected to reach the Shelby County Grand Jury within days.

McDermott and Cheatham were bound over to the grand jury on April 7 when a preliminary hearing in city court found "probable cause."

William Gross, arson squad investigator, stated that a backlog of cases over the summer had delayed action until now. In a related matter, rumors circulating about a new bar being constructed at the 38 South Willett are groundless at this time. The city has issued no building permit for the location. This permit is necessary for any reconstruction to begin. Some clean-up has been completed by the owners, however, and doors and windows have been blocked to prevent entry into the unsafe structure.

N.O.W. Leaves

leave. She added that she regretted that the Presbyterian Church did not believe in equal rights for everyone.

The church, apparently unused to the concept of solidarity, expressed surprise at NOW's stand. They emphasized that the S&L Task Force was to hold no more meetings in the church. Ms. Howell informed them NOW would be out by September 15 or sooner, contingent upon finding a new meeting place.

The controversy was precipitated by a church staff member finding a bibliography on women's sexuality, compiled by the Task Force in 1975, in the women's rest room. One church leader protested, "What if a member of the congregation had found it?"

phis Light, Gas and Water on three separate occasions to provide electricity for the Tango Palace, last September. MLGW had disconnected service because of an unpaid bill.

In the recent action, Vaughan's attorney, H. Wallace Maroney, asked the court to suspend the thirty day sentence. Maroney pointed out that Vaughan had lost his business, auto and source of income as a result of the litigation. Maroney suggested that the defendant had been sufficiently punished. He stated that Vaughan would be willing to "get out of the bar business" and take a "regular job" if the court would suspend his sentence.

Attorney General Harris, representing the prosecution, attacked Vaughan's prior record, including charges of operating the Tango Palace for three months without a valid beer permit.

Vaughan responded that he had been forced to open and operate without a license because doing so was the only way he could raise capital to pay back taxes and free his beer permit. He stated that he had entered the bar business with his mother originally, and that her death had left him with "extreme financial problems."

Arguing for a suspended sentence, Maroney stated that Vaughan had already been jailed in connection with the case and suggested that probation would provide a chance for the court to "rehabilitate" Vaughan.

Harris responded that in view of the defendant's previous arrest record, it would seem that a more stringent punishment was necessary. Harris commented that Vaughan did not exhibit a "penitent heart" and wondered if the court could expect him to respect the wishes of a probation officer.

Ruling on the motion, Judge Weinman described his impression of Vaughan as a man who would do whatever he thought best, regardless of the consequences. Weinman stated that he saw no value to probation in this case and denied the petition.

Vaughan was transported to the Penal Farm to serve the twenty-nine days remaining in his sentence. That is likely to be shortened to twenty days with good behavior.

At Democratic Convention —

Rights Plank Defeated, Gay Caucus Formed

Although gay rights will not be a part of the platform, there were concrete accomplishments by gays at the convention. Gay rights resolutions brought to the Democratic National Convention by the National Gay Task Force were passed by the Women's Caucus and the Youth Caucus. The Women's Caucus adopted the resolution unanimously. It was the first time in history that a Gay Rights Support Caucus was formed within the Democratic Party. Also, close to 600 convention delegates signed an NGTF petition in support of gay rights.

Delegates Encounter Gays

Communications Center Director Virginia Apuzzo noted that "there was not a delegate to the Convention who did not encounter gay people...lobbying for their rights. And as a result, the gay issues were being discussed." Jean O'Leary, NGTF Co-Executive Director, stated that

West Virginia, Iowa

Repeal Sodomy Laws

Two states, Iowa and West Virginia have repealed their sodomy laws since the Supreme Court's decision denying a challenge to Virginia's sodomy statute. It had been feared that the Supreme Court decision would influence states to keep present laws in effect.

The recent addition of Iowa and West Virginia brings the number of states that have no restrictions on consensual sex acts to 17. The figure represents one third of the nation's population. Most other states have sodomy-repeal legislation pending, and legal challenges to these laws continue nationwide.

Most legal experts do not consider the Supreme Court decision in the Virginia case as a definitive statement on the issue. Failure to issue written opinion on a particular case has often been a sign that the court was reserving judgement on the matter for a later date.

Thus far national attention has been given to the West Virginia and Iowa repeals which continue a major nationwide trend against present sodomy laws.

"we've mustered enough support from Democratic Committeepople to ensure that the Gay Rights Support Caucus will be a continuing element within the Party.

Repeated attempts by gay groups to persuade the Democratic Party Platform Committee to include a position on gay rights in their statement of election year principles have failed. In the name of party unity the committee voted against including gay rights in the platform by a vote of 57-27 on June 22.

"whipped into line"

Jean O'Leary, who led the fight for the gay rights plank, told Boston's Gay Community News that "everybody was whipped into line" by the Carter organization. It is unclear whether Carter himself or the platform committee manager, Stuart Eizenstadt, is responsible for the defeat.

Carter allegedly told two prominent Democratic Party women that he agreed with their request to delete the gay rights plank. But Eizenstadt said although Carter supported the plank he had persuaded Carter to withdraw support of it.

The gay plank dealt with a wide range of issues including repeal of sodomy laws, employment and housing protection, tax inequities, lesbian mothers, and gays in the military. The issue was voted on nine times at platform sessions. Despite strong support from Rep. Bella Abzug and others, one Carter supporter said, "we don't need their claptrap in the platform. This is an issue that will draw the focus of the cameras."

One Carter aide said "We want to avoid floor fights. We wanted to come out of the platform and the convention as a stronger party. It definitely wasn't a question of slighting gay people."

Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force commented, "we worked hard, we testified at regional hearings of the platform committee, we did everything we could do. But we got the shaft, there's no question about it."

Outside the Convention —

Gays March, Demonstrate for Rights

More than 1,000 lesbians and gay men converged near Madison Square Garden on July 11 to demand repeal of sodomy laws and passage of gay civil rights legislation. The march was sponsored by the New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations, who called it "the largest strictly political demonstration in gay liberation history." The march coincided with the Democratic National Convention and was the start of four days of gay demonstrations.

The march was lively but peaceful. According to the Gay Community News, "Jesus freaks" shouted religious warnings at the protestors and a large contingent of police followed the march for the entire route.

Fiery speeches representing different points of view were featured at the subsequent rally. Flo Kennedy, political leftist, attacked

Stonewall Rally Cry:

'We Are Everywhere'

The site of the Stonewall Inn, birthplace of the modern Gay Liberation movement, filled with about 10,000 people for the start of New York's seventh successful gay pride march. Difficulties encountered in the planning were forgotten in the heat and festival-like atmosphere. Lesbian and gay groups of all political persuasions were present as well as individuals representative of all gay lifestyles.

Rita Mae Brown, author and keynote speaker at the rally which followed, stated, "We are everywhere, we're the true melting pot." "The experience of being gay in America has given us a tremendous psychological and political advantage in understanding the problems that face all minority groups, but we must use that advantage," Brown said. She added, "...we must all hang together or we shall all hang separately."

A moving telegram from Hollywood was read to the crowd. "Things are always darkest just before the dawn," signed 'Lily Tomlin.' An enormous cheer rose from the crowd.

Dave Dellinger, anti-war activist and Chicago Eight defendant stated, "A revolution that fails to embrace gay rights from the beginning will end like all revolutions in which economic and racial oppressions have been overcome, but gay oppression remains."

Also speaking were Troy Perry, founder of MCC, Jean O'Leary, delegate to the Democratic Convention; and several singers.

the apathy of the group. She declared that "it's time to bring socialism and communism out of the closet." "I've come to ask you to join a coalition with Blacks and Native Americans," Kennedy said. "It's time to stop sucking and start biting. Sucking yourself to success is no way."

NOW spokesperson Kay Whitlock said that "feminists and gays will go hand in hand - we will not be deterred." Rep. Bella Abzug sent a telegram which concluded, "I stand with you, I salute you...together we will win."

Expressing skepticism on alliance with other groups, Gay Activists Alliance President David Thorstad said, "We will never be free if we rely on others to free us." In an impassioned speech he told the crowd, "We must build our own struggle, as we are doing today, and make no concessions to anyone. Kurt Hiller, a hero of the early homosexual rights movement in Germany, said it well in 1921: 'The liberation of homosexuals can only be the work of homosexuals themselves.'"

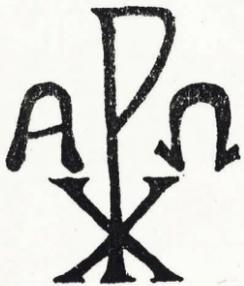
"We're not satisfied with merely being tolerated-though we are not even that yet," Thorstad continued. "We're not satisfied with token gay planks in party platforms - though we did not even get that from the Democratic circus performers who will be showing off across the street...We want a society that will throw all the oppression and garbage of capitalism into the trashcan of history."

Atlanta Names Gay Day 'Decent Citizens' Outraged

Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson's proclamation of June 26 as Gay Pride Day for the city aroused an anonymous group to petition the Fulton County Superior Court to void the Mayor's declaration. The court denied the petition.

Calling itself "Citizens for a Decent Atlanta" the group took out a full page ad in the Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution denouncing the proclamation. They challenged "the right of our Mayor to affix the citizen's seal of approval to a sexual orientation which the majority of his fellow citizens believe to be against the moral law of the Judeo-Christian tradition and the institution of the home."

Despite protests and pressure, Jackson refused to withdraw the proclamation. The gay pride march in Atlanta was a success and received a great deal of media attention.



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A U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. ruled in May that employees who must submit to sexual advances of their bosses are discriminated against and have a right to sue under the Civil Rights Law. The ruling was in favor of a woman petitioner, but not only women have a right to sue. A male may sue a female who makes sexual advances upon him. Anyone subjected to homosexual advances may also sue.

On the other hand, District Judge Charles Ritschey said, if a supervisor were bisexual and made advances to employees of both sexes, that would not constitute discrimination.

Pennsylvania House Condemns Action

Governor Proclaims Gay Pride Week

Pennsylvania Governor, Milton J. Schapp, long-time supporter of gay rights, proclaimed June 12-19 as Gay Pride Week for the entire state. For the first time in any state, all citizens - gay and straight - were to officially celebrate the events growing out of the 1969 Stonewall rebellion in New York. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives, however, passed a resolution June 21 stating it "does not condone" the Governor's declaration.

The Governor's statement, issued June 9, reads:

"Since emerging from anonymity, gay men and women seek equal rights in employment, in housing, and in the law.

"During the week of June 12-19, 1976, they will be celebrating Gay Pride Week in over 100 American cities.

"Gay men and women are determined to develop community integrity, to stand up for their rights, and to encourage their community to take its rightful and responsible place in society, and joining with others in seeking an end to prejudice, persecution and discrimination.

"As governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I hereby express my support for equal right for all minority groups and for all those who seek social justice and dedicate Gay Pride Week to those worthy goals."

Controversy was immediate when the proclamation was printed on the front page of the state capital's Harrisburg Patriot. Virtually every newspaper in the state carried a story about the proclamation. According to the Gay Community News the Governor smiled as he signed the proclamation.

The House has passed anti-gay legislation several times in the past only to have its bills vetoed by

Matlovich Discharge Upheld by Federal Court

Judge Recommends 'New Look' at Gays in Military

Sergeant Leonard Matlovich has lost another round in his battle for reinstatement into the U.S. Air Force. In a July 16 hearing, U. S. District Judge Gerhart Gesell affirmed the discharge given Matlovich last fall for openly admitting his homosexuality.

Citing recent Supreme Court actions upholding sodomy statutes, Judge Gesell said "there is no constitutional right to engage in homosexual activities" and that the court's role in the Matlovich case was narrow. Gesell ruled that the armed services "may establish conduct for acceptable behavior," but he suggested that the military should "re-evaluate and reappraise" their

views on homosexuality.

Matlovich responded that he "absolutely" would appeal the ruling to a higher court. "Judge Gesell has just knocked me to the ground," Matlovich said. "Now I get back on my feet, straighten my shoulders, hold my head high and keep on fighting, for equality."

The case of Matlovich vs. Secretary of the Air Force began on March 6, 1975 at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia. Matlovich hand delivered a letter to his supervising officer voluntarily disclosing his homosexual orientation.

Aware of regulations barring the right of homosexuals to serve in the Air Force, Matlovich requested that he be retained under a little used "exception provision." Having twelve years of "absolutely superior" Airman Performance reports, and being the recipient of a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Commendation medal from three tours in Viet Nam, Matlovich felt that he qualified as an exception.

Six weeks later, Matlovich was advised to seek legal counsel for his discharge. On September 19, after a four day hearing, a three member board issued their recommendation: a general discharge for Sgt. Matlovich.

On October 3, the convening authority approved the discharge, but raised the status to "honorable." On October 21, Matlovich's attorney filed a complaint against the Secretary of the Air Force and requested a temporary restraining order

to prohibit the discharge prior to a final ruling in the case. The request was denied and on October 22, Matlovich was discharged. On February 2, Judge Gesell, noting that the Air Force usually takes up to two years to fully process an appeal, imposed a 90 day limit on the review of Matlovich's case.

The board recommended that the discharge be upheld and on April 27, the Secretary concurred with that recommendation. The Air Force appeals system now exhausted, the case returned to the District Court for further action, resulting in Gesell's recent ruling.

"This is a distressing case... a bad case," Gesell said after issuing his ruling against Matlovich. He said the Air Force and other armed services "might well be advised... to move to a more enlightened policy in light of the more open atmosphere" about the subject of homosexuality. Gesell said it was a "tragedy" to confront such issues in courtrooms, and suggested to the Air Force that it begin an "intensive and immediate study" to see if its policies against homosexuals should be changed.

A "personal impression" of Matlovich published in the Philadelphia Gay News noted that although Matlovich received an honorable discharge, it was not welcome. He is proud of his achievements and proud that he is gay. He believes war is immoral. However, "He does not appear comfortable with his new civilian life," the News states. "He may never be."

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Re-evaluation

Sometimes when you stop to look at "where you're at," you realize that you've forgotten "where you're going." After a year of GAITY, I have had to look carefully at our goals. This newspaper is alive only to serve the needs of the gay community!

GAITY owes its readers a concerted effort to present the news. I hardly expect the Commercial Appeal to inform you of the happenings concerning Sgt. Matlovich or Mary Jo Risher. For most readers, GAITY is the only source of gay news. That means that we have a responsibility to be accurate and complete. Then there's local news. Does Fanfare spotlight the entertainment at George's or the outcome of a pageant like Mr. Rain Check? GAITY does. Nor are you likely to see much in the local straight press about Johnny Vaughan or Austin McDermott. But Gay people are still very interested in these people and their cases.

GAITY owes its readers interesting, pertinent and entertaining features. Where else are you likely to read a review of a current gay novel...in the Sunday Viewpoint? Providing readers with something interesting for everyone is a chore. Gay people are a widely divergent group!

After a year of publication, the tenor of GAITY may be changing a bit. Maybe you'll call it controversial...maybe you'll call it "yellow journalism" as a somewhat emotional "friend" recently did. I prefer to think of the new image of GAITY as striving to fill a niche in our society. To provide unbiased news and features, GAITY must remain independent and not "closely aligned with" any bar, political organization or social club. In fact, if you fit into any of these categories, I'll just about guarantee that there's something in this issue that will offend you.

But as long as GAITY prints the truth, as long as I feel that we have been fair, looked at both sides and offered everyone a chance to respond, it will just have to offend.

- GP

GAY SWITCHBOARD: 726-GAY 7 - 1 NIGHTLY

Social Disease

There is a disease sweeping across the nation. It is reaching epidemic proportions throughout the land with little sign of easing. As observers begin to study this sickness they are hard-pressed to find any common denominator among its victims. For some reason the Gay community-at-large seems to be particularly susceptible. Memphis is just beginning to experience the turmoil this horrible germ creates. If not checked in its earliest stages, the results can be disastrous. The cancer I refer to is **FACTIONALISM**.

Far surpassing apathy in terms of tragic consequences, factionalism rips at the very fabric of our personality. Also known as separatism and a host of other names, the disease makes people of good conscience think they are justified in putting individual priorities ahead of those paramount for the general welfare.

Today in the Memphis area there is a great flow of energy which can be loosely described as "Gay Activism." This force is personified in such collectives as the Metropolitan Community Church, the Queen's Men, Inc., the Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force of NOW, the Gay Student Association, etc. In and of themselves these groups are good and an important part of our Gay lifestyle in Memphis. However, all too frequently derision has victimized the members of these groups, causing them to temporarily forget the main fact of our collective identity: **WE ARE GAY!**

Just as NOW's public service announcements on T.V. urge women to forget their petty grievances and work together for ALL women's rights, so must we in the Gay Community come together and strive for the common good of all our gay brothers and sisters.

We have some very dramatic indications of these problems in Memphis today. The recent conflict within the MCC is but one illustration of the devastating effects of factionalism. Another very dangerous sub-culture coming into focus is the separatist element of the Lesbian-Feminist Movement.

The feminist effort itself in a very commendable and worthwhile undertaking. I heartily endorse the major tenets of their/our struggle for equality. However I vigorously object to the separatists' rejection of all, save that important to themselves.

Separatism was a devisive issue in the fledgling black movement of the 60s and so it will be in today's Gay Awareness campaign if it is not stopped now. The drag queen must accept the disco-darling, who must try to understand the older gay, who must embrace the lesbian, who must, in turn, espouse the cause of similarly enslaved gay males. To do otherwise is to continue giving a sexist heterosexual society the right and opportunity to keep us as second class citizens.

- GS

Sad Alternative

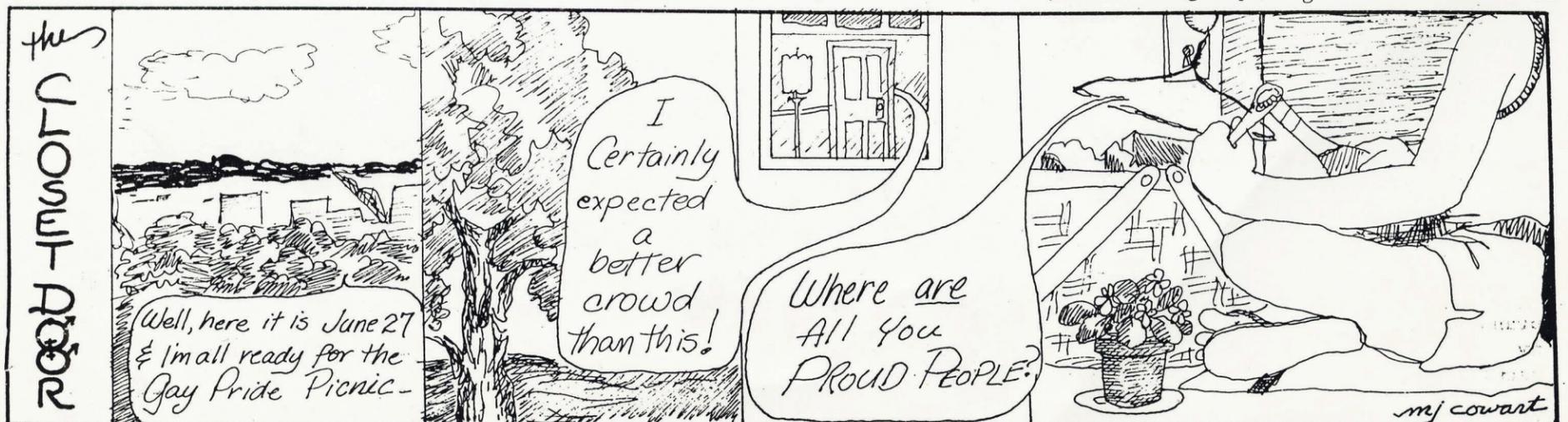
The recent entrapments of two distinguished good ol' boys from the South - former Supreme Court nominee G. Harrold Carswell and arch-conservative, Retired Major General Edwin Walker - point up a popular misconception about homosexuality: you can be butch, conservative and right wing and still be homosexual. Many are unaware of this delightful fact.

Both men, judging from their past actions and rhetoric, would have opposed gay rights legislation. There is sad irony in the fact that they are now suffering from this very mentality from our present Supreme Court clowns.

Men like Carswell and Walker shouldn't have to slink around restrooms hoping for some quick relief from a very basic and natural desire for a same-sex experience. Policemen should have better things to do than to play decoy to such men. The government should have no business making laws against the sexual instincts of its citizens!

The closet is stifling, unhealthy and sapping America of some of its greatest talent and creativity. But the closet will remain the prison of people like Carswell and Walker as long as America continues to cherish its sexual myths. For millions unaware or afraid to admit that homosexuality can be GAY and beautiful, the closet is the only sad alternative. Gay Liberation, alas, has a long way to go.

-LL



Gay Arts Center 'Fascinates' Crowd

The new gay arts center in New York, the Glines, is presenting *Fascination*, as its third production dealing with the gay experience.

Directed and choreographed by Quintman Fludd III, the play has been called "an

evening of thought, laughter, and catchy tunes" that "gets plenty of laughs and recognition from the audience." Mr. Fludd appeared with Pearl Bailey in *Hello Dolly* and was musical director for *Godspell* in London.



From the left: Harvey Huddleson, Pete White, Patty Mayer and Marc Martinez camp on set of "El Grande de Coca Cola"

¿Qué Pasa?

Circuit Creates Carbonated Cabaret

by Patty Mayer

Circuit Playhouse, Inc. announces the presentation of the most dazzling combo of cabaret performers extraordinary. "El Grande De Coca-Cola" will sleaze into production August 11 and run on Wednesday and Thursday nights at 8:30 p.m., in conjunction with John Fergus Ryan's "Doctor Holocaust," which will play on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights at 8:30.

The action of "El Grande De Coca-Cola" takes place in a rundown section of Trujillo, Honduras. Pepe Hernandez, a third-rate impresario, has boasted in the local press that he is bringing a group of famous international cabaret stars to Trujillo and has persuaded his uncle, manager of the local Coca-Cola bottling plant, to advance him enough money to rent the nightclub for one month. It is showtime for Pepe Hernandez's production of *Parada de Estrellas* (Parade of Stars).

This uproarious musical review, spoken entirely in Spanish (some occasional pig Spanish) and a bit of French and German thrown in when the situation calls, features Marc Martinez, as the Master of Ceremonies. Marc began his state appearances at age nineteen in the box office record breaker, "The McNobody Knows." Since then, he has proved himself one of the most versatile and strongest talents in the City today. Other appearances include "Godspell" as Judas, "Fortune in Men's Eyes," as the young vulnerable prisoner, and as the verbal love maker the Firechief, in "The Bald Soprano," and best known to many theater-goers as "Dracula," in Circuit's Work-

shop Theater original adaptation of the Braum Stoker novel.

Pete White heartily gained his claim to fame as one of the prettiest males on a Memphis stage in Circuit's production of "The Hostage," as the luscious Princess Grace. He (or she) will step in the role of Consuala, Pepe's step daughter. Appearing as Miguel, Pepe's nephew, is Harvey Huddleson, an actor and playwright. Harvey is the creator and writer of "Oreophithicus," a clever satire on the jungle movies of the 30s and 40s, which gained much popularity when produced by the Workshop Theater. Juan Rodriguez, Pepe's cousin, is played by Mark Johnson, who is currently appearing in Playhouse on the Square's very awesome production of "Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris." He has sung and performed in many of Memphis' major musicals.

All barriers will be broken down with tables and chairs surrounding the stage setting. A cigarette girl will cater to your smoking needs, as well as flowers for the ladies. Of course, Coke-a-Cola will be the featured refreshment.

Never, never, has Memphis had such a gala, and hopes to celebrate more if the demand is large enough. Theater has provided a very fulfilling, creative, and dedicated outlet for many members of the Gay Community, and we hope it will mean the same to the audiences of gay people everywhere, and recognize them as the sensitive and artistic group that they are.

"El Grande De Coca-Cola" plays Wednesday and Thursday nights, opening August 11 and running until August 26. For reservations, call 726-5521.



by *Lady Jane Gray*

There are those who accuse Jimmy Carter of being vague. He's not vague, he's a gentleman. The sixties gave us brute architecture, brute painting, brute poetry and a disinclination to accept anything less graphic. Carter isn't everything to everyone. He isn't anything to anyone. He takes no stands, because there are no issues. Jimmy is the scion of an interregnum in American

politics in which the question has ceased to be "What," and has become in its stead, "Who?"

For the first time since the Roosevelt-Hoover contest of 1932 (1960 doesn't count), Americans will elect a President on the basis of personality, not specific issues.

Embodied in the psychological aspects of Gerald Ford, who has the vivacity one might expect from a President who receives his mail addressed to "occupant," are all the philosophies marked traditionally Republican, summing up to a sort of laissez faire rationalization of high unemployment. While Governor Carter, bless his peanut pickin' little heart, is a Democrat in the Wilson-F.D.R. tradition; he would feed starving children.

Carter is also a Southerner which insures culture and breeding, earning the enmity of myriad inhabitants of more desolate regions of the country. Furthermore, the first amendment assures freedom of religion, so no one can Constitutionally object to the President having one. It is interesting to note, in conclusion, that Jimmy Carter decided to run when he met all the 1972 candidates and decided that he was better than any of them. He was right. He's a person.

M.C.C. PICNIC

Gay friends enjoyed an outing at Lakeland Amusement Park last month when the Memphis study group of the Metropolitan Community Church sponsored a picnic at the lakeside.

Two dozen members and friends enjoyed hot dogs and side dishes, swam, sunbathed, and played frisbie. Some of the more reckless of the group rode the Brussels World's Fair skylift (remember when Peyton went over?) and others ventured out on the "Pirate ship" and the "Riverboat."

Everyone appeared to have a good time; the atmosphere was very friendly and relaxed. This was the second picnic that the gay church group has sponsored and it's not likely to be the last.

FRONT PAGE

267 S. Cleveland

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THE FRONT PAGE 267 S. Cleveland



Joe Ross Gets Mr. Rain Check with 'Tits and Ass'

Sunday, June 27, approximately 250 people were on hand at the Raincheck II Lounge, 112 Jackson, for the first annual Mr. Raincheck Contest. Concluding Gay Pride Week in Memphis, the contest featured eight young men in competition for the \$100 First Prize.

Although technical problems delayed the beginning of the contest for over an hour, the capacity crowd seemed to be enjoying the free beer and set-ups too

much to mind the wait. Emceed by the beautiful Miss Tara Wells, the contestants exhibited Casual Wear, Swim Wear and Jeans Wear.

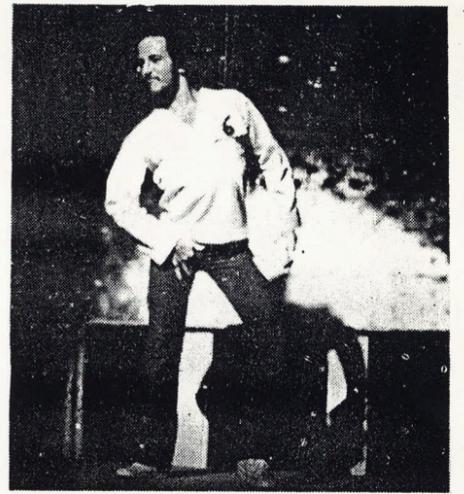
The talent portion of the contest, called "Do Your Own Thing," consisted primarily of male-vocal pantomime, however there were some very original numbers. One of these was "Get Up and Boogie" by Mr. Chris Gray, outfitted in Western attire and brandishing a makeshift lariat. Mr. Gray won the \$15

Third Prize.

Other impressive moments included Mr. Dan Boudreaux's colorful "Anything Goes," as well as Mr. Terry Glover's macabre stabbing resurrection scene to the tune of "Ease on Down the Road." Second-Place winner Mr. Larry Hord lip-synced a nervous "Sexy Mama" and Mr. Raincheck '76, Mr. Joe Ross, received a tremendous ovation for his rendition of "Tits and Ass." Other contestants included Mark Skelton, Danny Coleman and Terry Poole, who came in Fourth.

The Swim Wear portion showed the audience some very attractive bodies and produced a bevy of favorable comments from judges and crowd alike. The men were a bit nervous since, for several it was their first time on stage.

A special delight to the crowd was the return of the exciting Diana! Her first Memphis performance in almost two years, Diana! thrilled the audience with her electrifying versions of "Turn the Beat Around," "Love Hangover," and soulful "My Way." In addition, the crowd eagerly received Diana! and Tara Wells' bawdy duet, "Steam Heat." After two encores both were simply too exhausted to continue.



Later, bar-manager and contest director, Joey Ammermon stated that he was well aware of the many flaws in the show and that they had learned from them. He hopes that next year's contest will be even bigger and better as a result of what they had learned from their mistakes this year. Also, Joey said that Diana! has already agreed to come back and be a guest star in the 1977 Mr. Raincheck Contest.

Mr. Raincheck '76 is now history. The show this year had its problems but basically it was a good show. What is more important is that the Raincheck II is trying to open up new avenues of entertainment for Gays in Memphis. GAIETY applauds their effort and wishes them continued success as long as they continue to serve the Gay Community here with new and innovative entertainment.



Sabrina Lea Crowned

Queen of the Butterflies

Sabrina Lea captured the title "Queen of the Butterflies" in the first annual pageant at the Butterfly Cabaret June 23. Other contestants were Tamika, Fancy, Laura Lee Love and Lady Rae.

Emceed by Christine, the full house enjoyed the talents of Loretta, Melina and Wilma between competitions: casual wear, evening wear and talent. A celebrated performer, Miss Peaches, was in the audience and was enthusiastically urged to do a number.

Fancy was chosen second runner-up and Laura Lee Love won first runner-up, Miss Love was also chosen "Miss Congeniality" by the other contestants.



Kissey, Kissey!!

Owner Basks

While Bar Bakes

Never one to let a tradition die, the Psych Out celebrated the Fourth of July in its usual fashion with a free buffet. Featured were baked ham, potato salad, bar-b-queed beans, and all the necessary garnishments.

With owner Sharon Wray out of town at the Apollo party, the holiday plans were left up to Nancy Morris, Barbara Simmons and Danny Ray. Nancy said they couldn't let the Bicentennial "biggie" go by without some sort of celebration, so the three of them planned, cooked and served the entire affair.

The crowd of approximately 100 enjoyed \$.45 draft beer and set-ups from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. when the bar usually opens. The small crowd and minimum publicity did not diminish the group's festive spirit and it can be truthfully stated that "A good time was had by all."

"Bar light is SO kind!"

-Lady Jane Grey

Memphis Krewe of Apollo Makes Splash in Biloxi

by Donald Grice

Keeping tradition, Memphis members and friends of The Mystic Krewe of Apollo made the long but enjoyable trip to Biloxi, Mississippi, for the Apollo Fourth-of-July Weekend. The highlight of the festivities was the selection of Miss Apollo. Several parties rounded out the activities.

The Apollo Hospitality Room started the morning of July 3 and registration of all those to enjoy the delights of the coast. Most of the people eventually wound up at the pool making new friends and renewing old acquaintances.

At 7:00 p.m., Saturday the doors opened on the Miss Apollo Pageant. Mr. Roland Dobson was Master of Ceremonies with assistance from other krewe members including Mr. Dennis Massey, President of MKA - Memphis.

There were 14 contestants from all parts of the South. Memphis was represented by Lily Christine, Lady Rae, Fancy and Laura Lee Love.

Among the honors won by the Memphis delegation was the Best Costume Award, presented to Laura Lee Love for her American Beauty Rose outfit.

Between phases of competition, each Apollo group took a turn at providing entertainment.

The five finalists were Lady Rae, Lily Christine, Miss Ronnie of Biloxi, Misty Lamour (Miss Gay Louisiana) and Lady Dean of New Orleans, who won First Place.

Parties at the Sheraton followed the pageant. Sunday morning there was a pool party and a beach party. An afternoon "tea" was hosted by The Queen's Men of Memphis.

Most of the participants left Biloxi with an expression

of tired delight and anticipation of next year's event. Few will soon forget our nation's 200th birthday spent in Biloxi, Miss.

Apology

For the reservation problems and general confusion that many experienced, the Krewe of Apollo offers their apology. They are hopeful that in the future these problems will be corrected.

Queen's Men Re-define Goals

In a major effort to broaden the scope of the Queen's Men, Inc. the group is redefining membership requirements and goals. In order to attract a wider range of applicants TQM has opened its membership to members of both sexes and is making a positive effort to appeal to more 'active' persons by placing them in leadership positions. Less emphasis will be put on the financial factor.

The \$50 annual dues will remain unchanged and members may elect to pay quarterly. Election to membership in TQM is by simple majority and full privileges are immediate.

As in the past TQM will ask that ALL bars participate in the annual voter Registration Drive. This participation made last year's drive a tremendous

success.

Tentative plans for the coming years include a blood drive, Gaiety Benefit, the 1977 Miss Gay Memphis and Mr. Gay Memphis, the yearly beer-bust picnic and volleyball tournament featuring possibly a challenge match with Apollo-Memphis. Also hoped for is a joint effort charity special; and of course there will be the 6th Annual Cotton Carnival Ball.

The Queen's Men, Inc. look forward to the input and thrust of new members and will have monthly OPEN meetings. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings; only Executive Board Meetings are private.

The Queen's Men, Inc. was officially chartered by the state of Tennessee and incorporated in April, 1971.

George's Theatre Lounge E-X-P-A-N-D-I-N-G

George's Theatre Lounge, also known as George's Truck Stop & Drag Bar, is growing again. In 1970 the seating capacity at The Door was 39; currently the bar can accommodate 200 (legally); when the new addition is open George's will have a seating capability of 600.

The expansion is a direct result of the need for more space. That need has been dramatically illustrated recently by Memphis Fire Marshalls' efforts to enforce the seating capacity.

Included in the new expansion will be an all new dancing area, twice the size of the present floor; a new arcade room featuring pinball machines, electronic games, shuffleboard and billiards. There will also be a new bar and later, full cafeteria service with breakfast served from midnight 'till four a.m. on weekends.

During the actual construction Mr. Wilson plans to continue operations as usual and hopes to be only closed one extra day when the wall is torn down.

Plans for the gala Grand Opening have not yet been finalized but they do include an entire month of specials.

Be sure to read next month in GAIETY for more details on the Grand Opening.

Free Mexican Feast Held at Front Page

Friday, July 2, The Front Page continued an old Memphis tradition, that of bar owners showing their appreciation to the Gay community for keeping them in business and reciprocating at least once a year with some kind of "freebie" or give-away.

Approximately 200 people feasted on tacos, tostados, refried beans, fried rice and other Mexican specialties, provided free by owner Jimmy Shankle (Jucie) and Dan Boudreaux who labored for two days in the Front Page's tiny kitchen cooking all the food.

The beginning of the party had to be delayed so that extra food could be cooked for the large turn-out. However, there were few complaints since the beer and the set-ups were also free. Even the local beat cops on patrol, who dropped by for a late supper were in good humor.

Perhaps the single most important item is however, the fact that most of the people who enjoyed the free supper stayed on for the rest of the evening and continued having a good time, content to again pay regular bar prices and support part of the Gay business community in Memphis.

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WATCH for GRAND OPENING

BAR BEAT: Who's Doing What Where!

by Gary Salles

As you no doubt have noticed "Making the Rounds" has been expanded to include any bar-related or Gay organization news. The listing of what is happening in the way of bars has been re-titled "Bar Beat."

These pages rely on you for their content. We would appreciate it if you sent us a press release if you have news of interest. We simply do not have the manpower to cover all that is happening around the area. Likewise, I personally would appreciate the bar-owners or managers keeping me informed of specials, schedule changes, etc. The success of this column depends on you.

THE BUTTERFLY CABARET: 1320 Poplar (725-9830). TQM will sponsor a fund raising show Sunday, Aug. 1, from 5 - 8 p.m. \$1 cover. MKA - Memphis sponsors "An Evening with the Stars" Sunday, Aug. 8, at 8 p.m.

Bar opens at noon on weekends and Sundays the draft is 25 cents from 2 - 5 p.m. Beer Bust every Tuesday with show for \$2.

Shows on Friday and Saturday start at 10 p.m.

THE ENTREE NUIT: 265 S. Cleveland (726-9813) Aug. 9 marks the beginning of Monday Beer Busts 8:30 - 11:00. All draft and set-ups \$2.

Dennis Belski (Melina) will re-open the kitchen with a limited menu later in the month.

Bar hours are from 3 p.m. - 2 a.m. Mon. - Fri and 6 p.m. - 2 a.m. Sat. & Sun. with plans for later hours in the fall.

THE FRONT PAGE: 267 S. Cleveland (726-9834) at Cross-town's Cruisiest Corner continues Tuesday Beer Busts from 7 - 12 p.m. Open 4 p.m. 'til 3 a.m. daily.

TQM will have a pot-luck supper for members and prospective members Sunday, Aug. 1 at 3:00 with meeting to follow.

Jucie said he hopes to begin having more "supper-type" specials, such as a spaghetti supper, however nothing definite has been set.

GEORGE'S THEATRE LOUNGE: 1786 Madison (726-0921). The big news is the expansion covered more fully in this issue.

Tuesdays are talent nights. Thursdays feature cash jackpot drawings. Wednesday and Sunday Beer Busts continue to be biggies. Saturday cover charge is only \$1.

Details on Grand Opening next month.

THE PSYCH-OUT: 76 N. Cleveland (725-9842) "50's Parties" will continue with reduced prices. A correction from the column last month: Wednesday Pitcher Nights--pitcher costs \$1.75 rather than \$1.50.

The P.O. is for all crowds. and for all ages. Open 4 p.m. 'til 3 a.m. daily.

THE RAIN CHECK II: 112 Jackson Ave. (528-9280) The popular week-end disco bar is dark on Mondays and Tuesdays for the summer. Wednesdays feature \$2 Beer Busts from 9-12. Thursdays all beer is half-price from 9 - 11.

Open weekends 'til 4 a.m.

Kennedy says "Stop sucking and start biting." See p2.

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Radclyffe Hall at the Well of Loneliness

by Pat Dunbar

The author has given Radclyffe Hall and Una Troubridge what they would have wanted: an objective, sometimes critical, yet always sympathetic biography. " ...Or so the book jacket claims. My own opinion is that Dickson's account is somewhat biased, patronizingly sympathetic, and decades behind the times.

Radclyffe Hall, some sixty years ago, identified herself as a "congenital invert" (read "queer"). She argued that since she had been created that way society should accept her that way. Quite an argument for the Twenties.

Dickson, however, does not go beyond her statement. He's still on that same track, as though sixty years of fighting for gay rights had accomplished nothing. Dickson seems to have accepted this "advanced - for-the-twenties" view of homosexuality as valid for all time. "Born that way - sorry, can't help it."

"INSULT TO FEMINIST SENSIBILITIES"

Dickson states, "The Well Of Loneliness was written in a missionary spirit and the response to it was world-wide. It was one of those books which serve to undermine taboos, which clear away outworn conventions, which prepare the ground for legislation aimed at removing injustices perpetrated in the name of justice." Dickson's own book would be much more contemporary if it had been written in that same spirit.

In The Well of Loneliness, Ms. Hall pleaded for understanding and sympathy; for acceptance of homosexuals in society.

"Acknowledge us, oh God, before the whole world. Give us also the right to our existence."

Taking cues from Hall and others of her time, he describes homosexuality in such terms as "Barren, tragic, inverted." He refers to their "unnatural passions" and the "aggressive instincts of the invert." He even relates frequent illnesses of the two lovers to their lesbianism: "Aside from the ills that plague all human beings, colds,

and headaches, and constipation and things of that sort, it is clear that the sexual practices of lesbianism induced some gynaecological woes of an unhappy kind for which the medical treatment can be protracted and painful."

Aw, come on now, Dickson. This is 1976. Can it be that the author knows something about lesbian sexuality that we don't know? Sounds like, in his effort to be sympathetic, the author has allowed some 1920's misinformation and his own biases to provide the basis of an insult to feminist sensibilities.

The only redeeming quality about the book is that, behind all the garbage, Dickson has managed to reveal a great wealth of information about Radclyffe Hall and her con-

temporaries. He has managed, in spite of himself, to reflect the spirit of those early lesbians who dared to attempt sexual freedom.

" A BIT TOO MUCH "

Dickson faintly echoes that plea without really saying anything. Continued apology. That's a bit too much for those of us who consciously choose homosexuality and who consider it to be natural, normal and healthy.

So, for me, I'll hold the memory of Radclyffe Hall et. al., as a cherished part of our herstory, try to overlook Dickson's no-doubt congenital chauvinism, and suggest that he atone for his transgressions by writing "GAY IS GOOD" five hundred times on the nearest blackboard.....

Boyd to Keynote

INTEGRITY Convention

INTEGRITY, the national organization for Gay Episcopalians and their friends, has announced that the Rev. Malcolm Boyd will be the keynote speaker at their second annual convention to be held in San Francisco on August 6 through August 8, 1976. Nationally known as author and speaker on the Christian faith and the presentation of its message in effective, contemporary terms, Fr. Boyd wrote in accepting INTEGRITY's invitation, "Speaking at the convention would represent my first comprehensive statement about the Gay condition and experience - this after having spoken in the past concerning the Black condition and experience, the liberation of women in the church and society, and liberation from war. Indeed, I am now ready to make this statement - and I want to do so."

Other speakers at the convention will be the Rev. Dr. Laud Humphreys, Professor of Sociology at the Claremont Colleges in southern California and author of "Out of the Closets: The Sociology of Homosexual Liberation"; and the Rev. Canon Clinton Jones of Christ Cathedral, Hartford, Conn., and author of "Homosexuality and Counseling."

Convention meetings will be held at historic Trinity Church, San Francisco.

Organized in July, 1849, Trinity Parish was the first Episcopal Church west of the Rockies and is honored as the "Mother Church of the Pacific Coast." The present Gothic building is an outstanding example of church architecture and has been officially designated a San Francisco landmark.

Because of its long tradition of missionary concern and outreach, Trinity was one of the first sites to be considered by the host chapter of INTEGRITY for convention meetings; and according to the Rev. Hugh L. Weaver, Rector of Trinity, the Vestry was most happy to be able to assist INTEGRITY in this way when the matter was discussed informally with them.

For further information regarding the convention, contact INTEGRITY/San Francisco, P. O. Box 6444, San Jose, Ca. 95150.

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Unfortunately, there won't be any little boys for you to dance with

oh!

I don't know, Mom...

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mi cowart 7-76

GAIETY

Spotlights:

DIANA!

by Gary Salles

Only a select group of people know James Hart. However, there are few people in Memphis, or the entire South, that do not know his alter-ego, Diana! (the exclamation point must be included when writing her name!) And for every person that knows Diana and has seen her perform or has worked on stage with her, there is an opinion.

Diana! began her career at The Hunt (GAIETY, Dec. '75) when Jerry Cagle and Phillip Smith told James that he could be made up to look like Diana Ross and convinced him to enter the first Miss Memphis Pageant. Bright lights, pancake and applause claimed another performer when she won the prize for First Alternate. From this rather ambitious beginning, Diana! started working for George Wilson at The Door and remained a regular when George expanded and renamed the bar George's.

Popularity??

Though often not popular among her peers, her audience loyalty is seldom matched. Diana's recent visit was due to the efforts of Rain Check owners Mike Meyers and Jerry Kimbrough and bar manager-Joey Ammermon. Diana! was a Guest Star for the Mr. Rain Check Contest. (see story, p.6)

Scheduled to return immediately to Denver, where she has lived for the past two years and reigns on the Colorado Third Imperial Court, he was besieged with requests to stay and do more shows. He accepted invitations from Jimmy Shankle (Jucie) of the Front Page and Jack Meyers of Mae's Cabaret in Jackson, Ms., and made commitments for future appearances in Montgomery, Al, and again in Memphis in September.

Diana's career spans several years and such cities as Atlanta, Chicago, Phoenix, Washington, Indianapolis and Kansas City. After a two year 'pageant kick' she says "I got sick of letting titles wear the people instead of people wearing them." She has always been known in the profession as an entertainer of the first rank. Few dare question her credentials or her talent.

Diana's vivacious personality is magnified by her dynamic energy on stage. The reason for this is that she appreciates her audience and does not allow the stage to separate her from them. To her, the stage is no pedestal. While many performers can be identified with one particular song, her versatility prohibits it.

Diana! has the rare ability to 'feel out' an audience and select her material to suit their mood. Standing ovations are frequent when the ebony queen gives it her all.

In an exclusive interview over lunch at The Public Eye, Diana! gave her candid opinion on several local issues.

Asked what changes she has noticed she said "I find it appalling that the bar owners still have not discovered the advantages of co-operating with one another. Unity has always been the key to success for every movement. If the Gay Community of Memphis is to achieve any of its goals in their fight for respect, civil rights, acceptance and understanding, they must first come together." Diana! did say that she has noticed growth in the Gay Community of Memphis as witnessed by the fact that there are now six 'successful' bars in town.

George Who?

Q: What do you think of the shows at George's now compared to when you were a regular there?

A: "First, I would like to commend Jo Ann for the good job she has done in establishing herself. I realize there was a lot of comparison between her and myself and I am glad that she did not let that deter her ambition as an artist. Keep up the good work, girl!"

"Next, I am disappointed at the seeming lack of organization and professionalism in the shows. Whatever happened to creativity and originality? The audience comes to a showbar to be entertained, not bored!"

Q: What major differences have you seen with respect to showbars between Memphis and other major cities?

A: "For one thing, the petty bickering and accusations of harassment is seldom found in other areas. Another is that it is good publicity to let regular performers, especially so-called 'title holders', appear at other bars for guest performances, provided it does not conflict with their duties or responsibilities to their regular employer. Few other occupations allow the boss that kind of control over his employees' private lives.

"George's HAS come a long way since I was there. It is one of the nicest showbars in the South. But the shows still

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have '...a long, long, way to go.' And as far as most of the performers go, nowhere have I experienced the jealousy and pettiness among performers as I have in Memphis. That all gets back to my point about lack of professionalism." Q: Do you have any favorable comments on anybody or anything in Memphis?

A: "Yes, Tara Wells, but she no longer performs."

"Never have I been so impressed by an entertainer as much as I was by the extraordinary talents and personality of Ms. Wells. I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to meet and to work with her. It's a shame there are not more 'Tara Wells' in Memphis. I wish her much happiness in her new life!"

In conclusion, Diana! stated "I realize that this interview might offend certain people, but the Gay populace of Memphis should be aware of what is going on in their community."

"I would much rather have people hate me for what I am, than to love me for what I'm not.

Square's 'Jacques Brel' is Alive and, Well...

By Buddy Haynes

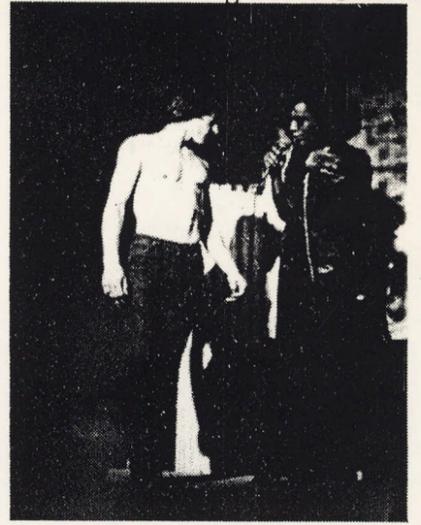
It seems that Playhouse on the Square consistently offers Memphis excellent productions. "Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living In Paris" is no different. The performance I saw was an emotional, flawless show.

On a multi-level platform stage backed only by a white screen (changing colors enhance the emotions), six performers sing and dance. In doing this they twist the audience's emotions in every direction possible.

Actually "Brel" is not a play with a continuous plot, but rather a collection of 25 of the Belgian composer's songs. Some of these are done as solos and some have skits with group participation worked around them. There are songs of love, hate, sarcasm and fear. From the haunting "If You Go Away" through the vicious "Carousel" to the grand finale of "If We Only Have Love", Brel's music will keep you enthralled, in gales of laughter and in tears, often at the same time.

It is surely one of the most difficult musicals to make a hit, partially because there IS no continuous plot. Nor is the show costumed. Scarves, hats and other props and small articles of clothing are used instead.

The very talented cast is composed of Beverly Baxter, Cayce Blanchard, Kathy Gardner, Mark Johnson, Jim Ostrander and David Williams. Most of the cast have excellent voices.



First Mama Would Take It

President Ford may not be courting the gay vote this year but his wife Betty isn't putting it down.

After the opening night performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" at Kennedy Center, Mrs. Ford went backstage to compliment leading man, Zero Mostel on his performance. Mostel, in turn, expressed his admiration for the First Lady, the Washington Star reported, and told her "You should run for President."

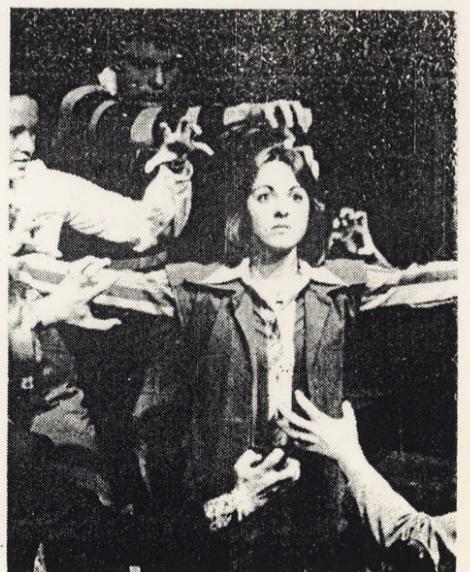
"If you do, I will personally guarantee you the entire Jewish homosexual vote," he cheekily added.

"I'll take it," the First Lady replied without batting a lash.

The only exception is Mr. Williams whose voice is very pleasant, but a little weaker in contrast with the others. His excellent phrasing of the words and his gestures easily make up for his slight weakness of voice. This is especially true in his show-stopping rendition of "Fannette." Other show-stoppers were Ms. Blanchard's "Marieke" and Ms. Baxter's frenzied almost insane rendition of "Carousel."

The audience stopped the show several times with applause and gave the cast a well deserved standing ovation.

Note: The next production at the Playhouse is An Evening of Soul which began in 1971 at Memphis State as a one night experimental student production. It has been touring for the past five years and runs August 6th-August 29th.



SWAMPTRASH

by Rona

Well girls, it's that time again. I really do appreciate your requests to move Swamptrash to the front page (not the one on Cleveland, silly goose) but for many of you turning pages is the only exercise your left hand ever gets.

I have heard that there are a few of you out there who like me and a great many more who don't, however I didn't really think anyone could feel THREATENED by little (?) 'ole me. I know I've been telling a lot of people that this was going to be a very juicy (no offense) month, but breaking into Rene Rambler and stealing my notes is going just a bit far. 'Ah ha,' you say. 'Rona's jumping to conclusions...everyone knows the mid-town area is a big high-risk zone.' Yes, but how many common thieves do you know that steal an attache (that's briefcase for those not suave and debonair) and leave a C.B. radio? Well I hope you got your rocks, honey, 'cause Rona don't need no notes!

This past month has been like a floor show at a "Roto-Rooter" convention. I think everyone's noticed the "it's"

been thick. For openers, Vanessa Vaughan is still around and now she's claiming she's going to open a new bar, and a GAY one at that! Really sweetie, too TOO many people have heard your opinions on what the Gay people in this town are really like. For one thing, it takes Light, Gas & Water to run a place here and there ain't but one company in town that's got it; and your track record with them is pretty well known. Oh yes, if you can't make enough frying 'burgers at The Foxy Lady, I know several people who would gladly GIVE you the price of a ticket back to the Virgin Isles, one way!

Do not feel singled out J.V. This bullshit with the fire marshal is bringing out the best/worst in a lot of people. George says Jucie's doing it; Jucie thinks Don's doing it and Lord only knows who Mike and Jerry think are doing it! And I don't give a damn about who the rest of you think is doing it. I do know one guy who HAS done it. Of course I'm not saying who he is, only that he survived the "Upstairs Bar" fire in New Orleans and that it left him a very paranoid person. And there is no excuse for the Sunday crowds at George's.

All The Dirt Nobody Else Would Dare To Print ...And Then Some

I know they're a lot of fun but I also know the two back doors stay locked...in direct violation of the law & a serious hazzard. The incident with the first Raincheck should be warning enough it CAN happen here.

Lurking In The Swamp

Enough preaching. I would really like to know who's going around telling people to watch what they say or I might print it, or that they might make up something and have me attribute it to them. For one thing, you insignificant little nobody, I write ALL my own material. I don't need your help. For another thing, if I do decide to quote someone (which I have yet to do), they will never know it until they see it in print. And the only thing "advance warnings" do is piss me off that much more. So, to my classmate of '70: I've never backed down from you before and I certainly don't intend to start now. Besides..... you're on probation, I'm not. Don't try to make waves, it's very hard for small fish to do!

Floating Tidbits

I've decided to drop the 'baresit' in my by-line..most people read it as BEARSHIT anyway, and that's NOT where Rona's at!

I would like to thank Capt. Chuck and Dr. Jim for a most wonderful day. "Contessa" was beautiful, and Barbara's meal was delicious. You three are really fine people and although your arrangement is a bit hard to adjust to at first I think it's fantastic.

By the way Ray Jean, they both taught me that fairies DO know how to fly. Of course you never have any trouble getting off the ground yourself when we get started at the P. O. I will admit you had me going when my Rolls Royce turned up missing.

I think Bright-eyes looks adorable when he's mad, especially when he winds up wearing the better part of six "Buds" meant for you.

Can you imagine taking an act out of town and then getting a job elsewhere and stranding them, out of town, out of money, and out of I.D.'s (legal, that is)? Well, that's exactly what Miss Shelia Sexton, otherwise known as Tommy Toussaint seems to have done. However, it hasn't been too bad for little Billy Wells...from parking lot to performer and Vinnie to the Virgin Islands is really an accomplishment for someone from Col.Sander's stock...IF you make it! Do

send me a post card.

You should have seen the scene at the Butterfly. The Queen had hardly got her wings unfolded when she decided...."rivers belong where they can ramble...eagles belong where they can fly."

Sabrina's reign as TQOB ranks right up there with Cher's marriage.

So you and Chuck are going on tour and taking Danny Ray? BYE, BYE. You send me a post card too.

That about does it for this month. If I've neglected anyone I really am sorry. If it's really important, why not put it in a classified next time? After all, it's the second next-best thing. Oh yes, the "Going Gay at School" has been rescheduled for our September 'back to school' issue. Ta, Ta, for now, lucky people.

COMING UP: Diana's return engagement in September is going to blow the top off, and you-know-what is going to hit the fan. Can't tell now, but it is supposed to be the biggest show ever hit Big M, and supposedly it WILL NOT be at ANY bar.

Providence Celebrates

Faggots March

The "Toward a Gayer Bicentennial Committee" won a lengthy battle with the Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission on June 25 resulting in the first Gay Pride march ever in Providence.

The June 26 march was the high point of the day's gay pride activities which began with speeches at the Old State House and at an outdoor rally.

Later the march began with about 75 participants and a crowd of several thousand spectators. Gays stopped in front of the Federal Building chanting "Gay Pride" and singing "We Shall Overcome." One banner read, "Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land" with a liberty bell cracked in the shape of a lambda.

Police Chief Walter McQueeny called the march "a disgrace and said he hoped that it would be the last time gays marched in public. According to the Gay Community News, McQueeny stated privately that he did not want to be remembered as the man who brought faggots to the streets of Providence.

Coverage was intensive on all Providence television stations. One station interviewed a woman who said, "I think they should all be in jail....I just came to see what they looked like."

INTEGRITY Founder's 'Sunspots' Shines With Sensitive Imagination

COMMUNITY

SOMEDAY DARK BROWN EYES WILL STARE
AT YOUR CARVED BANISTER,
WONDERING WHETHER IT IS
THE SPIRIT THAT CONTROLS THE COCKROACHES
THAT WILL HIDE BEHIND YOUR MARBLE BATH,
AN OLD BLACK MAN WILL SLEEP ON A MAT
IN THE NURSERY.

THREE FAMILIES' CHILDREN IN THE PANTRY
WILL EAT LEAD PAINT FROM SHELVES
THAT STORE YOUR MARMALADE,
IT WON'T BE RICH FOLKS' HOUSE THEN,
AND NO ONE WILL CARE THAT
YOUR FOYER MATCHES ONE IN FLORENCE OR THAT
ONE NICHE HELD A MEDIEVAL MADONNA.

- LOUIE CREW

A Review —

by R. Schlessinger
Louie Crew's poems have been published widely in such journals as Gay Literature, Man-Root, and The Little Flower Magazine. His recent publication, Sunspots, is touchingly sensitive and has something in it for straights as well as Gays, from laughter to loneliness.

Dr. Louie Crew is also the co-founder of Integrity and remains the editor of Gay

Episcopal Forum. In his new volume, Crew allows each reader to float into their own fantasy. It's a volume that a person will read and then re-read for the meaning behind each piece. I personally feel that Sunspots is one of the finest poetry volumes today. It leaves one to his own imagination and inner wanderings with direction but not restriction.



I'd like to talk about the picnic held at Audubon Park during National Gay Pride Week and the huge turnout of the city's Proud Gays. But my purpose in this column is not to be negative, another columnist gets to do that.

MCC started printing a newsletter about three months ago and the improvement in style in that short period of mind-boggling. Ten points to Rik, Allan and Charlene for their constant struggle to upgrade the newsletter. If you haven't read it yet, you should.

I have talked to several people who thought that they weren't welcome at a "church" because they were bar people. Well, let me inform you that almost every Wednesday night you will find a group of us at George's beer bust and we are not all drinking orange juice. So don't let that stop you. There are many people you will meet that don't go to bars simply because they don't like them. And if you don't meet them at Mcc, you might never get the chance.

The mission is currently trying to raise funds to buy their own building. In the works are such events as yard sales, bake sales, a show and several others. Watch the Bar Bulletin Boards and Gaiety for further information.

When I was on the Mid-America Mall one Sunday afternoon, I walked past Court Square. Remembering how it was a few years back, and seeing it now, was almost heartbreaking. The old "Southern charm" of the park is gone and it is like something you find in many a modern, cold city. Even the age-old fountain seems out of place. I wonder if all those mudholes circled by bricks will sprout flowers next year? Perhaps they would be considered a tribute to all those who cruised the park, the fountain and lost their hearts (and perhaps wallets) in the old square. Even "Court Square Annie" is gone.

This past month I have been sick and haven't been able to investigate any new shops. Why not join the fun and check out some of yours? Here are a couple of leads: 1) a vegetarian shop, The Seed, located on Tucker between Poplar & Madison; 2) the Shang-ri-la Restaurant at 99 South Second.

Well, 'till next time so long; see you next month. I hope.

Love & Lashes, (that's EYELashes - silly)
CASS

Scoreboard

Rona, If you're gonna tell the story, please get it right. Who really got the beer bath that night? -DB

Vanessa: If you and your number are going to ride in my boat...don't f--k up my prop! - Love, Miss Wumple.

Is Chuck an investor in William F. Bowes?

If you saw "Farewell Sabrina" you should have seen "Farewell Loretta." Loretta who?

Ray Jean bought an ad once... I think.

Where are David and Jucie? It's almost like Carolyn and Sharon... Well, George and Don and Jerry and Mike are aware of their customers. Who's watching the store? B.J. got out.

Tony: How many carats can you flush at one time?

Ray Jean- Lost two but gained four...pounds, that is. - Michelle

FOR SALE: One used wristwatch and one used T - Bird. See Loretta.

Thank you Sabrina, Billie Jo, Loretta, Bobby Roberts and Tara Wells. -T.Q.M.

Vanessa: If you're gonna work in a titty-bar, don't pick up the janitor.

MCC-You've got to be kidding! Phyllis & Michelle

To whom it may concern: Please try to be more considerate in the future. - Boudreaux

July 4, 1976 or the night The Church of the Unification raided Jucie's Front Page selling chocolate goobers.

Michelle: A red Cadillac on blocks can't cruise the blocks. - The Easter Rabbit

Chuck is only taking one of his dogs to Florida with him.

Louie & David: I love you. -Michelle.

Don't dykes read newspapers, Sharon, or don't you need to advertise? - Wayne

The F.P. isn't the same without Chuck. Chuck who? You know, Chuck! Chuck who? Oh! Chuck. That Chuck? No, not that Chuck. Well, which Chuck? The Chuck that likes Jaguars. Well F--K of course. What about him? The F.P. isn't the same without him.

Roland: Loved that show - but damn am I waterlogged! But, then, one hand supports the other. - Phyllis

Chuck: Why didn't you take the Jaguar? I didn't need it this week.

T.Q.M. wouldn't dare take the Miss Memphis title away from Tiffany Blair - she might ask for her \$200. - D.R.

Carolyn, Mike, and Jerry: Advertising can be deducted! - Wayne

Phyllis: Your roommate's Red Cadillac is on the blocks. You can't cruise church parking lots. No more fusses under church busses, and that's a lot. - The Easter Rabbit

32 Eggs skiddoo!!! Et tu, Loretta?

Love the new Sweet Carolyn's. It's so...Sharon???

Chuck: Don't get lady bumped. - Shirley

What size hath Jucie got? Enough to fire your ass!

Mike, is it true that Phyllis can't go to the Rain Check II without being accompanied by Lady Jane Grey or an adult?

Does Jucie's Front Page sound better than Sabrina's?
 Yes No
 Undecided Ask David
 Chuck - no opinion.

Tricia: H. U. G. - VCB

Loveable human person of the month: Harry De Ponte.
Love, Buddy 7/1/76

Front Page Lounge

Chuck Billy
Sebrina Larry
David, Jucie, Dori & Ricky.
267 S. Cleveland.

To leave in a \$4,000 Chevy & return in a \$70,000 Greyhound is some investment. See Disney World with Sabrina, your Tour Guide.

I love you, bitch 5/11/75

Granny: I knew you didn't want to buy that camper.

I wish to thank everyone for your co-operation in making the Queen's Men Ball a success. I hope you enjoyed yourselves. Please forgive me for being late with the Thank Yous. Most Respectfully, Dan Boudreaux.

I liked it better when Lily Cass was writing everything!

Je t'aime Roger. - J.S.

Rowena: Queen of Apollo appearing in Queen's Men shows?

MM - Yes, its true "simply Everyone knows simply EVERYTHING about simply Everyone else"-but I've got a secret. LL

GP - "When my ship was goin' down 'Somebody Stepped On Board'" Thanks. LL

To Whom It May Concern: (quite a few!) Whatever happened to the Rose Milk in GP's office? LL

Denny: You too tacky little bitch! I did get it right. I was there, remember? If you had any class at all you would have just thrown the beer away. But, OH NO, you had to TRY and be cute! Really, I love you as a sister, but NEVER try to compete with me; nobody notices a bicycle after a bulldozer's been through!

-affectionately, Rona

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

GAIETY Spotlights: is a semi-regular feature designed to give a closer look at the interesting people, places & things in our Gay community. Your suggestions are welcome. Simply drop us a line to:

Spotlights
P.O. Box 3620
Memphis, Tn. 38103

Coming next month: TRANSEXUALS: FROM THE INSIDE LOOKING OUT.

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Still available: Our Giant Catalogue No. 3: \$2.50
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Please include 10% for postage and handling.
BankAmericard, MasterCharge, American Express, Diners, Carte Blanche:
please give account number & expiration date. Phone orders welcome.

Gay Community Calendar

August '76

- 7th - Sat 8:00 pm Women's Party, S&L Task Force
1116 N. Parkway (Women only)
- 8th - Sun 8:00 pm Apollo-Memphis "Evening
with the Stars" Butterfly Cabaret
\$1 cover.
- 10th- Tue Memphis' First Gay Radio Program
7:30 - 8:30 pm weekly
WEVL - FM 90.3
- 14th- Sat 9:00 am - 4:00 pm M.C.C. Car Wash
EXXON Station, Madison & Belvedere
- 15th- Sun 2:00 pm - ??? LEO BIRTHDAY PARTY
Butterfly Cabaret

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO GAIETY
POETRY SUPPLEMENT - Sept. issue.
- 17th- Tue. 7:00 pm - Eucharistic Celebration by
+Bishop Geo. Hyde, Founder of FIRST
Gay Church in America; Reception to
follow. Call 726-GAYY for details.
- 22nd- Sun 12 noon - Gay Picnic- Arkabutla
State Park. Sponsored by S&L Task
Force. Call 726-GAYY 7pm - 1 am
for details.
- 23rd- Mon 6:00 pm - ??? ALIVE & GLAD TO BE GAY
Dinner & Dance. Sponsored by the
Memphis Area Gay Initiative Council
(MAGIC) Location to be announced.

Keep GAIETY informed of what's going on
in your club or organization. Send to:
CALENDAR
P.O. Box 3620
Memphis, TN 38103

Judge G. H. Carswell Charged With Solicitation

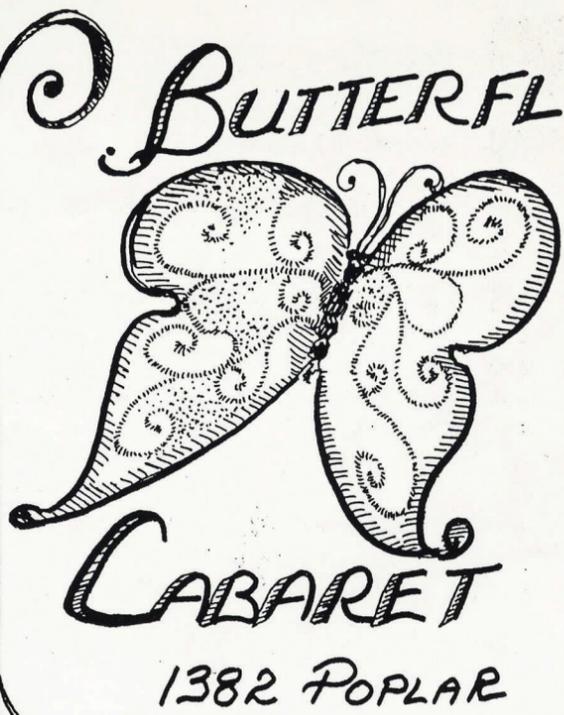
Former Federal Judge and Nixon Supreme Court nominee, G. Harrold Carswell, has been indicted for solicitation by a Florida county grand jury in Tallahassee. Carswell was arrested June 24 in a wooded area where he had gone with a plain-clothes officer. Carswell pleaded innocent to the charges.

State Attorney Harry Morrison told Associated Press that the incident began in the "men's room at a Tallahassee shopping mall, where merchants had complained of homosexuals." Morrison said Carswell and the policeman met there and "talked for some while" before leaving in Carswell's car. While in the car, Morrison stated, "passes were made to the officer" and Carswell "touched" the officer as well.

Carswell, released on his own recognizance, denied any wrongdoing and immediately entered a hospital. Doctors declared that Carswell was suffering from depression and suicidal preoccupation, and that his "life could be endangered by an immediate trial." The trial has been given an indefinite delay.

Carswell was charged with "battery" and solicitation to commit "an unnatural and lascivious act." Both charges are misdemeanors in Florida with a maximum combined penalty of 14 months.

Carswell, married and the father of four children, was a member of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans when Nixon appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1970. The appointment was vigorously opposed by civil rights groups and was defeated by a Senate campaign led by Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana. Carswell ran unsuccessfully for the Senate in 1970 and now practices law in Tallahassee.



Coming Out?
Tuesday
Beer Bust
\$2.00 9-12pm
Sunday 2-5pm
25¢ beer
no cover

Enlightened Thinking in California -

Gay Foster Homes Legalized

The myth of the child molesting homosexual appears to finally be fading. Recent developments in California and Holland indicate a more enlightened view is developing towards gay adults and children.

Gays in California may operate "small family homes" or "group homes for children" provided they meet stiff requirements by the Department of Health. Instructions issued by Dennis D. Dunne, chief of Facilities Licensing Section, cited California's recent sodomy law repeal as a basis for the decision.

"California law makes clear that homosexual activity between two consenting adults is not illegal." The California guidelines went on to say, "IT is our opinion that the application for license cannot be denied solely on the grounds that a person fulfills his sexual needs through ho-

mosexual relationships with consenting adults."

"The focus in such situations must be the same as with the person who fulfills his needs through a heterosexual relationship: namely, whether they are able to provide an acceptable level of care and to adequately supervise and guide children placed under their control."

Dunne noted that while homosexuality alone is not a basis for denying a license, the applicants "entire background shall be thoroughly investigated to determine whether the applicant has engaged in illegal sexual conduct with children or is disclosed to do so."

The policy states that any crime conviction other than a minor traffic violation is basis for denial of a community license, unless the department determines the applicant is of "such good character as to justify issuance of a license."

ZEDOK (ZED) ELOIHIM AYDELOTT, M.D.

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