

Soldier Admits to Lying to Investigators, Sentenced to 12½ Years

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) —A soldier was sentenced to 12½ years in prison for lying to Army investigators about his involvement in the bludgeoning death of another soldier rumored to be homosexual.

Spc. Justin R. Fisher, 26, of Lincoln, Neb., pleaded guilty and was sentenced for making false statements to Army investigators and obstructing justice.

During sentencing, Fisher wept as he apologized to his family and to the relatives of the victim, Pfc. Barry L. Winchell.

"Barry, I hope you can hear me," Fisher started. "I'm sorry for the part I played in this. I know you are now in a better place. I hope you know that if I could go back to the morning it happened, I would have changed it all."

Winchell, 21, was sleeping on a cot in the hallway outside the fourth-floor barracks room he shared with Fisher when he was beaten in a bloody attack early on July 5. Winchell died the following day.

Another soldier who lived in the barracks, Pvt. Calvin N. Glover, 19, of Sulfur, Okla., was court-martialed last month. On Dec. 8, he was convicted of premeditated murder and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole at an unspecified date.

All three infantrymen served in the same unit at Fort Campbell, which straddles the Kentucky-Tennessee border about 50 miles northwest of Nashville, Tenn.

A drunken Glover, upset about losing a recent fight to Winchell, crept up to him and crushed his skull with a baseball bat belonging to Fisher. Prosecutors contended during the trial that the attack was fueled by Glover's hatred of homosexuals.

There had been a swirl of rumors on the post that Winchell, a native of Kansas City, Mo., was homosexual. Gay-rights activists have called the case a tragic failure of the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy toward homosexuals.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Robert T. Clark, Fort Campbell's commanding general, has asked the Army inspector general to investigate whether violations of "don't ask, don't tell" were uncovered during the investigation of Winchell's death.

Fisher said he didn't think Glover was serious when he talked about going after Winchell.

"I didn't know he had that much rage in him," Fisher said. "Even when he came back in (Fisher's room, immediately after the at-

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Activists Say Vatican Hostile To Gays

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A gay rights group laid a laurel wreath and sprinkled rose petals near St. Peter's Square on Jan. 13 in memory of a man who burned himself to death to protest the church's treatment of gays.

Police refused to let the band of about 20 activists into the square, so they gathered nearby to remember Alfredo Ormando, a 40-year-old from Palermo, Sicily who set himself on fire there on Jan. 13, 1998. He died 10 days later.

In his suicide note, Ormando wrote at length of how he felt rejected by the church and the pain it had caused him. For many Italian gays, he has become a symbol of what they see as the intolerance of Italian society and the Roman Catholic church.

Sergio Lo Giudice, president of Arcigay, Italy's leading gay association, said activists plan to distribute "open letters" in front of churches throughout Italy asking the faithful to act against the church's "hostility" toward gays.

"We do not expect any opening or response from church authorities, so we are appealing to the grass-roots," Lo Giudice said.

While Lo Giudice's group was

commemorating Ormando, Pope John Paul II urged local officials not to do anything that would undermine the traditional family unit.

Several cities in Italy have

moved to register unmarried couples, including same-sex unions, and a number of bills are languishing in Parliament that would extend family rights to them.

"I ask those responsible to avoid any initiative which can favor or lead to the equalization of the family with other forms of cohabitation," the pope said.



Activists from Arcigay, the leading Italian gay rights group, lay a laurel wreath and sprinkle rose petals outside St. Peter's Square in Rome, Jan. 13, to commemorate Alfredo Ormando, a 40-year-old homosexual that set himself on fire exactly two years ago, to protest the church's treatment of gays.

(AP Photo/Federico Sambucetti)

Tsarus Announces MOY Nominees

The 16th annual Man of the Year award, honoring outstanding service to the Gay and Lesbian community, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Tues., Feb. 15, at the Madison Flame, 1588 Madison Ave. The award includes a \$500 donation to a charity of the winner's choice.

The award is given by Tsarus, a men's Levi/Leather club. Tsarus members are not eligible. The banquet is not a fundraiser for Tsarus.

Over the past 15 years, the Man of the Year has often been a woman or an organization. Last year's recipient was Shelia Tankersley of Loving Arms, for helping children with HIV and their mothers.

Nominations are solicited from the community at large, but the award is a surprise to almost every-

one outside of Tsarus, including the winner. Making sure the winner attends has been something of a challenge some years.

With help from volunteer (and retired chef) Glenn Jones, club members donate, prepare and serve the banquet, which includes soup, salad, entree and dessert. Tickets are \$8. They are available from Madison Flame and Pipeline bartenders as well as Tsarus members. They will also be available at the door.

As of Jan. 15, this year's nominees included:

- Ed Brandon, for his work with Friends for Life/Feast for Friends
- Cotton Pickin' Squares, for their charitable efforts
- Rev. Scott Howell, first openly gay associate pastor, First Con-

- gregational Church
 - Bette Hefner, for her work with Aphrodite
 - Glenn Jones, for his work with Feast for Friends
 - Memphis Pride, Inc., now in its eighth year
 - Misty MacEntyre (a.k.a., Roger Ormand), for her M&M Awards
 - Triangle News, now in its tenth year
 - Tom Roe and Trent Gatewood of One More, for their charitable efforts
 - Butch Valentine, for his work with Friends for Life/Feast for Friends.
- Names of winners are engraved on a plaque in the Pipeline. Past Man of the Year winners, starting in 1985, are: Allen Cook and John Stilwell for *Gaze* newspaper;

Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite; Tommy Stewart, president of ATEAC (now Friends for Life); Bettye Griffin, president of the Human Response Council; Vincent Astor, activist and columnist; Heart Strings volunteers; the Waggettes (Jim Easter, Harold "Granny" Weaver, Mattie Sanchez and Jerry Attaway); the Pipettes (Jim McCain, Jere Douglas, Mike Ferguson, and the late Dwayne Branham and Sandy Hutchins); the Rev. Ethan Pruett and the Rev. Ed Hammet of Holy Trinity Community Church; the late Dennis Kijowski; Sharon Wray; Bill Andrews and Matt Presley; Jimmy Gray; Ed Brandon; and Shelia Tankersley, founder of Loving Arms.

Gay History, Black History, All History: Similarities Abound!

By Ira L. King
TJN Staff Writer

As a rule, I shy away from writing about issues pertaining to ethnicity. However, February is Black History Month. As such, and in light of the similarity of the struggles facing gay Americans and black Americans, I feel compelled to address the simultaneous emergence of both causes.

Opinions expressed in editorials, commentaries and letters are those of the authors.

In the mid to late sixties, America was undergoing a dual culture shock, one overt (out in the open) and the other covert (underground but about to explode.) Black America was coming of age. In April of 1968, the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis was the capstone and catalyst for massive civil rights legislation intended to bring equity to black Americans. The next 10 years following Dr. King's assassination would bring de jure and de facto changes in the way white America and black America coexisted. This was the overt culture shock.

At the same time a more subterranean shock was preparing to quake in seismic proportions at a gay club in New York's Greenwich Village known as the Stonewall Inn. At 3 a.m. on the morning of June 28, 1969, the privacy of the Stonewall was invaded by police from New York's First Division. It was a raid. They had a warrant. The police said they had been informed that liquor was being served on the premises. Since the Stonewall did not have a license, the place was being closed. It was the law.

According to the *New York Daily News*, "All hell broke loose when the police entered the Stonewall. . . The whole proceeding took on the aura of a homosexual Academy Awards night. The queens pranced out to the street blowing kisses and waving to the crowd. A beauty of a specimen named Stella wailed uncontrollably while being led to the sidewalk in front of the Stonewall by a cop. She later confessed that she didn't protest the manhandling by the officer, it was just that her hair was in curlers and she was afraid her new beau might be in the crowd and spot her. She didn't want him to see her this way. She wept.

"Official reports listed four injured policemen with 13 arrests.... A reporter visited the now closed

Stonewall and it indeed looked like a cyclone had struck the premises. Police said there were over 200 people in the Stonewall when they entered with a warrant. The crowd outside was estimated at 500 to 1,000. According to police, the Stonewall had been under observation for some time. Being a private club, plain clothesmen were refused entrance to the inside when they periodically tried to check the place.

"Police also believed the club was operated by Mafia-connected owners. The police confiscated the Stonewall's cash register as proceeds from an illegal operation. The receipts were counted and are on file at the division headquarters. The warrant was served, and the establishment closed on the grounds it was an illegal membership club with no license, and no license to serve liquor."

The Stonewall lives in the annals of gay history as the beginning of the gay revolution in America. Since that time, but at a much slower pace than its fast tracking sister, black civil rights, the gay-rights movement has emerged at the signature movement of the new millennium.

In America, gays and blacks have been (and in some cases continue to be) kicked, stepped on, maligned, ridiculed, scorned, sexually abused, illegally harassed, politically shunned, socially outcast and viewed as sexually and thereby morally irresponsible. Neither group is a stranger to the policeman's gun, the minister's disdain, the shopkeeper's distrust or society's low expectations of gays and blacks. Both groups, despite new employment laws, new medical evidence, new legislation and new societal thinking, still experience an enormous bout of distress and personal grief because of who and what we are.

While white America has accepted that blacks can be good postmen, school teachers, doctors and lawyers, etc., it is not nearly as convinced gays can do the same. And with gays the color doesn't matter. It seems that in America sexual preference takes on a higher degree of importance than ethnic background.

Those of us who are gay



and/or black have decisions to make. We have to decide if we are going to allow our society to shape us, or are we going to shape the society in which we live and have to earn a living. There are no John F. Kennedys and Martin Luther Kings for us. We have to be our own champions. We need to take up our own causes and stand on our own two feet.

It is not the duty of the president, the congress or the church to fight our battles for us. We must be willing to live openly and honestly with who and what we are. Hiding in the closet will not change things. If you want the people at work to respect you, then be honest with them. If you want the people at church to respect you, then show them that who you are as a Christian is much more than the sum and substance of who you are sexually. As the scripture admonishes, let your light as a Christian so shine that others will see the Christ in you and glorify God in heaven. This is your personal responsibility.

In the early years of the black struggle, the church was the one place where every black man and woman felt free to be who and what they were. Today, many gays and lesbians, black and white, are attending predominantly gay churches or gay-affirming churches for the same reason. As wonderful as this is, it's wrong. There is no way any of us, regardless of our race or sexual preference, can expect to carry out the commandment to go into all the world and make disciples if we choose to worship exclusively with our own kind.



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Army Inspector General to Investigate Gay Harassment

By Robert Burns
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army on Jan. 10 said it will investigate alleged anti-homosexual actions at Fort Campbell, Ky., during a period leading up to the killing of a gay private by a fellow sol-

dier there last summer.

The probe will be conducted by the Army's inspector general, Lt. Gen. Michael Ackerman, "in light of allegations that surfaced" during the criminal investigation of the murder and the recently concluded courts martial, Army Secretary Louis Caldera said.

Among the allegations that arose during the criminal proceedings was that relentless harassment of Pfc. Barry Winchell prior to his murder was reported to Fort Campbell's inspector general but that no action was taken.

Caldera said Ackerman also would conduct an "overall assess-

ment of the command climate" at Fort Campbell, to shed light on attitudes and practices there with regard to enforcing the Pentagon's policy on gays.

The investigation also will examine how the Defense Department's policy on gays in the military is being implemented by commanders in the field throughout the Army. The policy has come under increasing attack from critics in the aftermath of the killing at Fort Campbell, and Defense Secretary William Cohen last month ordered a 90-day review after President Clinton declared it was not working as intended.

The Ackerman investigation was requested by the commander of Fort Campbell, Maj. Gen. Robert T. Clark, officials said.

Ackerman will look into the harassment that witnesses said Winchell suffered at Fort Campbell before he was beaten to death by a fellow soldier last July. A military court sentenced

Winchell's roommate, Specialist Justin R. Fisher, to 12½ years in prison as part of a plea bargain. The deal enabled Fisher to avoid more serious charges of being an accomplice to the murder and helping cover it up.

In December, Pvt. Calvin Glover was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for beating Winchell to death with a baseball bat.

Outrage over the incident has put a renewed spotlight on the effectiveness of the Defense Department's "don't ask, don't tell" policy of allowing gays to serve in uniform so long as they keep their sexual orientation private. Critics say that in practice the policy doesn't work because suspected gays are threatened and harassed.

One sergeant who testified at Glover's trial said he had questioned Winchell about his sexuality, which is a violation of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Commander of Fort Campbell Issues Statement

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — The commander of Fort Campbell has issued a statement describing the fatal beating of soldier suspected of being gay as a tragedy, and defending the reputation of the post where it happened.

The Army announced Jan. 10 that it would investigate alleged anti-homosexual actions at Fort Campbell during the period leading up to the killing of Pfc. Barry Winchell by a fellow soldier there last summer. That review was requested by Maj. Gen. Robert T. Clark, the Fort Campbell commander.

"I asked for an outside assessment to ensure that a fair, unbiased, and comprehensive effort will be conducted to establish the truth," Clark said Tues. in the statement.

Of Winchell, Clark said: "His death has been a tragedy for all who knew him, his family, and all of us at Fort Campbell."

On Jan 8, a military court sentenced Winchell's roommate, Spc. Justin R. Fisher, to 12½ years in prison as part of a plea bargain. The deal enabled Fisher to avoid more serious charges of being an accomplice to the murder and helping cover it up.

In December, Pvt. Calvin Glover was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for beating Winchell to death with a baseball bat. Prosecutors said Glover hated homosexuals and believed Winchell was gay.

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serve in uniform so long as they keep their sexual orientation private. Critics say that in practice the policy doesn't work because suspected gays are threatened and harassed.

One sergeant who testified at Glover's trial said he had questioned Winchell about his sexuality, which is a violation of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

In his statement, Clark said everyone at Fort Campbell was "outraged that a soldier would take the life of a soldier."

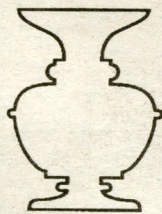
"We will learn from this incident and are doing everything humanly possible to prevent anything like this from happening again."

Clark said all aspects of barracks life have been examined, from security to alcohol consumption.

"Treatment of others and the dignity of every soldier have received special emphasis with leaders and soldiers at every level at Fort Campbell in past months," he said. "Finally, I also have issued a policy letter on the handling of discharges for homosexual conduct to ensure these matters preserve the privacy and dignity of individual soldiers."

In his statement, Clark also defended the reputation of Fort Campbell soldiers, whom he said "serve today with distinction around the world."

"They are training hard, focused on their wartime missions and working together as teams," he said. "This is the climate that exists at Fort Campbell, in contrast to what you have seen on TV and in the papers over these past few months."



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Top Court to Rule on Boy Scouts vs. Gays

By Laurie Asseo
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taking on emotional issues of free speech and homosexuality, the Supreme Court agreed Jan. 14 to decide whether the Boy Scouts of America can exclude gays as members and troop leaders.

The justices said they will decide whether the organization had a constitutional right to oust a young troop leader after learning he is gay. The court is expected to hear arguments in April and issue a decision by July.

New Jersey's highest court ruled last summer that the Boy Scouts' denial of membership to homosexual boys and leaders violated a state law banning discrimination in public accommodations.

But the Scouts' lawyer contends that law violated the organization's rights of free speech and free association under the Constitution's First Amendment.

"Scouting adheres to a moral belief ... that homosexual conduct is not moral," the Scouts' lawyer, George A. Davidson, said after the high court granted review Friday.

An openly gay person would not be a proper Scout role model, Davidson said, adding, "Boy Scouting is really all about sending messages. The message is that you should be morally straight."

But the attorney for James Dale, the former assistant scoutmaster whose leadership role was revoked, said opposition to homosexuality is not one of the Scouts' main purposes.

"As gay people we know how important the First Amendment is," said lawyer Evan Wolfson of the

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. "Their First Amendment rights are not being interfered with. The members did not join the Boy Scouts for bigotry in the first place."

Dale was 20 and an assistant scoutmaster of a Matawan, N.J., troop when in 1990 he was identified in a newspaper article as co-president of a campus lesbian and gay student group at Rutgers University.

He previously had attained the rank of Eagle, which only 2 percent of all Scouts achieve, and had been elected to the Order of the Arrow, a Scouting honor society.

The Scouts' Monmouth Council revoked Dale's registration as an adult leader. Dale was told the Boy Scouts "does not admit avowed homosexuals to membership in the organization."

Dale sued the Monmouth Council and the national organization in 1992, contending they violated the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. His lawsuit seeks reinstatement and monetary damages.

A state trial judge threw out the case, ruling that the Boy Scouts is not a place of public accommodation and therefore is not covered by the law. But an appeals court and the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled for Dale.

The state Supreme Court rejected the organization's argument that accepting homosexuals would violate the Scout Oath's commitment to remain "morally straight" and the Scout Law's commitment to remain "clean."

Its decision added: "The Boy Scouts' expulsion of Dale is based on little more than prejudice and not on a unified Boy Scout position."

The Scouts' appeal to the nation's highest court said the New Jersey court decision leaves many organizations vulnerable.

"Almost any organization could find itself a victim of a court's desire to foster social change by forcing social private associations to conform to its idea of egalitarian values," the appeal said.

The appeal relied on a 1995 decision in which the justices said the sponsor of Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade should not be forced to let a group of gays and lesbians participate. The court said parades are "a form of expression" and private sponsors cannot be forced to include "a group imparting a message the organizers do not wish to convey."

But Dale's lawyers contend his case should be governed by a series of Supreme Court decisions dealing with state public accommodations laws.

The court ruled in 1984 that states may force the Jaycees, a group dedicated to developing America's future leaders, to admit women as full members. Three years later, the court ruled that states may force Rotary International to admit women as members.

In 1988, the court said New York City can bar discrimination against women and minorities by clubs with more than 400 members.

None of those decisions dealt with gay rights, however, an issue the court has visited on a few occasions in the last two decades but never seemed eager to tackle. For example, the justices repeatedly have turned away challenges to President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military.

Republicans Use 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' as a Vehicle for More Bashing Of GLBT People, NGLTF Warns

WASHINGTON — New Republican National Committee (RNC) TV ads on the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy are a continuation of the Republican Party's efforts to portray gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people as unworthy of equal rights, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said Jan. 10.

According to recent published reports, the RNC plans to air TV spots on the issue in Iowa, New Hampshire and other key primary states. "Don't ask, don't tell" is a flawed policy that has resulted in increased discharges of servicemen and women and, contrary to its stated goal, has led to well-publicized witchhunts against gay, lesbian and bisexual people.

A report recently released by the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force shows

overwhelming opposition to sexual orientation-based discrimination in the military, even among conservatives. The report, *From Wrongs to Rights: Public Opinion on Gay and Lesbian Americans Moves Toward Equality 1973-1999*, authored by Columbia University political scientist Alan Yang, reveals that American public opinion is more supportive of equality than are most lawmakers and politicians.

Both Vice President Gore and Bill Bradley have stated their intention to end "Don't ask, don't tell" if elected. Republican candidates, on the other hand, have expressed varying degrees of support for the policy. On Jan. 9, Senator John McCain said comments by the two Democratic candidates disqualified both of them from the presidency. Both McCain and

George W. Bush have expressed support for the discriminatory policy.

Rebecca Isaacs, NGLTF political director, noted that polls show both the Republican presidential candidates and the RNC to be clearly out of touch on the issue of ending discrimination. For example, a 1999 Gallup survey showed 70 percent of respondents favor the right of gays and lesbians to serve in the military. And a 1996 National Elections Studies survey showed 57 percent of conservatives, 70 percent of moderates and 91 percent of liberals support ending discrimination.

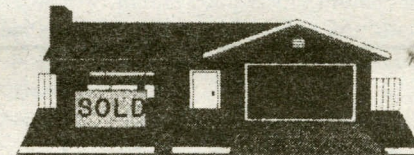
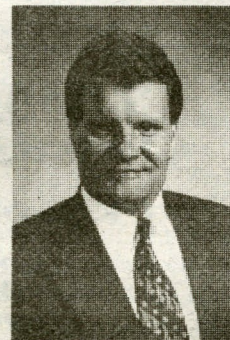
"The anti-gay conservatives have not heard that it's a new millennium," Isaacs said. "These ads pander to the extreme right wing and risk alienating mainstream voters who will decide this election."



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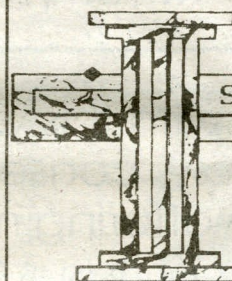


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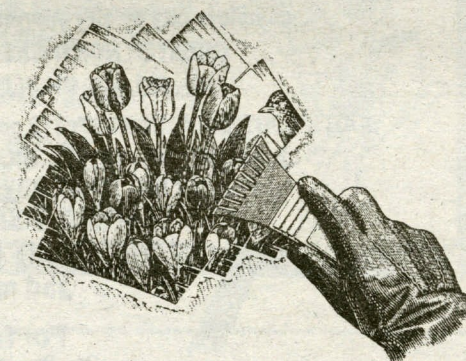
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White Says Falwell's Anti-Gay Record Mixed Since Meeting

By Shannon Brennan

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP) — More than two months after the historic meeting between Jerry Falwell and Mel White, the two still disagree about what it means to lower anti-gay rhetoric.

White, a gay minister who

wrote Falwell's autobiography before coming out openly about his homosexuality, said he has been tracking Falwell's every word since the Oct. 23 non-violence summit at Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church.

"It's a mixed bag," White said in a recent telephone interview. "He has continually tried to do his

'don't drive your children away' rhetoric."

That message urges parents to be supportive of children who admit to being homosexual. Falwell has also continued to preach against violence, he said.

"On the one hand, we think he's trying," White said. "On the other hand, he doesn't understand what

spiritual violence is."

The Rev. Jimmy Creech accused Falwell of committing "spiritual violence" during a press conference after the Oct. 23 summit when Falwell continually compared gays to drug addicts, alcoholics and unwed mothers. Falwell said gays need to be loved, like other sinners, and helped out of their sinful lifestyles.

White said Falwell continues to batter gay activists, characterizing them as "the bad guys," he said.

"He doesn't understand that the good guys are the activists now," White said.

White said he and his Soulforce followers are fighting for equal treatment in employment, in the military, in marriage and adoption and to be included in hate crime legislation.

"When we ask for those basic human rights, he sees that as militant activism," White said.

Falwell's spokesman, Mark DeMoss, met with White at his home in California last month and said he understands some of White's disappointment and frustration. At the same time, however, DeMoss said White needs to be patient and appreciative of Falwell's willingness to talk.

"This is the only dialogue Mel White is enjoying in America with anyone who disagrees with him," DeMoss said. "I hope he doesn't lose sight of that."

DeMoss said the October summit was encouraging and significant, but both sides must realize there are points on which they will never agree.

"Somewhere down this road, we reach a point where both of us will say, 'We can't go any further,'" DeMoss said.

"Falwell is committed to being more sensitive and more careful. On the other hand, he has not committed to quit saying what he believes to be morally right or wrong."

DeMoss said he is absolutely certain that Falwell will not change his position on homosexuality.

"If he lived to usher in Y3K, he would not alter his view that homosexuality is a sin against God, as is any sex outside of marriage between a man and a woman,"

DeMoss said.

"I'm equally confident that Mel White is not going to change his view that homosexuality is a gift from God and should be celebrated."

DeMoss said Falwell is no less flexible than White. He also noted that White and his followers were offended during the anti-violence forum when Michael Johnston spoke as an ex-gay.

"The level of animosity that gays have for an ex-gay is so intense it pales in comparison to even people that Mel would say hate gays," DeMoss said.

So neither side is devoid of biases that will impede the progress of dialogue, he said.

Nonetheless, the two intend to keep talking.

"I'm committed to staying in the middle of it," DeMoss said.

While Falwell received quite a bit of flack for meeting with White and his Soulforce followers in October, he has been free of criticism since, DeMoss said.

"I think Jerry's received very little fallout," DeMoss said. "Going into the meeting there was a real collective apprehension in the evangelical community."

But after the meeting, evangelicals saw that Falwell remained true to his beliefs and convictions, he said.

DeMoss said they are still discussing what the next dialogue will involve.

Despite his mixed reviews on Falwell's progress, White plans to meet again in Lynchburg and continue working with Falwell. His Soulforce group is also planning a return in September to build a house for Habitat for Humanity.

"This is a long-term and very risky dialogue for both of us," White said. "There has been lots of vitriol from friends and foes alike for even meeting with him."

But as long as the focus is against violence, the struggle is worth it, he said.

"Jerry is on the cusp of a revolution," White said. "I'm willing to love him a few steps further."

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Anti-Gay Kansas Church Group Protests at Arizona State Capitol

By Scott Thomsen
Associated Press writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Anti-gay protesters picketed at the Arizona state capitol Jan 10 to take a stance against an openly gay legislator who is also an Army Reserve lieutenant.

About 10 members of the Topeka-based Westboro Baptist Church were present as legislators began arriving to begin the 2000 legislative session.

The protesters said they do not believe Rep. Steve May, R-Phoenix, should be allowed to serve in the legislature or the military. Army officials are trying to determine whether to discharge May because of statements he made acknowledging his homosexuality while debating a bill during last year's session.

"Shame on the state of Arizona," said protest leader Fred Phelps Jr., son of the church's pastor. "The Bible makes it clear that lifestyle is condemned by God."

The picketers and a group of about 25 counter-protesters were separated into First Amendment Zones surrounded by orange plastic fencing on both sides of the sidewalk leading into the Capitol.

Members of the Kansas group sang on one side while they held up bold colored signs with slogans such as "Matt in Hell" with a picture of Matthew Shepherd, a gay college student who was beaten and left for dead on a wooden rail fence in Wyoming last year. Other signs used slurs to refer to homosexuals.

On the other side, Drew Sullivan, an 18-year-old Phoenix high school student, said he skipped school to stand up against what he called the strongest example of hate he's ever seen.

"They use their religion to act like this," Sullivan said. "This is not a part of Christian teaching."

Judie Roepke, a registered nurse from Mesa said she had never participated in a protest before she picked up a sign saying, "God is love, compassion."

"I just couldn't stand by and watch this kind of hate in our hometown," Roepke said. "God was inclusionary. He never excluded anybody. He hung out with prostitutes and sinners and tax collectors. I'm sure God doesn't hate."

Dozens of police officers were on hand though the protest remained peaceful other than some shouting.

Men Who Beat Up Gay U.S. Author Each Jailed For Eight Years

Ireland (AP) — A judge on Jan 13 jailed for eight years two Irishmen who assaulted an American gay author, Robert Drake, nearly a year ago leaving him disabled.

Judge Anthony Kennedy told Glen Mahon, 22, and Ian Monaghan, 21, that their actions were "truly shocking."

Passing sentence at the Circuit Criminal Court in this northwest Ireland town, the judge said Drake, who comes from Philadelphia, had been "beaten to within an inch of his life and left alone in that appalling state for 15 hours" after the Jan. 31 attack last year at the author's apartment.

The two men were convicted in October of intentionally and recklessly causing serious harm — the U.S. equivalent of aggravated assault. Sentencing was postponed until Jan 13 for reports on the young men from welfare and other officials.

They attacked Drake soon after he had arrived in Ireland to write a novel.

Defense lawyers said Drake invited the two men in for drinks and cigars as they passed by on their

way to a New Year's Eve party, made a crude homosexual pass and a struggle broke out.

Witnesses testified that Drake's injuries were the equivalent of two 60 mph (100 kph) impacts to each side of his head.

Drake returned to Philadelphia by medical transport in March. He was released from hospital in October, still using a wheelchair to get around and a letter board to assist in communicating.

"Mr. Drake's life has been completely ruined," said Ger Philpot of Ireland's Gay Community News. "It is mind-boggling to think that someone would end up in that situation purely because of his sexual orientation."



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Britain Ends Ban on Gays in Military

By Maureen Johnson
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Obeying a European court ruling, Britain has lifted its ban on gays in the military and replaced it with a code of conduct on sexual behavior, whether soldiers be heterosexual or homosexual.

"As no primary or secondary legislation is required, with effect from today, homosexuality will no longer be a bar to service in Britain's armed forces," Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon of the governing Labor Party told the House of Commons on Jan. 12.

He said the ban was no longer "legally sustainable" after the European Court of Human Rights ruled in September in favor of four gay enlistees dismissed from the military. The judges labeled the ban a grave interference in private lives.

But Hoon warned that homosexuals in the armed forces will still face disciplinary action if their behavior undermines the effectiveness of their units.

Opposition Conservative Party lawmakers were angered by the decision.

"This announcement will be greeted with dismay through all three services who surely by their faithful and gallant service over generations have earned the right to be exempted from these lunatic, politically correct nostrums," said Nicholas Soames, a former Tory defense minister.

Gay rights groups were approving — but said the ruling will not necessarily end poor treatment of gays in the military.

"What is needed is an educational campaign — similar to the military's current efforts against racism — to create a safe, sympathetic environment for the forces," said Peter Tatchell, a spokesman for Outrage!

Hoon acknowledged there remains some opposition to gays in the military, but added that "the law is the law. We cannot choose the decisions we implement."

A key test of unacceptable personal relations in the military under the new code will be whether the conduct undermines military effectiveness, Hoon said.

Personnel dismissed for being gay can apply to rejoin the services, and actions against serving personnel will be halted. News reports said some 600 have been forced out over the past decade.

In future, the sexual orientation of soldiers, sailors and air force personnel will be a private matter, Hoon said.

Unlike the United States military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, the British military had flatly banned gays.

Hoon said military personnel need a code of conduct, because they "cannot choose the people they work and live with, often in difficult, cramped conditions and for sustained periods."

"Operational effectiveness depends on team cohesion and the maintenance of trust and loyalty," he told lawmakers. "As a result, standards of behavior ... can be more demanding than those required by society at large."

The decision has brought Britain into line with other European countries that allow gays in uniform, with

varying degrees of enthusiasm. Policies range from the Netherlands, where gays have served openly since the 1970s, to Greece which bars homosexual officers. In Italy overt homosexual behavior is frowned on the military and gay men are often exempted from the 10-month compulsory military service.

In the United States, the Pentagon announced in December a review of its policy under which the military is not supposed to ask service members about their sexual orientation, unless there is evidence of homosexual conduct. Still, soldiers who say they are gay may be discharged.

President Clinton has said the policy was never supposed to facilitate rooting out or harassing gays. He has cited repeatedly the case of a gay soldier who was beaten to death in Kentucky.



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Nondiscrimination Laws Now Cover 60 Million Americans, New Report Finds

From the tiny town of Sorrento, Maine (population: 355) to New York City (population: 7.3 million), more than 37 million Americans now live in towns, cities or counties with laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. Add in the number of Americans who live in states with similar laws, and the number grows to 60 million Americans, according to a new, comprehensive report released by the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. This is a sharp increase from 1990, when fewer than 15 million Americans lived in states with such nondiscrimination laws, and about 18 million lived in cities banning sexual orientation discrimination.

The NGLTF Policy Institute report, *Legislating Equality: A Review of Laws Affecting Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered People in the United States*, provides the most extensive description to date of local, county and state laws addressing GLBT equality. This report is an invaluable tool for activists, journalists and policymakers who

require reliable facts on laws affecting GLBT people but lack the time, resources or desire to conduct primary research. The Policy Institute is a think tank dedicated to research, policy analysis, strategy development and coalition building to advance the equality and understanding of GLBT people.

"At the dawn of the 21st Century, the strength of the GLBT movement is at the state and local level," said Urvashi Vaid, director of the Policy Institute of NGLTF. "This demonstrates the power and success of local organizing, and it underscores a sharp contrast between what is happening in towns and cities where people live and what is happening in Congress, where conservative leaders repeatedly have turned their backs on GLBT equality."

Legislating Equality examines the status of anti-discrimination laws in all 50 states and 236 towns, cities and counties. Among its findings:

- Three counties, 20 cities and one state (Minnesota) prohibit discrimination based on gender

identity in private employment. Yet 95 percent of Americans do not live in jurisdictions that ban gender identity-based discrimination.

- More than 100 cities and 18 counties prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in private employment. The average size of a city with a nondiscrimination ordinance dropped from 362,696 in the 1970s to 225,541 today, reflecting the reality that more small and mid-sized cities are adopting nondiscrimination ordinances.

- Thirty-six counties and 141 cities have ordinances banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in public employment, while 20 counties and 108 cities ban discrimination in public accommodations.

Vaid said *Legislating Equality* dismantles the myth that GLBT equality is a concept known only to cities such as San Francisco or New York. "In fact, it is the residents and activists in the cities, towns and counties of middle America who are leading the way," Vaid said. "Transgender people are

protected from job discrimination in Louisville, Ky, and Iowa City, but not yet in New York City. Vermont has recognized that same-sex couples are entitled to the same benefits as married couples, but Massachusetts and California have not. The truth is that the notion of GLBT equality has widespread support in the American heartland."

Vaid said that local activists are to be credited for the fact that hundreds of cities, counties and some states are more cognizant of the discrimination and violence that GLBT people face than most presidential candidates and members of Congress. "The U.S. public overwhelmingly supports equal rights and anti-discrimination protections for lesbians and gay men, and this support has increased markedly during the decade of the 1990s," Vaid said. "For example, 70 percent of Americans in 1999 supported the right of gays and lesbians to serve in the military, up from 55 percent in 1992. And 49 percent of Republicans support

anti-discrimination laws for gay men and lesbians, compared with 42 percent who are opposed."

"Support for GLBT equality is solid in middle America," Vaid added. "Presidential candidates who oppose anti-discrimination protections are out of touch with the views of a solid majority of the U.S. public."

Legislating Equality comes on the heels of *Capital Gains and Losses: A State By State Review of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and HIV/AIDS Related Legislation in 1999*. That report tracked 474 GLBT- and HIV/AIDS-related bills in the nation's 50 state legislatures and the District of Columbia during the past year.

To order a copy of *Legislating Equality*, call the NGLTF communications department at 202-332-6483. Copies of *Legislating Equality* are available to the general public for free via download at www.pfaw.org/pub.html, or for \$10 via mail order. To purchase a copy, call 202-332-6483, ext. 3205.

West Hollywood Rejects Mandatory Condom Distribution Law

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — The City Council unanimously turned down a proposal ordering bars and nightclubs to offer free condoms at the door, citing anecdotal evidence that many businesses were already voluntarily handing them out.

The council on Jan. 3 voted 5-0 to expand the voluntary distribution program that has been in place for eight years in this city known for its gay nightlife. The council also approved the purchase of an additional 50,000 condoms for the program and instructed city staff to look into a way to monitor whether bars and clubs make the condoms accessible.

After more than two hours of discussion, councilmembers decided that forcing bars to offer condoms would create too much resistance in the city's efforts to educate people about safe sex.

"I think everyone wants to save lives," said Mayor John Heilman. "Trying to change a person's behavior is best done in a collaborative, cooperative fashion."

Last year the city distributed 300,000 condoms to about 30 nightclubs, where owners voluntarily placed them in containers at entrances. The council's vote will raise that number to 350,000 this year, spending about \$30,000 on the distribution program.

The mandatory distribution program the council rejected would have required "the distribution of condoms for liquor licensees, adult businesses, coffee houses and lo-



Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and an advocate of mandatory condom distribution, speaks during a news conference in West Hollywood, Calif., concerning the city's vote on whether to make its current voluntary condom distribution at bars and clubs mandatory. (AP Photo)

cal nonprofit organizations which market to people at highest risk for HIV infection." The city could have imposed fines for noncompliance.

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation was the driving force behind the mandatory proposal, citing it as a public health issue.

"It was not a profile in courage tonight in West Hollywood," Michael Weinstein, the foundation's president, said after the vote. The foundation, the nation's largest HIV/AIDS medical provider, hopes to get the mandatory distribution issue on the November ballot.

"A bar does not open without beer or without a fire extinguisher. It should not open without condoms," he said.

Several business owners said they already offer condoms, sometimes going through a bowl-full of 200 in a day. The only problem, they said, is that they too often run out.

Scot Sullivan, 41, a customer at Trunks bar, has picked up a few free condoms on his way out and appreciates the fact that they are there.

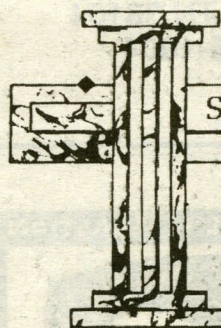
"Even if I don't use them tonight, they're in my drawer," Sullivan said. "You never know when you need them."

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California to Vote on Same-Sex Marriages in March

By Bob Egelko
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Christie Hardwick Vianson has been married twice, to men, and has no plans to wed her female partner of the past six years.

But she doesn't want the state, in the form of Proposition 22, telling them and other same-sex couples they can never marry.

"It's the government coming into my personal relationship and making a decision about whether it's valid," says Vianson, a 40-year-old mother of three who works for a high-tech company. "I think it gives legitimacy to people who want to hate."

Proposition 22 is on the California ballot March 7. It is only 14 words long: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

As far as Rebecca Bennion is concerned, that's a good start. The housewife and mother of five disavows any anti-gay prejudice but longs for a return to an earlier era.

"It would be great if we could roll the years back — a man and a woman committed to each other, the wife staying home, nurturing the kids, like my mom stayed home," she says. "We've tried everything else."

The California proposition is not unique: Similar ballot measures passed in Alaska and Hawaii in

1998, and signatures are being gathered in Colorado and Nevada.

But the potential political impact is magnified by California's role as the nation's most populous state and the presence of a large, visible gay population in the San Francisco Bay area and Los Angeles.

"An eighth of the country is being asked to vote on an anti-gay initiative," says Mike Marshall, the No-on-22 campaign manager. "If it passes, it sends a profound message to policy-makers and young gays and lesbians who are struggling with their sexual orientation."

Hollywood weighed in early with an anti-22 television commercial last month by the cast of NBC's *Will and Grace*, which has a gay lead character. It said the proposition "increases the rhetoric of hate and intolerance" and would "inject the government into the most personal decisions."

No state has legalized gay marriage. Ever since Hawaii's Supreme Court raised the possibility of same-sex unions in 1993, Congress and 30 states, mostly in the South and Midwest, have passed pre-emptive laws saying they won't recognize such marriages if they are legalized in any other state.

It is uncertain whether any of those laws can get around the requirement in the U.S. Constitution that states give "full faith and credit" to other states' laws.

Hawaii has since adopted a constitutional amendment barring gay marriage. Vermont is the only state considering legalization, but lawmakers are generally expected to endorse domestic partner benefits instead.

Proposition 22 is known as the Knight Initiative, after its sponsor, Republican state Sen. Pete Knight, whose gay son David has branded the measure a "blind, uncaring, uninformed, knee-jerk reaction to a subject about which he knows nothing and wants to know nothing, but which serves his political career."

Pete Knight has declined to be interviewed about the measure. In a statement last October, Knight said he regretted that his son had made a private matter public.

Backers of the measure appear to have learned the lessons of past campaigns — a proposed ban on gay teachers in 1978, and Lyndon LaRouche-sponsored measures in 1986 and 1988 to quarantine AIDS patients. All were defeated after their sponsors were portrayed as bigoted extremists.

An independent Field Poll last month showed Proposition 22 leading 51 percent to 40 percent. Opposition in San Francisco and Los Angeles has been offset by support in rural and suburban areas, says Field Poll director Mark DiCamillo, who predicted a close election.

"It's pulling a significant amount of moderate Democrats," the key to winning most California elections, says Bruce Cain, director of the Institute for Governmental Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. It could still lose "if it can be painted as extremist, if there's enough money and if the campaign

is run well enough."

So far, supporters have reported raising \$5 million, about twice as much as opponents. More than \$310,000 has come from the Roman Catholic Church, while the Mormon church has written to 740,000 members urging support for 22.



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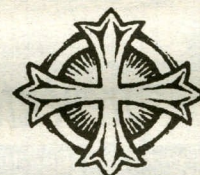
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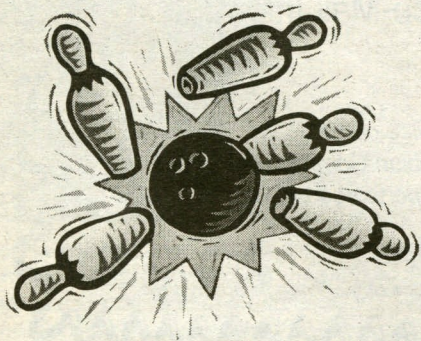
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First Baseman Says 'Fat Monkey' Comment Referred to Him, Calls Rocker Liar

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Atlanta Braves first baseman Randall Simon says he knows John Rocker was talking about him when he described a teammate as a "fat monkey" in a *Sports Illustrated* interview.

And he says Rocker's explanation of the comment as merely clubhouse humor is a lie.

"I swear to you if he said that to my face I'd tear him up, and one of us would be suspended right now," Simon said Jan 15 in an interview with Morris News Service. "When I joke, I don't try to make somebody feel bad. He knows, too. We don't joke like that.

"He knows we've never had a relationship like that. He has no relationships with the black guys or the Latin guys on the team. He's lying to try and cover himself. He has a lot of guts to say that."

Rocker, a Braves relief pitcher, criticized gays and immigrants and described a black teammate as a "fat monkey" in a *Sports Illustrated* article published in December. He told ESPN earlier that he was talking about a Latin teammate.

"I'm the only one on the team who's Latin and black," said Simon, who is playing in a Dominican baseball league this winter. "I know for a fact he's talking about

me. It's going to be tough for me when I see him."

Rocker explained the "fat monkey" comment to ESPN's Peter Gammons by saying, "I've said it to his face in the past. And he'll fire with this, that or the other and we'll laugh about it. I let a reporter in on an aspect of clubhouse humor and he took it literally."

Simon said that explanation was a lie.

"Anybody can say things and then say I'm sorry," he said. "It doesn't mean he's sorry. I know he's apologizing right now to get himself right. He's scared, and he's going to do things to make himself feel better and look better."

Rocker publicly blamed Simon late last season for a botched play at first base that cost the Braves a win.

"Rocker has made comments before about me," Simon said. "What he said (in the *Sports Illustrated* article) he says now was a mistake. It wasn't a mistake. How can you still have anger about something two months after the season ended? It's not just one thing he said, he said a whole bunch of things. My mom and girlfriend say, 'Let it go,' but it's hard to let it go."

Baseball home run king Hank Aaron and former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young met with Rocker on Jan 12 and said they were



John Lee of Atlanta's Asian American community responds to the comments against gays and minorities made by Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker during a protest outside Turner Field in Atlanta on Dec. 23. The group of about 15 community leaders are urging Braves team officials to fire Rocker.

(AP Photo/Erik S. Lesser)

pleased with the relief pitcher. Both said it would be difficult for Rocker to repair his relationship with teammates.

Minority groups in Atlanta have called for the Braves to release Rocker. Baseball commissioner Bud Selig ordered him to undergo psychological tests and said he may take disciplinary action.

Heavy Metal Band Asks Braves to Stop Using Their Song to Introduce Rocker

By James Pilcher
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Members of the heavy metal band Twisted Sister have asked the Atlanta Braves to stop using their song "I Wanna Rock" to introduce John Rocker in protest of the reliever's recent comments disparaging gays and minorities.

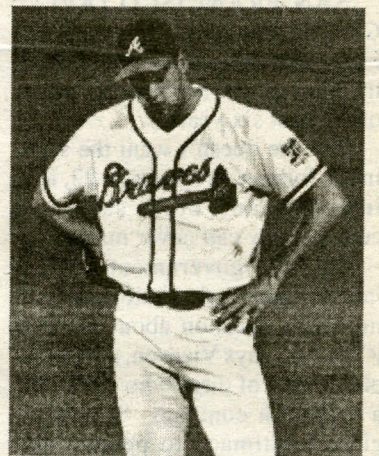
"We've got Hispanics in this band, Italians in this band, people who are Polish and Russian," said the band's co-founder and guitarist Jay Jay French. "We're all immigrants, all foreigners — quote unquote — and this is our way of saying his comments were not acceptable."

In an interview in *Sports Illustrated*, Rocker said he would never play for a New York team because he didn't want to ride a train "next to some queer with AIDS." He also bashed immigrants, saying "I'm not a very big fan of foreigners. ... How the hell did they get in this country?"

Rocker later apologized and in a subsequent interview with ESPN said his comments were in retaliation for verbal and physical abuse he said he received from New York Mets fans during the National League Championship Series.

New York-based Twisted Sister is best known for its 1984 hit single "We're Not Gonna Take It." The song's video featured lead singer Dee Snyder and other band members wearing garish makeup and wild hairstyles.

French, 42, said he still legally



John Rocker (AP Photo/Alan Mothner)

represents the band and that all its members were in agreement over the action.

He said he told both his record label, Atlantic Records, the band didn't want the song used in conjunction with Rocker and said he faxed a letter to the Braves' director of public relations Jim Schultz and left several messages for him.

French would not speculate on what he would do if the Braves continued to use the song, written by Snyder.

Schultz did not return phone calls seeking comment.

"These comments were way too damaging to be considered flip comments," French said. "One must take responsibility for the ramifications when you say something like that, and this is just our way of voicing our displeasure — the one thing we could do. This is just another voice in the crowd that lets him know that what he did was not acceptable."

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Vermont Supreme Court Rules on Same Sex Marriage

By Christopher Graff
Associated Press Writer

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Gay and lesbian couples must be granted the same benefits and protections given married couples of the opposite sex, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled Dec. 20.

But the court stayed its ruling to allow the Legislature to consider whether those benefits will come through marriage or a system of domestic partnerships.

"We hold that the state is constitutionally required to extend to same-sex couples the common ben-

efits and protections that flow from marriage under Vermont law," the justices said. "Whether this ultimately takes the form of inclusion within the marriage laws themselves or a parallel 'domestic partnership' system or some equivalent statutory alternative, rests with the Legislature.

"Whatever system is chosen, however, must conform with the constitutional imperative to afford all Vermonters the common benefit, protection, and security of the law," the court said.

The ruling stems from a suit filed in July 1997 by three couples

— two lesbian and one gay — after they were denied marriage licenses by their local town clerks. The clerks acted on the advice of the state attorney general, who relied on a 1975 opinion by a predecessor calling same-sex marriages unconstitutional.

The three couples first filed suit in Chittenden County Superior Court but a judge rejected their claims. The couples then appealed to the Supreme Court, which heard arguments in the case 13 months ago.

The couples argued that their inability to get married denied them

more than 300 benefits at the state level and more than 1,000 at the federal level. The Supreme Court acknowledged that, saying the benefits included "access to a spouse's medical, life, and disability insurance, hospital visitation and other medical decisionmaking privileges, spousal support, intestate succession, homestead protections, and many other statutory protections."

The decision, written by Chief Justice Jeffrey Amestoy, acknowledges the controversy swirling around the issue of same-sex marriages. It is "a question that the court well knows arouses deeply felt religious, moral, and political beliefs," the justices said in their decision.

The issue divided the court. While all five justices agreed that gay and lesbian couples should receive the same benefits as granted couples of the opposite sex, three of the justices joined a concurring opinion written by Justice John Dooley that challenged the reasoning behind Amestoy's decision.

And Justice Denise Johnson wrote a separate opinion saying the court had not gone far enough. She said the court recognizes that gays and lesbians are entitled to certain rights and "yet declines to give them any relief other than an exhortation to the Legislature to deal with the problem." Johnson said she would require town clerks to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Many Vermont Religious Leaders Support Gay Marriage

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — A group of 17 Vermont religious leaders, including the state's Episcopal and Methodist bishops, believe marriage is the only way to give same-sex couples all the legal benefits given to traditional married couples.

The institution of marriage "can only be strengthened by extending our understanding of marriage to include the faithful committed relationships of same gender couples," the statement says. "(W)hen two women or two men make a loving commitment to one another and wish to assume the responsibilities of marriage, they exemplify a moral good which cannot be represented by so-called registered partnership."

The statement was released the day after a pastoral letter by Vermont's Roman Catholic bishop, urging Catholics and other people of faith who oppose same-sex marriage and domestic partnership to

rally at the State House.

Organizers of the statement supporting same-sex marriage said the timing was coincidental, but they felt it was important to let legislators and the public know that all religious traditions do not speak with one voice.

"The primary opposition to same-gender marriage is coming from people of faith communities," said the Rev. Brendan Hadash of St. Johnsbury Universalist Church, who signed the Jan. 19 statement. "We want to make absolutely certain that the world knows that not all faith communities agree. There are at least 100 ministers in Vermont who support same-gender marriage. We're talking many different denominations."

Hadash was referring to the number of religious leaders who have signed the statement organized by the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force. He said he expected many of those leaders to

sign on to the statement which was made public, and is already circulating via e-mail.

In December, Vermont's Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples are entitled to the same benefits and protections as married couples, but left it to the Legislature to decide how to ensure those rights. Legislators are considering several options, including rewriting the marriage statutes to include same-sex couples and creating a parallel institution of domestic partnership.

The Legislature's decision will affect only civil marriage law, leaving religious groups free to choose whether to recognize same-sex unions. No church would be required to perform gay weddings.



Peter Harrigan, center, and his partner, Stan Baker, right, smile as they look over the crowd at the first public hearing by the House Judiciary Committee on same sex marriage in Montpelier, Vt., Jan. 25. The two men are one of the couples who brought the same-sex lawsuit against the state of Vermont. Their lawyer, Beth Robinson, is at left. See Stories on pages 11 and 15 (AP Photo/Toby Talbot)

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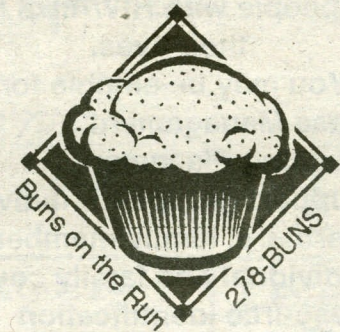
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Town Hall Meetings to Begin Softball Season Approaching

Submitted by MGLCC

The board of the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) has been thinking of ways it can help promote more unity in the Memphis GLBT community and ways that all the organizations, businesses, churches and individuals can work together for the common good of the entire community.

The MGLCC board felt that the best method with which to begin is a series of town hall meetings discussing our community, its problems and how everyone can be

included in helping to rectify the common problems we all face. MGLCC is requesting that every GLBT organization send at least one delegate to attend the meeting.

MGLCC invites anyone who is interested in participating in this discussion to meet at Pilgrim Hall of First Congregational Church on Sun., Feb. 6, from 6-8 p.m. The town hall meetings will be in lieu of the monthly open meetings that the community center began earlier this year.

For more information, contact MGLCC President, Ben Mendoza at 383-8053.

Judy's Rainbow Coming to Memphis

Friends For Life will be saluting Judy Garland in its third annual "Fabulous February" event. The concert, "The Rainbow Comes to Memphis, Tennessee," is a benefit for FFL which now includes Aloysius Home as well as the AIDS Resource Center.

The two previous Fabulous February Concerts, *A Holiday with Billie Holiday* and *Doing It Our Way... A Tribute to Francis Albert Sinatra* were very successful. Without disclosing any secrets, organizers say the show will be full of entertaining surprises.

In addition to the 17-piece Memphis Jazz Orchestra, the concert will feature Teresa Pate, Gary Johns, Sandra Bray, Hudson & Saleeby, Debbie Kines, Susan Marshall and

Jackie Johnson. WHBQ's Leon Griffin will emcee in the role of the Wizard of Memphis.

The concert will be staged at the New Daisy Theatre on Beale St on Sun., Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Donations of \$100 and \$250 will include a reception at Alfred's on Beale immediately following the concert.

The concert is sponsored by Craig Simrell, The Garden District and *The Memphis Flyer*. The reception is sponsored by Impact Marketing and Kathy Fish.

For reservations, call Friends For Life at (901) 272-0855. Previous Fabulous February concerts have sold out, so reservations are encouraged to avoid disappointment.

By Chuck Saylor

With cold temperatures abounding, it's time to think about playing *softball*.

You may not realize it, but *now* is the time to get things started if you're interested in playing, either as a team or individual. The season will begin play in early April and finish up in mid-July. Along the way, several scheduled off days will be included.

The league is termed "open", meaning there can be any mixture of men and women playing, or all men or all women's teams. Each team will compete against the others during the season.

This year women batters will

be hitting the smaller women's softball, as they do in a regular co-ed league, while male batters will use the larger men's softball. This idea was approved at the end of last year to encourage greater participation from the community.

Teams will also be grouped into two different experience and playing ability levels for regular season games.

New players and teams are welcome. Call 374-9787 if you are interested. More information will be available in the next issue of *Triangle Journal News*.

Break out that glove, call for information and have some great fun.

Integrity to Feature Special Play Reading in February

Integrity will enjoy two unusual gatherings in February. On Sat., Feb. 12, the organization will have its annual St. Valentine's party, but this year the get-together will be in a restored antebellum home in Holly Springs. This home was on the Holly Springs Pilgrimage last year. The Valentine's party is always popular — a time when everyone is getting over the "cabin fever" of winter and anticipating the warmth of spring. Newcomers are welcome. For more information, call Calvary Church: 525-6602.

On Tues., Feb. 15, the group's regular monthly meeting will include worship at 6:30 p.m., dinner and a special program. Peterson Toscano will read a one-act play he wrote recently.

Toscano describes his play as follows:

"I have developed a theater piece called *Footprints in Demand*. It is based on the poem 'Footprints in the Sand.' In it

there are four characters who tell the 'real story' behind the poem. Tony is a young Italian guy from the Bronx, Sylvia is an older Jewish woman, Jerry Wayne is a good ole boy from Mississippi and Basil is a proper British chap.

"The whole performance is about 50 minutes. It is mostly humorous with some serious bits. The overall message is that no matter what we go through, Jesus is with us. From the way each character tells his story, one learns that Jesus talks to each person in his/her own language."

Toscano will read all four voices. Integrity is proud to highlight the creative work of its members. Toscano holds a degree in playwriting from the City University of New York.

This program will be offered in the Mural Room at Calvary Church, 2nd and Adams, and will end at 9 p.m. Visitors are welcomed. As always, dinner is free to first-time visitors.

LGCJ to Nominate Officers

Nominations for officers and a budget proposal will be made at the meeting of the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice scheduled for Tues., Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. in Meeting Room B of the Memphis Public Library and Information Center at Peabody and McLean.

Current LGCJ officers are Margaret Henkle and Jim Maynard, co-chairs; Billy Squires, secretary; and Tim Johnson treasurer.

Henkle has asked not to be nominated for co-chair again because of the demands of work and law school. Margaret has been

working more than one job, going to law school, active in Safe Harbor MCC and the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Religious Affairs, in addition to her responsibilities as co-chair of LGCJ.

The coalition suggests that members consider present board members and at-large members as they contemplate whom to nominate. Co-chairs must be nominated as a team (male and female) with the goal of having co-chairs who will work well together.

For more information, e-mail lgcj@gaymemphis.com or call 327-2677.

King and Queen of Hearts Set for Feb. 13

The ninth annual King and Queen of Hearts Benefit Show and Auction benefitting Friends for Life will be held on Sun., Feb. 13 at Madison Flame.

Host and organizer Jimmy Gray promises a night of entertainment coupled with some great bargains. All proceeds will benefit Friends for Life.

BWMT to Stage Red and White Ball

The Memphis chapter of Black and White Men Together will stage its Red and White Ball on Sat., Feb. 12, at 8 p.m. in the clubhouse of Clarke Address Townhomes, 2780 Harbor Station at Clarke and Mt. Moriah.

Admission is \$7 for singles and \$10 per couple. Free gifts will be presented to the first 25 guests.

The event will include free hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

For more information, call 523-8855 or 276-4762.

Holy Trinity to Offer Photo Opportunities

With the theme "We Are Family," Holy Trinity Community Church will be offering singles, couples and families an opportunity to have portraits made by a professional photographer.

According to Holy Trinity's LaPaula Turner, "So many times, our families are not given the opportunity to be ourselves when taking portraits. This is an opportunity to have family portraits done whether families are of one or more."

Shari Walker, a member of Holy Trinity, will be taking the portraits on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 25 and 26. The sitting fee is \$10, half of which will be donated to Holy Trinity. For more information, call 320-9376.

Auditions Set for Play About Oscar Wilde

Circuit Playhouse will present *Gross Indecency: The Three Trails of Oscar Wilde* by Moses Kaufman from May 26th to June 25th.

Auditions are being held on Mon., Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. at Playhouse on the Square, 51 South Cooper. Dave Landis will direct the play and the roles available include eight males, ages 20-50 years. Auditions will consist of reading scenes from the script. For more information, call Playhouse on the Square at 725-0776.

Are you living with HIV/AIDS and need help? Now there's an answer.

Family Services of the Mid-South has been awarded a grant to provide a variety of services

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If you'd like more information on these free services, call 452-6208 and ask for information about HOPWA

(Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS)

Published as a public service of the *Triangle Journal News*.

Hockey and Skating Slated

Join the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center for a hockey game and ice skating.

The center is sponsoring a "community" hockey night at the Mid-South Coliseum on Sat., Feb. 19. Join them as they cheer on the Memphis RiverKings.

After the game, the rink is open for ice skating. The ice skating is free with the purchase of a game ticket, which is only \$8. In addition the center has a \$2-off coupon for everybody.

Skate rentals are only \$4 or you can bring your own.

Participants will meet at the entrance by the parking lot off of Early Maxwell Boulevard and Southern Avenue at 6:30 p.m. They will purchase tickets at the door so all can sit together. The center requests that you wear a blue shirt to show you are a part of the "community."

MGLCC Schedules Trick for Movie Night

Join the MGLCC for its brand new, monthly Movie Night at First Congregational Church at 246 South Watkins..

On Thurs., Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. the scheduled movie is *Trick*.

This event is scheduled for the the third Thursday of every month.

Scholarship Announcement

Alumni, faculty and students at the University of Alabama have recently established a scholarship fund for members of the campus Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Alliance. The first scholarship(s) will be awarded in spring 2000. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to: Dr. Rose Gladney GLBTA, P.O. Box 870214, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Make checks payable to the University of Alabama and designate GLBTA Scholarship Fund on the memo line.

For more information, contact Dr. Gladney at (205) 348-9764, e-mail: rgladney@tenhoor.as.ua.edu; David van der Griff at (818) 884-6404, e-mail: dvander736@aol.com or Rachel Barrow at (404) 284-3479, e-mail: rbarrow@emory.edu.



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Channel 10 to Air 'Assault on Gay America'

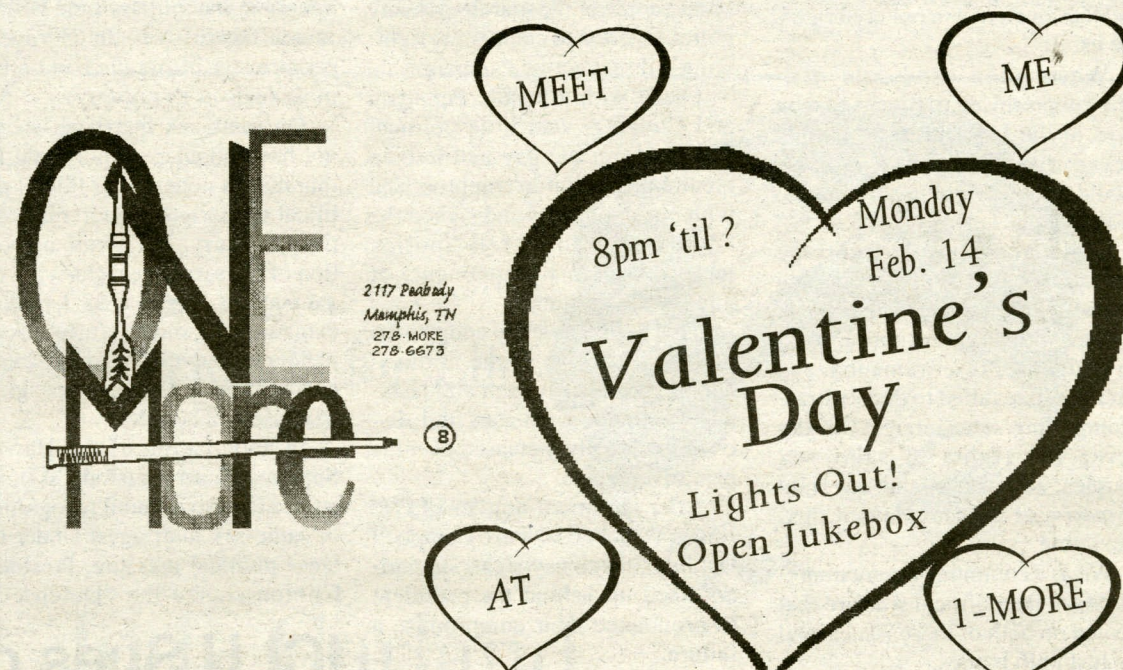
On Feb. 19, 1999, in Sylacauga, Ala., 39-year-old computer programmer Billy Jack Gaither was murdered — the victim of a violent hate crime. One of the convicted killers testified he killed Gaither because he was "queer." Why have gays like Gaither and

Matthew Shepard become the targets of such brutality?

Nearly one year after the Gaither murder, *Frontline* correspondent Forrest Sawyer explores the roots of homophobia in America — as a catalyst for hate crimes and as a phenomenon that

permeates our society — and asks how these attitudes, beliefs and fears contribute to the recent rise in violence against gays.

Channel 10 will air "Assault on Gay America" as part of its weekly PBS *Frontline* series on Tues, Feb. 15, at 10 p.m. and overnight at 2 a.m.



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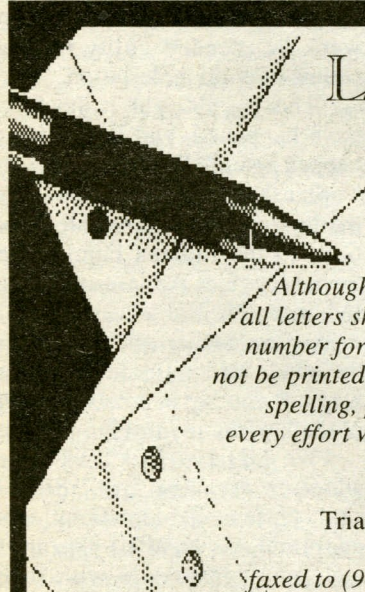
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LETTERS

The Triangle Journal News welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be as short as reasonable and typed if possible. Although names may be withheld on request, all letters should be signed and include a phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. All letters are subject to editing for spelling, punctuation and grammar. However every effort will be made to maintain the original intent of the writer. Letters should be mailed to: Triangle Journal News, P.O. Box 11485, Memphis, TN 38111-0485 or faxed to (901) 454-1411. Our e-mail address is MemphisTJN@aol.com.

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Looking Forward: Gay Rights in 2000

Commentary by Jim D. Maynard

As we look to the New Year many of us look back at some mistakes of the past year and try not to repeat them in the coming year. The gay and lesbian community should do the same as we cross over into a new millennium.

One mistake we have made is to put too much faith in politicians and the courts to win our civil rights for us.

When then-candidate Bill Clinton promised to lift the ban on gays in the U.S. military, we believed that by electing him we would win the right to serve in the military.

When the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled in 1993 that denying same-sex couples marriage licenses violated the state constitution's ban on sex/gender discrimination, and after the state failed to demonstrate "compelling state interest" in denying the rights of same-sex couples, we believed that our right to marry, at least in Hawaii, was inevitable.

We as a community were unprepared for the political warfare that ensued on both of these issues, and we lost both battles.

When President Clinton assumed office in 1992, the issue of gays in the military was pushed into

the political spotlight by Congressional conservatives and right-wing organizations determined to pull Clinton down as quickly as possible. Our enemies were prepared and politically organized and quickly mobilized grassroots opposition to lifting the ban.

We celebrated the election of Bill Clinton at the 1993 March on Washington, but few of the million or so people at the march took any political action to counter the right-wing's direct action campaign.

Faced with a hostile Pentagon and Congress, and little political support from the gay and lesbian community, Clinton compromised with our opponents and signed the "don't ask, don't tell" policy largely written by opponents of gays in the military.

This policy failed to address the problems of gays in the military. Harassment of gay men and lesbians continued unabated and discharges actually increased over the past seven years.

After the brutal murder of Pvt. Barry Winchell at Fort Campbell last July, liberal gay-rights supporters lined up behind the president to pronounce their compromise a failure.

Now we have a new battle brewing over gays in the military, with both Democratic candidates, Gore

and Bradley, once again promising to lift the ban and do away with the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and Republicans pledging to maintain the policy or even worse, go back to the previous policy where gays and lesbians were forbidden to serve in the military under any circumstance, even though public opinion (70 percent) favors allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military (and Britain joined the rest of the European countries in lifting the ban on homosexuals in its military).

On same-sex marriage, we do not have popular support, and for that reason none of our liberal political supporters support our legal right to marry. In Hawaii, a coalition of conservative right-wing organizations waged a \$2.2 million campaign to successfully pass a ballot measure to amend the state's constitution to restrict marriage to heterosexual couples.

In anticipation of the Hawaii Supreme Court decision, 30 states passed laws to prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages. Under intense political pressure, President Clinton signed the "Defense of

Marriage Act" and even Hillary Rodham (New York Senate candidate) says she would have supported it.

The other hope for same-sex marriage was Vermont, where the state Supreme Court has ruled that the state must provide same-sex couples the same legal benefits as marriage, whether by allowing them to marry legally or offering domestic partnership benefits. Now that state is under political attack from conservative organizations who are mobilizing another vote to deny same-sex couples the right to marry.

In both Hawaii and Vermont, and across the country from state to state, right-wing opponents of gay and lesbian equality are mobilizing to thwart any court decision or law which may be passed to grant gays and lesbians the right to marry.

The only way to win our rights, especially the right to marry, is to engage in a grassroots struggle to defend our rights and to win popular support. The key is educating the public and taking our case to them.

We cannot make the mistake of

waiting for the courts or some politician to do this for us. We must mobilize at the local and state level, not wait for a group in Washington, D.C. to win this battle for us. We are on the frontlines here in Memphis. It is time to engage ourselves in the struggle for our rights.

It's actually very simple. All that is required is that each of us become active citizens and vote, and contact our elected representatives to make our voices heard. That is how democracy works.

Changing society will require collective action, so we must join together, in organizations working for change, to become a powerful political force at the local, state and national level.

We must make it very clear to our political leaders, and those asking for our support, that there can be no compromise on our civil rights. They are either for us or against us; for equality or not; against discrimination or for it.

There is no middle road when it comes to social justice and we must make this clear to anyone who asks for our political support in the 2000 election.

ICLU Sues on Behalf of Gay Father

By Rex W. Huppke
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A lawsuit filed in January by the Indiana Civil Liberties Union says a gay Indianapolis man was denied the right to adopt a child because

of his sexual orientation.

The suit seeks unspecified monetary damages and alleges that Bruce Stansberry, director of Madison County's Division of Family and Children, violated the constitutional rights of Craig Peterson and his three sons when he stopped

Peterson from adopting the boys' sister. The suit was filed in federal court Jan 18.

In 1998, Peterson was selected to adopt all four of the children. At the time, the boys were with one set of foster parents and the girl was with another — Butch and Sandy Kimmerling of Anderson.

When the Kimmerlings learned Peterson is gay, they publicly protested the adoption, drawing statewide attention and prompting several Indiana lawmakers to push legislation to ban gays and lesbians from adopting. Stansberry reversed his decision on the fate of the four children, allowing the Kimmerlings to adopt the 8-year-old girl.

But in May 1998, Butch Kimmerling was arrested and charged with 10 counts of sexual molestation against his adopted daughter, now 9 years old. Last week he pleaded guilty to four counts of child molestation.

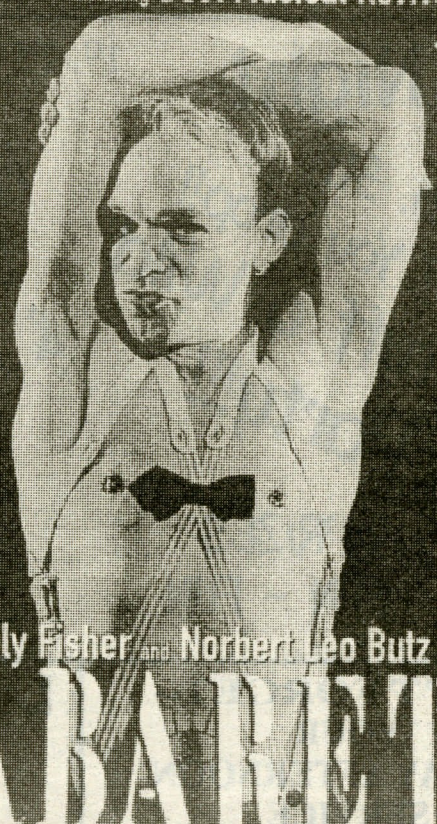
"This wasn't right, it shouldn't have happened, and it shouldn't happen again," Peterson said.

Stansberry said he has not seen the lawsuit and referred all questions to the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration in Indianapolis.

Andrew Stoner, spokesman for the administration, said his office was still waiting to receive a copy of the lawsuit.

"We did take a look back at the adoption after the fact," Stoner said. "From all indications, this adoption was handled appropriately and consistently with state

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Gay-Rights Lawyers Argue That Partnership Not Enough

By Heather Stephenson
The Sunday Rutland Herald and Times Argus

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Marriage or domestic partnership?

Vermont's Supreme Court doesn't seem to think it matters what the relationship is called as long as same-sex couples get the same benefits and protections under the law as traditional married couples.

But lawyers representing lesbians and gay men argue that the term "marriage" itself is critical, because of its impact on treatment by other states and businesses. The distinction isn't just a matter of semantics, they say.

Even if domestic partnership is adopted now, legal scholars suggest that Vermont is likely to accept same-sex marriage eventually.

In a major decision in December, the high court ruled that same-sex couples are entitled to the same civil benefits as married couples. While leaving a remedy up to the Legislature, the court suggested that a domestic partnership law could serve the purpose.

Legislators have said they are likely to create a domestic partnership policy rather than amend the marriage statutes to include same-sex couples.

But that doesn't satisfy Susan Murray, a lawyer for the plaintiffs in the Supreme Court case.

"In addition to the bundle of (state-sanctioned) rights, by conferring the status of marriage on a couple, the state is providing a gateway to other benefits and protections provided by other parties," she said in an interview. Domestic partnership would not offer the same "gateway" status, she asserted.

"To the extent the state confers a gateway status to couples who

marry, they have to confer the same gateway status to same-sex couples," she said.

Marriage would assure same-sex couples access to benefits from third parties such as businesses, Murray said. It would also offer their relationships legal standing in states that haven't ruled out recognizing same-sex marriage, and give them the opportunity to challenge the laws in states that would not recognize their Vermont union. Third, inclusion under the marriage laws would give same-sex couples the potential, again though a court challenge, to gain the 1,049 federal rights and obligations associated with marriage.

"It can't be that you are obligated contractually to one another in the state of Vermont but if you travel elsewhere you are unobligated to one another," Murray said. "That violates basic concepts of contract law."

Murray, like gay-rights advocates around the country, thinks the issue of states' refusal to recognize same-sex marriages sanctioned elsewhere is ripe for a challenge.

The federal Defense of Marriage Act, passed in 1996, denies federal recognition to same-sex couples even if their marriages are sanctioned by one of the states. It also says that states are not obliged to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. Since no state has granted same-sex marriage, the federal law and states' ban on recognition have not faced court challenges.

The court decision is based on the Common Benefits Clause of the Vermont Constitution, which says in part that government should ensure the common benefit of the entire community, rather than secure advantages for any particular set of people. The court didn't rule on whether the state's obligation to

same-sex couples ends with state-sanctioned protections.

"It is important to state clearly the parameters of today's ruling," Chief Justice Jeffrey Amestoy writes in the majority opinion. He says that the plaintiffs' claims centered on their exclusion from the statutory benefits of marriage under Vermont law, and that issue is what the decision addresses.

"While some future case may

attempt to establish that — notwithstanding equal benefits and protections under Vermont law — the denial of a marriage license operates per se to deny constitutionally protected rights, that is not the claim we address today."

Murray acknowledged that she and her law partner, Beth Robinson, did not focus on the "gateway" issues in their previous arguments.

"We don't know what the Supreme Court would say about that because it was not addressed by the court and it wasn't addressed by us in the litigation."

For now, the lawyers plan to take their case to the Legislature. Murray said it was too soon to know if they would challenge a domestic partnership statute in court if that were the Legislature's solution.

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Gay Father

Continued from page 14

rules."

Sean Lemieux, director of the ICLU's project for equal rights, said Stansberry's discrimination against Peterson created a situation where the boys suffered by losing their sister, and the girl suffered even more. He said Peterson's three sons — ages 4 to 6 — can't even get the right to visit their sister.

"The next best thing was to try to compensate them for the pain they all suffered and, as importantly, to send a message to let people know what can happen when government officials discriminate," Lemieux said.

Paula Ettelbrick, family policy director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said this isn't the first case to challenge the denial of an adoption because a per-

son is gay, but it could make a statement about the impact of discrimination.

"It certainly sounds like a very unique lawsuit that, if nothing else, will have the potential to draw attention to the real harm that's inherent when decisions are made about children's lives based on stereotypes," Ettelbrick said.

Peterson said any money won from the lawsuit would be used to set up a trust fund for his sons. All four of the children suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome and require special care.

The father also said he holds out hope that the little girl will someday be able to join the rest of her biological family.

"The room she was going to have is the same way it's been for the past year and a half," Peterson said. "I now have a very intense bond with these three boys, and even though I've never even met this girl, she's part of our family."

Deep Inside HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

Jodie Foster's Nazi Project

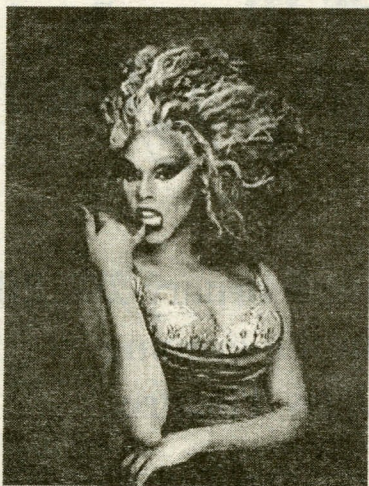
The lackluster reception of Jodie Foster's *Anna And the King* hasn't deterred the Yale-educated thespian from shepherding projects with difficult subject matter. She's now set to produce and star in a film about the life of Hitler's favorite filmmaker, Nazi propagandist Leni Riefenstahl, who made that paean to buff men, *Triumph of the Will*, about the 1936 Berlin Olympics. No word if Riefenstahl, who is still alive and kicking at 97, will consult. While the project seems challenging, no doubt having gay screenwriter Ron Nyswaner (who was nominated for an Oscar for his work on *Philadelphia*) attached to write the screenplay should increase its chances for success.



Leni Riefenstahl

RuPaul Hits the Slopes

Drag queens doing the Sundance thing this month should keep their eyes peeled for RuPaul. The fierce and fabulous diva and MAC makeup spokesmodel will be in Utah for the premiere of the documentary, *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*, about another makeup enthusiast, Tammy Faye Messner. Narrated by RuPaul, the film is a look at the rise and fall of the excessively mascaraed evangelist; it's screening in the festival's documentary competition.



RuPaul

From Homo to Hoboken

Indie film queen Lili Taylor, who played Catherine Zeta-Jones's lesbian lover in *The Haunting*, as well as a woman-loving would-be assassin in *I Shot Andy Warhol*, isn't one to be typecast. She plays straight in her next role, as a New Jersey hausfrau in *Julie Johnson*, a new film from *Niagara*, *Niagara* director Bob Gosse. Based on a play by Wendy Hammond, *Johnson* centers on the story of a cop's wife (Taylor) raising two children in Hoboken who takes a

night school computer class that changes her life in ways she could never have predicted. The film is expected to start production this spring in New York.

A Duet to Dye For?

Anyone who's baffled by Ricky Martin's recent blond dye job will find the latest theory behind the lightened locks interesting. The Menudo member-emeritus is rumored to be hard at work on a top-secret project: a duet with George Michael. No stranger to *la vida loca* himself, the queer British crooner, who mocked his own arrest for restroom cruising in the video for his tune "Outside," has enlisted Ricky's help in his latest effort. The video for the duet will have Martin spoofing Michael (thus the "Wham!"-like 'do) and a darkened Michael returning the favor. Michael is said to be penning the video's hip-hop tune in hopes of getting Ricky into the studio with him as soon as possible, with a London-based shoot soon to follow.

Too Busy for the Super Bowl

Madonna, scheduled to give a much-hyped debut performance of her new single — a remake of Don McLean's classic "American Pie" — during the Super Bowl pregame show on Jan. 30, has backed out at the last minute, claiming she's

busy in the studio working on her next album. While the Material Girl has bailed, pregame performances are still scheduled from Tina Turner and Travis Tritt. And gayboys will have something to enjoy at halftime, too, when they can check out the charms of Latino pop star Enrique Iglesias, who is sure to be the hottest thing Atlanta's seen since Sherman torched the place. Also on the halftime roster are teen queen Christine Aguilera and golden oldie Phil Collins.

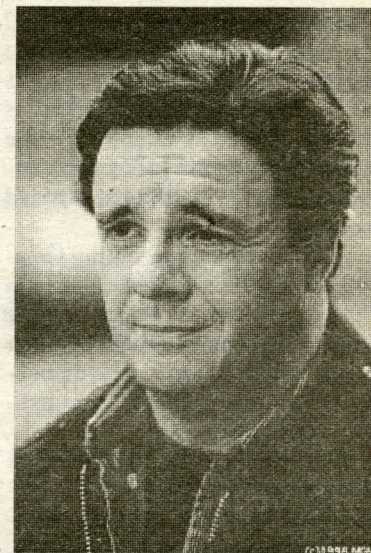
Kickers in Knickers

Victoria Adams, a.k.a. Posh Spice, recently confessed on England's *Big Breakfast* TV show that her hunk of a hubby, blond British soccer stud David Beckham, likes to wear her undies, especially the thongs! Can't wait for those sleazy British tabloids get a picture of Victoria's newly revealed secret!

Nathan Lane: Streetwalker

Gay actor Nathan Lane is one of five celebrity hosts in the upcoming PBS documentary series *Great Streets*, which will feature stars giving tours of some of the world's best-known thoroughfares. Lane will point out the beauties of Venice's Grand Canal (no, I don't think that's some gondolier's nickname — or is it!). Other segments

include Halle Berry strolling along Paris's main drag, the Champs Elysees, and Randy Newman showing what he loves about L.A.'s Sunset Boulevard. *Great Streets* is expected to air on PBS this fall.



Nathan Lane

Romeo San Vicente would love to explore the Grand Canal with Ricky Martin. You can reach Romeo in care of this publication or via e-mail at RomeoDeep@aol.com. For more *Deep Inside Hollywood*, visit www.northern.com, or www.queery.com.

Groups Cancel Events at Adam's Mark Amid Bias Suit

DENVER (AP) — Four groups have canceled events planned for the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Denver since the chain was sued for racial bias over an alleged pattern of discrimination against blacks at an Adams's Mark in Florida last year.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund, which bills itself as the largest national gay and lesbian political organization, and the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America both announced plans to cancel events at the Adam's Mark in Denver.

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the Episcopal Church have also recently pulled events from the hotel, citing a Justice Department lawsuit against the St. Louis-based chain. Among other things, the suit alleges the Adam's Mark charged guests at the 1999 Black College Reunion in Daytona Beach, Fla., more than those at other special events and required they pay the full amount in cash when reserving a room.

"We can't sit passively by when discrimination occurs,"

said David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign. "Discrimination should always be confronted and condemned."

Andre van Hall, general manager of Denver's Adam's Mark, denied the chain ever discriminated against minorities.

"For us, it's business as usual. We haven't been found guilty of anything," van Hall said. "We have been tried and found guilty before a trial."

The groups backing out of the hotel must still honor signed contracts. The Episcopalians will be paying \$1.2 million and the Human Rights Campaign \$42,000.

Human Rights Campaign officials said the group has moved its Feb. 26 fund-raising dinner to the Colorado Convention Center. Some 1,200 people were expected to attend the annual event.

Another group, the Colorado Association of Non Profit Organizations, will decide next week whether to move its March luncheon for 1,000 people. The group would have to pay a cancellation fee amounting to about 80 percent of the cost of the luncheon, said Pat Read, the group's executive director.

"This would be a serious financial hit for us," she said.

The Lutheran event was to bring 50 high school students and their advisers to the Adam's Mark in February. But the group decided to relocate its summit on youth justice to another downtown hotel, said James Lynch, director of the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry.

The group believes a hotel chain accused of racism is not "a conducive environment" for an event designed to train kids about justice, he said.

In December, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management canceled its three-day convention at the Adam's Mark, set for March. About 1,000 were expected to attend.

The Adam's Mark chain owns 21 large hotels in 13 states including one in Memphis.

The Justice Department's lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Orlando, Fla., accuses the chain of violating the 1964 Civil Rights Act's ban on discrimination in public accommodations. It follows a private lawsuit filed earlier last year by five members of the Black College Reunion.

Out & About

The Triangle Journal Calendar of Events FEBRUARY

As calendar editor, I am trying something a little different this month. I have had several people ask me why I include events in our "gay" community calendar that don't really pertain to us; examples being a Kenny Rogers concert at one of the casinos or wrestling at the Pyramid. When the TJN celebrated its 10th anniversary, we wanted to make a few changes. One of those changes included adding more events to the monthly calendar; events that take place predominately in the "straight" community, for example. Besides, some "gay" people may like Kenny Rogers or wrestling! So this month, the events that have a particular interest to the "gay" community are in **BOLD** print. As always, thanks for reading and if you have an event that needs to be added, edited, or deleted, e-mail me at cantsee3d@yahoo.com.

-Angela

Friday January 28

- "Fifty-One Percent" sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm
- Lady Tigers Basketball vs. Cincinnati, U of M Campus, 7pm
- Hot Rod Monster Trucks, Pyramid, 525-1515, 8pm
- Donald Sulton: In the Still Life Tradition (through April 9),

- Brooks Museum of Art
- "Is There Life After High School?" (through February 20), Circuit Playhouse, 726-4656 8pm
- "Master Class" (through February 27), Playhouse on the Square, 726-4656, 8pm
- "The Man in Room 306" (through January 30), Memphis Black Repertory Theatre, 726-4656, 8pm
- Little Anthony & The Imperials, Horseshoe Casino, 525-1515 or (800) 303-SHOE, 9pm
- George Jones, Sam's Town Casino, 525-1515, 9pm

Saturday January 29

- Hot Rod Monster Trucks, Pyramid, 525-1515, 8pm
- Little Anthony & The Imperials, Horseshoe Casino, 525-1515 or (800) 303-SHOE, 9pm
- George Jones, Sam's Town Casino, 525-1515, 9pm

Sunday January 30 Super Bowl Sunday National Inane Answering Message Day

**THE
JUNGLE**



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COME
'HANG OUT'
WITH THE
GUYS**

- Holy Trinity Community Church Adult Sunday School 9:30am & Worship 11am
- Living Word Christian Church Services 10am & 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC Worship Service 11am
- Lady Tigers Basketball vs. Louisville, U of M Campus, 3pm
- Brothers & Sisters Bowling, Cordova Lanes, 7945 Club Center Cove, 5:45pm
- MMOW in D.C. Payment Due, Diverse Excursions, Jon Arnold, 726-4672

Monday January 31

- Your event could be here, e-mail cantsee3d@yahoo.com!

Tuesday February 1

- LGJ, Main Library, Meeting Room B, 7pm
- Lesbians with Breast Cancer Support Group, YWCA, 766

- Highland, 327-7433, 7pm
- Memphis RiverKings vs. Huntsville, Mid-South Coliseum, 7:05pm
- BGALA, Vote for new officers and Dinner, 678-5719, 7:30pm

Wednesday February 2

- Holy Trinity Community Church Bible Study, 7pm
- Living Word Christian Church Service, 7pm
- HIV/AIDS Support Group, Jonesboro, 7pm

Thursday February 3

- PFLAG, St. John's Episcopal Church, 761-1444, 7pm
- Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, Call 272-2116 or 325-6518 for times

Friday February 4

- "Fifty-One Percent" sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm
- Catholic Mass with Special Invitation to Gays & Lesbians, St. Patrick's Catholic

- Church, 7pm
- Memphis RiverKings vs. San Antonio, Mid-South Coliseum, 7:15pm
- A Tribute to the Rat Pack (through March 3, Saturdays only), Gold Strike Casino, 525-1515 or (888) 24K-PLAY, 9pm

Saturday February 5

- University of Memphis Tiger Basketball vs. Louisville, Pyramid, 6pm
- Memphis RiverKings vs. Macon, Mid-South Coliseum, 7:15pm
- Kenny Rogers, Grand Casino, (800) 39-GRAND, 9pm

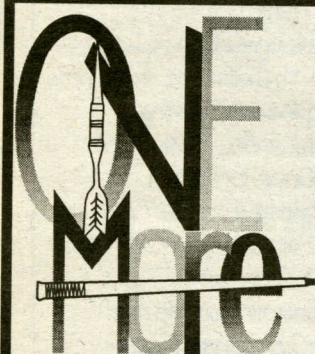
Sunday February 6

- Holy Trinity Community Church Adult Sunday School 9:30am & Worship 11am
- Living Word Christian Church Services 10am & 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC Worship Service 11am
- Bros. & Sisters Bowling, Cordova Lanes, 7945 Club Center Cove, 5:45pm
- MGLCC Town Hall Meeting, Pilgrim Hall at First Congrega-

2117 Peabody

901-278-6673

© 901-278-MORE




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tional Church, 6pm

**Monday
February 7**

• Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm

**Tuesday
February 8**

- Lesbians with Breast Cancer Support Group, YWCA, 766 Highland, 754-4356, 7pm
- Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice meeting, Peabody Library, Meeting Room B, 7pm
- BGALA, Topic Discussion: "Gay Romance," 678-5719, 7:30pm
- Neil Goldberg's Cirque (through February 13), Horseshoe Casino, 525-1515 or (800) 303-SHOE

**Wednesday
February 9**

Dump Your "Significant Jerk" Day

- Holy Trinity Community Church Bible Study, 7pm
- Living Word Christian Church Service, 7pm

**Thursday
February 10**

- Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, Call for times (272-2116 or 325-6518)
- NOW Meeting, YWCA, 766 S. Highland, 7pm
- BGALA Board Meeting, Call for location (678-5719), 8pm

**Friday
February 11**

- "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm
- Tracy Lawrence, Sam's Town Casino, 525-1515, 9pm

**Saturday
February 12
Lincoln's Birthday
National Freedom
To Marry Day
Lost Penny Day**

- University of Memphis Tiger Basketball vs. Southern Mississippi, Pyramid, 12pm
- LGCJ Celebrate and Recognize Gay and Lesbian Couples, First Congregational Church's Pilgrim Hall, 1pm
- Lambda Group, Jackson, TN, Regional Hospital, Classroom A, 2pm
- Kroger / St. Jude 2000 (through February 20), The Racquet Club of Memphis, 685-ACES
- Integrity Valentine's Party, Holly Springs, Call 525-6602 for directions
- BWMT Red and White Ball, Clarke Address Townhouses Clubhouse (Mt. Moriah & Clarke), 8pm
- Memphis Bears Club Night, Pipeline, 10pm

**Sunday
February 13**

- Holy Trinity Community Church Adult Sunday School 9:30am & Worship 11am
- Living Word Christian Church Services 10am & 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC Worship Service 11am
- Lady Tigers Basketball vs.

Alabama-Birmingham, U of M Campus, 3pm

- BWMT Potluck Business Meeting, Joe C., 276-4762, 5pm
- Bros. & Sisters Bowling, Cordova Lanes, 7945 Club



1268 Madison
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Memphis'
Oldest Gay Bar

Open 24 hours

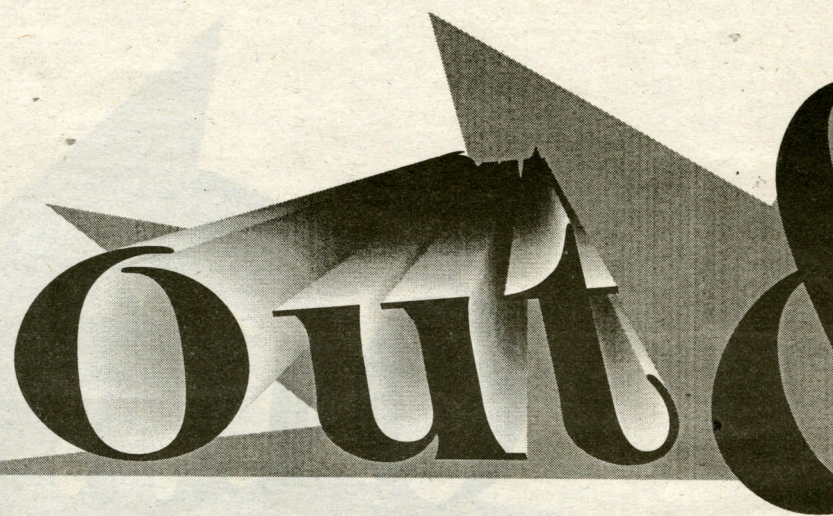
- Center Cove, 5:45pm
- WAC Meeting, Call for Information (272-3638), 7pm
- King and Queen of Hearts Benefit and Auction, Madison Flame, 7pm

**Monday
February 14
Valentine's Day**

- Your event could be here, e-mail cantsee3d@yahoo.com!
- AUDITION, "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Playhouse on the Square, 725-0776, 7pm

**Tuesday
February 15**

- **Deadline for March '00 TJN**
- AIDS Consortium Meeting,



The Triangle Journ

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United Way Building on Union,
3pm

- Integrity, Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 North 2nd Street, Worship @ 6:30pm, Dinner @ 7pm, and Program @ 7:45pm
- Lesbians with Breast Cancer Support Group, YWCA, 766 Highland, 754-4356, 7pm
- Tsarus Man of the Year Banquet, Madison Flame, 7:30pm
- BGALA, Movie Night, 678-5719, 7:30pm
- PBS (Channel 10), Frontline's "Assault on Gay America," 10pm & 2am

**Wednesday
February 16**

- Holy Trinity Community Church Bible Study, 7pm
- Living Word Christian Church Service, 7pm
- HIV/AIDS Support Group, Jonesboro, 7pm

**Thursday
February 17**

- Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, Call for times (272-2116 or 325-6518)
- MGLCC Movie Night, Pilgrim Hall at First Congo., 7pm
- Lady Tigers Basketball vs. Southern Mississippi, U of M Campus, 7pm
- Jo Dee Messina, Horseshoe Casino, 525-1515 or (800) 303-SHOE, 8pm

**Friday
February 18**

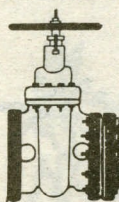
- "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm

**Saturday
February 19**

- Lady Tigers Basketball vs. Tulane, U of M Campus, 11pm
- MGLCC Night at the Memphis RiverKings vs. Macon, Game and Ice Skating, Mid-South Coliseum, Meet in the parking lot at Early Maxwell and Southern, Wear a BLUE shirt, 6:30pm
- Sinbad, Grand Casino, (800) 39-GRAND, 9pm
- Tsarus Club Night, Pipeline, 10pm

**Sunday
February 20**

- Holy Trinity Community Church Adult Sunday School 9:30am & Worship 11am
- Living Word Christian Church Services 10am & 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC Worship Service 11am
- Memphis RiverKings vs. Tulsa, Mid-South Coliseum, 4:05pm
- Bros. & Sisters Bowling, Cordova Lanes, 7945 Club Center Cove, 5:45pm
- University of Memphis Tiger Basketball vs. UNC Charlotte, Pyramid, 6:30pm
- "The Rainbow Comes to MemphOz" benefit con-



PIPELINE

MEMPHIS

HRS: MON - SUN 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 A.M.

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Memphis, TN 38104

About

al Calendar of Events

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Bill Johns

Antique Warehouse Mall

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 Memphis, TN 38112
 (901)323-0600

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Members of American Cut Glass Association
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cert, New Daisy Theatre,
 6:30. See page 12 for
 details

• WAC Meeting, Call for Informa-
 tion (272-3638), 7pm

• "Fifty-One Percent," Spon-
 sored by NOW, WEVL FM 90,
 1pm

• Memphis RiverKings vs.
 Fayetteville, Mid-South
 Coliseum, 7:15pm

• Portrait sittings, Holy
 Trinity Community Church,
 see p. 12 for details

Monday February 21 President's Day

• Feast for Friends Dinner, St.
 John's Methodist Church,
 6:30pm

• Memphis Pride Meeting, First
 Congregational Church, 327-
 7433 (32-PRIDE), 7:30pm

Saturday February 26

• Portrait sittings, Holy
 Trinity Community Church,
 see p. 12 for details

• Memphis RiverKings vs.
 Columbus, Mid-South Coli-
 seum, 7:15pm

Tuesday February 22 Washington's Birthday

• Integrity Board Meeting,
 Calvary Episcopal Church, 102
 North 2nd Street, 6:30pm

• Lesbians with Breast Cancer
 Support Group, YWCA, 766
 Highland, 754-4356, 7pm

• BGALA, "Coming Out Of Those
 Closets," 678-5719,
 7:30pm

Sunday February 27

• Holy Trinity Community Church
 Adult Sunday School 9:30am
 & Worship 11am

• Living Word Christian Church
 Services 10am & 6pm

• Safe Harbor MCC Worship
 Service 11am

• Brothers & Sisters Bowling,
 Cordova Lanes, 7945 Club
 Center Cove, 5:45pm

Wednesday February 23

• Holy Trinity Community Church
 Bible Study, 7pm

• Living Word Christian Church
 Service, 7pm

Monday February 28

• Your event could be here, e-mail
 cantsee3d@yahoo.com!

Thursday February 24

• Lambda Group, Jackson, TN,
 Regional Hospital, Classroom
 A, 6pm

• Cotton Pickin' Squares,
 Prescott Memorial Baptist
 Church, Call for times (272-
 2116 or 325-6518)

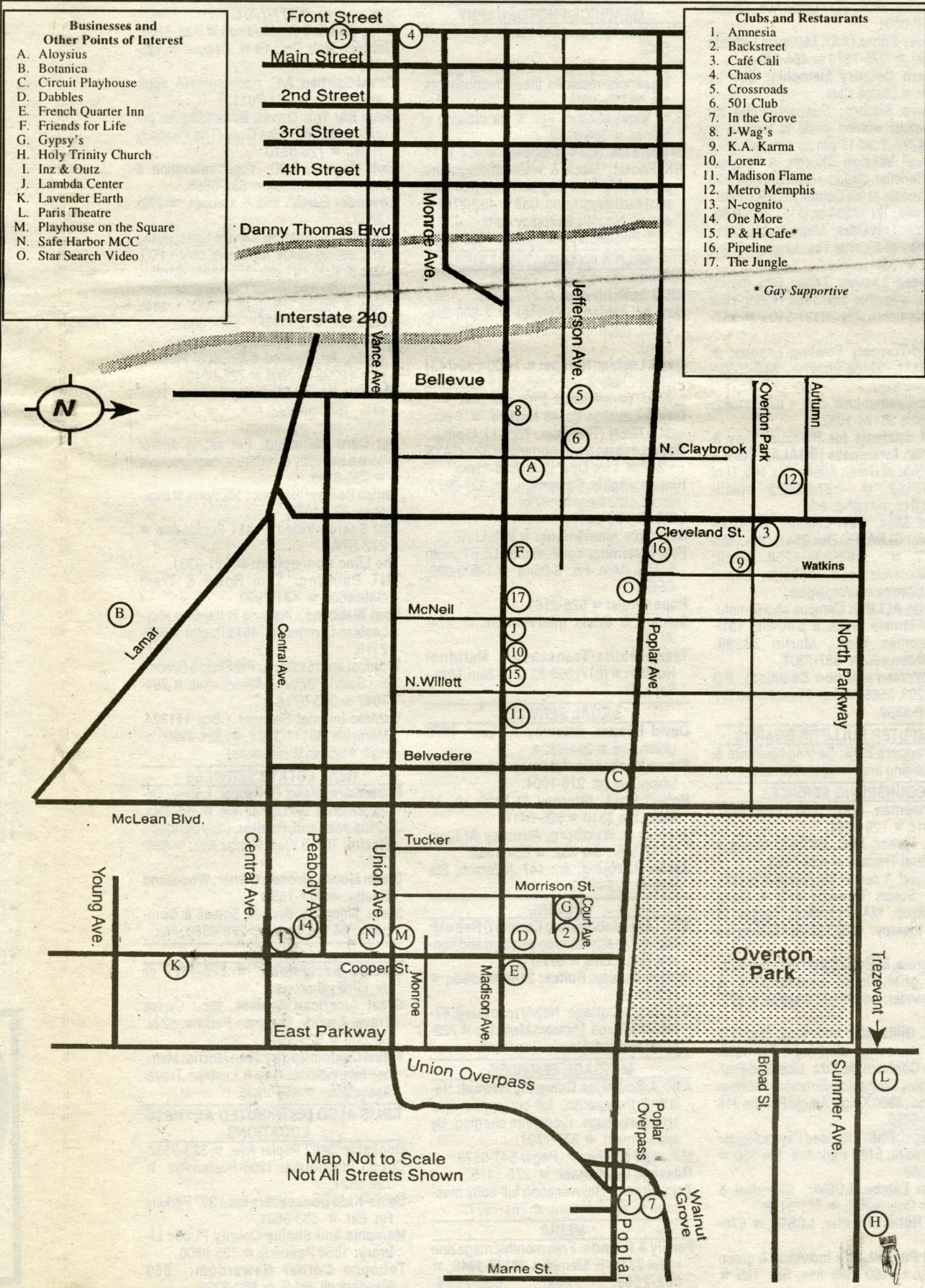
Tuesday February 29

• Lesbians with Breast Cancer
 Support Group, YWCA, 766
 Highland, 327-7433, 7pm

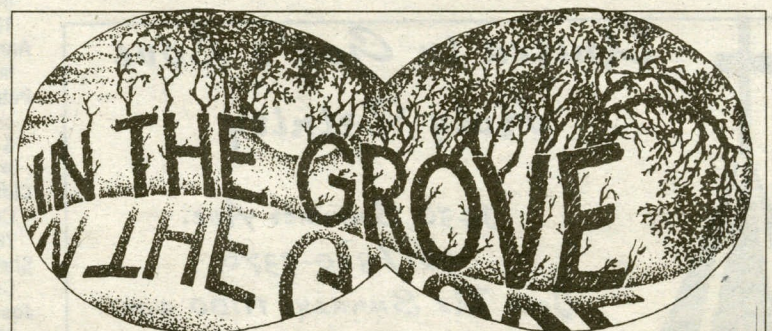
• BGALA, Bowling (Prizes
 Awarded), 678-5719,
 7:30pm

Friday February 25

March '00 TJN Due Out



Map Not to Scale
 Not All Streets Shown



2865 Walnut Grove Road • 901-458-9955

The Gay Memphis Resources Directory is printed as a public service, and its listings are free. Agencies and businesses listed herein have requested to be listed, but have not been charged. All phone numbers are area code 901 unless otherwise noted. (* Indicates TJN distribution points.)

AIRPORT BOOKSTORES

Airport Bookmart*: 2214 Brooks Rd E. ☎ 345-0657.

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

Fantasy Warehouse I*: 791-793 North White Station ☎ 683-9649.

Getwell Book Mart*: 1275 Getwell ☎ 454-7765.

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

Tammy's # 2: 2220 East Brooks Rd ☎ 396-9050.

Tammy's # 3: 1617 Getwell Rd ☎ 744-4513.

Tammy's # 4: 5937 Summer Ave. ☎ 373-5760.

BARS / RESTAURANTS

Amnesia*: (Closed for remodeling) 2866 Poplar ☎ 454-1366.

Backstreet*: 2018 Court Street ☎ 276-5522.

Bourbon Street Cafe: (In the French Quarter Suites, 2144 Madison ☎ 728-4000.

Buns on the Run: 1528 Madison ☎ 278-2867 (278-BUNS).

Café Cali*: 430 North Cleveland ☎ 276-4604.

Chaos*: 60 South Front ☎ 578-VIBE (8423).

Crossover*: 851 Island Road, Columbus, MS ☎ 601-327-0942.

Crossroads*: 1278 Jefferson ☎ 276-8078.

501 Club*: 111 N. Claybrook ☎ 274-8655.

In the Grove*: 2865 Walnut Grove Road ☎ 458-9955.

J-Wags*: 1268 Madison ☎ 725-1909.

Jake's Place: 356 N. Main ☎ 527-2799.

K.A. Karma: 394 North Watkins ☎ 276-5566.

Lorenz*: 1528 Madison ☎ 274-8272.

Madison Flame*: 1588 Madison ☎ 278-9839.

Metro Memphis*: 1349 Autumn ☎ 274-8010.

N-cognito*: 338 South Front ☎ 523-0599.

One More*: 2117 Peabody ☎ 278-MORE (6673).

Overstuffed Deli & Caterers: 3003 Airways Blvd. #701 ☎ 396-1969, 3727 South Mendenhall ☎ 362-2989, 7716 Poplar Ave., Germantown ☎ 757-1212.

P & H Cafe*: 1532 Madison Ave. ☎ 274-9794.

Pipeline*: 1382 Poplar ☎ 726-5263.

Rumors*: 637 Hwy 145 South, Shannon, MS ☎ 601-767-9500.

The Jungle*: 1474 Madison ☎ 278-4313.

The Other Side*: 3883 Highway 45 North, Jackson, TN ☎ 1-901-668-3749.

CARDS & GIFTS

Inz & Outz*: 553 South Cooper ☎ 728-6535.

GGG Gourmet: ☎ 278-6218 or on the web at GGGourmet.COM

CARPET CARE / CLEANING SERVICES

BJ's Cleaning Service: ☎ 726-4211.

King's Kleaning Service: Home or Office ☎ 745-3300.

Lee's Carpet Care: Commercial or Residential, 24-hr. service, free estimates ☎ 327-6165.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA): Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 276-7379.

Al-Anon (Co-dependency): Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 276-7379.

Alliance: Leather/Levi club • Box 42174, Memphis 38174.

Aloysius Home, Inc.: 578 Harrell St., Memphis 38112 ☎ 320-0000 or 274-8321.

American Gay Atheists (AGA) Memphis: Box 41371, Memphis 38174-1371.

Aphrodite: 3430 Summer Ave, Memphis 38122.

BGALA (Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Awareness): ☎ 729-3915.

Black & White Men Together (BWM): Box 42157, Memphis 38174-2157 ☎ 276-0168 or 276-4762.

Bluff City Sports Association: Box 41803, Memphis 38174-1803 ☎ 682-9928.

Brothers & Sisters Bowling League: ☎ 465-4371 - Richard Andrews.

Cotton Pickin' Squares: Gay/Lesbian Square Dance Club • Meets Thurs., Prescott Memorial Baptist Church • 2298 Elzey, Memphis 38104 ☎ 272-2116 or 325-6518.

Crossroads: African American Gay men's motivation/support/social group. Meets 1st & 2nd Fridays. Conrad R. Pegues, 1902 Fremont Ave., Memphis 38114, crpegues@aol.com.

4F: Leather/Levi group • 3663 Appling Lake Dr., Bartlett 38133.

Friends For Life—HIV Resources: HIV/AIDS Service Organization • 1384 Madison, Memphis 38104 ☎ 272-0855 or ☎ 278-AIDS.

Holy Trinity Community Church*: Worship Service: Sun. 11 am & 7 pm; Bible study: Wed. 7 pm; 3430 Summer ☎ 320-9376.

Integrity Memphis: Meets the 3rd Tues., Healing Service/Eucharist, 6pm; Dinner, 6:45pm, \$4; Meeting 7:30pm • c/o Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd ☎ 525-6602.

Into The Light (Women's AA): Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 276-7379.

Jackson Lambda Support Group: Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 901-427-1500 for information.

Living Word Christian Church: Worship Service Sun. 10 am & 6pm, Wed. 7 pm • 340 N Garland ☎ 276-0577.

Loving Arms (Services for HIV+ Women & Their Children): Shelia Tankersley, P.O. Box 3368, Memphis, TN 38173 ☎ 725-6730.

Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY): PO Box 241852, Memphis, TN 38124 ☎ 335-MAGY for info; website: www.geocities.com.westhollywood/1772/.

Memphis Bears Club: PO Box 111094, Memphis 38111-1094 ☎ 276-4823, e-mail: http://members.xoom.com/memphisbears.

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

Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC): Box 41074, Memphis 38174 ☎ 324-4297.

Memphis Lambda Center*: Meeting place for 12-step recovery programs • 1488 Madison ☎ 276-7379, 726-6293, 527-1461, or 327-3676.

Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice: Box 241363, Memphis 38124 e-mail: lgcj@gaymemphis.com, web page: http://www.gaymemphis.com/lgcj.

Memphis Pride, Inc.: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered Pride Events • Box 111265, Memphis 38111 ☎ 32-PRIDE, e-mail: MphsPride@aol.com.

Memphis Transgender Alliance: TV/TS support group • c/o Barbara Jean Jansen, Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052.

Mystic Krewe of Memphis United: 41 S. Century, Memphis, 38111.

National Organization for Women (NOW): Box 40982, Memphis 38174 ☎ 578-3286 or e-mail at memphisnow@hotmail.com.

New Beginnings (Adult Children of Alcoholics): Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 276-7379 or 454-1414.

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

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG): Jackson, TN 38305 ☎ 1-901-664-6614 for information, e-mail: burtren@aeneas.com

Phoenix AA Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 454-1414.

Safe Harbor MCC: 2117 Union Ave., Chapel ☎ 458-0501.

Seriously Sober (AA): Memphis Lambda Center ☎ 276-7379 or 454-1414.

Southern Country Memphis: Country Western Dance Club.

Southern Sisters: Support group for transexual women (male to female) ☎ 728-4297, 7:30-11 pm for referral.

Stonewall Mission Church: A Progressive Christian Church • Sun. Service 6:30 p.m., meets at the Center, 103 Berry Rd., Nashville, TN 37204 ☎ (615) 269-3480.

Sunshine Travelers: Meets every other Tuesday at 7 pm at The Jungle, ☎ 788-4PLA (4752)

Tennessee Leather Tribe: Gay men's/women's leather org. 1568 Rolling Hills Dr., Memphis, TN 38127-5409 ☎ 357-1921.

The Mid-Towners Bowling League: ☎ 323-3111 - Linda Etherton, 342-4630 - James Bailey.

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

U of M Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Awareness (BGALA): BGALA c/o Office of Greek Affairs Box 100, U of M 38152 ☎ 278-5825 email: bgala@cc.memphis.edu.

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Black Churches Take More Active Role in Preventing HIV Spread

By Jordan Lite
Associated Press Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Back when many people thought AIDS was a gay white man's disease, three black men came to Dr. Robert Scott and told him that they could not bear to confide in their pastors about their infections.

"Each one told me, 'Whatever you do, don't tell my pastor,'" Scott recalled.

"I said, 'Something is wrong. Do I have to be both doctor and minister too?'"

So Scott rounded up their pastors, who ministered at some of the East Bay's largest black Baptist churches. "What have you said or not said that makes people fearful of talking to you?" he asked them.

It's a question being asked more and more at black churches, as the latest statistics show blacks are not benefiting as much as other groups from a slowing of the AIDS death rate.

Thanks to new drug treatments, AIDS deaths nationwide dropped 65 percent between 1995 and 1998, but only 55 percent for blacks. While blacks rep-

resent just 13 percent of the U.S. population, they comprise 49 percent of AIDS deaths — 8,316 people last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Since most blacks have some connection to a church, it's vital that black churches take an active role in HIV prevention, said Pernessia Seele, founder of The Balm in Gilead, a New York nonprofit that teaches ministers how to do AIDS education.

"In our community, the church, the pulpit, is the loudest voice that we have," Seele said. "Historically, if you want to organize around anything, you go to the church. With AIDS devastating our community we must use that vehicle which we know."

It wasn't always this way. Homosexuality, sex outside of marriage and intravenous drug use are sins churchgoers learn to hate. In many cases, they learned to hate the sinners as well.

"It was always reinforced that being gay was a bad thing, it was a sin. If it was talked about, it was in a negative sense," said Derck Lassiter, 34, a gay black man who is HIV-positive.

He has been welcomed at

Glide Memorial Methodist Church in San Francisco, where gays, drug abusers and the homeless are equally embraced, and where advocates hand out condoms and HIV testing is available. But he says this is an anomaly.

"In the black community, everyone has had a church experience; it never leaves you," he said. "But then you start remembering how you were not accepted."

Most churches do not offer the extensive AIDS programs of Glide or Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, where the 5,500-member congregation holds monthly meetings to recruit volunteers to act as buddies to people with AIDS.

This month, Allen Temple opened 25 low-cost housing units in Oakland for disabled patients. The church also runs an AIDS case management center, and reaches out to other black churches that may not be talking about AIDS at all.

"As a Christian physician it was clear to me ... the church is a diverse reflection of our whole society," said Scott, who heads the AIDS ministry at Allen

Temple and has 400 HIV-positive patients among his 2,000 clients in Oakland.

"Some people who got this disease are drug users. Some were prostitutes. Some got it because they are gay," he said. "As a church we're having to confront a whole population of people who are marginalized. We certainly don't want to push aside and marginalize people of our own race."

Money is starting to embrace the community, too.

Since the Congressional Black Caucus successfully lobbied President Clinton to authorize \$156 million to fight AIDS among blacks and Hispanics in 1998, the AIDS National Interfaith Network, a clearinghouse for religious organizations conducting HIV education and support, has seen many more inquiries from church leaders.

The funds allowed the CDC to expand its church-based initiative, inflating an annual budget of \$100,000 to \$2 million. In October, the CDC also allotted \$39 million to prevent AIDS in minority communities — up 50 percent over last year.

"Clearly as the epidemic con-

tinues to spread — and particularly in communities of color — I think religious leaders in faith communities realize the role they can play and they want to play that role increasingly," said Dr. Helene Gayle, who directs the CDC's center for prevention of HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis.

That would help clients of AIDS case manager Kenneth Hall, who set up the outreach group Ark of Refuge at Allen Temple four years ago. "Seventy-five percent are real leery about committing themselves spiritually anywhere if they haven't outed themselves to the pastor or the congregation about their diagnosis," Hall said.

Support for AIDS programs is evolving.

"The church was part of the problem because no one was saying anything and it was moving through the church," said the Rev. Theo Frazier of Church of the Pentecost in San Francisco, who emphasizes abstinence when he discusses AIDS with congregants.

But as people got sick and began dying, he said, "we had to talk about it."



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Defrocked Preacher Defends Gay Unions, Preaches Tolerance

CHARLOTTE (AP) —The United Methodist Church defrocked Jimmy Creech, but they can't muzzle him.

Creech drove five hours through the snow to preach Jan 23 in north Charlotte to 32 people who share his belief that God loves gays and their lifestyle.

"This has become my ministry. Its sort of my calling," Creech told the handful of worshippers who braved the weekend storm to hear him speak at Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church. "I believe that one day we will be successful. We will be able to see for all people the freedom to love — without fear and without restriction."

Creech's journey from his Raleigh home to the small, liberal Charlotte church is symbolic of the public life he now lives.

After 29 years as a pastor, the son of a Goldsboro furniture store owner was stripped of his preaching credentials by a church jury in Grand Island, Neb., in November for blessing the union of two gay men in Chapel Hill.

He knew his action violated United Methodist law, but he blessed the pair anyway. He said he believes all forms of love are divine, and that sexuality is an important part of a person's spirituality.

Creech is scheduled to preside over two same-sex unions involving lesbian couples later this year in North Carolina.

"Being heterosexual," he preached Sunday, "is not the only expression of sexuality."

Creech, 55, said he misses the pastorate, but doesn't regret intentionally violating church law and

transforming himself into a conscientious objector.

Relying on his wife, social worker Chris Weedy, to support the family, Creech is writing a book — the working title is *The Church on Trial* — and earns some extra income speaking twice a month.

He plans to speak to several church and pro-gay groups in Houston and Dallas next month.

Creech often finds himself preaching, as he said, "mostly to the choir." A brochure in the Piedmont lobby advertised the Unitarian Universalist church as "A Welcoming Place for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual People."

One of the opening songs played by keyboardist Cindy Hammond was John Lennon's "Imagine," which describes a world where there is no war and no religion.

Creech realizes not everyone shares his beliefs.

He alienated some members of his last church in Omaha, Neb., with his crusade on behalf of gay unions. At Raleigh's Fairmont United Methodist, his last North Carolina church, some called for his resignation.

Creech faced his church trial in Kearney, Neb., in 1998 for overseeing a union ceremony between lesbians in Omaha. He was acquitted of breaking Methodist laws by that jury.

A 1999 Roper Center poll showed 54 percent oppose legalizing gay marriages.

Creech said Shakespeare wrote of a time when families of different cultures and class refused to let love bloom.

"Romeo and Juliet is the classic example of that," he said. Pushing society to accept homosexuality, Creech believes, is just one more war to win. "It's really a struggle to be free, to love without restraint."

Woman Says Family Tried to Kidnap Her Because She Is a Lesbian

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Muna Hawatmeh has testified that her family kidnapped her and tried to send her back to Jordan because they were ashamed of her lesbian lifestyle.

Hawatmeh, 23, testified that for a year, her father, mother and two brothers had cajoled, pleaded and threatened her.

On Oct. 14, family members beat and kicked her for four hours — finally deciding they must kill her, the woman said.

"We have no solution for you," Hawatmeh quoted her father as saying. "It is better if you die."

She said her father had earlier told her: "You have shamed us in front of other people."

Hawatmeh said her family spared her life only after she kissed her father's feet, promised to give up being a lesbian and tearfully asked to return to Jordan.

"Did you want to go?" asked prosecutor Rodwick Tbara.

"I didn't have any other choice," she answered.

Her brothers Iehab Hawatmeh, 32, Shaheer Hawatmeh, 33, her father Jamil Hawatmeh, 64, and her mother Wedad Hawatmeh, 54, are charged with first-degree felony

aggravated kidnapping and third-degree felony aggravated assault.

Muna testified that after she was beaten, she spent the night under the watch of her parents. The next morning, she said, her brother ordered her to pack her suitcases for the trip to Jordan.

But on the way to Salt Lake City International Airport, the family drove past Muna's lover, who called Sandy police, who in turn called the brother on his cell phone and told him to return to Sandy.

Muna said she promised her brother she would lie, but at the police station, "I couldn't hold it in," she said.

An examination by an emergency room doctor revealed numerous bruises on Muna's arms and legs.

Defense attorney Walter Bugden suggested Muna lied about the attack.

Iehab Hawatmeh, an electronic and computer engineer and president of a computer-chip manufacturing business employing 200 people, has said he and his family are innocent. He said Muna was "unstable, confused, depressed," and at one time suicidal. He said he was taking her to San Francisco to visit their sister.

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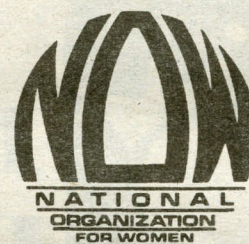
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Support Groups Help Gay Teens

By Ernest A. Jasmin
The Bellingham Herald

BELLINGHAM, Wash. (AP) — It was a shocking way to begin a therapy session.

The enraged man burst into Michael Praetzel's Ann Arbor, Mich., office, angrily shoving his teen son in front of him. The boy had visible bruises and was, just as visibly, in the throes of anguish.

"He's queer," the father declared. "Fix him."

The session — vividly recalled two decades later — made a lasting impression on Praetzel. The therapist, who has practiced in Bellingham the past 25 years, was saddened but enlightened in its aftermath.

"I became aware of how it's just such a vulnerable time in a kid's life to have to struggle with this, too — to have to be condemned and be held in contempt for who he is."

The teen's story has a somewhat happy ending. After being put in foster care, he became student body president at his high school and earned a scholarship to Michigan State University.

"He was able, with support, to do well," Praetzel says. "He was a very bright, sensitive kid."

In contrast, many gay teens lack emotional support in their times of need and don't fare so well. Those who don't come out to their peers still face confusion and guilt regarding their sexual preference. Those who are openly gay face the scorn of loved ones and antagonism from homophobic peers.

Organizers of a pair of local support groups hope to help these teens deal with the issues that impact their emotional and physical well-being.

Just Us — a small, weekly teen support group run through the Whatcom County chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) — began meeting again in late October after a short hiatus.

The newest gay teen support group, which is being organized by Bellingham therapist Mitch Sydnam, began meeting in January.

Sydnam says he will guide teens

who identify themselves as gay, bisexual or who question their sexual identity through issues surrounding the relationships in their lives — for example, how to come out to parents and find role models.

"I don't think anyone else is talking to kids about these issues," Sydnam says. "I think there's a significant need. It's just a matter of finding a safe place to do it."

Teen years can be confusing enough without having the added variable of being gay. Anxiety and rejection by family and peers often takes their toll, experts say.

The Washington Department of Health identifies gay youth as a high-risk group for suicide. A study conducted by author Warren J. Blumenfeld, who edits the Journal of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Identity, suggests that gay teens are two to three times more likely to commit suicide than their heterosexual peers.

Teens report a wide variety of daily experiences regarding their sexuality, some seemingly stressful and others milder in comparison.

Edward, 18, who requested his full name be withheld, came out at 16. Since then, he says, he has been the occasional target of insults, but he doesn't think he's been persecuted. He even has mixed feelings about gay jokes that he often hears. (The Safe Schools Coalition of Washington State includes the telling of such jokes among "climate-setting incidents" for anti-gay violence in its five-year Anti-violence Research Project.)

"I guess it depends on context if it's funny. If it's bashing, it's different," he says. "If it's just a joke, they're typically funny. I can already think of a couple. They're usually gross."

However, his sexual orientation has put a strain on some friendships.

"I have a close friend and I know she's uncomfortable with it," he says. "It makes a weird sort of tension, but I can't really feel bad for myself and I can't get mad at her. You know, there's just no point in any of that."

Diane Rackley, 17, realized she was different from other girls by age

11. Unlike her peers, she was only interested in boys as acquaintances and not as boyfriends.

Rackley started to test her peers' reactions in ninth grade by joking to friends that she was bisexual. She eventually came out and, since then, has lost a few friends. Occasionally, some girls, who she identifies as "preppies," make rude comments. "I just kind of stay in my own corner," she says. "I don't really talk that much ... because I know how they feel about me."

She says harassers are much more aggressive toward gay males, like her friend Nathan Woolman.

"Not very much happens to lesbians," Rackley says. "With guys (who harass) I guess they think, 'He's gonna try something on me or something like that.'"

Woolman, 15, became the target of bullies in elementary school, long before most children have an inkling of what it means to be gay.

His mother, Donna, says her son showed gay tendencies as early as age 3. She believes people are predisposed to being gay or heterosexual from birth. Woolman himself says he knew he was different from other boys from an early age because he liked to wear clothes and play with toys that are traditionally considered for girls. "I've always been more feminine than masculine," he says.

By fifth grade, bullies started to taunt him and call him names. When he went to the bathroom they would shove him and make him leave, leading Nathan to fear having to go.

"I would have to hold my bladder until after school, and sometimes I couldn't," he says. "It took a long time before the teachers realized it, and most of them didn't want to do anything about it. But my main teacher, she gave me the key to the teacher's bathroom."

Children aren't sure what they're making fun of at such an early age, Donna says, but they are aware of their parents' opinions. "They're aware of how their parents speak. Children are puppets of their parents."

Woolman's antagonism has continued through high school. He's been harassed in locker rooms and shoved in hallways. He's had bouts of depression dating back to elementary school and has even contemplated suicide.

"I've always been singled out," he says. "If there was someone who had something to say (about gays) they would direct it at me... A lot of times I'll just try to shrug it off, but a lot of times I really take it to heart."

Other teens highlight the importance of having someone to talk to as they sort out the issues that accompany their sexuality.

Heather Duncan, 16, struggled with her identity before coming out to her peers last year.

"It's sort of like I was denying who I really was," she says, "trying to be somebody else to support the norms of society."

Duncan's transition was made easier, she says, because she has a gay older brother and her family has been supportive. Her father, Mike, was angry when Heather told him she was lesbian over Thanksgiving dinner in 1998, but has accepted her lifestyle since then.

Jo, 18, a Whatcom Community College student who requested her full name not be used, came to a sudden, overwhelming realization while still in high school. She'd had lots of boyfriends and had never identified herself as lesbian until she was 16. Then, one afternoon, she had a sudden, overwhelming realization while hanging out at her best friend's house. "She was just sitting there playing her guitar and then I just realized I wanted to kiss her."

The feeling seemed so strange and disturbing she had to leave the house immediately.

Presently, Jo went to a lesbian friend for advice. Her friend reassured her that the episode was no big deal. It might have just been a passing impulse that would never resurface, she said.

But while talking, Jo realized she had always had intense feelings for female friends and that friendship didn't always seem to be enough.

"I never thought that (being a lesbian) was who I was or anything," she says. "It was really confusing."

Jo feels she was fortunate to have someone to talk to about her sexuality.

However, other teens are not so lucky. There is no support group of club for gay teens at area schools and some teens report difficulty finding information on how to deal with their specific set of problems through school counseling offices. Some teens say they have even perceived apathy or hostility towards their concerns from school faculty.

Squalicum High School counselor Sharon McConnel, who some of the interviewed teens identify as sympathetic towards their concerns, says she is willing to talk privately with teens who are struggling with their sexuality. She also has literature that can help them locate other resources.

"I've never had a time when my administrators have not come and given immediate help for these kids," she says. "What sometimes happens is kids don't tell us soon enough or, for some reason or another, they don't share (their dilemma.)"

Jane Moudry, a social worker who sets up training for Bellingham High School faculty on such issues, says the school district has had two training sessions specifically regarding the needs of gay teens since 1994.

"We're aware that we have a population within our schools that has needs that may or may not be addressed," she says.

She invites area faculty to call her if they need help problem solving regarding the needs of gay teens and is willing to arrange training ses-

sions if there is a declared interest.

Things sometimes get better once students head to college. Locally, groups like WCC's Gay-Straight Alliance and Western's Lesbian, Gay, Straight, Bisexual Alliance provide a nucleus for the gay community on campus.

"There are not many out teenagers in high school, but there's a whole lot more in college," Jo says. "I think it's really important to be able to have people you can talk to, especially other people who are gay."

Organized support for gay teens is starting to grow outside of the school setting, too. Youth facilitators Katinka Kraft, 22, and Joseph Daniels, 26, lead the teens in discussion at weekly Just Us meetings.

"They need to know that there are people out there who are just like them and that they have a community and that they are supported," Kraft says.

The five-member group spent part of one recent session planning how to attract more gay teens to the group and how to run future discussion panels. They analyze the problems that came up when they spoke at a pair of local churches. Most recently the panel — which includes Duncan, Woolman and Rackley — spoke to a class at Western Washington University.

But the meeting is not entirely dedicated to business.

Woolman and Rackley intermittently share knowing gazes, poke at each other and giggle at unspoken jokes.

When it's time to begin a word game, Duncan steps to the head of the table and announces her word is "support," making a game show hand gesture to highlight the note card the word is written on. Then, distracted by Woolman and Rackley's laughter, she huffs and casts the pair a disgruntled look.

"Come on, you guys. This is serious."

Just Us provides a setting where the trio can just be teens, to some degree removed from the hostility and confusion they sometimes face at school. They're free to share their feelings, vent or just play games.

In contrast, Sydnam's group will be more therapeutic in nature.

"I'm more focused on how to develop relationships ... since there aren't any real role models," Sydnam says. "I think the kids need to come and tell their stories and tell how they got where they're at. It's just a big mystery. You just don't know how to be gay. It really isn't much different to be gay, it's just a different way to be in a relationship."

He attempted such a group last spring, but only a handful of teens came forward.

"The hardest part is getting the kids to come together," Sydnam says. "That's why the last group wasn't successful. You just need a certain critical mass to make it work."

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The Hypocrisy of "Separate but Equal"

Commentary by Jim D. Maynard

Two gay-rights issues, gays in the military and same-sex marriage, have emerged as the focal point of the current struggle for gay and lesbian equality, and politicians in both parties are failing the test of their political and moral dedication to equality and social justice.

In fact, the positions of candidates in both political parties have sacrificed the principles of equality and justice at the altar of political expediency by promoting a modern version of the "separate but equal" argument which claims to accept gays and lesbians as citizens but not wanting to fully embrace them by granting real equality.

While both Democratic candidates have publicly criticized the Pentagon's failed "don't ask, don't tell" compromise between President Clinton and opponents of lifting the ban on gays completely, Al Gore was severely censored by Republican opponents for suggesting that opposition to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays be considered when choosing candidates for the Joint Chiefs.

Gore quickly backed away from the "litmus test" suggestion, as Clinton backed away from his promise to lift the ban back in 1992. Where is his commitment to social justice and equality?

No one criticized George Bush for pledging to only appoint military advisors who agree with his support of the current policy, or called into question the assertion of GOP candidates Bush and McCain that the current policy is "working."

No one on either side of the issue seems to think the current policy is working, certainly not the gays and lesbians being discharged for simply being honest and truthful about who they are. Someone needs to ask the GOP candidates how they can support equality and social justice and still support a policy which is at odds with those core American values.

Gays and lesbians are not being treated equally under the military's policy. Try asking straight military men to not disclose their sexual orientation publicly and refrain from any sexual activity while serving in the armed forces.

Even Great Britain finally ended the ban on gays in their military, leaving the U.S. and Turkey as the only NATO allies which still exclude them.

Al Gore should not back away one inch from support for full in-

clusion and equal treatment for gays and lesbians in the armed forces.

Political and moral hypocrisy is even greater and non-partisan on the issue of same-sex marriage. Under current civil laws, gay and lesbian couples are denied the many legal rights granted to heterosexual married couples (e.g., inheritance, property rights, insurance, Social Security benefits).

Supreme Court decisions in Hawaii and Vermont have declared that same-sex couples must be granted the same legal rights and benefits as heterosexually married couples, but have left the decision of what form that legal right takes up to public opinion and the state legislatures.

In anticipation of the Hawaii decision, opponents of same-sex marriage pushed the "Defense of Marriage Act," in the U.S. Congress and Clinton signed it. The act allows states not to recognize other states' same-sex marriages if they are legalized.

Even Hillary Rodham Clinton has said she supports DOMA, denying gays and lesbians the equal rights that they would enjoy as a married couple.

The argument that it is necessary to "protect" heterosexual marriage is laughable given the damage they have done to the institution.

Extending the right of legal marriage to same-sex couples is essential to the full citizenship and equality of gays and lesbians in our society.

Opponents of same-sex marriage make ludicrous and fallacious arguments that don't stand up. Granting gays and lesbians the right to marry would not threaten heterosexual marriage at all.

Extending rights to one group does not take that right away from another group. Gays and lesbians are not responsible for the problems of heterosexual marriage.

Isn't it hypocritical for those moral crusaders in the religious right to stereotype gay people as sexually promiscuous and unable to form stable relationships, and then deny them the legal right to do so?

Perhaps we in the gay community have put too much faith in politicians who say what we want to hear and lack the commitment to follow through on what they promise, and in the courts to win our civil rights for us without a struggle.

We should learn from our experiences with Clinton on "don't, ask don't tell" and the Defense of

Marriage Act that we must invest more of our resources as a community in grassroots political organizing and less faith in politicians and the courts. We must build the popular support for our rights in order to gain the political support we need.

Most importantly, we must exert more political pressure on

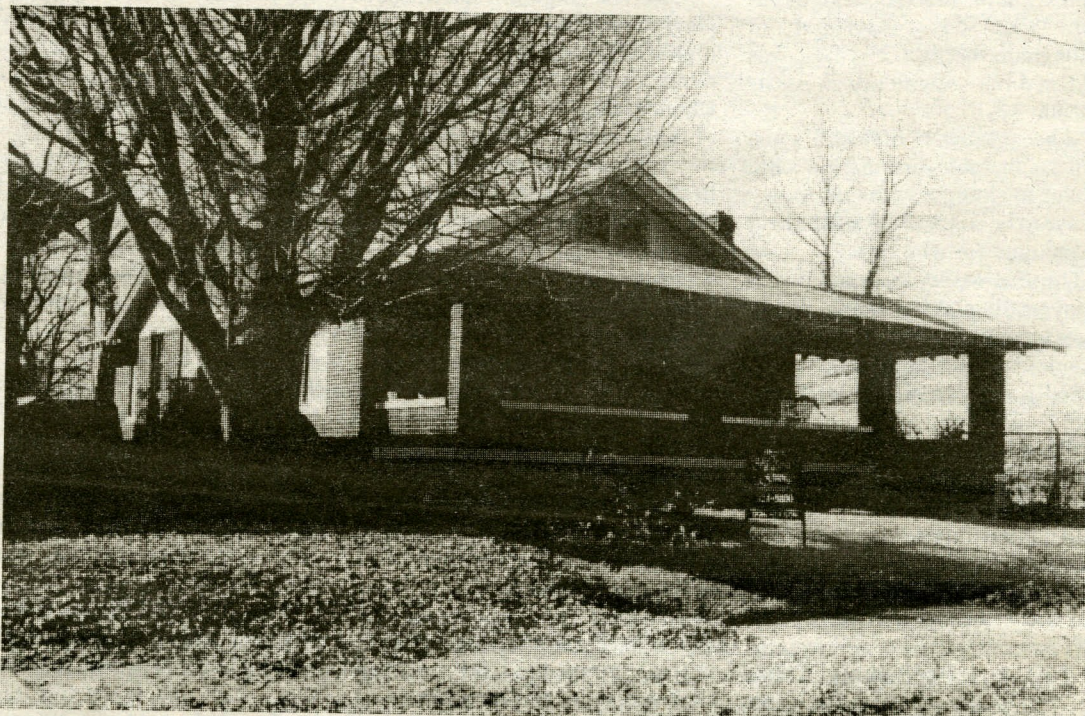
those we help elect. There can be no compromise on the basic American values of equality and social justice. One is either for equality and justice or against them; against discrimination or in support of it. There is no middle ground.

"Separate but Equal" was wrong for African-Americans

and it is wrong for gays and lesbians. We must challenge our political leaders to stand and be counted — which side are they on?

Jim Maynard, co-chair Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice. He may be contacted at lgej@gaymemphis.com

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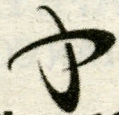
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Sad to Say, Happy to Hear

By Butch Valentine

BUTCHHRT@aol.com



Sad to say... Man oh man, was I ever sick with that strange and powerful "flu-like virus" that has made so many others ill this season. Woke up with 103° fever the Monday after Christmas, and was down and out past New Year's. (Mark and I toasted in the New Millennium with tap water.) When I looked in the mirror after a week of illness, I was shocked. I have always said I don't mind having AIDS, I just didn't want to look like it. But the face I saw in the mirror absolutely scared the bejesus out of me.

Happy to hear... After several weeks, this cowboy is back in the saddle again, so to speak. And get this... my routine lab work, taken at the end of the illness, came back spectacular. My T-Cells were 302 (they were 311 in August), and my

viral load was 1,755 (down from 9,575). Though these numbers are great, I think the results are probably a fluke. After all, how could my T-cells hold steady and my viral load drop so dramatically during such a lengthy illness? I'm going to get re-tested and I'll keep you posted.

Sad to Say... If my T-Cells were to plummet now, there would at least be a good reason for it. It's election time! I dread election campaigns as they inevitably bring out the worst in people, especially the anti-gay comments that spew forth from the mouths of Republican Righteous Wonders (RRWs) who are running for POTUS (President

of the United States). For example, candidate Gary Bauer claims that the Vermont Supreme Court decision recognizing the legal rights of gay couples was in some ways "worse than terrorism." And of course, none of the RRWs want gays in the military, including Sen. John McCain, who says he served with gays in the Navy during the Vietnam War. When asked how he knew fellow servicemen were gay, he stated, "Well, I think we know by behavior and attitudes. I think that it's clear to some of us when some people have that lifestyle." Hmm... isn't that called "gaydar?" By the way, have you seen pictures of him when he was a pilot in the Navy? Scrumptious.

Happy to hear... At least McCain's not as bad as the other RRW POTUS candidates, with him probably being the lesser of the evils, kinda sorta. But he and the rest are a far cry from Democrat candidates Al Gore and Bill Bradley, both of whom have come out strongly in favor of gay-rights issues, such as gays serving in the military.

Sad to Say... A reader has accused me of being a Republican-hater, and I say it's not true. To this day I remain a fan of Nixon. In the 80s, I was a glowing example of the "Me Society," the ultimate Yuppie, if any of you remember that term. And when "gay cancer" was a mere whisper, I was still pro-Reagan. But when I was diagnosed in September of '93 with having HIV, I began to see things differently, and to quote the song...

Happy to hear... "I got a new attitude." Whenever I have a speaking engagement as a PWA, certain questions always come up, including, "How has your life changed the most?" And you know my answer? "Now I vote Democrat." I shocked myself with that answer, but it was true. Nothing and no one is perfect, I know, but I am much more comfortable with what the Democratic Party believes in and stands for: gay rights. HIV and AIDS. Racial equality. Equal opportunities for men and women. Reasonable gun control. I

feel they represent "me" and they want 'me' and I definitely don't feel that way with the Republican Party. How many times have we heard, "Love the sinner, hate the sin"? Well, that's how I have come to feel about Republicans and their policies. There are many fine and decent politicians who serve in the Republican Party, but when they adhere to and promote party policies that are repressive, oppressive, discriminatory and, oftentimes, just downright mean and hateful, they sin by becoming Republican Righteous Wonders. (These are kissing cousins to another group of RRWs, the Religious Righteous Wonders.) Locally, there are a few Republicans I admire and vote for, i.e. Mayor Jim Rout, and maybe one day I will find a statewide or national Republican candidate I could support. Every once in awhile, I think I find that candidate, but when they start to discuss issues of equality and other matters near and dear, I am disappointed to discover they're just another RRW. And as for leading candidate George W. Bush's claim of being a "compassionate conservative," a term that endeared me early on, let me warn you that a 'compassionate conservative' is an RRW in sheep's clothing. That's just my opinion, but it's a damn good one.

Sad to Say... As of this writing, we obviously couldn't possibly know the outcome, but this much we do know...

Happy to hear... The Tennessee Titans are going to the Super Bowl!!! So here's the poop... we beat Peyton Manning and his Colts; we beat our division winner, the Jacksonville Jaguars, not once, not twice... but three times!! And the Titans manhandled the St. Louis Rams, our Super Bowl opponents, in mid-season, handing them their first of three losses. In other words, we have beaten the best. Yes, the team is in Nashville and not here, but the team is called the Tennessee Titans. And it's terrific, yet almost unbelievable, that the Tennessee Titans are in the Super Bowl. I feel

good about this. Titans by 8, and you read it here.

Sad to Say... The most dramatically divisive issues in American religion are same-sex couples and openly gay ministers' roles in the church. You'd think God would be so pissed these things are even being discussed in church conferences and congregations that the earth would quake and the skies would darken and rumble with thunder.

Happy to hear... But they don't, and maybe it's because He thinks it's good that people want to love each other, and people want to serve their church. Well, at least 850 liberal clergy leaders do as evidenced by a statement urging all faiths to bless same-sex couples and allow openly gay ministers. Of course the statement was not endorsed by all the major religions, but this will have an impact, nonetheless.

Sad to Say... AIDS cases in this country among blacks and Latino gay men have surpassed those among white men for the first time, shows a study by the CDC. And because of the stigma against gays in those cultures, many of them claim to be heterosexual even though they have sex with men. To prove their "manhood," they have sex with their wives and girlfriends, further increasing the spread of HIV.

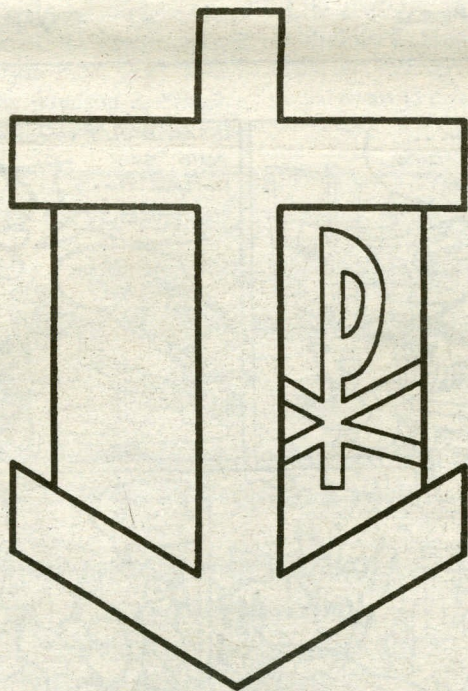
Happy to hear... But overall, the news today is pretty decent among the gay population, but still sad considering the history. The CDC reports that roughly 45 percent of the 703,000 AIDS cases reported in the United States since 1981 have occurred in men who have sex with men.

Sad to Say... Everyone knows that the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is a failure. The presidential election could determine whether there will be a change or not. Gore or Bradley will bring about change and improvements, whereas the RRWs have stated they will keep the policy as it is as they don't see a problem, or will attempt to keep gays out entirely.

Happy to hear... The Europeans are much more enlightened in this area. Heeding a European court ruling, Britain eliminated all restrictions on gays in the military, saying that sexual preference "will be a non-issue in recruitment, assignment, promotion and disciplinary decisions." And that's the way it should be in the good ol' US of A.

Sad to Say... In 1998, 200,000 Africans died in armed conflicts, while 2.2 million died from AIDS. Nations sent troops to help stop the fighting, but have done nothing to stop the spread of HIV. Hell, even the UN has had to reluctantly admit that UN troops sent to keep the peace have been helping to kill the populace by spreading the virus. Ev-

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Martin Luther King: Revisiting & Revising the Dream!

Commentary by Ira L. King
TJN StaffWriter

While reading and contemplating the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 'I Have A Dream Speech,' I wondered how it would read today in addressing human rights for gay and lesbian Americans. In the year 2000, life for gays and lesbians in America is very promising. Celebrities are out of the closet. Some mainline churches are more tolerant and affirming. But in the midst of all this progress. Where do we stand? What must we do?

Dr. King noted that "America had defaulted on a promissory note insofar as her citizens of color were concerned." He indicated that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness were fundamental freedoms due all Americans. If what he says is true, then gay Americans, regardless of color, are to be allowed to pursue those freedoms. Those freedoms are not intangible. They are not unattainable. They are simply thwarted today by backward thinking people who are more scared to be accepting than of being hit by a stray bullet.

In the spirit of diversity, Dr. King pointed out that "Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood." Indeed the same must be said for we who are oppressed because of our sexual orientation. The talk shows today are filled with gay and lesbian guests who are seeking justice and true brotherhood. We seek a brotherhood that transcends who and what we are sexually. We fail to understand why our sexuality is so utterly important to so many people who care less about us otherwise. They don't care that we might need food when we are hungry. They don't care that we might need clothing when we are hungry. They don't care that we might need medical attention when we are ailing. They only care that people they know little or nothing about have a sexual orientation that is different from their own. The solid rock of brotherhood is threatened by their carelessness and their callousness.

Dr. King further notes that "There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights." In the year 2000 it is apparent that

there will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until gays and homosexuals are granted their basic civil and human rights. Issues such as power of attorney, insurance, legal custody of children, equal employment opportunity, etc., must be given the same meaning for gays and lesbians as for heterosexuals. There is no acceptable alternative.

Perhaps the most important part of Dr. King's speech are these words: "In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred." If we are to legally and successfully achieve all the rights, privileges and opportunities as heterosexuals, we must do so in a non-violent manner. Violence does not hasten freedom, it only delays it. Marching is good. Rioting is bad. Demonstrations are good. Criminal acts are bad. Don't do the bad things, it's counterproductive.

Dr. King concludes his oration by stating that "... when we allow (true) freedom to ring — when we let it ring from every village and

every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed us to that day when all of God's children — black men and white men, Jew and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics [gays, lesbians and

heterosexuals] — will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

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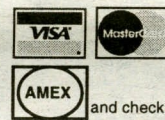
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Y1K Plus 998: Death by AIDS in Memphis

Commentary Ira L. King
TJN Staff Writer

The 1998 *Vital Statistics Report for Memphis and Shelby County, Tenn.* has been released. This data is published by the Vital Records Office of the Memphis and Shelby County Health Dept. Among the information contained therein are statistics relating to the death by AIDS in Memphis. This is a summary report of the statistics on AIDS in Memphis, Tenn. In 1998, the latest year for which statistics are available.

The main function of the Vital Records Office is to obtain and preserve documentary evidence about births and deaths that is necessary to protect the legal rights of individuals. Birth certificates are necessary to enroll in school, apply for a driver's or marriage license, to secure a passport or travel visa, to participate in many athletic programs and to apply for social security and other public program benefits. Death certificates are necessary for many critical legal functions, including burial procedures and the processing of insurance benefits, estate settlement, transfer of stocks, bonds, personal property and real estate. For these reasons there is a continuous demand for certified copies of birth and death certificates.

According to the latest data, of the 7,160 deaths occurring in Shelby County in 1998, 106 were AIDS/HIV-related. Deaths of

Shelby County residents decreased by 22 or 17 percent under the 128 AIDS/HIV deaths in 1997. Deaths from AIDS/HIV rank as the 11th leading cause of death to Shelby County residents. The highest number of deaths due to AIDS/HIV occurred in the 35-44 age group, which numbered 43 deaths in 1998, down slightly from 47 deaths in 1997.

The most significant decrease in the percentage of deaths from AIDS/HIV occurred in the non-white female population, with a decrease of nine deaths or 30 percent. The only group that experienced an increase in AIDS/HIV deaths was the white female population which experienced three deaths in 1998 as opposed to none in 1997; two of these deaths were in age 35-44. The total number of ADIS/HIV recorded in 1998, including nonresidents, was 118.

So what does all this tell us? Death resulting from AIDS is on the decline. I think not! What this tells us is that more and more people are living with AIDS/HIV

instead of dying from the disease. New cocktails are making it easier for those living with AID/HIV to stay healthy longer. The statistics may also suggest that promiscuity among white females is rising.

One of the pieces of information not published is how many deaths were gay deaths, and how many were straight. This is good. At least those gathering the information realize that it's not important for the general public to know the sexual orientation of those who die from AID/HIV.. It is important to know, however, that AIDS/HIV was the cause. [Editor's note: HIV/AIDS and sexual orientation are still tracked at the state level.]

As the new millenium gets underway, I am hopeful that a cure will be found for this dreaded disease. I am hopeful that those currently living with AIDS/HIV will not have to die from same. I am hopeful that at some point in the not too distant future, we won't have to gather statistics on AIDS/HIV-related deaths.

Lesbian Notions



by Paula Martinac

See Page 32



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Who Was George Cukor?

Hollywood director George Cukor worked in a variety of film genres over his long career, but the comedy of sexual manners became his particular forte. A gay man whose homosexuality was an open secret in Hollywood, Cukor's comfort with both male and female sexuality and identity shines through many of his now classic comedies.

Cukor was born in New York City in 1899 to middle-class, Hungarian Jewish parents. If his fam-

seasonal company in Rochester, N.Y. In regional theater, Cukor gained a reputation as a director whom actors could trust because he both listened to them and modestly refused to take credit when their performances excelled. "He had great pride," one colleague recalled, "but no vanity.... He gave [actors] the star treatment."

Cukor moved on to Broadway, where his productions were only moderate successes. Still, he was in demand because of his talent for

sides his affinity with actresses, he also preferred female screenwriters and relied on some of the best - Zoe Akins, Anita Loos, Ruth Gordon. Though not particularly political or feminist, Cukor was sensitive to women's issues. During his early film career, he often sent scripts to Stella Bloch, an old friend from New York, asking her to review them for scenes that might be demeaning to women.

Cukor fell into comedy by accident, but it proved his strong suit. He once quipped that the studio moguls "used to judge your talent

by your personality. If you walked into the front office with a



long face, they gave you straight drama; if you cracked jokes, they gave you comedy. I cracked jokes."

His first few films were unremarkable. But in 1932, he garnered kudos for *A Bill of Divorcement*, starring 24-year-old Katharine Hepburn in her first screen role. That movie launched a lifelong friendship with Hepburn, who went on to star in nine of his films, including some of his (and her) best: *Holiday*, *The Philadelphia Story*, and two Tracy-Hepburn vehicles, *Adam's Rib* and *Pat and Mike*. Whenever Hepburn worked in Los Angeles, she stayed in a cottage on the grounds of Cukor's Hollywood

estate. (Spencer Tracy stayed in a second cottage, to be discreetly close to her.)

Another collaboration with Hepburn was *Sylvia Scarlett*, a gender-bending comedy costarring Cary Grant. *Sylvia Scarlett* was Cukor's most personally revealing film, "brave as well as foolish," as he later phrased it. The lead character is an embezzler's daughter, who cross-dresses to escape a run-in with authorities. The plot directly challenged traditional male-female roles and boldly winked at homosexuality. These daring features (which caused the film to be condemned by the Catholic-run group the Legion of Decency) made *Sylvia Scarlett* RKO's biggest box office failure of 1935.

Cukor was David O. Selznick's original choice to direct *Gone With the Wind*. But after only a few weeks on the job, there were conflicts with Clark Gable, who hated Cukor's fey manner, especially the way he called cast members "darling." One day during filming, Gable stormed off the set, shouting, "I won't be directed by a fairy! I have to work with a real man!" The star didn't report to work the following day, and shortly thereafter Cukor was replaced by Victor Fleming, a pal of Gable's.

Although the general public was unaware of Cukor's sexual orientation, his homosexuality was well-known in the industry. For years, he hosted soirees at his Hollywood villa, which had been decorated by

gay actor William Haines. At these lavish affairs, the queer elite could see and be seen. Cukor's Sunday afternoon parties competed with the all-male fetes of Cole Porter, and the two were sometimes called "the rival queens of Hollywood."

Cukor's career spanned five decades, but he won only one Academy Award, for directing *My Fair Lady* (1964). When he made his last film, *Rich and Famous* (1981), he was 81, the oldest director still working in Hollywood. He died two years later. Many of his films have become queer cult favorites: *Camille* (1937), with its exquisitely painful death scene; *The Women* (1939), with a campy "bitchiness" reminiscent of drag culture; and the musical remake of *A Star is Born* (1954), a comeback vehicle for gay icon Judy Garland.

David Bianco is the author of *Gay Essentials* (Alyson Publications), a collection of his history columns. He can be reached at DaveBianco@aol.com. For more *Past Out*, visit www.planetout.com.

For further reading:

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PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

ily had gotten its way, he would have attended Columbia University and become a lawyer like his father and uncle. But Cukor, who had been entranced by New York theater since childhood, had Broadway in mind.

At first, he wanted to be a playwright, but he soon found he hated one unavoidable aspect of writing — working alone. Naturally gregarious and witty, Cukor discovered he was better suited to stage-managing and directing, which required give-and-take with actors. He got his start in summer stock in the early 1920s and within a few years had founded his own

working with actresses, whose roles he seemed to understand and empathize with better than straight male directors did. "He did seem more in touch with women's emotions," Helen Hayes recalled. Many of the most revered (and often temperamental) stage actresses of that time — Ethel Barrymore, Laurette Taylor, Dorothy Gish — wanted him as their director.

The appellation "woman's director" (a slight, given the sexism in the entertainment industry) followed Cukor when he went to Hollywood in 1929, and over the years he made his mark with a number of so-called "women's films." Be-

Oscar Wilde's Lover Considered 'Victim' of Affair

LONDON (AP) — Oscar Wilde's male lover was never prosecuted alongside the writer for homosexual acts, partly because Lord Alfred Douglas was viewed as the "victim" in the affair, according to newly released documents.

Wilde was a 38-year-old married man a century ago at the height of his powers as a dramatist when he embarked on an affair with the 22-year-old Douglas that was to lead to his downfall.

Some of Irish poet and playwright's best-known works include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1899) and *An Ideal Husband* (1895).

Britain's office of public records has released a letter written by a senior official more than a century ago that asks prosecutors not to pursue a case against Douglas.

In the letter, Senior Treasury Counsel Charles Gill urges prosecutors to consider that Douglas was a young undergraduate at Oxford University when the two met and that Wilde "obviously exercised" a strong influence over him.

"I think that Douglas, if guilty, may be fairly regarded as one of Wilde's victims," Gill wrote to Sir Hamilton Cuffe, who was director

of public prosecutions at the time.

The letter also said that "immoral relations" between the men could not be proven in court and concluded that prosecuting the young aristocrat would not likely end in conviction.

The relationship infuriated Douglas' father, the Marquess of Queensberry, who left a visiting card at Wilde's London club, Albemarle, calling Wilde a sodomite.

Under the conventions of the day, Wilde felt he had no choice but to sue for libel, but the case was

a disaster.

After it emerged that Queensberry's lawyers had evidence of Wilde's previous homosexual affairs, he abandoned the case and found himself facing a criminal charge of gross indecency. He was convicted of homosexual acts committed before his relationship with Douglas and jailed in 1895 for two years.

After he was released, Wilde left England and died in France a few years later. Homosexual acts were decriminalized in Britain in 1967.

Happy/Sad

Continued from page 26

everyone is aware that AIDS is literally killing the continent of Africa, but the global community appears to care less. And do you know why? Racism! "We'd be naive to say race doesn't play a part," Clinton AIDS czar Sandra Thurman tells *U.S. News & World Report*.

Happy to hear... In an address to the United Nation's Security Council, V-POTUS Al Gore pledged to put Africa's AIDS crisis on the world's security agenda, and the White House has asked the Republican-controlled Congress for \$150 million for vaccine

research and prevention programs in Africa. Well, it's not enough, but at least it's a start.

Sad to Say... Valentine's Day is a day for lovers and special friends, but can be a real bummer for those who don't have even someone who is "a little bit more special than the others" to be with.

Happy to hear... But I want all of you to know that on February 14th, Valentine's Day, that you have a genuine, real live Valentine wishing you a happy Valentine's Day.... me! Talk to ya'll again next month.



Mon., February 7
Mon., February 21
6 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

St. John's United Methodist Church
(Peabody & Bellevue)

Feast for Friends is a service of Friends For life for the HIV infected and affected community including people living with HIV or AIDS, their friends, caregivers, family and friends. While the dinner is free, those who are able are requested to make a donation to offset expenses.

Advertising space donated as a public service of the Triangle Journal News

Get Thee Behind ME, KY2

By Daniel Forrest

Well, KY2 is finally behind us ... er ... Y2K is over, I mean!!! How many of you have a stockpile of toilet paper and bottled water? Well, I had neither starting out the new year, but that didn't stop me from having the glamorous New Year's Eve celebration every one deserves (from time to time). I played nanny to a sick niece up from Florida who reminded me less of the angel she normally is and more like Linda Blair. Not to mention my redneck cousins from Alabama who decided to grace me with their presence. (These guys are the reason the state has a bad name.) The evening was a perfect combination of beer, fireworks and projectile vomiting. As if my neighbors have not been alienated enough by me in the past (they think all the Pride

meetings are orgy sessions or something), they got a great dose of the Alabama connection in my family. My neighborhood has a very anal retentive block captain (self-appointed, I'm sure) and I was kinda nervous that shooting fireworks would cause an even greater problem. My fears were laid to rest when I went outside between vomit attacks to find all my neighbors out shooting fireworks. I went back inside and while tending to my niece heard the words that have made many a wife of a redneck, a widow: "Hey, watch this!!!" I ran outside to find that disgarded plumbing pipes were being used as missile launchers for bottle rockets as the drunkard rednecks decided to use neighbors as moving targets. Yes, I rang in the New Year with neighbors running for cover, rednecks shooting fireworks and drinking Bud, my niece bub-

bling like a fountain of vomit and on the television ... not the Barbara WaWa I wanted to see, but Joe Birch interrupting coverage for a police helicopter chase. Lord knows I hope, it's no premonition for the coming year ahead.

MLK March

Kudos to everyone who participated in the Martin Luther King March on Jan. 17. Organizations included **Memphis Area Gay Youth, Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice, Holy Trinity Community Church** and **Memphis Pride, Inc.** All 30 of us marched together chanting, "We're here to celebrate Dr. King, we're included in the dream." Although snubbed once again by all the local television stations, the GLBT community was a definite presence.

Down to Business

Last Sunday, I visited **Sharon Wray's Madison Flame** which opened its doors for a benefit for **Holy Trinity Community Church**, Jan. 23 called Winter Follies. The benefit was organized by Sharon and **B.J. Heffner** and included some very memorable acts like **Rev. Ed Hammet** singing "Lollipop" and our own **Lady A** and **Rebel** dressed as singing nuns. The heart pounding entertainer of the evening was **Aurora Knight**, who energized the audience and brought the crowd to its feet on every number. There were at least thirty acts, each excellent in its own respect. The benefit raised a little over \$6200 for Holy Trinity's Building Fund. At the end Sharon made an appeal to everyone to return Fri., Jan. 28 for another benefit, this time for local entertainer, **Tu Real**, whose recent medical expenses have landed the local favorite in need of help. Sharon said that there has never been a time that she has called on Tu Real for help with a benefit that she was turned down. Way to go Sharon ... for taking such a stand in giving back to the community.

In February, check out **Madison Flame** for the ninth annual **King and Queen of Hearts**, organized by **Jimmy Gray** and benefiting **Friends for Life**. The event will be held on Sun., Feb. 13, at 8 p.m. Also at the Flame, just two days later on Tues., Feb. 15, **Tsarus Man of the Year** will be announced at 7p.m.

Friends for Life is holding a benefit and tribute to Judy Garland called "**Rainbow comes to MemphOz**" on Sun., Feb. 20 at

the New Daisy Theatre on Beale. Tickets begin at \$100 and include a reception afterwards being held at Alfred's. Check out the ad on page 15.

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center seems to spring to life this



month. It kicks off with a Town Hall meeting on Sun., Feb. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. at First Congregational Church's Pilgrim Hall. This is an excellent event which could move us leagues ahead of where we are in uniting the community. Every organization is being requested to attend, and all are welcome. The purpose is to resolve issues within the community and to identify a central issue on which to concentrate in 2000. The community center is also offering movie night on Thurs., Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. also at First Congregational Church. The movie scheduled for viewing is *Trick*. This is the first in what the community center plans to be a monthly event. As if, that wasn't enough, the community center is also planning gay night at the Riverkings game on Feb. 19. The Riverkings will be playing the Macon Whoopee. Those planning to attend are asked to meet at the Southern Avenue entrance at Early Maxwell Boulevard no later than 6:30 p.m. To further show our unity, everyone is asked to wear a blue shirt. The cost is \$6 for a group rate. After the game you can skate for free. I'm told if you don't have skates you can rent them for \$4 that evening.

Memphis Pride, Inc. has decided on the millennium theme which is: "Color Me Human, Color Me Proud, Color Me Equal." As an update, **The Millennium March on Washington**, being held on Sun., Apr. 30 is coming along nicely. Airfare is very limited now, but space is still available on the bus where the cost remains a low, low \$150. This includes an overnight stay in Washington at a local hostel. In other Pride news, **JPM Management Company**,

the Overton Square Management Company, has declined to be the site of Pride 2000 citing a conflicting event being held on June 17. I'll keep you posted as things continue to develop for Pridefest 2000.

If you want a good burger, I recommend ordering one at **Metro**. I've been there a couple of times myself this month, and they are wonderful!! They have a rather hearty lunch menu which is jammed packed with great items. Several new items began recently, so if you haven't been there lately, you haven't been there. Good luck to **Shane Trice** in this new establishment!!

Changes of the Month

My attention was recently diverted to a relatively new gay club at 430 North Cleveland called **Café Cali**. This was a former Vietnamese night club which has turned gay. They offer no cover charge — ever, domestic beer \$1 all day from Monday through Thursday and karaoke every night.

Good luck to the new vestry elected at **Holy Trinity Community Church**. New members **Donice Billingsley, Mark Patton** and yours truly, are joining **Lori Blackwelder, Pete Peterson** and **Don Morgan**. Holy Trinity is planning its yearly retreat Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18 - 19.

Good luck to the new officers appointed in the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center. **Jason Crockett** and **Michael Moore** were appointed as secretary and treasurer respectively.

Valentine's Day

Just a reminder that Valentine's Day is coming up this month ... don't forget to buy your valentine a gift :-). A suggestion? **Shari Walker** of **Cardinal Studios** is offering photo sittings at Holy Trinity Fri., Jan. 28 from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 29, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Candid color photos are available: 4x5 - \$7 each; 5x7 - \$12 each; 8x10 - \$20 each; wallet-size 8 for \$18. Portrait package deals are available. The sitting fee for each photo is \$10 with \$5 of that fee going to the Building Fund of Holy Trinity. Pictures will be back in time for Valentine's Day!!!

Best wishes and Happy Valentine's Day to everyone. As always feel free to contact me with any invitations or reminders for next month. You can reach me at 276-4479 or by e-mail daniel_forrest@hotmail.com.

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For meeting times and any additional information, please contact **Michael Kiggins** at 272-0855 during business hours

Advertising space donated as a public service of the Triangle Journal News

QUEER Science

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Health Effects of Anal Sex

Receptive anal sex, politically speaking, is a pain in the butt. It's a sexual activity that many straight men consider degrading, and they often mentally transfer that degradation to people who engage in it.

For many years, the medical profession shared this point of view: doctors listed the mental and moral shortcomings of the "congenital invert," and pointed out the damaging effects of "sodomy" on the structure of the anus and rectum. The habitual "passive homosexual," it was claimed, had a funnel-shaped anus, made so by frequent penetration. His anal mucosa was lacerated and his anal sphincters were no longer functional, so that he was typically incontinent of feces.

In the early days of the gay-rights movements, gay leaders tended to downplay the prevalence of anal sex among gay men. "According to the statements of all experts on the matter, anal sex takes place relatively seldom in same-sex intercourse," states the famous petition to the German Reichstag, written in 1897 by German gay-rights pioneer Magnus Hirschfeld.

Later, as gay men became more assertive, anal sex was gradually acknowledged more openly: the book *The Joy of Gay Sex*, published in the late 1970s, celebrated it as the central act of sex between men. And the medical and psychological professions became much more accepting of the practice.

AIDS changed that. "Microscopic tears," caused by anal penetration, supposedly allowed HIV to gain access to the bloodstream. It didn't matter that no such tears (caused by consensual penile-anal sex) have ever been documented. It didn't matter that another mechanism for the virus to cross the rectal mucosa has been documented. (It is carried across by a class of immune cell called macrophages).

Whatever the facts, anal sex had become pathological again.

A British study, published as recently as 1993, typified this attitude. According to a team of doctors at London's Westminster Hospital, gay men who frequently engage in receptive anal sex have a significant reduction in anal resting pressure (that is, the anus is not held so tightly closed by its sphincter muscles), compared with straight men who do not engage in such sex. And, according to the study, the men who practiced receptive anal sex were more likely to report anal incontinence. Thus the researchers concluded that frequent anal sex had damaged the men's sphincter muscles, rendering them unable to retain the bowel contents in a normal fashion.

In 1997, the *American Journal of Gastroenterology* published the results of a new and more careful study by a team at the University of Pittsburgh, led by Andrew Chun. They repeated the measurements of anal resting pressure, in two groups of men who did and did not engage in anal receptive sex. Just as the British researchers had reported, the men who did engage in receptive anal sex had lower pressures. However, Chun's group then went on to directly visualize the sphincter muscles, using ultrasound techniques. They found that none of the men in the study had any damage to the sphincters. This result was particularly striking, because damage to the anal sphincters is commonly seen in other circumstances, such as in women who have recently been through the stresses of childbirth. Why then were lower anal resting pressures measured in the men who engaged in receptive anal sex? Simply because, according to Chun, these men knew not to "fight" the measuring instruments when they were inserted into the anus.

In the Pittsburgh study, none of the men, whether they engaged in anal receptive sex or not, reported any fecal incontinence. Why the

difference between the two studies? Is the the British asshole less robust than its American counterpart? Not so. In the British study, "incontinence" was defined vaguely: it even included the passage of flatus — farting, in common parlance. In Britain, apparently, this is still considered pathological! Another possible reason for the difference is that the majority of the British subjects who

engaged in receptive anal sex, but none of the U.S. group, were HIV positive. Thus, it is possible that some of the British subjects had experienced episodes of diarrhea connected with their HIV status, and that incontinence occurred during those episodes.

One of the ways people "pathologize" anal sex is by portraying it as something unique to gay men. That's nonsense, of

course. According to a 1991 study by Bruce Voeller, more than 10 percent of American heterosexual couples engage in the practice with some regularity. In all probability, everyone is given the ability to enjoy anal receptive sex, but only some people make use of their gift.

So go to it, sodomites! But do me a favor, will you, and keep using those condoms.

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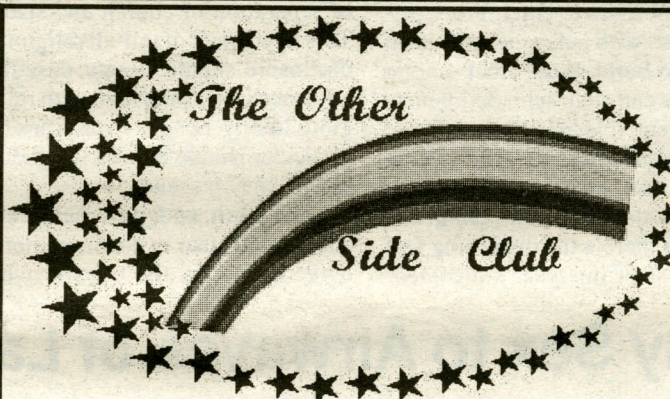
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Cardinal Studios

Ms. Shari Walker, Photographer (A member of Holy Trinity Community Church)



February 2000

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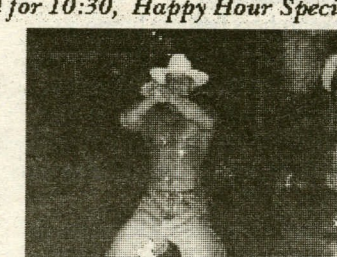
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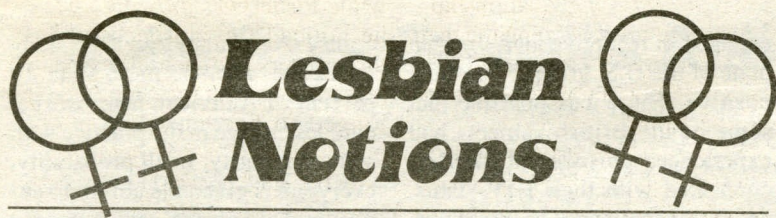
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by Paula Martinac

Vermont Court Wants Church and State to Stay Separated

The recent Vermont Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage is a watershed event destined to have an important impact on the future progress of lesbian and gay civil rights. What was most significant about the decision was that it stressed the economic and legal benefits of marriage and implied the need to maintain a clear distinction between the civil and religious varieties of this hotly contested institution.

In a nutshell, the Vermont justices proclaimed that "the issue before the Court ... does not turn on the religious or moral debate over intimate same-sex relationships, but rather on the statutory and constitutional basis for the exclusion of same-sex couples from the secular benefits and protections offered married couples."

That's a very important distinction

to make. The United States has long struggled with the issue of separation of church and state, and the fight will undoubtedly intensify in coming years over contentious issues like abortion and school vouchers.

Too often, the government treads on thin constitutional ice where church and state are concerned. Recently, for example, the Department of Education, with President Clinton's enthusiastic approval, began officially encouraging churches to enter into "partnerships" with public schools in an effort to build moral fiber among students and stem school violence. The potential for First Amendment lawsuits if evangelical Christian groups start attempting to convert Jewish kids is mind-boggling.

Then there's the disturbing fact that most of this year's presiden-

tial hopefuls have gone out of their way to lay out their private (Christian) religious beliefs to the public. In the Iowa debate televised in November, the Republican candidates scrambled to outdo each other in expressing their complete devotion to Jesus — as if that were somehow a qualification for high office.

Also, the *Washington Post* has reported that Al Gore admits to asking himself repeatedly, "W.W.J.D.?" — "What would Jesus do?" — a popular slogan among born-again Christians. In this particular campaign, only Bill Bradley has explicitly stated that his religious views are a private matter.

Of course, John F. Kennedy's Roman Catholicism was an issue in 1960, as was Jimmy Carter's born-again Christian faith in 1976. But in those instances, the candidates' religion came into question primarily because people feared how their spiritual beliefs might interfere with governing the country — in other words, how they might affect the cherished principle of separation of church and state. This new brand of tell-all religious disclosure should deeply unsettle all Americans concerned with religious liberty, but gay Americans in particular should be worried about what it may portend.

The push and pull between church and state is nowhere more evident than in the debate over

same-sex marriage. The objections that many people harbor against gay couples marrying are based primarily on religious beliefs. But marriage is, in fact, not just a religious institution but a civil one carrying numerous economic and legal benefits denied to same-sex couples.

And that's the problem — marriage, which is government-regulated, overlaps with religion in an inappropriate way. A government that truly rested on the principle of separation of church and state would never allow clergy to serve as civil officials at weddings. Religious unions should be purely spiritual events — as they are for gay couples now and were in many religions in the past.

While marriage may be a secular institution, the language the opponents of same-sex marriage use reveals the deep enmeshment of religion and marriage. Gary Bauer likened the Vermont decision to a terrorist act against a "sacred" institution. Gore's spokesperson reiterated the vice president's opposition to same-sex marriage and his firm commitment to the "religious sacrament" of heterosexual marriage.

But the catch is that the "sacrament" of marriage isn't in question when we talk about same-sex marriage rights. Religious leaders should (and will) decide whether or not to bless the unions of lesbian and gay couples.

In light of this, it seems to me that same-sex marriage faces a more serious hurdle than many people realize. The Vermont court has left to the state legislature the question of how to afford gay couples equal rights, and that body will, in all likelihood, pass a sweeping domestic partnership law that avoids the "M" word.

But even in cities like San Francisco and New York, which extend a broad system of rights to lesbian and gay couples, domestic partnership falls way short of marriage. When all is said and done, the only thing equal to marriage is marriage, which is inextricably linked in the public mind with religious beliefs. And time and again religion proves a big obstacle to civil rights.

What's the answer to the same-sex marriage dilemma? Splitting civil marriage and religious marriage would be a good way around the problem, but it's also the least likely route. It's clear that in a country unable to completely separate government from religion, same-sex couples need to have not just the courts but the pulpits on their side.

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books, including The Lesbian and Gay Book of Love and Marriage. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com. For more Lesbian Notions, visit www.planetout.com.

Doctors Take Gay Sex to Airwaves of Latino Community

By Robin Estrin
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Gay sex isn't often freely discussed in the Latino community. Dr. Anibal Sosa thinks it should be.

He's taking to the airwaves in Boston, Lowell, Salem and Brockton for some frank talk about gays, Hispanics and AIDS.

His message has increasing urgency. Research released in January shows newly diagnosed AIDS cases among Hispanic and black gay men has surpassed the number of new cases among whites for the first time.

Sosa's Latino Health Institute will be bringing the message of safe sex, condom use and AIDS awareness to cable public access channels this week and next. The broadcasts, in Spanish, were prompted in large part by the Centers for Disease Control report.

In the Latino community, cultural taboos against homosexuality run deep, said Juan Torres, a 22-year-old gay man and peer adviser for the Latino Health Institute branch in Brockton.

"Being a Hispanic homosexual, it's very rare that you will meet someone who will be open about it," said Torres, who is of Puerto Rican descent.

As a peer leader, he hears frequent fears from closeted gay and bisexual men who worry that their families will disown them or that they will be roundly condemned.

When Torres told his mother he was gay, at the age of 12, she "flipped out."

The Latino community "is not very open-minded," he said. But things are often better for gay Hispanic men here than they are elsewhere.

In Puerto Rico "you cannot even talk about it," Torres said. "Here, I feel there's more help, more people are understanding."

Researchers believe homosexuality holds a greater stigma among minorities. Blacks and Hispanics are less likely than whites to identify themselves as gay or seek AIDS prevention and treatment services.

According to the CDC, minorities represented 52 percent of the 18,153 gay and bisexual men diagnosed with AIDS in 1998. In 1989, minorities represented 31 percent.

In 1998, black gay men comprised one-third of the new AIDS cases. Hispanic gays accounted for 18 percent.

Sosa, an infectious disease specialist who was born in Venezuela, said cultural and language barriers

play a large role in the upsurge of Latino AIDS cases.

In addition, there is a pool of new Latino immigrants who are less educated and less familiar with the language.

The white gay community has been confronting AIDS head-on for some two decades. Latinos, however, have been burying their heads in the sand, Torres said.

"It's getting more and more deadly and they still choose not to understand," he said.

Gay Rights Group to Air Ads on Military Issue

By Laura Meckler
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hoping to influence public opinion and the presidential debate, a gay rights group is airing a new television ad that goes after Republicans who would keep them out of the armed forces.

The ad, unveiled Jan 18 in New Hampshire and Iowa, responds to a campaign by the Republican National Committee spotlighting the controversy surrounding Vice President Al Gore's position on gays in the military.

"The Republican presidential candidates are so busy fighting about who can and cannot serve in

The Latino Health Institute has been hosting a weekly cable program for almost a year on Boston Neighborhood Network, a public access television channel. While the institute has discussed AIDS among a number of other health issues, this is the first time the hosts are specifically addressing AIDS and gay Latino men, Sosa said.

Massachusetts has already been working to address the growing problem of minority

AIDS cases, but more needs to be done, said Jean McGuire, director of the AIDS bureau of the Department of Public Health.

"We have a major epidemic among men who are gay and people of color," she said.

In Massachusetts, the bulk of gay men living with AIDS are white — 77 percent (or 1,505 gay men), versus 12 percent (226 men) among blacks and 9 percent (182 men) among Latinos, the DPH said.

the military, they may have forgotten the values we actually fight for," says the 30-second ad produced by the Human Rights Campaign, a Washington-based gay advocacy group.

The group is spending \$30,000 to air the ad over five days in Iowa and four days in New Hampshire.

The group accuses Republicans of exploiting Gore's position on the issue and hopes the ad campaign will help focus attention on the merits of his views — that gays should be allowed to serve openly in the military.

In a debate in January, Gore said he would require officers on the Joint Chiefs of Staff to share his position on the matter. He later

backtracked, saying that his appointees would simply be required to implement his policy.

But the clarification did not stop the RNC from running \$10,000 worth of ads accusing Gore of setting up a litmus test that former Gens. Colin Powell and Norman Schwartzkopf couldn't pass.

The gay rights ad does not name any one Republican, but includes footage from a Republican debate of Texas Gov. George W. Bush, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, Alan Keyes and Gary Bauer. Bush and McCain have said they would continue President Bill Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which allows gays to serve in the

See Ads on page 33

Sentence

Continued from Softball Season

tack), I didn't know the extent of what Glover had done to Barry. I'm sorry from the bottom of my heart."

Fisher admitted that he washed the blood from the bat and lied about his involvement to investigators. He also said he confided in another soldier, who was not charged, and asked him not to say anything to authorities.

As part of a plea agreement, charges of premeditated murder and acting as an accessory after the fact were dismissed in exchange for Fisher's plea. Fisher also pleaded guilty to supplying alcohol to a minor — purchasing beer for Glover.

Military Judge Col. Kenneth D.

Pangburn was inclined to sentence him to 14 years in prison, but under the terms of the agreement, Fisher could be sentenced to no more than 12½ years. The sentencing hearing was held in case the judge wanted to impose a shorter sentence.

Fisher will be imprisoned at Fort Knox.

After the proceeding, Winchell's mother, Pat Kutteles, read a statement from the family that was critical of the sentence.

"Justice was not served today," she said. "While we are satisfied with the results of the Private Glover trial, the sentence today for Specialist Fisher is a travesty."

She vowed to continue her efforts to get the Pentagon to do away with its "don't ask, don't tell"

policy.

Wally Kutteles, Winchell's stepfather, testified that his family could have handled Winchell's death more easily had it occurred during combat or training.

"This is a tragedy that never should have happened," he said, his voice rising.

Kutteles said he was angry that, after learning about the attack, Fisher, who made the 911 call, didn't do enough to help his stepson.

"Specialist Fisher was too busy cleaning off a bat to go see what happened to him," Kutteles said.

Fisher's mother, Connie Butler, tearfully told of how she divorced an alcoholic and abusive husband in 1987 who always seemed disappointed in his son's performance

in school, sports and relationships.

"He was just not being the man he wanted him to be," she said. "He just could not get up to that standard for him."

Keith Caruso, a defense psychiatrist with a practice in Nashville, said he diagnosed Fisher as an alcoholic with a cross-dressing fetish.

Caruso said Fisher told him he was not attracted to men but that wearing lingerie beneath his clothing aroused him and made him feel more comfortable.

The fetish apparently developed

while Fisher was growing up and he noticed the closeness of his three sisters and their affectionate relationship with their mother. He longed to become "one of the girls," the psychiatrist said.

When Fisher was growing up, his paternal grandfather often joked that he would castrate Fisher one day, Caruso said.

Fisher had been troubled and puzzled about his cross-dressing and his participation in the crime, and appeared to find some relief in his diagnosis, Caruso said.

See additional stories on page 4

Ads

Continued from page 32

military as long as they do not acknowledge their homosexuality. The other Republican candidates want to ban their service altogether.

The RNC ad features shots of soldiers at work, of Powell and Schwartkopf and ends with: "Call Al Gore. Tell him the only litmus test ought to be for patriotism."

Gore and former Sen. Bill Brad-

ley, who have essentially the same position on the issue, are competing for liberal voters who participate in Democratic primaries and are generally supportive of gay rights. But the RNC hopes the issue will come back to hurt the eventual nominee in the general election, when the competition is for more moderate voters.

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Campaign is hoping to influence not just the debate but public opinion.

Its ad says the military is fighting for core values: "Equality, fairness, freedom, justice — for all Americans, including gay Americans."

"The purpose of this campaign is to refocus the debate on the core values we think should drive it," said David M. Smith, the group's spokesman. "The debate has been sorely lacking of any substance. The candidates have basically gotten away with simply platitudes."

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ADVENTURE IN LIFE Bryan is a 24-year-old GWM, 5'11", 210 lbs., blonde/blue, very good-looking, down-to-earth, easy-going, very romantic, enjoys dining out, movies, quiet times at home, cuddling. Seeking GWM 18-30, for friendship, dating, possible monogamous long-term relationship. (Franklin) ☎12234

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SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN Darrell, is 6'2", blonde/blue, is seeking counterpart, 30-40, who is interested in a new friend in his life. Many possibilities exist for a meaningful relationship if we are right for each other. (Claiborne) ☎16239

KEEP IT ON THE DOWN LOW Eric is a BM, 6'0", 190 lbs., big in the chest, enjoys hanging out, kickin it. Seeking discreet BM, with similar interests.. (Nashville) ☎16100

NICE-LOOKING WITH BLUE EYES Mark, 28, 5'11", 140 lbs, seeking a playmate who is interested in some fun times and new adventures. You won't be sorry. Give me a call. (Chattanooga) ☎15431

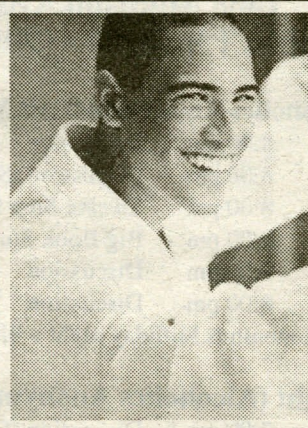
BOTTOM SEEKS TOP Tony is anxious to meet an aggressive top. We can be very good friends and definitely enjoy each others companionship. Please call. ☎15343

SEEKING A DADDY? Attractive GWM, 42, 6'2", 220 lbs., healthy, in shape, disease-free. Seeking SM 18-25 who is seeking a Daddy, must be in shape and disease-free. (Hickory) ☎13835

JOE IS A LATE-30S WM, 6'0", very clean, submissive enjoys just about everything. Seeking group of B/WWM well-endowed, for group fun. (Nashville) ☎13723

EVENING ENCOUNTERS Bryan is a 30-year-old Male. Seeking a Male for casual friendship and mutual oral sex in the evening, Clarksville area. (Clarksville) ☎20385

GIMME A CALL Todd is a 29-year-old Male, 6'0", dark/dark, dark complexion, swimmer's build. Seeking Male for good times. (Kingsport) ☎13522



NEW TO NASHVILLE J.J. is a 22-year-old African-American Male, 5'8", 145 lbs., bottom. Seeking African-American Male top, for friendship, possible relationship. (Nashville) ☎13023

WHATEVER 19-year-old WM, 6'1", 215 lbs., brown/blue. Seeking friends and whatever comes after that. (Murphysboro) ☎12768

OVERALL GOOD GUY Attractive, masculine, straight-acting/looking 42-year-old Male, 6'0", 185 lbs., dark curly/steel blue, mustache, HWP, very versatile, fun-loving, dedicated, romantic, out-going, enjoys bowling, playing pool, darts, cook outs, dining out, movies, quality time. Seeking Male 30-45, relationship-oriented, HWP, good sense of humor, with similar interests, for friendship, possible relationship. (Nashville) ☎12219

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MONOGAMY 37-year-old Male, 5'8", 140 lbs., brown/green, drug/disease-free, honest, sincere, easy-going, loving, enjoys movies, music, dining out, travel, pets, hanging out with friends, quiet times. Seeking Male honest, sincere, drug/disease-free, for monogamy and dating, possible relationship. (Athens) ☎10614

ORAL ATTENTION 30-year-old WM, 160 lbs., 6", dark hair, clean-shaven, mustache, smooth chest, bottom, versatile. Seeking Male in the Huntsville area, for oral attention. (Huntsville) ☎15762

YOUNG BEAR CUB 30-year-old Male, 6'2", 200 lbs., blonde/blue, hairless. Seeking big, hairy Male, for companionship. (Birmingham) ☎15019

NICE, INTELLIGENT, FUN-LOVING, adventurous African-American Male. Seeking same qualities in an African-American Male early-20s-mid-30s, 189-220 lbs., body builder's physique, for fun times. (Tuscaloosa) ☎13152

ARKANSAS

TALL GOOD LOOKING Rick is 25, 6'5", 170 lbs, brown/blue, ISO counterpart for safe, fun sex. We can have a great time if we are right for each other. Please give me a call, I am anxious. (Walnut Ridge) ☎17433

LIKES TO STAY HOME GBM, 5'10", 180 lbs, 24, enjoys staying home for romatic times, long walks, not into the bar scene. Seeking a calm, collected Guy, 27-35, who is settled down and is satisfied with simple pleasures. Let's be friends first and see what happens. (Arkansas) ☎16102

I LIKE TO SUCK Masculine 27-year-old Male, good-looking, horny, very oral, enjoys sex. Seeking Male with similar interests. ☎17326

KENTUCKY

AR YOU SPORTS-MINDED? Robie enjoys sports and good times. Are you interested in meeting an adventurous and daring young Guy, who is easy to talk with. Please give me a call for a pleasant surprise. (Bowling Green) ☎15333

YO, WHAT'S UP SON Mario is a 24-year-old African-American Male, 5'8", 155 lbs., light-skinned, nice body, six-pack abs, well-built. Seeking masculine, well-built, in shape BM, for friendship and kickin it. (Louisville) ☎14260

MISSISSIPPI

I LOVE YOUNG GUYS SGWM 5'11", 165 lbs., smooth build, enjoys the outdoors, sports, getting to know people. Seeking straight-acting, masculine Male, Frat boys, for good times, in the Hickory area. (Hickory) ☎11843

LONG TIME PARTNER 21-year-old SBM, 5'7", 150 lbs., dark complexion, nice build. Seeking Male for long time partnership. ☎10726

NURSING STUDENT 23-year-old BM, 174 lbs., nursing student. Seeking goal-oriented, mature, intelligent PM, enjoys having fun, for possible relationship. (Jackson) ☎10617

IT'S ALL GOOD African-American Male, 6'0", 200 lbs., dark-skinned. Seeking down-to-earth African-American Male. If this is you, leave a message. ☎12036

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the issue in which your ad appears, please send \$1.00 to cover postage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!! TJN announcements and classifieds will not automatically be re-run. Announcements and classifieds must be re-submitted each month, in writing, by the 15th of the month.

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PASTOR WANTED

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PERSONALS

35 yo white male master of discipline ISO naughty submissive slave. I am into bondage, spanking, shaving, endless sex, toys and more. 18-22ish, smooth-bodied, white male, about 140# with boyish looks and mannerisms. Skinny a plus. No diseases. For an absolute spanking good time, call Mr. Paul: 323-1521.

Amateur photographer looking for female models between the ages of 18-30 to pose nude, semi-nude, in swimsuit or in casual clothes. Will pay cash and give free photos as payment. Also interested in discreet no strings attached sexual encounters that may or may not be related to photography. Please write with recent photo to: Photos, P.O. Box 7838, JACKSON, TN 38302-0838.

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I'm a mixed-race Gay female, single, independent, mature, romantic, decent, clean, well-groomed, healthy, athletic, non-smoker. (Socially—active entertainment events, dance/sports, etc. Wordly—travels, gourmet cook and classy but down-to-earth.) I want a feminine, sexy and/or unique freak with common interests, 24 years and older, any race (I prefer oriental—far east, Greek, Indian, Spanish-Latin, P.R.) ladies! Summer's over. Don't stop having erotic fun. Write: Mermaid, P.O. Box 40112, Memphis, TN 38174-0012.

I do expert blow jobs for masculine men, 18-60, all races. I'm 5'9", 155#, 30s, moustache, short hair, healthy, vegetarian. Jim: 372-4538, after 6 p.m.


J/O Buddies. Meet by phone. Try it FREE! 901-821-9100, Code 7001, 18+.

Libra, single GWM, 50, ISO GWMs, 30-60, ex-athletes, uniformed professionals, construction, white collar professionals, bored with their way of life and want a change. For some fun and good times, no strings attached, discretion assured, write Dept. P-10, P.O. Box 11485, Memphis, TN 38111-0485.

New to the area. Hi! I'm a GWM, 40ish, who just moved to the county of Gibson (please don't ask why). I don't know anyone except my family. Is there a GWM, 35-45ish, in the Gibson county area that I could be friends with? If so, please call me, Bobby, at 855-4255 before 8 p.m. Please no fats or fems. Thanks.

Single, white male seeks seeks TV/Ts that like to dress up in high heels and stockings and likes to be in pictures. Write: P.O. Box 613108, Memphis, TN 38101.

White male in his 30s in search of very well-endowed, dark-complexed black male, in his 20s or early 30s for oral fun and possibly more. Must be disease free. Circumcised a plus. No fats or fems. Call Douglas—323-1684.



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Phoenix (Alcoholics Anonymous) All Meetings Open

Sunday	8:00 pm	Discussion
Monday	8:00 pm	Discussion (Smoke Free)
Tuesday	8:00 pm	Twelve Step Study
Wednesday	8:00 pm	Big Book Study
Thursday	9:00 pm	Discussion
Saturday	8:00 pm	Discussion

(Last Sunday of month is birthday night with speaker.)

Into The Light (Alcoholics Anonymous - Women)

Thursday	7:00 pm	Discussion (Open, Smoke Free)
Sunday	12 Noon	Discussion (Open)

(Business meeting 3rd Sunday of month, Birthdays last Thursday)

Seriously Sober (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Friday	8:00 pm	Discussion (Open, Smoke Free)
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Open Heart (Al-Anon)

Tuesday	6:00 pm	Discussion (Open)
Thursday	5:30 pm	Discussion (Open, Smoke Free)

(Business meeting 3rd Tuesday of the month, Birthdays last Tuesday)

ACOA (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Sunday	6:00 pm	Discussion (Open)
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*Memphis Lambda Center, Inc. is a private organization formed for the promulgation and enhancement of Twelve-Step meetings with a special outreach to the Gay and Lesbian community. Business meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

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