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Safely**

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 6

**Triangle Journal
NEWS**

MARCH 2001

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**HIV Rising Again Among
Twenty-Something Gay Men**

By Daniel Q. Haney
 AP Medical Editor

CHICAGO (AP) — A stunning one-third of young gay black men in large U.S. cities are infected with HIV, another sign of the growing racial divide in the AIDS epidemic.

The findings, based on a study released Feb. 5, show that HIV infections are disturbingly common among gay men of all races in their 20s, especially considering that they grew up knowing how AIDS spreads.

Of six major U.S. cities in the study, Dallas reported the highest rate of infection — 18 percent — for gay or bisexual men ages 23-29.

HIV is particularly rampant among young gay blacks, and experts worry that these men have missed the safe-sex message that has been a drumbeat among white homosexual men since the mid-1980s.

The study found that among young gay men, 3 percent of Asians, 7 percent of whites, 15 percent of Hispanics and 30 percent of blacks are infected with the virus. In Dallas, the statistic for blacks was 32 percent.

"That 30 percent is an amazing statistic," said Dr. Helene Gayle, AIDS chief at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "When people think 'gay,' they think 'white.' But the people still at greatest risk are sexually active gay men, and that cuts across all races and ethnicities."

While the rate for Hispanics was 15 percent overall, it was 17 percent for Dallas.

The study, directed by the CDC's Linda Valleroy, was presented at the Eighth Annual Retrovirus Conference in Chicago. Since this was the first survey ever done among gays of this age group — 23 to 29 — there are no previous numbers with which to compare these findings.

Since the epidemic's start, when

AIDS was primarily a disease of gay white men, the burden of HIV has increasingly shifted to blacks. Now, just over half of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections annually occur among blacks. Among infected women, blacks outnumber whites almost 4 to 1.

Many worry that gay men have grown complacent about catching HIV because effective treatments can hold the disease in check. Some of these gay men may be more likely to have risky sex, such as anal intercourse without condoms.

The new study does not reveal whether dangerous sex practices are growing among the young, but it does show that such habits are common. Almost half of the men surveyed admitted they had had unprotected anal sex during the previous six months.

While the overall infection rate of 12 percent was alarming, the researchers said they were most surprised by the level of AIDS infection among the young black men. "It's really horrifying," Valleroy said.

The survey was based on testing of 2,401 gay men ages 23 to 29 between 1998 and 2000. They were tested at parks, bars, clubs and other gay meeting places in Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, Seattle and New York City.

Except in Miami and Seattle, where few blacks were in the study, the infection rate for blacks was around 30 percent in all the cities.

In general, AIDS infections have become less common among gay men since the height of the epidemic in the 1980s. For instance, in New York, just over half of all gay men of all ages who were tested at venereal disease clinics in 1988 were infected, compared with 20 percent in 1997.

Valleroy said there is no easy explanation for why the disease is so much more prevalent among young gay blacks. But one reason may be that blacks are less likely to admit their homosexuality, so

See HIV Infection on page 20

King and Queen of Hearts Marks Tenth

By Allen Cook

Every year for the past 10 years, February has brought us a new King and Queen of Hearts — and this year's King was the organizer himself, Jimmy Gray. Alma of Aphrodite was named Queen of Hearts.

"I was shocked sh--less on being selected King," said Gray. "Since Ron and Darian are in charge of collecting the money for that stuff and with everything going on, they just give the list to the reigning king and queen at the end to announce — I had no idea!"

About 300 people attended the annual event on Sun., Feb. 11, at Madison Flame. In addition to the door charges and performers tips, the coffers were increased by the auctioning of about 120 items donated by businesses. When all was



Performing as The Jugs, Sharon Wray (left) and sister Betty Wray were "Locking for a City" at the King and Queen of Hearts benefit held at Madison Flame on Feb. 11.

said and done \$6289 was raised, including \$600 in pledges.

Throughout the evening Gray presented special volunteer awards to those who had given of them-

selves to pull off the show and auction. Among the recipients were:

- Betty Wray for "10 years of

See King and Queen on page 9

**Both Sides Present Arguments on
Arkansas Sodomy Law**

By Pierce Presley
 Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — The government has the right to "express the moral indignation of its citizens," an assistant attorney general said Jan 29 while defending Arkansas' law prohibiting same-sex sodomy.

"You could say the whole of criminal law is based on morality," said Timothy Gauger, responding to an argument by an attorney for the seven people who filed the lawsuit challenging the 1973 law.

"The government makes no other attempt (to justify the law) other than to say public morality condemns the action," said Lambda Defense Fund lawyer Susan Sommer. "The police simply do not belong in consenting adults' bedrooms."

Pulaski County Circuit Judge David B. Bogard must decide whether the state law against sodomy invades the privacy of homosexuals and denies them equal protection. During the 90-minute argument, attorneys often pointing

to laws prohibiting bestiality or incest, arguing the philosophy of law and citing conflicting cases from across the nation.

The plaintiffs say that while prosecutors aren't charging people with violating the law prohibiting same-sex sodomy, the law is used to criminalize homosexuals in such things as adoption and custody hearings. Bogard said he hopes to reach a decision on the case in a few weeks, after he finishes several murder trials.

Bogard peppered both sides with questions, and made statements about the points raised.

"You say, 'Well, we think it's immoral, so we're not going to let you do it,'" he said to Gauger. "The problem is that with most other laws based on morality, you can find some discernible harm."

"I really have trouble finding some reasonable harm here."

In the dark lobby of the Pulaski County Courthouse, Sommer and the plaintiffs gathered after Bogard recessed to make their case to the media.

"The defendants have said the plaintiffs can't challenge this because the police haven't marched into their bedrooms and hauled them to jail," Sommer said. "This law has been hanging over people's heads since it went on the books ..."

Minister Randy McCain, a plaintiff, said the law might not be used in court, but it lends credibility to movements opposed to homosexuals.

"This law gives hate groups justification for what they do," he said. "(A declaratory judgment) would give us protection against persecution."

The plaintiffs are a mixed group — young, old, white, black, male and female, a minister, a teacher, a nurse. Their argument revolves around the idea of equal protection.

Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas are the only states that have same-sex sodomy prohibitions in force.

Both sides asked Bogard to decide the case on the basis of briefs and affidavits.

Jack Pokorny — A Personal Memorial

An Appreciation by Jim Maynard

I would like to make a somewhat personal statement in memory of Jack Pokorny who died of complications from AIDS.

I first met Jack many years ago when I began my first effort as a "gay activist" in Memphis by canvassing the Memphis Pride Parade and Rally for the Human Rights Campaign. A very emotional man came up to me nearly yelling at me: "Why don't you people do something here in Memphis instead of taking all our money to Washington, D.C.?"

Jack was upset that HRC focused almost all its resources on big fundraisers and in big cities like New York and San Francisco and did nothing at the local level in cities like Memphis.... Well, I agreed with Jack. We needed a local grassroots organization... and a few years later he helped us

form the Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice.

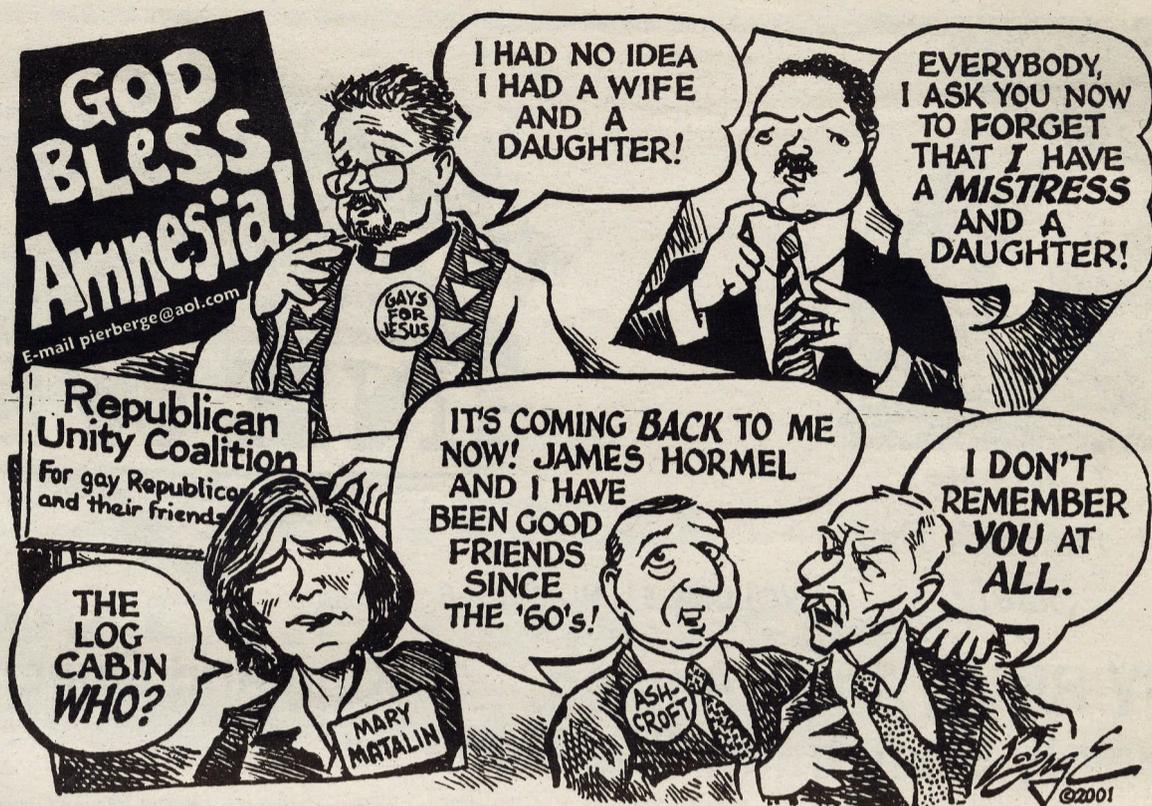
Many of us may recall Jack sometimes being "difficult" to deal with. He was often upset with us for not doing more. He was frustrated with the Memphis gay community (as many of us are at times). I had many phone conversations with Jack in which I agreed with a lot of his opinions, but disagreed with others.

Like Jack, I wished that more could be done, that more people would be politically active, that

more of our community would become "activists," that we could get our act together, that people would "wake up." I was more patient. I realized that it would take time and patience to do the things we wanted to do.... but I had something Jack didn't have.... time.

The very moving AIDS memorial Butch Valentine orga-

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



nized at First Baptist Church reminded me again of the fact that we are running out of time... we cannot take it for granted. We owe it to Jack and the thousands in our community and the hundreds of thousands we have lost to that damn disease, as well as the diseases of homophobia and hate nationwide, to do more... to do our share... and to keep not only their memories alive, but to make every day count, continue their dreams and their struggle for justice and equality.

We owe it to those we no longer have with us to build a Memphis gay and lesbian com-

munity center! We get so many calls from kids, parents, people coming out, people scared, people needing friendship and support... and we need a community center!

We must invest more of our time and money in our community organizations and in grassroots political organizing. The Memphis Lesbian & Gay Coalition for Justice has existed for more than two years, but we have lost many of our members and have few people willing to become officers and continue the struggle. Other community organizations face similar problems of lack of community

support.

We owe it to those who have sacrificed and struggled and those who have gone to continue the fight and do more!

Jack.... I will remember you as I continue my personal and public struggles. While we did not always agree, I consider you a friend and I will not forget our conversations...and I will not give up!

Love,
Jim



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Triangle Journal News Obituary Policy

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See information at left on how to make submissions.

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Memphis Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice Forming Partnerships with Park Friends and MPD

The Memphis Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice (LG CJ) has formed a partnership with Park Friends, Inc. and has initiated actions to do the same with the Memphis Police Department in an attempt to address ongoing concerns in our community. These actions come in the wake of the very negative press the gay community received during the recent mall restroom stings and the Channel 5 "exposé" on gay sex in Overton Park.

Park Friends, Inc. is a volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation, protections and stewardship of city parks. They sponsor

volunteer activities to benefit our parks, raise funds to support park programs and work in the community to educate the public about the treasures of our city parks.

The LG CJ is a local civil rights group that promotes equality and combats prejudice and discrimination among gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons.

Coalition members Len Piechowski and Jim Maynard have met with Park Friends in recent months and have gotten the process off to a positive start.

"I was tremendously impressed with the concern and respect the Park Friends had for our Coalition

and for our efforts," said Piechowski, representing the Local Issues Committee of the LG CJ.

"Melanie White, president of Park Friends, repeatedly stressed that concerns over sexual misconduct in the park were not anti-Gay in nature. Instead she spoke of her desire to eradicate all illegal activities from Overton Park, whether they be related to drugs, violence or sex. For our part, we assured the

Park Friends that the majority of gay and lesbian Memphians are law-abiding citizens and deeply embarrassed and troubled by the incidents," Piechowski said.

The initial activities of the partnership will include awareness building campaigns in our newspapers, bars and organizations. The Park Friends are assisting the LG CJ in establishing rapport with the Police Department with the hope

of exploring allegations of entrapment schemes being used against our community.

"The history of the relationship between the gay community and the Memphis Police Department has been very poor," said Piechowski. "We intend to open lines of communication to try to improve that relationship," he concluded.

Arkansas House Panel Rejects Bill to Ban Gay Adoptions

By Kelly Wiese
Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Opponents of a bill that would prohibit homosexuals from adopting didn't get much time to make their case, but they emerged victorious anyway.

A House panel on Jan. 26 voted 9-10 to reject a bill by Rep. Randy Minton, R-Ward, that would prohibit homosexuals from adopting or being foster parents.

"Homosexual adoption is not in the best interest of our children," Minton said.

More than a dozen people in the crowded committee room wore stickers saying "Vote No on HB 1026 — For Kids' Sake," while others had buttons that read "Good Parents Come in Many Packages."

But only one person on each side of the bill got to have their say, as the committee bogged down in questions for Minton and a strongly worded speech by chairwoman Jo Carson, D-Fort Smith, trying to discredit research Minton offered in support of his bill.

Minton cited several studies, including those by Family Research Council psychologist Paul

Cameron, that he said showed children raised in homosexual homes face greater risks. He said such homes are unstable and that many homosexuals are more promiscuous.

"Homosexual households are not a suitable environment for children because of their instability and hostility toward a natural family," Minton said. "We do not need to experiment with the lives of children."

Carson questioned his studies, and brought out a report from the American Psychological Association, whose research she said found that homosexuals' parenting styles are no different than those of heterosexuals.

"Cameron's research methodology has been firmly rejected by his peers in the research community," Carson said.

The Arkansas Child Welfare Agency Review Board recently approved a ban on homosexual foster parents. Since October, the Department of Human Services has asked prospective foster parents if they are homosexual.

"If you say yes, we will politely say, 'Thanks, but no,'" spokesman Joe Quinn said, adding that no one has said they are homosexual yet. "We take them at their word."

Quinn said there has never been such a law or regulation regarding adoption, and that the department is not taking a position on the bill.

Minton said with such a close vote, and one member absent from the meeting, "I'm going to work on some people and try to bring it back again."

Dr. Daniel Rifkin, a lung doctor at Arkansas Children's Hospital, said the bill "will hurt Arkansas' kids."

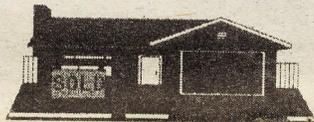
Rifkin said he sees many children with serious medical problems or disabilities, and that few parents will adopt them. He said because homosexuals know what it's like to live with a "stigma" in society, they are more likely to adopt these children.

Jerry Cox, with the local Family Council, supported the bill.

"We already discriminate when it comes to adoption and foster care," he said.

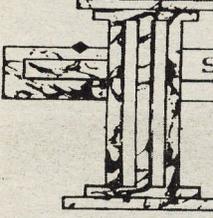


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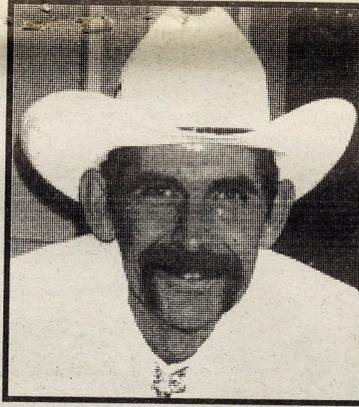


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David went home to the Creator following a lengthy illness. He was from West Memphis, Arkansas where he passed away with his daughter, Donella Hardy, at his side at Crittenden Memorial Hospital. He lived the last year of his earthly life under the care of friends Ken Horton and Clark Meeks in Jacksonville, Florida. He was a master mechanic and craftsman helping many in our community with their vehicle and household repairs. He was a member of and loved Southern Country Memphis. He is deeply loved and will be missed and remembered. Join us to remember and celebrate his life.

Published as a public service of the Triangle Journal News

Mardi Gras Ball Benefits Cancer Society

by Vincent Astor
Special to *Triangle Journal News*

Last winter, the Mystic Krewe of Memphis United (usually known as Mystic Krewe) gave the first Mardi Gras ball in Memphis since the early 90s.

It was a formal affair with all the trappings and traditions of the New Orleans-style balls. The theme was a localization of *The Wizard of Oz* with plumes, sequins, dancers, royalty, debutantes and a motorscooter.

The costumes were magnificent and only the heat prevented more people from seeing them in last year's Pride parade.

The location had several shortcomings but Loving Arms benefited from donations collected at intermission.

In all a very good time.

This year's ball surpassed the first ball on all counts. It is fun, for me at any rate, to dress to the nines (and wear the good jewelry) once in a while.

This ball is always formal but, nowadays, ties are anything but black and evening wear can run a very large gamut. The crowd glittered in many respects.

It is a by-invitation fundraiser to which many organizations are invited and their presidents recognized. I was with the Cotton Pickin' Squares. Several individuals were recognized for service to the Krewe and community.

This year's theme was "Holidays" with costumes representing several of the major holidays, with a little twist.

Valentine's Day was blue, not red, with white swans forming the heart.

Christmas was the green and orange of the pear tree, rather than the green and red of the holly.

Halloween included a dance

number by a group of the very young and nubile, and a surprise twist on the traditional plumed backpiece. If you've never seen a Mardi Gras ball but have seen the Mumpers Parade at Thanksgiving, you've seen these enormous plumed backpieces. One is usually required to leap and caper about in them and that requires some stamina and familiarity with the exact center of gravity of ones pumps. No wonder it gets a crowd excited.

Last year, instead of on a broomstick, the Wicked Witch of the West arrived on a small motorscooter, plumes and all. This year, the final holiday (Mardi Gras, of course) was represented by a float in miniature with the Krewe logo and a jester throwing beads.

The finale joined all of the other costumes for a Mardi Gras Parade in miniature and was most impressive.

As a historical note (yes, I'm writing this so there's always a historical note), the balls Memphians remember from the 70s were in the Mardi Gras-style but used to celebrate Cotton Carnival, a Memphis event.

A costume event held during Cotton Carnival helped, in the early days, to protect those coming or performing in drag.

The clubs were The Queen's Men, a Memphis chapter of the Mystic Krewe of Apollo, and GOPS (Gays on Poplar Street).

The Community Center gave two Mardi Gras balls, one in 1992 and one in 1994 around the time of Mardi Gras, with a different format but many of the same trappings. A co-sponsor of the '92 ball was the Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite, the only survivor of the early ball clubs.

Mystic Krewe began the new century giving a very traditional New Orleans-style Mardi Gras Ball during Carnival. Carnival is the season between Epiphany, or Twelfth Night, and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The word comes from the Latin "carne vale," farewell to meat, which precedes the fasting of Lent.

The last day of Carnival is Fat Tuesday—Mardi Gras. The few shortcomings of last year's ball (bar service being the primary) had been addressed and fixed, every one. The free flow of alcohol is one of the primary traditions associated with Mardi Gras balls, and it just ain't right without it.

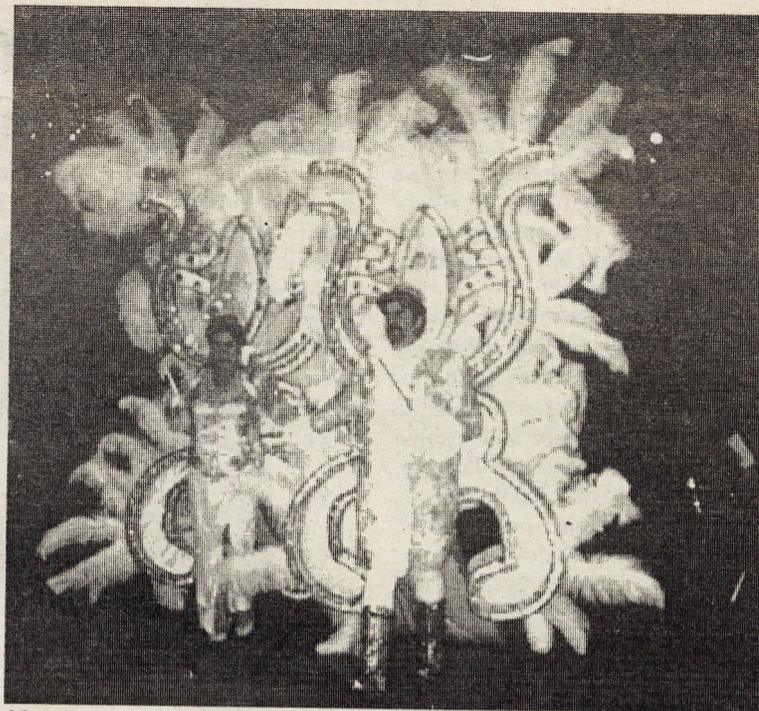
The sight lines were much improved, the sound and lighting, though not elaborate, were well suited.

Debutantes were honored for many reasons... style and manners being among these, and the royalty were everything they should be. There was even a place for "prom photos."

Donations were taken before and during intermission for the American Cancer Society, making this elaborate affair something more than just showing ourselves off to one another.

Dancing followed the costume parade and everybody I saw was having a very good time.

So did I.



Memphis Mardi Gras Ball Queen Barbara and guest.

Photo courtesy of Jim Norcross



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Sexual Orientation Now Protected Class at Ole Miss

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Association (GLBA) of the University of Mississippi is pleased to announce the addition of sexual orientation as a protected category under the university's non-discrimination policies for faculty, staff and students.

As far as the group is aware, this is the first and only Mississippi university that includes sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policies.

As an advocate for the gay community at the university and in Oxford, the GLBA is committed to guarding against any future erosion of the new policy and to ensuring its promotion and success.

It is hoped that this addition will be useful to future employees and students and will send a message to all who attend, visit or work for the university that discrimination or violence of any kind is not acceptable and has no place in the university community.

GLBA also hopes that this addition will make Ole Miss a more welcoming place for people of all backgrounds and lifestyles, and will help promote diversity at the university, in the local Oxford community, and in Mississippi and the nation.

For more information, contact GLBA of Ole Miss at P.O. Box 3541 University, MS 38677 or <http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/glba/>

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Book Club Meets *The Dinner Club*

By Shannon Yarbrough

If you haven't already read *The Dinner Club*, by local gay author Corey Taylor, you can still pick up an autographed copy, at Bookstar, 3402 Poplar Plaza.

On Feb. 7, Bookstar hosted Taylor's first book signing. Corey read from the novel and signed copies starting at 7 p.m., and then met with the store's gay and lesbian book club immediately following. The group had read the book as its monthly selection in preparation for the discussion with the author.

The Dinner Club is the heartwarming story of Brandon, a gay man who lives in Chicago, who learns he must take over the family business because his father is dying of cancer. The story is ultimately uplifting, leaving readers with a sense of purpose and a wonderful outlook on his or her own life.

While staying with his family, Brandon seeks the comfort and friendship of other people like him-

self, but due to the small town atmosphere he soon meets up with "The Dinner Club," a closeted group of individuals who have a totally different outlook on life. If you want the first real "feel good" book you've read in a while, this is it.

"We had a total of about 30 people attend the book signing and the club meeting that followed," said Shannon Yarbrough, host of the discussion group, "Our usual attendance for just the club meetings

averages 12 so I was well pleased and so was Corey."

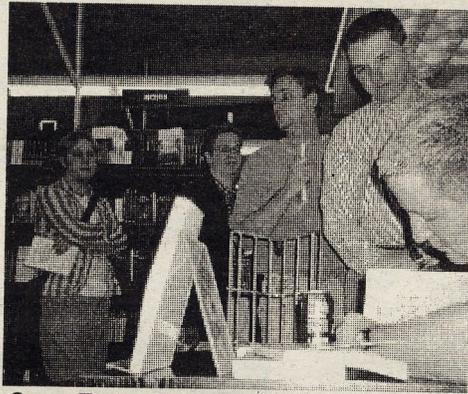
The book was self-published late last year through Xlibris Publications, and Corey contacted Bookstar while beginning the promotion of his book. Being a gay fiction title, Yarbrough thought this would be a good chance for the book club to read a title and then have the chance to discuss it with the author.

Sales of the book were so high that additional

copies had to be ordered just for the book signing event. "It's been a very popular title so far this year for Bookstar," Yarbrough said, "it's also a very quick and easy read that does have a good theme behind it." Shannon reviewed the book for last month's *Triangle Journal*. The book club reviews were also quite positive as the members had lots of questions for Corey during the discussion. Corey was even asked to cast the movie if *The Dinner Club* was ever made into a screen play.

Corey signed additional copies for Bookstar, so you may reserve one by calling the store at (901) 323-9332. Out-of-town shipping is also available for a small fee. The book club meets each month in the café at the store at 8 p.m.

For more information on the group, contact Shannon Yarbrough at TruCap24@aol.com.



Corey Taylor (far right) signs books on Feb. 7 prior to his appearance before the Gay and Lesbian Book Club at the Poplar Plaza Bookstar.

MGLCC News

By Angela J. Lamb

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) wants to keep the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people of our community abreast of all of our newsworthy items and events. As treasurer, I have a first-hand look at the ways things are going, and I want to report them to you.

Most recently, MGLCC sponsored a night of *Pageant* at Playhouse on the Square. About 190 supporters attended the event and almost \$2700 was raised in ticket sales, which goes directly to the building fund that started last August. After the show, we hosted a reception to thank all who attended.

As an extra bonus, the cast of *Pageant* also attended and smiled for the camera as people donated \$2 to MGLCC to take home a photograph of them with their favorite beauty "queen." That night, the board of directors had the opportunity to show off our new logo on T-shirts. We have 13 extra MGLCC T-shirts available for sale for only \$10 each!

January was a big month for the community center; it was the start of a long membership campaign. By the time Jan. 31 rolled around, we had distributed about 2,000 membership letters, including ones printed in the February editions of *Triangle Journal News* and *Family and Friends*. There is also information about becoming a member of the community center on our website, www.memphisgayweb.org.

On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to give heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped us with the membership drive efforts so far, including the two papers, all of the organizations which helped distribute material to their members, and all of the individuals who have volunteered their precious time.

I would also like to thank everyone who has responded to our membership drive. If you have not mailed back your membership application, please do so as soon as possible. Thus far, we are very happy with the return on our mailing efforts.

In March, we have planned to continue our membership drive with

"March Madness." You will see us every Saturday night in the month of March at some of the local clubs. We will have information tables set up to distribute membership brochures, answer any questions that you may have regarding the MGLCC, and give you the opportunity to put a face to the name. If you see us at your favorite bar (we'll be the ones wearing the cool T-shirts), please stop by and introduce yourself and take a brochure.

April is just around the corner and for those who have been in Memphis for at least the past four years, you know what that means — the Twinkie Museum GLBT Film Festival! This will be our fifth anniversary and we have plans for a big celebration. To make sure I don't spoil any surprises, I won't give you many details at this time, but I can tell you that the entire event will be bigger and better than ever before. Watch for complete details in the April issue of the *Triangle Journal News*.

Credit cards! We can't live without them and we shouldn't live with them. What's the point of my rambling? MGLCC now has credit card capabilities. You can send in membership dues, make donations, or buy MGLCC T-shirts or tickets for upcoming events via a credit card number. At this time, we can only accept Visa and MasterCard. Thanks to Helping.org any non-profit, 501(c)3 organization can get credit card capabilities free of charge!

OK, that's enough for now, but I will see you again next month. Just as a reminder, the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center holds monthly town hall meetings on the first Sunday from 6-8 p.m. and a monthly potluck dinner on the third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Both events currently take place at the former First Congregational Church location, which is at the corner of Eastmoreland and Watkins in midtown. If you need to contact any of us, please refer to any of the following ways: e-mail: memphisgaycenter@yahoo.com; telephone: (901) 324-GAYS (4297); mail: MGLCC, P.O. Box 41074, Memphis, TN 38174-1074; website: www.memphisgayweb.org.

HIV Family Care Network to Present Speakers, Choir

The Memphis HIV Family Care Network and Agouron Pharmaceuticals are presenting an evening of free education, empowerment and entertainment for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The event will take place on Thurs., Mar. 22, at 6 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper.

The event is entitled "Taking Charge! Reaching for Your Dreams" and will feature Dr. Luther Virgil, a nationally

renowned African-American speaker on HIV/AIDS.

Also featured will be Denise Stokes, a high energy motivational speaker sharing the gift of empowerment, and Circle of Praise, a choir carrying the message of hope through song.

Dinner will be served and there will be a drawing for door prizes. Transportation and child care are available. Seats are limited and reservations are required. Call 545-6577 for reservations.

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Next Hurdle For Texas Hate Crimes Bill Is Full Senate

By Natalie Gott
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — A hate crimes bill that failed in 1999 was quickly approved in a Senate committee in Texas, but getting it through the entire Senate won't be as easy.

"The forecast is partly sunny," Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, said.

Ellis' bill, called the James Byrd Jr. Act, is aimed at toughening penalties for crimes directed against minorities, women, gays and other groups. The bill is named after the black man who was dragged to his death behind a pickup truck in East Texas in 1998.

The Senate Criminal Justice

Committee approved the bill Feb. 7 in a 5-1 vote. The committee is controlled 4-3 by Democrats, who have made the bill a top priority.

Although a hate crimes bill passed through the House in 1999, it died in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, which then was controlled by Republicans. The bill did not have the support of President Bush, who was then governor.

The issue came up again several times during the presidential campaign, including during a debate against former Vice President Al Gore. Byrd's children also attended the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles over the summer to urge support for hate crimes legislation.

Gov. Rick Perry has carefully avoided taking a public position on the bill.

"He knows this is a very emotional issue, one that created very intense debate last session," Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt said. "He will review whatever bill the Legislature sends to him, if they reach a compromise on it this time."

Another hate crimes bill was filed in the House. But sponsor Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, says she won't push for it to be debated by the full House until the Senate moves first.

"We already demonstrated in the House that we can pass a hate crimes bill," Thompson said.

"We're not going to move in the House. If the Senate sends the bill over, we are going to pass a hate crimes bill."

Getting Ellis' bill to the House will be the challenge though. Ellis is likely to wait to push his bill for a full Senate hearing in March. Rules require a four-fifths vote for any Senate debate on legislation during the first two months of the session, which began Jan. 9.

Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, voted against the bill in committee, saying he believes the current law provides appropriate legal remedies.

"My concern with hate crimes legislation is that it attempts to criminalize thought," Bivins said. "While mental condition is an element of many crimes, like murder, it has never been punishable on its own."

Sen. Todd Staples, R-Palestine, whose district includes the Jasper community where Byrd was killed, did not vote on the bill in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. He had voted against it as a representative in 1999.

Staples says that he is concerned that the bill does not address age, gender, occupation and other categories, although he says he believes the state needs to "send a message that hate and bigotry and racism are not welcome in the state."

Others say they believe that the state's existing hate crimes law, created in 1993 under Gov. Ann Richards, is enough.

The law increases penalties if a crime is proven to be "motivated by bias or prejudice" but prosecutors have criticized it as too vague and virtually unenforceable.

"It's obviously an issue that evokes a lot of emotion and political rhetoric and it sends out a sort of signal that has little to do with the fairly simple premise of the bill," Ellis said. "I think it would send a very unfortunate signal if it didn't get passed."

Three white supremacists were convicted of capital murder in Byrd's death. Two are awaiting execution. The third is serving life in prison.

AIDS Quilt Leaving San Francisco

By PlanetOut News Staff

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is leaving its 1987 birthplace in San Francisco in the next few weeks and heading for Atlanta, Ga., another victim of skyrocketing property costs in the wake of the Silicon Valley boom.

Its parent organization the NAMES Project Foundation, has lost the lease on its warehouse for the globally revered symbol of the epidemic, which has now grown to some 44,000 panels weighing 50 tons.

The new site will provide climate control that should extend the life of the quilt, but may not offer an opportunity for a permanent display of some panels that the old location did.

The Foundation itself will move its offices to Washington, D.C. to join other groups in lobbying on behalf of people living with HIV and AIDS.

City of Atlanta spokesperson Glenda Blum Minkin told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that, "For it to be housed in Atlanta honors the city and we'll do whatever we need to do to help get it here," stressing the support of Mayor Bill Campbell.

NAMES Project board member Julie Rhoad told the paper it was significant to move the quilt to the home of the Centers for Disease Control, as well as to a city with a proud history of leadership on human rights issues.

Atlanta Inter-Faith AIDS Network executive director Jeff Peterson-Davis added that the move reflected the changing demographics of the illness, from its early impact on gay men to its more recent rise among communities of color, and might help to draw attention to that shift.

Objectors Threaten Panel-'Stealing'

Gay activist and Quilt founder Cleve Jones views the move as one which will strengthen the NAMES Project's work against AIDS, but some San Franciscans are unwilling to let go of what was originally a neighborhood project.

Transwoman with HIV Felicia Elizondo, a co-founder of the Bay Area chapter and creator of 55 Quilt panels, told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that her panels will stay in San Francisco even if it takes a lawsuit — and that she and other activists have talked about "stealing" their panels.

Some complain that the move is coming as a surprise, although NAMES Project Foundation Board Chair Edward Gatta, Jr., said that all 46 chapters had been notified of the move in writing a year ago and that plans have been developed over three years.

He'll also discuss with San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown's office the possibility of creating a space in the city to retain some sections of the Quilt, and certainly the Bay Area chapter will continue to

have the same chance as other chapters to request segments for display at events.

Gatta told the Associated Press that, "A lot of people who make a panel think they send it to San Francisco and it goes there and that's where it stays. Very seldom are they on the shelves, and if they are on the shelves then we're not doing our job."

Thousands of displays of portions of the quilt around the world have been viewed by more than 13 million people, helping the NAMES Project to raise a total \$3 million over the years.

The subject of a number of books and the Oscar-winning documentary *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*, it was even nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

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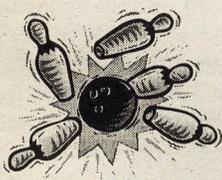
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Judge Wants To Know If Air Force Mistreats Discharged Gay Men

By David Kravets
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A judge said Jan. 29 he wanted to know whether the Air Force treats discharged gay men different from others removed from service.

In making the request, U.S. District Court Judge William Alsup delayed for months a decision on whether a gay psychiatrist must repay more than \$70,000 the government spent on his medical education.

The Air Force wants John Hensala, 36, to repay the tuition costs after discharging him in 1994 when he said he was gay. The government paid the tuition on grounds that Hensala, of San Francisco, would serve in the Air Force for four years after becoming a doctor.

But the government said he can-

not serve because he is gay, and alleges he announced he was gay so he wouldn't have to serve.

Hensala is suing the government, saying that it should forgive his debt because it won't allow him to serve. He claims he wanted to serve honestly and had no reason to believe he would be automatically discharged after his announcement.

The judge has previously questioned whether Hensala fully understood the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that had been implemented shortly before Hensala came out, and has pointed out that the policy says exceptions can be made.

The judge ordered the Air Force to produce records on doctors or medical students discharged for reasons other than being gay. Alsup wants to know whether the Air Force sought tuition reimbursement from those students.

Gay Man's Right To Retain Home Goes Before Washington's Highest Court

LOS ANGELES — Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund urges the Washington Supreme Court to overturn a ruling that stripped a man of his home and business following the death of his partner of nearly three decades and affirm that gay couples are protected by Washington's law of equity.

On Tues., Feb. 13, the Washington Supreme Court heard arguments in Vasquez v. Hawthorne. Afterwards, Managing Attorney Jennifer C. Pizer of Lambda's Western Regional Office, plaintiff's attorney Terry Barnett and Northwest Women's Law Center Executive Director Lisa Stone commented to reporters.

"The Court of Appeals created a peculiar and unfair barrier for lesbians and gay men when it treated Frank Vasquez as a legal stranger to the property he and his partner had built up over their years to-

gether. For the sake of all gay families throughout the state, as well as basic justice for Frank Vasquez, the Washington Supreme Court should tear down this barrier," said Pizer, who authored Lambda's amicus brief.

Pizer authored Lambda's amicus brief to the Court, supporting the appeal of Vasquez, who had shared a home and business with Robert Schwerzler, his life partner of 27 years. Schwerzler died in 1995 without a will. In 1997, Schwerzler's relatives sued to take over all the men's assets, including their home in Puyallup, Wash.

Applying a long-standing state equitable doctrine, a trial court upheld Vasquez's claim to the property, valued at \$230,000, that the two had acquired jointly during their relationship. The doctrine in question protects those in long-term, unmarried relationships should they separate or one part-

ner die. It allows a party who does not have legal title nevertheless to seek a fair distribution of property the couple had acquired or enhanced while they were together.

But, in February 2000, the Court of Appeals ruled that Vasquez has no right to retain that property because the two men were of the same sex and thus, under current interpretation of Washington law, could not have married even if they had wished to. However, the equitable doctrine Vasquez sought to invoke exists separate and apart from marriage law.

Lambda Legal Director Ruth E. Harlow said, "Washington's equitable doctrine provides a fair safety net if one partner in an unmarried couple dies without a will. This doctrine of fairness should not be offered to only some couples and not others because of their sexual orientation."

Cayman Islands Religious Leaders Petition To Keep Anti-gay Laws

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — Religious leaders in the Cayman Islands have started a petition drive protesting a British order that decriminalized homosexuality in its five Caribbean territories.

In January, Britain scrapped laws making homosexuality a crime in the Cayman Islands and four other territories after local legislatures refused to do so.

The move angered church leaders who say that homosexuality is immoral and goes against the cultural grain of the deeply religious and socially conservative islands.

The petition says those who sign "object to enacting legislation against the will of the people of the Cayman Islands," said the Rev. Al Ebanks, chairman of the Cayman Ministers Association.

"The people of the Cayman Islands as well as other overseas territories have made it abundantly clear what our position is on this matter," Ebanks said recently. "I don't know any partnership that could survive on the basis of this kind of one-sided relationship."

He said the petition would be turned over to the Cayman Islands legislature and its British governor.

The order from the British Privy Council, which acts as the highest court for the territories, decriminalized homosexual acts between consenting adults in private. It also applies to Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Britain's government said the anti-gay laws violated international human rights agreements it has signed. Britain has the power to unilaterally revoke the statutes, but for years had tried in vain to persuade local legislatures to repeal them.

Civil Unions Bill Introduced in Hawaii Legislature

HONOLULU (AP) — A bill introduced in the state House would grant gay and lesbian couples all the legal rights of married couples.

House Judiciary Chairman Eric Hamakawa and Rep. Ed Case introduced the "civil unions" bill.

Hamakawa said he would have to discuss the issue with fellow Democrats and colleagues on the Judiciary Committee before he could say if the bill would be given a hearing.

Case believes the legislature in 1997 committed itself to provide same-sex couples with some of the benefits that married couples enjoy. Although legislators passed a reciprocal beneficiaries law that extended dozens of legal benefits to registered same-sex couples, Case

said lawmakers should do more.

The bill introduced by Case and Hamakawa would repeal and replace the 1997 reciprocal beneficiaries law with a new legal relationship, "civil unions."

Senate President Robert Bunda said civil unions aren't a priority for the Senate. He said the same-sex marriage debate split Democrats, and he doesn't want to see that kind of division in the Senate again.

Mike Gabbard, chairman of the Alliance for Traditional Marriage and Values, said civil unions would be same-sex marriage by a different name, and called it an insult to voters who rejected same-sex marriage in 1998.



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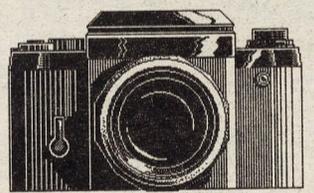
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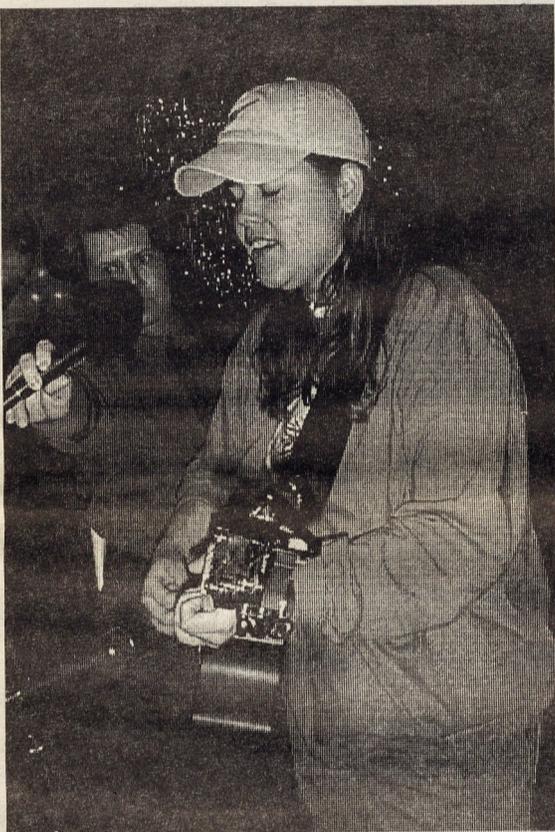


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Family Album: King and Queen of Hearts Benefit



Queen Alma and King Jimmy hold court just after having been crowned.



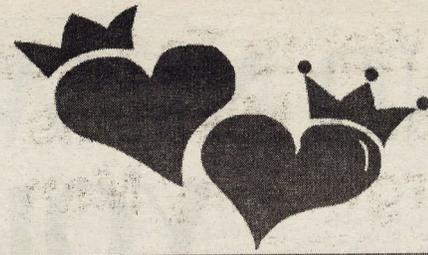
Carol Plunk



Leslie Cartier



A crowd of about 300 enjoyed the King and Queen of Hearts benefit which raised more than \$6,000 for Friends for Life.



Host and Founder Jimmy Gray hugs Madison Flame owner and longtime friend Sharon Wray

King and Queen

Continued from page 1

continuing unselfish service to the King and Queen of Hearts who was there from the founding and has continually provided support and promotion of the event"

- Carol Stockton "who answered thousands of e-mails and provided continual feedback and kept the members of Aphrodite informed about the events, as well as providing transportation of the many things needing to be hauled back and forth to the event."

- Tammy and K.K. "who have helped with the event the last four years, and called me (Jimmy Gray) in January to ask if they could help again, and showed up at every meeting and also, found a stove for Aloysius Home."

- Aphrodite was given a special award "for service to the event for the last seven years, even though they have helped provide support and entertainment for the last 10 years. (For) the last seven years they have always shown up to help set up and run the show the day of the event."

The 2001 King and Queen of Hearts was the last one Jimmy Gray will set up and run. A series strokes, other health problems and the stress of staging the event has caused him to seek others who will continue the event. Aphrodite has stepped up to the plate and taken

the event as its own.

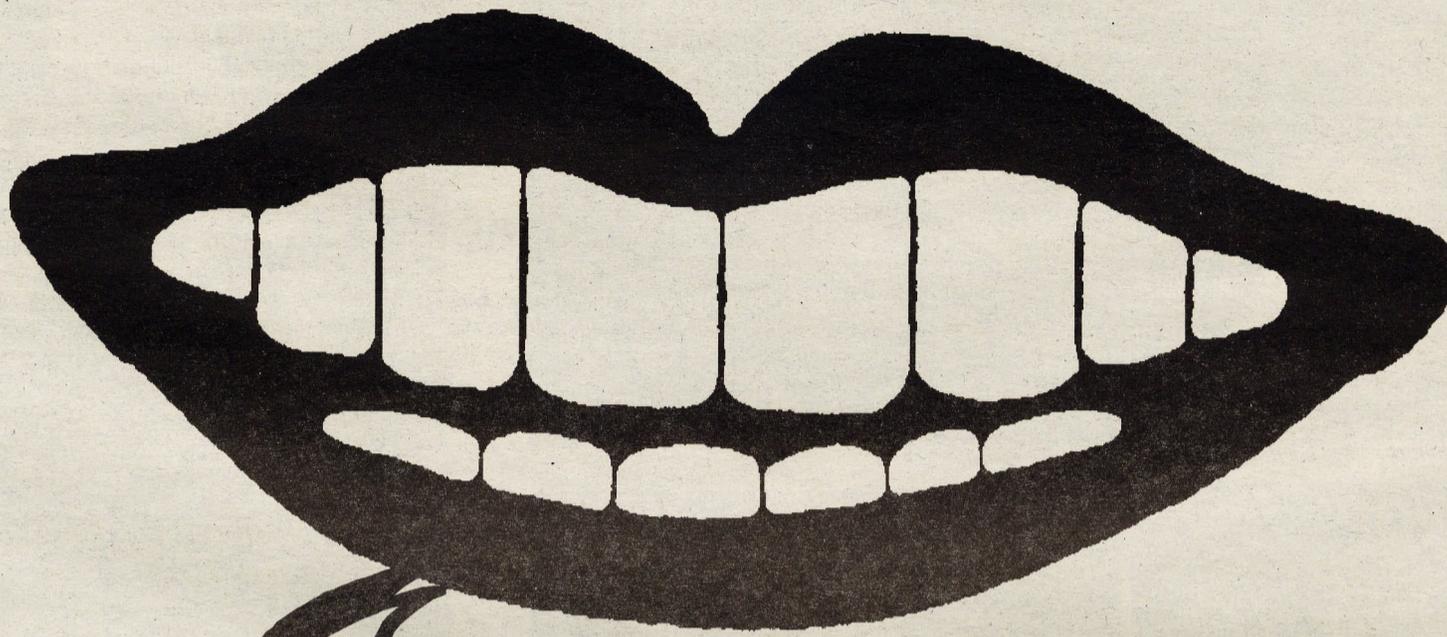
"I would like to thank the sisters of Aphrodite for agreeing to take over this event and continue it as an AIDS fundraiser for the needs of our community, Gray said.

"I realize that this event is just a very small portion of fundraisers that Friends for Life has each year and that many people in our community may have some negative feeling towards FFL, but with the help and continuous support that was given by Kim Moss, the (interim) executive director, I believe that we will see a positive change in the community as a whole towards FFL," Gray said.

The King and Queen of Hearts started in 1991 as an event to brighten the months following Christmas. It raised only \$152 that first year which went to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, for a child affected by AIDS. The charity that year was selected by the King and Queen chosen that year. It has since gone on to raise approximately \$70,000 since for Friends for Life.

"I would like to thank the community for its continued support by providing the many entertainers, donors of auction items, and volunteers, who have given so much over the past 10 years to the King and Queen of Hearts," Gray concluded.

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Philadelphia Mayor Bridging Gaps in Gay Community, Leaders Say

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Mayor John F. Street has made some progress in winning the trust and respect of the city's gay and lesbian community, many of whom feared his administration would be antagonistic toward gays.

"I think we're doing OK in terms of getting along," said Denise Kulp, a political consultant who worked for one of Street's mayoral rivals, Democrat John White Jr.

Gay leaders — angry about Street's opposition to issues such as providing health benefits to the same-sex partners of city workers — labeled him as divisive, hot-

tempered and incompetent.

When Street narrowly won the mayoral race, there was fear of political retribution. However, 13 months into his administration, Street has gone a long way to diminish fear and loathing of him in the gay community, some of his former foes acknowledged.

Mike Marsico, co-chairman of the Liberty City Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, said he would give Street a first-year grade of "B, maybe a little above."

"It hasn't been *The Sound of Music*, but it hasn't been *Apocalypse Now*, either," he said.

"The expectations of the community were so low," Marsico said. "There were people literally talking about leaving the city."

Street got off to a good start by appointing Alba Martinez, a lesbian, to direct the city's Department of Human Services.

In January, he appointed Michael Hinson, 34, to act as his liaison to the gay community. Hinson is co-founder of Colours, a social-service organization for gay racial minorities.

The mayor's new board is expected to include 15 members, among them several gays and lesbians who supported Street in 1999 and disputed contentions that he was anti-gay.

"The ideal is that we are going to have a group of people that are familiar with — and mostly mem-

bers of — the lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender community to help the mayor on issues," said Hinson, who holds the title of assistant city managing director.

Though opposed to providing domestic-partner benefits for city employees while president of City Council, Street pledged during the campaign not to overturn those benefits. He also said he would have the city solicitor fight a private lawsuit aimed at overturning the benefits.

He has kept those promises.

As City Council president in 1997, Street had spoken against gay marriage before a panel of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

But citing his record on Council — including his 1982 support of the city's fair-practices law against discrimination and his 1988

effort to provide city funding for AIDS relief — Street said he agreed with gay leaders on many issues.

"Do I have to be a down-in-the-dirt, total and complete homophobe because I am against gay marriage?" he said at the time.

He also has pledged to develop strategies to combat new HIV infections, to work with police to ensure the safety of gays and lesbians, and to promote the growth of gay businesses.

Deputy Mayor George Burrell said Street was following through on his commitments.

"Politics is the art of exaggeration," Burrell said. "I think if the mayor refused to talk to or work with everyone who said extreme things about him in 1999, we would have a polarized city."

Emerald Theatre Company Starts 5th Year with *Baltimore Waltz*

Emerald Theatre Company opens its fifth year of residency at Theatreworks with the heartfelt and humorous dramady *The Baltimore Waltz*.

Carl and Anna, two siblings are on a search for a cure to a mysterious disease that effects "certain" people. This close-knit family of two travels to far away places in search of answers and desperate hope as they confront their quilt and known loss. This satirical play looks at the mysteries and stigma of the AIDS epidemic.

Baltimore Waltz will be presented at Theatreworks, 2085 Monroe Ave., on Mar. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and Apr. 1. Performances are at 8 p.m. and cost \$10. Call 722-9302 for reservations.

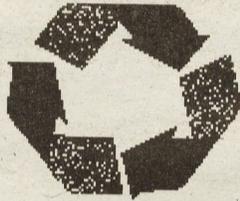
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November 8-17 2001: *Lonely Planet* — A dedicated mapshop owner and a regular patron at his store find the meaning of true friendship as they remember those who have gone before them. It will feature Emerald Theatre Company founder Den Nickolas Smith and Co-Artistic Director Hal Harmon

Emerald Theatre Company season subscriptions are now on sale. The cost for all three shows is only \$20. To purchase, call 722-9302.



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Spread of Drug-resistant AIDS Virus Appears To Be Growing Problem

By Daniel Q. Haney
AP Medical Editor

CHICAGO (AP) — People who catch HIV are increasingly likely to encounter mutant forms of the virus that are able to resist some of the drugs commonly used to treat the infection.

Drug-resistant strains have been a major problem since the start of treatment in the early years of the AIDS epidemic, but until recently this resistance emerged as the virus evolved inside each patient's body. Now, however, doctors say

these resistant viruses apparently are being passed on to others in significant numbers.

U.S. researchers Feb. 7 reported an abrupt upswing over the past two years in the prevalence of resistant forms of the virus in newly infected people.

They said the cause of this increase is almost certainly the widespread use of drug combinations that have revolutionized the treatment of AIDS since 1996. These medicines have transformed HIV from a death sentence to a manageable condition, but they have also

increased the number of outwardly healthy people whose bodies harbor resistant virus.

When all goes well, the drugs hold reproduction of the virus so low that no resistant mutants can evolve. But often, the medicines fail to work this well, and a virus gradually emerges that is resistant to one or more of the drugs being taken.

"There are significantly greater numbers of patients who have failing regimens and who transmit their virus," said Dr. Susan Little of the University of California at San Diego.

Her study was conducted on 394 people in Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, San Diego, Montreal, Birmingham, Alabama, and Vancouver, British Columbia. She presented the results at the Eighth Annual Retrovirus Conference in Chicago.

The patients were seen by doctors between 1995 and last May. All were checked within three months of catching HIV.

Between 1995 and 1998, less than 4 percent of the patients caught resistant virus. In 1999 and 2000, this rose to 14 percent. Six percent of these had a virus that was resistant to two drugs.

Most of those who catch HIV never realize it until years later. However, patients occasionally realize it soon after infection because they get temporary flu-like symptoms. Some doctors recommend immediate drug treatment for such patients.

In these cases, Little said doctors should check their patients' viruses to see if they are resistant to any drugs before starting therapy.

Doctors believe that without

treatment, patients' drug-resistant virus eventually evolves back to the non-resistant form. However, a record of the resistant virus is stored in patients' immune systems, and it can re-emerge once treatment starts.

The growing spread of resistant virus "has tremendous important in our ability to treat people effectively," said Dr. Douglas Richman, another member of Little's team.

Another study, conducted by Dr. Hillard Weinstock of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, raises the possibility that the level of resistant virus varies greatly among different risk groups.

Weinstock's team surveyed 603 people newly diagnosed with HIV in 10 cities. It found that 16 percent of white homosexual men had resistant virus, compared with 3 percent of blacks who caught the virus heterosexually.

Two other studies from Switzerland and France also found high levels of resistant virus, though resistance was more common there than in the United States during the mid-1990s. In a study of 121 newly infected patients, Dr. Marie-Laure Chaix of Necker Hospital in Paris found that 9 percent had resistant virus in 1996, 7 percent in 1997, 6 percent in 1998 and 10 percent in 1999.

MEMPHIS
BEARS

CLUB NIGHT

Sat., March 10 • 10 p.m.

**The Other Side Club
Jackson, Tenn.**

All Bears & Bear Lovers Welcome...

Come Join the Bear Party!

Check Out Our Website for Details
<http://www.bigfoot.com/~memphisbears>

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

BWMT

**Black and White Men Together
Box 42157**

Memphis, TN 38174-2157

Phone: 276-0168

<http://www.geocities.com/westhollywood/9913>

See Out and About for event info.

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

Mélangé

Sunday Brunch

Seating begins at 12:00 Noon
\$18 for 3 courses
reservations are recommended

Music & Wine

Monday Nights
DJs - Sean OD / Richard Stylus
Late Night 10:30 - 2:30 a.m.
No Cover • Tapas until 1:00 a.m.

948 S. COOPER • MEMPHIS, TN. 38104

901.276.0002

WWW.MELANGEMEMPHIS.COM

A Handy 4-Page Pull-Out
Reference to Bars, Restaurants
and Other Mid-South Resources

Out & About

The Triangle Journal Calendar of Events MARCH

Thurs., Feb. 22

- Safe Harbor MCC - Bible Study - 7pm
- Cotton Pickin' Squares - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church - 7pm
- Pageant - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm

Fri., Feb. 23

- "Fifty-One Percent" sponsored by NOW - WEVL FM 90 - 1pm
- Midtowners Bowling - Cherokee Bowling Center (2930 Lamar Avenue) - 7pm
- Pageant - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm

Sat., Feb. 24

- Saturday Morning Matinee (Leisa Brown) - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 10:30am
- Pageant (Memphis Pride Performance) - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm

- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm
- Pageant - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 10:30pm

Sun., Feb. 25

- First Congregational Church - Services - 9am & 10:30am
- Living Word Christian Church - Services - 10am & 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC - Service - 10:30am
- Holy Trinity - Service - 11am
- Pageant (Final Show)- Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 2pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 2pm
- Brothers and Sisters Bowling - Cordova Lanes (7945 Club Center Cove) - 5:45pm

Mon., Feb. 26

- LGCJ (Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice) - Planning Meeting for Upcoming Year - Holy Trinity - 7pm
- Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm

THE JUNGLE
1474
MADISON



901-278-4313

OPEN 3-3

COME

"HANG OUT"
WITH THE
GUYS

Tues., Feb. 27

- Lesbians with Breast Cancer - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
- Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 7pm
- BGALA - University of Memphis - 678-5719 - 7:30pm
- Karaoke Lady (Donna) - J-Wag's - 10pm

Wed., Feb. 28

Ash Wednesday

- Taizé - First Congregational Church - 278-6786 - 6pm
- Holy Trinity - Imposition of Ashes - 7pm
- Living Word Christian Church - Service - 7pm
- Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm

Thurs., Mar. 1

- PFLAG - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church - 761-1444 - 7pm

- Safe Harbor MCC - Bible Study - 7pm
- Cotton Pickin' Squares - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church - 7pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm

Fri., Mar. 2

- "Fifty-One Percent" sponsored by NOW - WEVL FM 90 - 1pm
- Catholic Mass with Special Invitation to Gays and Lesbians - St. Patrick's Cathedral - 7pm
- Midtowners Bowling - Cherokee Bowling Center (2930 Lamar Avenue) - 7pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm
- Carol Plunk - Other Side (Jackson, TN) - 8:30pm

Sat., Mar. 3

- Carol Plunk w/ Band - Elks' Lodge (Jackson, TN) - 8pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm
- Tabling at Area Bars - Memphis Gay and Lesbian

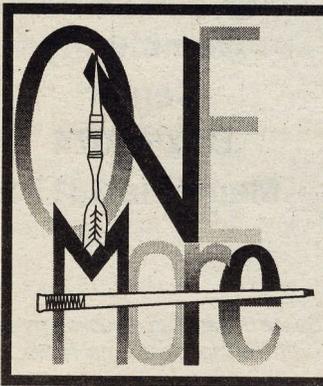
Community Center
(MGLCC) - 324-GAYS
(4297) - 11pm

Sun., Mar. 4

- First Congregational Church - Services - 9am & 10:30am
- Living Word Christian Church - Services - 10am & 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC - Service - 10:30am
- Holy Trinity - Service - 11am
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 2pm
- Carol Plunk - One More - 5pm
- Brothers and Sisters Bowling - Cordova Lanes (7945 Club Center Cove) - 5:45pm
- MGLCC Town Hall Meeting - First Congregational Church (former location) - 324-4297 - 6pm

Mon., Mar. 5

- Lambda Group (Jackson, TN) - Davis-Kidd Conference Room - 6pm
- Feast for Friends - St. John's Methodist Church - 6:30pm
- Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm



2117 Peabody
901-278-6673
901-278-MORE



852 S. Cooper Memphis, TN 38104
Nan Lemons 272-2853 Pat Crawford

3430 Summer Ave.
Between National and Highland

901/320-9376

HTCC@aol.com

holytrinitymemphis.org



Opening Wide the
Doors for Over
Ten Years

Sunday: 11:00 a.m.

Wed.: 6:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Community Church

Tues., Mar. 6

- Lesbians with Breast Cancer - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
- Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 7pm
- BGALA - University of Memphis - 678-5719 - 7:30pm
- Carol Plunk (with the Memphis Troubadours) - Flying Saucer - 8pm
- Karaoke Lady (Donna) - J-Wag's - 10pm

Wed., Mar. 7

- Taizé - First Congregational Church - 278-6786 - 6pm
- Holy Trinity - Bible Study - 7pm
- Living Word Christian Church - Service - 7pm
- HIV/AIDS Support Group (Jonesboro) - 7pm
- Carol Plunk - One More - 7pm
- Gay and Lesbian Book Discussion Group - Book Star (Poplar Plaza) - 8pm
- Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm

Thurs., Mar. 8

- Parents Together ("Gay" Parent Support Group) - Holy Trinity - 7pm
- Safe Harbor MCC - Bible Study - 7pm
- Cotton Pickin' Squares - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church - 7pm
- As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm

Fri., Mar. 9

- "Fifty-One Percent" sponsored by NOW - WEVL FM 90 - 1pm
- Midtowners Bowling - Cherokee Bowling Center (2930 Lamar Avenue) - 7pm
- Carol Plunk - Barley's (Jackson, TN) - 8pm
- As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm

Sat., Mar. 10

- As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm

- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm
- Memphis Bears Club Night - The Other Side (Jackson, TN) - 10pm
- Tsarus Club Night - Crossroads - 10pm
- Tabling at Area Bars - Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) - 324-GAYS (4297) - 11pm

Sun., Mar. 11

- First Congregational Church - Services - 9am & 10:30am
- Living Word Christian Church - Services - 10am & 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC - Service - 10:30am
- Holy Trinity - Service - 11am
- As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 2pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 2pm
- Carol Plunk - One More - 5pm
- Brothers and Sisters Bowling - Cordova Lanes (7945 Club Center Cove) - 5:45pm
- WAC Meeting - Call for information (678-3339) - 7pm

Mon., Mar. 12

- Pool Tournament - Pumping Station - 7:30pm

Tues., Mar. 13

- Lambda Circle - First Congregational Church - 278-6786 - 6:30pm
- Lesbians with Breast Cancer - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
- Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 7pm
- BGALA - University of Memphis - 678-5719 - 7:30pm
- Carol Plunk - Neil's - 8pm
- Karaoke Lady (Donna) - J-Wag's - 10pm

Wed., Mar. 14

- Taizé - First Congregational Church - 278-6786 - 6pm
- Holy Trinity - Bible Study - 7pm

- Living Word Christian Church - Service - 7pm
- Carol Plunk - One More - 7pm
- Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm

Thurs., Mar. 15

Copy & Ad Deadline for
April 2001 TJN

- Safe Harbor MCC - Bible Study - 7pm
- Cotton Pickin' Squares - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church - 7pm
- MGLCC Potluck Dinner - First Congregational Church (former location) - 324-4297 - 7:30pm
- As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm
- Carol Plunk w/ Band - Fuze Box (Jackson, TN) - 10pm

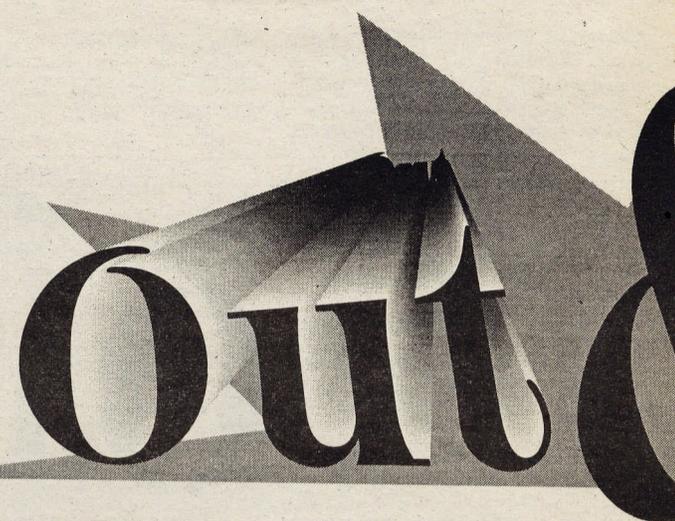
Fri., Mar. 16

- "Fifty-One Percent" sponsored by NOW - WEVL FM 90 - 1pm
- Midtowners Bowling - Cherokee Bowling Center (2930 Lamar Avenue) - 7pm
- As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm
- Carol Plunk w/ Band - Justin's - Time TBA

Sat., Mar. 17

St. Patrick's Day
(Wear some green
or I'll pinch ya!)

- Mirror Image - Holy Trinity - memphisgroup@usa.com - 7pm
- As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm
- Tabling at Area Bars - Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) - 324-GAYS (4297) - 11pm



The Triangle Journal

Welcome to the *Triangle Journal News* Calendar. We try to provide as many upcoming events in the GLBT community as possible. If you would like to add your event or need to update an existing event, please e-mail our Calendar Editor, Angela Lamb, at cantsee3d@yahoo.com or call 729-3915 and leave a message. Thank You.

Sun., Mar. 18

- First Congregational Church - Services - 9am & 10:30am
- Living Word Christian Church - Services - 10am & 6pm
- Safe Harbor MCC - Service - 10:30am
- Holy Trinity - Service - 11am
- As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 2pm
- I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 2pm
- Carol Plunk - One More - 5pm
- Brothers and Sisters Bowling - Cordova Lanes (7945 Club Center Cove) - 5:45pm
- WAC Meeting - Call for information (678-3339) - 7pm

- Integrity Worship, Dinner & Program - Calvary Episcopal Church - 278-8915 or 374-9484 - 6:30pm, 7pm & 7:45pm
- Lesbians with Breast Cancer - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
- Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 7pm
- BGALA - University of Memphis - 678-5719 - 7:30pm
- Karaoke Lady (Donna) - J-Wag's - 10pm

Wed., Mar. 21

- Taizé - First Congregational Church - 278-6786 - 6pm

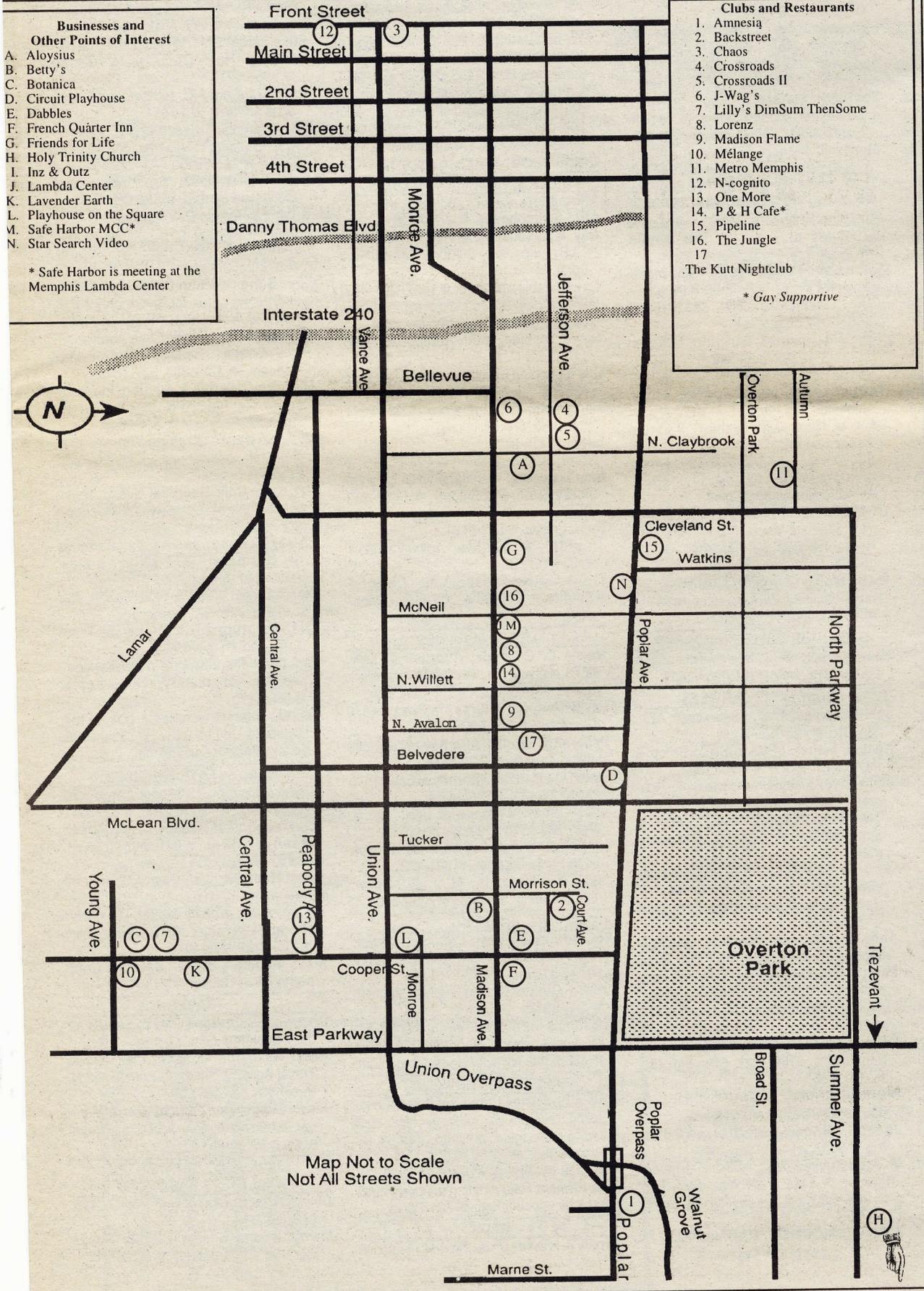


The Memphis
Gay and Lesbian
Community
Center
Box 41074
Memphis 38174

Space donated as a public service
of The Triangle Journal News.

About

Calendar of Events



- Holy Trinity - Bible Study - 7pm
- Living Word Christian Church - Service - 7pm
- HIV/AIDS Support Group (Jonesboro) - 7pm
- Carol Plunk - One More - 7pm
- Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm

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Antique Warehouse Mall
 2563 Summer Avenue
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 (901)323-0600
 AUNTIQMEM@AOL.COM
 Members of American Cut Glass Association
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- Thurs., Mar. 22**
- Safe Harbor MCC - Bible Study - 7pm
 - Cotton Pickin' Squares - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church - 7pm
 - As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm

- Mon., Mar. 26**
- LGJ (Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice) - Location TBA - 7pm
 - Pool Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm

- Fri., Mar. 23**
- "Fifty-One Percent" sponsored by NOW - WEVL FM 90 - 1pm
 - Midtowners Bowling - Cherokee Bowling Center (2930 Lamar Avenue) - 7pm
 - The Baltimore Waltz - Emerald Theatre Company - TheatreWorks - 722-9302 - 8pm
 - As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm
 - Carol Plunk w/ Band - Newby's - 9pm

- Tues., Mar. 27**
- Lesbians with Breast Cancer - YWCA (766 South Highland) - 7pm
 - Pool Tournament - J-Wag's - 7pm
 - BGALA - University of Memphis - 678-5719 - 7:30pm
 - Karaoke Lady (Donna) - J-Wag's - 10pm

- Sat., Mar. 24**
- The Baltimore Waltz - Emerald Theatre Company - TheatreWorks - 722-9302 - 8pm
 - As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm
 - Carol Plunk - Cinnamon Stix (Jackson, TN) - 9pm
 - Tabling at Area Bars - Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) - 324-GAYS (4297) - 11pm

- Wed., Mar. 28**
- Taizé - First Congregational Church - 278-6786 - 6pm
 - Holy Trinity - Bible Study - 7pm
 - Living Word Christian Church - Service - 7pm
 - Carol Plunk - One More - 7pm
 - Dart Tournament - The Jungle - 7:30pm

- Sun., Mar. 25**
- First Congregational Church - Services - 9am & 10:30am
 - Living Word Christian Church - Services - 10am & 6pm
 - Safe Harbor MCC - Service - 10:30am
 - Holy Trinity - Service - 11am
 - As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 2pm
 - Carol Plunk - One More - 5pm
 - Brothers and Sisters Bowling - Cordova Lanes (7945 Club Center Cove) - 5:45pm
 - The Baltimore Waltz - Emerald Theatre Company - TheatreWorks - 722-9302 - 8pm

- Thurs., Mar. 29**
- As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm
 - Amy's View - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm

- Fri., Mar. 30**
 March 2001 TJN Due Out
- The Baltimore Waltz - Emerald Theatre Company - TheatreWorks - 722-9302 - 8pm
 - As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm
 - Amy's View - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm

- Sat., Mar. 31**
- The Baltimore Waltz - Emerald Theatre Company - TheatreWorks - 722-9302 - 8pm
 - As You Like It - Playhouse on the Square - 726-4656 - 8pm
 - Amy's View - Circuit Playhouse - 726-4656 - 8pm
 - Tabling at Area Bars - Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) - 324-GAYS (4297) - 11pm

Out & About

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.)

ADULT 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***: 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: 2150 Elzey Ave. 38104 ☎ 278-2867 (278-BUNS).
Chaos*: 60 South Front ☎ 578-VIBE (8423).
Crossover*: 851 Island Road, Columbus, MS ☎ 601-327-0942.
Crossroads*: 1278 Jefferson ☎ 276-8078.
Crossroads II*: 111 N. Claybrook ☎ 274-8655.
J-Wags*: 1268 Madison ☎ 725-1909.
Jake's Place: 356 N. Main ☎ 527-2799.
Lilly's DimSum Thensome: 903 South Cooper ☎ 276-9300.
Lorenz*: 1528 Madison ☎ 274-8272.
Madison Flame*: 1588 Madison ☎ 278-9839.
Melange: 948 South Cooper ☎ 276-0002.
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.
Pumping Station*: 1382 Poplar Ave. ☎ 272-7600.
Rumors*: 637 Hwy 145 South, Shannon, MS ☎ 601-767-9500.
The Jungle*: 1474 Madison ☎ 278-4313.
The Kutt Nightclub*: 92 North Avalon ☎ 276-9122.
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.: (See Friends for Life).
American Gay Atheists (AGA) Memphis: Box 41371, Memphis 38174-1371.
Aphrodite: 3430 Summer Ave, Memphis 38122.
BGALA (Students for Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Awareness): BGALA c/o Office of Greek Affairs, Box 100, U of M 38152, email: bgala@cc.memphis.edu. ☎ 729-3915.
Black & White Men Together (BWMT): Box 42157, Memphis 38174-2157 ☎ 276-0168 or 276-4762.
Bluff City Sports Association: Box 41803, Memphis 38174-1803 ☎ 647-2530.
Brothers & Sisters Bowling League: ☎ 465-4371 - Richard Andrews.
Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Religious Affairs: Box 11274, Memphis 38111-0274 ☎ 324-8523, Len Piechowski.
Cotton Pickin' Squares: Gay/Lesbian Square Dance Club • Meets Thurs., Prescott Memorial Baptist Church • 2298 Elzey, Memphis 38104 ☎ 272-2116.
Crossroads: African American Gay men's motivation/support/social group. Meets 1st & 2nd Fridays. Conrad R. Pegues, 1902 Freemont Ave., Memphis 38114, crpegues@aol.com.
4F: Leather/Levi group • 698 Pope Dr., Bartlett 38112.
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, Bi-

sexual, & 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 Jasen, 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: 1488 Madison 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.5

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.

Univ. of Miss. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Assoc.: GLBA, PO Box 3541, Univ., MS 38677 ☎ 662-915-7049, email: glba@olemiss.edu, website: http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/glba.

UT-Martin ALLIES: Campus and community. Alternate Weds. 5 p.m. Info: 131F Humanities Bldg., Martin 38238, neilg@utm.edu ☎ 587-7301.

WAC (Woman's Action Coalition): PO Box 1203, 3566 Walker, Memphis 38111 ☎ 678-3339.

COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARDS

Bear Trappers BBS: Serving Nashville & surrounding area ☎ (615)360-2837.

COUNSELING SERVICES

- Joel Chapman, PhD**: 1835 Union Ave., Ste. 315 ☎ 726-1284.
Kent D. Fisher, LPC, BCSAC: Group & Individual Therapy ☎ 458-7164.
Fully Alive! A center for personal enrichment. Susan Taranto, MPS & Carol Schlicksup, MA. Individual, couples & group therapy. ☎ 323-2078 • Sliding fee scale.
Gary Gardia, M.Ed., LCSW: Midtown location; grief, loss; Lesbian, Gay & transgender; individuals, couples ☎ 527-1098.
Anne S. Gillis, MS: Individual, couple & family counseling, rebirthing ☎ 761-3435.
Patricia Goshorn, M.Ed.: Licensed Psychological Counselor • Simmons, Kelman & Assoc., 3960 Knight Arnold Rd, Ste 316 ☎ 369-6050.
Cliff Heegel, PhD: Licensed Psychologist • Centerpoint, 5180 Park Ave. Ste 150 ☎ 767-1066.
Sheridan Lambe, LCSW: Individual & Couple Counseling, ☎ 761-9178.
Joseph Robert Pfeiffer, LCSW: ☎ 578-9107.
M. Todd Puckett, MS: Individual & group therapy. • 5180 Park Ave, Ste. 125 ☎ 869-0300 ext. 1 • Sliding fee scale available.
J. Kent Usry, CMSW, MAC: Individual &

couples; grief, trauma & addictions counseling. Sliding scale fee. ☎ 491-8632.

DENTAL SERVICES

William N. Castle, D.D.S.: Dentist • 79 North Cooper ☎ 685-5008.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Ronnie Bingham, CPA**: Taxes, accounting, estate planning ☎ 753-1413.
Donald Morgan Bookkeeping and Tax Service: 3340 Poplar Ave., Ste 305 ☎ 458-0152.
Karen B. Shea: Financial Consultant, Smith Barney Inc., 1661 International Dr., Ste. 200 ☎ 818-4134, 800-227-4146, fax: 818-4233.

FLORISTS

Botanica: 937 S. Cooper. ☎ 274-5767, 1-800-769-5767, fax: 274-5688.
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Human Rights Campaign: ☎ 327-2677, jmaynard2@earthlink.net
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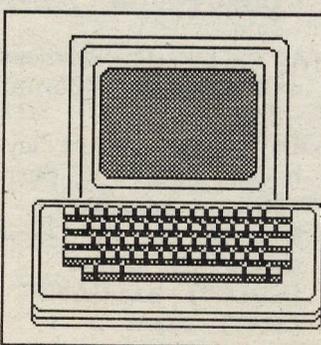
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Arizona Panel OKs Sodomy Repeal

Despite opponents' warnings that change is dangerous, an Arizona House committee voted to dump the state's archaic and unenforceable sex laws. Arizona's House Judiciary Committee heard testimony Feb. 13 on a bill that would repeal the state's archaic laws dealing with cohabitation, sodomy, and "lewd and lascivious" acts and voted 7-3 to approve it.

After hearing witnesses, three Republicans joined the Democrats in support of HB 2414, introduced by state Representative Kathi Foster (D-Phoenix).

Phoenix attorney Brendan Mahoney appeared before the Committee on behalf of the Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), the statewide gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights organization. He testified that Arizona's archaic laws are unenforceable — that indeed the last attempt to enforce them was more than 30 years ago.

Mahoney said that these laws do have a use, however: to discriminate against segments of the population, in most cases gays and lesbians. Arizona's laws, specifically those dealing with cohabitation Mahoney said, puts Arizona gays and lesbians in an awkward position when filing a job application or applying for government benefits — if they are honest, they could be punished.

Opponents of HB 2414 were present for the Judiciary Committee hearing to state their case on why Arizona's archaic laws should not be repealed, but when questioned by committee members on their reasoning behind their opposition, those witnesses didn't respond to the questions directly.

The "Oil Change" and "Shoplifting" Arguments

The Reverend Andrew Constantino, executive director of the Interfaith Council for Sound Government, was first to testify. Constantino compared people and the act of procreation to taking one's car to a mechanic and that repealing the archaic laws would be a "dangerously destructive, lube and oil change for the nation," whereas "people should follow the manufacturers manual, the Bible."

State Representative Bill Brotherton (D-Phoenix) asked Constantino whether Scripture allows married heterosexual couples to commit sodomy. Constantino said that "wasn't the main issue and that God presents the answer in Scripture."

Private citizen Charlotte Reed followed, saying that she was against repealing the archaic laws because "any social conduct outside of marriage is wrong."

After Charlotte spoke, Malcolm Reed came forward to say "homosexuality is the equivalent for ab-

horrent behavior, like shoplifting."

Concerned Women for America (CWA), a conservative, anti-gay, political group, was represented by Patricia Oldroid, who testified that if HB 2414 is passed, it would send a message to the people that "the state doesn't believe in marriage between a man and a woman." Without citing a source for her statistics, Oldroid said that cohabitating couples are 180 percent more likely to experience or participate in domestic violence and that 115 percent of children in these relationships live in poverty, with 15 to 30 percent victims of child abuse.

Representative Foster questioned whether this testimony was relevant to the bill itself. State Representative Linda Binder (R-Lake Havasu City) asked whether a senior citizen couple, living together, not married because of marriage tax penalties and losing benefits from Social Security, should suffer.

Oldroid failed to answer Binder.

Only Punish Fornicators

Norma Odezzio, the CWA legislative liaison, called homosexuality an "unnatural lifestyle" and warned that passage of the bill would "be an act of legitimacy" for the homosexual activists.

In her testimony, Odezzio stated the dictionary defines anal sex as "an unnatural act between two men. And an unnatural act between a man and an animal."

Representative Foster then asked Odezzio, "As a married woman, I have violated Arizona's archaic laws, should I be punished?"

Odezzio said the laws shouldn't go into the bedroom.

Keeping Arizona's archaic laws on the books sends a message that the state will protect women's rights according to John Atkins, a former Republican legislative candidate.

Atkins testified that "the same moral principles which governed 1000 years ago, still govern today." Representative Brotherton asked Atkins "whether a senior citizen couple, or a gay or lesbian couple, that have lived together for more than 5, 10 or 20 years together and are model citizens, should be prosecuted under Arizona's archaic laws?"

Atkins said "the laws shouldn't apply to either but to those people who are promiscuous and commit fornication." He didn't elucidate on who was promiscuous and commits fornication, triggering an argument between himself and Representative Binder, who followed up with questions about married heterosexual couples committing fornication.

Atkins refused to answer her questions, stating he didn't "want

to muddy the waters."

Muddy Meliti

An individual who was in the public eye seven years ago trying to overturn ordinances in Arizona which prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation, followed Atkins. Frank Meliti, regional head of the Traditional Values Coalition, said Arizona's archaic laws helped a Glendale neighborhood rid a city park of "sodomy and other unnatural acts."

He went on to state that there were other instances where these laws helped clean up bad situations, but didn't cite specifics — something Meliti has a track record of doing.

Meliti and his group took out petitions to place a proposition on the 1994 general election ballot which would have outlawed state and local ordinances that prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation.

During a press conference outside the Arizona Secretary of State's office, July 7, 1994, Meliti said the group had gathered 247,000 signatures, well over the 158,311 then required to place the measure on the ballot, but wouldn't file the petitions, because "militant homosexuals" would keep the issue tied up in court for years.

When asked by reporters to open the four cardboard boxes sealed with duct tape which he had said held the petitions, Meliti refused to do so. During his testimony, Meliti continually stated that he "didn't hate homosexuals but doesn't approve of them."

Representative Brotherton, an attorney, pointed out to Meliti that it wasn't Arizona's archaic laws which helped the Glendale neighborhood deal with the situation in the parks, but the "Public Sexual Indecency Act," under which violations are class 1 misdemeanors.

Brotherton then asked whether a married couple should be prosecuted for committing oral sex. Meliti declined to answer because he wouldn't want to "muddy the water."

"A Great Step"

After the "muddying of the water" by opponents, two persons representing political groups who support repealing the archaic laws, testified before the House Judiciary Committee.

Eleanor Eisenberg, executive director of the Arizona Civil Liberties Union, testified that HB 2414 wouldn't legalize adultery and wouldn't permit non-consensual sex. She went on to question why conservatives support these laws, since they "invade the boardroom and bedroom."

"It is not the job of government," Eisenberg said concluding her testimony, "to determine what sex between consenting adults is

normal."

Marjorie Mead, a lobbyist for the National Organization for Women (NOW), testified that the group supports HB 2414, and that she was "astounded such archaic measures are still on the books."

Representatives Foster, Binder, Brotherton, Peter Hershberger (R-Oro Valley), James Sedillo (D-Flagstaff), Henry Camarot (D-Flagstaff), and Judiciary Committee Chair Roberta Voss (R-Glendale) voted in favor. Representatives John Nelson (R-Glendale), Steve Tully (R-Phoenix) and Marilyn Jarrett (R-Mesa) voted no. Steve May (R), the openly gay state representative from Phoenix called the vote "a great step," and his new gay colleague Representative Ed Poelstra (R-Tucson) said it was "long overdue."

AHRF co-chair Kathie Gummerie expressed her pleasure in the 7-3 vote, but added that people need to get active for the next step in the legislative process. HB 2414 now goes to House Human Services Committee chaired

by conservative state Representative Mark Anderson (R-Mesa), who is trying with other legislation (HB 2403) to prohibit cities from cutting off government funding to the Boy Scouts of America because of their anti-gay policies.

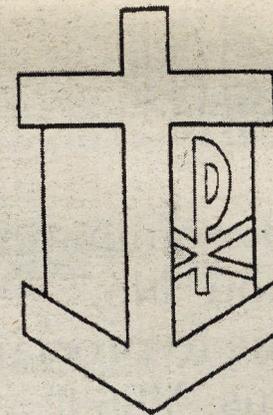
If either the speaker of the Arizona House or the Senate president doesn't like a particular bill, it will get assigned to two committees and must be heard and approved by both before going to the respective Rules Committee.

So is this the end of HB 2414? Representative Foster, said she intends to go to the House speaker and ask to have the bill heard before the Human Services Committee. Kathie Gummerie said that AHRF members should contact members of the House Human Services Committee, and ask them to request to have HB 2414 heard. Representative May said that alternative parliamentary maneuvers to get the bill to the House floor will be considered, but he remains optimistic that the legislature will approve a measure repealing the archaic laws.

WEB ADVICE

World Wide Web addresses in the *Triangle Journal News* generally do not contain the "http://" which normally precedes the "www." in the address because most web browsers no longer require it.

If you have difficulty connecting to some addresses, add "http://" to the beginning of the address.



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Deep Inside HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

More Dick on MTV

MTV has given Dick the go-ahead. The music network recently placed an order for six episodes of *The Andy Dick Show*, a weekly comedy variety series featuring the former *Newsradio* star — who has described himself as “90 percent heterosexual, 10 percent experimental” — in sketches, vignettes, short films and music video parodies. MTV has scheduled the show to air Tuesday

nights beginning Feb. 27. Dick has been involved in all aspects of the show: he co-writes (with a team of writers), directs, produces, and (of course) stars in it. Guests include Ben Stiller, annoying teen singing sensation Mandy Moore, and actress-model Tyra Banks. Each episode of the show will feature a series of three-minute comedy shorts shot on film. While each short film will be original, some of Dick’s characters might

recur, including Brock Dierich (professional midget wrangler), and Bob Gunderson (who works various odd and disturbing jobs). Dick is currently in production on the second episode of *The Andy Dick Show*.

Gay-themed Flicks Heading to Theaters this Summer

Indie film distributor Strand Releasing has acquired domestic rights to two gay-themed Sundance features. Director Marcelo Pineyro’s *Burnt Money*, set in 1965, focuses on two Argentinean men who become lovers and bank robbers. Strand also picked up the rights to the lesbian-themed *The Monkey’s Mask*, from director Samantha Lang. *Mask* is a film noir about lesbian detective investigating the disappearance of a young poet. Both *Money* and *Mask* are scheduled for a summer release. Fox Searchlight shelled out \$3 million for the rights to David Siegel’s psychological drama *The Deep End*, about a mother who protects her gay son, suspected of murdering his lover. No release date has yet been set for that pic.

Cruise’s Magic Wand

A-list actor Tom Cruise is convinced he can make more than his marriage to Nicole Kidman disappear. The newly separated sexpot has convinced Paramount Pictures to option the film rights to David Fisher’s 1983 nonfiction book, *The War Magician*, as a vehicle for Cruise to both star in and produce. *War* tells the incredible true-life tale of Jasper Maskelyne, a famous British magician, who used the art of illusion to help defeat (rather than entertain) the Nazis during World War II. Maskelyne’s amazing feats (which included making the Suez Canal “disappear”) helped elevate camouflage to a whole new level. It certainly makes that David Blaine guy seem lame for freezing himself inside that block of ice for a few days. No word yet on when an adaptation of the book will be ready for the big screen, but first Cruise will keep busy by starring in Steven Spielberg’s *Minority Report*, which rolls before cameras sometime in March.

Bottoms Up at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Veteran actor Timothy Bottoms, whose credits include *The Paper Chase* and *The Last Picture Show*, has been signed to play President George W. Bush in the new Matt Stone-Trey Parker live-action series, *That’s My Bush!* Bottoms is currently working with a dialogue coach to sound more like our native Texan prez. The actor also has said he has been told several times that he looks like Dubya. The actor was quoted in the *Hollywood Reporter* as saying, “I’m hoping this will be a shining star, just like the one on the Texas flag.” The new series debuts on Comedy Central April 4.

Mineo’s Story Stayin’ Alive

Filmmaker Joey Travolta (sibling of John) and Dale J. Oprandy have closed a deal for the film and television rights for the first authorized biography of gay actor Sal Mineo’s life. Mineo, who earned an Academy Award nomination for starring opposite fellow deceased hunk James Dean in *Rebel Without A Cause*, appeared in more than 30 films before he was murdered in 1976 at the age

of 37 outside his West Hollywood apartment building. Travolta’s credits as a director include the less-than-high-profile flicks *Dumb Luck* in *Vegas* and *Partners*.

Romeo San Vicente’s gym is a block from Sal Mineo’s old apartment building. You can reach Romeo in care of this publication or via email RomeoDeep@aol.com. For more *Deep Inside Hollywood*, visit www.popcornq.com, www.gay.com or www.queery.com.

Gays Frustrated at Lack of Celebrity Support in Anti-Eminem Campaign

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When gay college student Matthew Shepard was beaten to death three years ago, Elton John spoke eloquently about the need to eradicate hatred and discrimination against homosexuals.

“When I fly over America on my broomstick, as I often do a lot, I get to feeling what a big country this is — it’s big enough for everyone,” he said at an anniversary observance of Shepard’s death in 1999. “And despite all the progress that has been made in rights and tolerance, we are still living in a world of hate.”

Two years later, John has outraged many in the gay community by taking the stage at the Grammy Awards ceremony with Eminem — the rapper whose album is riddled with derisive or violent references to “fags.”

To activists’ added frustration, there also has been little interest among other celebrities — gay or straight — in condemning Eminem.

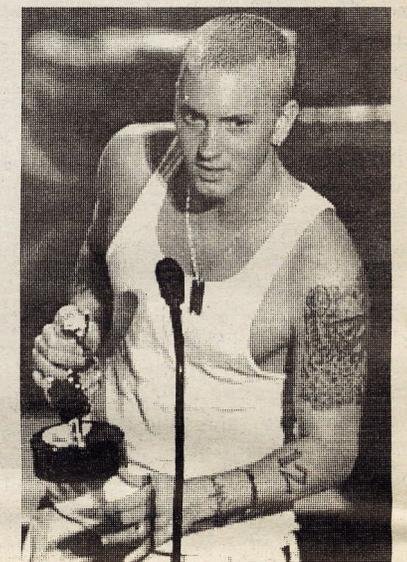
“Overwhelmingly, artists have been very silent on this,” said Scott Seomin, spokesman for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). “We’re hearing neutrality, and ‘Off the record, Scott, I’m really horrified by Eminem’s lyrics, but I can’t risk speaking publicly against him.’”

Worse, he said, musicians from Sheryl Crow to Wyclef Jean have described Eminem’s album as one of their favorites. Even Melissa Etheridge, the lesbian singer and outspoken proponent of gay rights, has declined to criticize him, describing Eminem as talented while acknowledging that his words were hurtful.

Eminem has said his lyrics should not be taken literally.

“I think that Elton John... gets it,” Eminem said backstage during a concert in January. “Because the kids ... they are taking my music for what it’s worth, you know what I mean? They’re taking it with a... grain of salt.”

Eminem’s lyrics call gays “sick” and joke about stabbing them. In the song “Criminal,” he raps: “My words are like a dagger with a jagged edge/ That’ll stab you in the head/ whether



Eminem

you’re a fag or lez/ Or the homosex, hermaph or a trans-a-vest/ Pants or dress — hate fags? The answer’s ‘yes.’”

Women’s groups also have criticized the rapper for violent lyrics: One song depicts the murder of his wife, Kim, and another mentions raping his mother.

One of the few gay artists who has voiced disdain for Eminem is Boy George, whose gender-bending ways with the band Culture Club pushed the boundaries in the 1980s.

“Nobody wants to sort of battle against success. It’s one of those things; if you slag him off, you on the one hand will appear bitter, and on the other hand you will appear uncool,” George said.

“If Pol Pot had a successful record, people would probably be running around him as well.”

He accused John of performing with Eminem simply to bolster his own hipness.

John has said he does not believe Eminem is hateful.

“I’m a big fan of his music, and I said I would be delighted to” perform with him, John told the *Los Angeles Times*. “If I thought for one minute that he was hateful, I wouldn’t do it.”

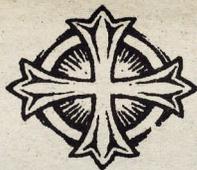
Gay activists picketed the awards ceremony. George supports the rally, but wonders whether attention paid to Eminem isn’t counterproductive.

“I think sort of blacklisting him is just as bad,” he said. “The more people moan about what he’s saying, the more records he seems to sell.”



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White House Reverses Course on AIDS Office

By Sonya Ross
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A chagrined White House reversed itself and said President George W. Bush will retain the AIDS policy office established by former President Bill Clinton. But a Clinton-era office on race relations will instead become a working group on "uniting America."

"We're concerned about AIDS inside our White House, make no mistake about it," Bush said Feb. 7. "And, ours is an administration that will fight for fair and just laws in the country."

Advocacy groups, grateful at first that the offices were retained, expressed concern later upon learning their duties were shifting to different White House offices.

"This whole exercise seemed very clumsy and definitely raises concerns," said David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights advocacy group.

The head of the Congressional Black Caucus, Democratic Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, said the closure of the race relations office was one of several "contradicting actions" in the context of Bush's overtures toward minorities.

"You have President Bush touting to be a unifier yet he seems, repeatedly, to exhibit the opposite," Johnson said. "President Bush will

find it difficult to realize his goal to bring America together."

Confusion reigned for a few hours after Bush's chief of staff, Andrew Card, told *USA Today* in an interview that both offices would be closed.

Card was not aware that domestic policy chief Margaret LaMontagne already had contacted the Department of Health and Human Services about the AIDS office, said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. He said Card admitted his error in a staff meeting.

Fleischer said the AIDS policy office would remain open with a task force, two HHS employees and a member of the White House's Domestic Policy Council devoted to the issue.

The One America office will become a "working group on uniting America," Fleischer said. Its mission: developing policies following up on the observations Bush made in his inaugural address "about people who don't see that we have justice for all."

That group will operate through the White House's Domestic Policy Council and its office of public liaison.

Advocates for AIDS and civil rights said there is a critical need for the offices.

"With the AIDS epidemic raging, especially in communities of color, this is not the time to even consider downsizing either of these offices," said Patricia Bass, head of

the CAEAR Coalition, a nonprofit advocacy group for AIDS patients who rely on federal funds for health services.

Bush aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said eliminating the AIDS and race offices was considered, but the discussions never got too far — in part because aides

recognized the potential for political backlash.

The Democratic National Committee seized on the confusion.

"Race relations and AIDS are two of the biggest challenges facing our nation and the world. Now is the time for strong leadership, and not mixed signals, from the

White House," DNC chairman Terry McAuliffe said.

Clinton created the Office of National AIDS Policy in 1994. The Office on the President's Initiative for One America was created in February 1999 as a means of continuing the national dialogue on race that Clinton launched in 1997.



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Ex-gay Movement Takes Another Hit

A leader in the ex-gay movement has come out publicly that "reparative therapy," whose advocates claim can change homosexuals into heterosexuals, does not work.

Jeremy Marks, the director of Courage, an ex-gay organization in the United Kingdom, announced that his group is breaking with parent organization Exodus International. Marks said: "None of the people we've counseled has converted no matter how much effort and prayer they've put into it."

Wayne Besen, associate director for communications at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), said this development is yet another embarrassment for the ex-gay move-

ment.

"But," he said, "the sad fact is the ex-gay ministries will be around for a long time, no matter how many scandals and embarrassments they have. They will be there as long as people are made to feel ashamed of who they are."

"Ex-gay ministries prey on desperate, vulnerable people, conning them out of their money."

Besen recently discovered ex-gay poster boy John Paulk in a Washington, D.C., gay bar. Many media outlets picked up the story. To continue exposing the flaws of ex-gay ministries, HRC will release the second edition of *Finally Free*, a collection of personal accounts by ex-ex-gays, this summer.

Out & About

The Triangle Journal Calendar of Events

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Beginning on Page 13

Frank Files Bill to Carry Out Cheney Policy

Congressman Barney Frank today filed legislation to comply with the policy on the definition of marriage expressed by Vice President Richard Cheney in his debate with Joe Lieberman.

In that debate, when asked by Bernard Shaw whether "a male who loves a male or a female who loves a female have all — all! the

Constitutional rights enjoyed by every American citizen?," Secretary Cheney replied, in part, "and I think that means that people should be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to enter into...the next step, then, of course, is the question you ask of whether or not there ought to be some kind of official sanction, if you will, of

the relationship, or if those relationships should be treated the same way a conventional marriage is. That's a tougher problem...I think the fact of the matter, of course, is that matter is regulated by the states. I think different states are likely to come to different conclusions, and that's appropriate. I don't think there should necessar-

ily be a federal policy in this area."

"I was pleased when Secretary Cheney made those comments during the campaign," Frank said, "and I said so at the time. Unfortunately, as I also noted at the time, the law misnamed the 'Defense of Marriage Act,' which Congress adopted in 1996 and President Clinton signed into law, contradicts Vice President Cheney's position on this issue.

"Section 3 of that Act is directly contrary to Vice President Cheney's position that this matter should be regulated by the states, and establishes a national definition of marriage, stating that 'in determining the meaning of any act of Congress, or of any ruling, regulation or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States, the word marriage means only a legal union between one man and one woman...,'" Frank continued.

"I welcome Vice President Cheney's recognition that the 'appropriate' policy is for the states to decide for themselves whether or not to give official sanction to same-sex unions. But under DOMA an ability of the state to do that would be frustrated by the federal government's refusal to recognize the union. If Vice President Cheney is correct, as I believe he is, that this matter should be regulated by the states, then it is entirely

inconsistent with the spirit of federalism for the national government to refuse to recognize state decisions in this area.

"I have therefore filed legislation to repeal the section of the Defense of Marriage Act which contradicts Vice President Cheney's position. I should note that I offered an amendment to strike this provision in 1996 when the House considered the bill, and while it was heavily defeated, it did receive 35 more votes than were cast in opposition to the overall DOMA. Enacting the legislation which I have put forward, which carries out Vice President Cheney's position, would not affect the other section of DOMA which purports to allow one state to refuse to recognize any other state's decision on same-sex marriage. That is a separate legal and constitutional question. Indeed, the purpose of this bill is not to impose any state's decision on another state, but rather, in the spirit of Vice President Cheney's statement, to allow each state to make its own decision in this matter without fearing that its decision will be disregarded by the federal government.

"I will be looking for other areas of agreement between myself and high ranking members of the Bush administration on which we can work together," Frank concluded.



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HIV Infection

Continued from page 1

for safe sex.

"Being gay is more hidden among African Americans," she said. "There is no Gay Men's Health Crisis for African Americans. They tend not to live in the gay neighborhoods."

Dr. Carlos del Rio of Emory University in Atlanta, who studies AIDS in inner cities, noted that the disease largely affects populations on the edges of the mainstream, including gay men and poor blacks.

"In African Americans, there is a much greater stigma about being

homosexual than there is among whites," he said. "That makes them even more marginalized."

Less than one-third of those who had HIV in the survey knew about their infection.

An earlier study by the same group looked at AIDS infections among gay 15- to 22-year-olds. It found that 14 percent of blacks were infected.

On the Net

Conference site: <http://www.retroconference.org/2001/>



ONline

Community Calendar

mglccalendar@yahoo.com

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) is giving the community a centralized presence on the web.

If you are involved in or know of any events missing from the calendar, or if there are changes or additional information for an event already on the calendar, e-mail the group at mglccalendar@yahoo.com or call 725-1574 and leave a message with the information.

Bookmark the site for future reference and share this information with any lists or persons that might be interested.

100 Great Things About Being Gay

Don't ever say we don't have a sense of humor around here. We received this via the internet a while ago and while it certainly isn't politically correct, it is pretty funny. We thought we'd share it with you —Eds.

1. You truly don't care who Julia Roberts is sleeping with.
2. You understand the difference between 43 brands of imported vodka.
3. You can call anyone "honey" including pets.
4. You know someone who definitely was in the emergency room with Richard Gere and the gerbil.
5. You understand the immense importance of good lighting.
6. You can be at a crowded disco the size of two football fields and still spot a toupee.
7. You can tell a woman you love her bathing suit, and mean her bathing suit.
8. You can explain the nuances between steady date, boyfriend and lover.
9. You really have "been there, done that."
10. Your women friends will tell you everything you want to know about their boyfriends. And that means everything.
11. You're the only type of male who gets to say "fabulous."
12. You can have naked pictures of men you don't know in your home.
13. You can have naked men you don't know in your home.
14. You know how to handle the telephone like a Stradivarius.
15. You understand why the good Lord invented spandex.
16. You understand why the good Lord didn't intend everyone to wear it.
17. You know how to get back at just about everyone.
18. You know who Edina and Patsy are.
19. You only wear polyester when you mean to.
20. You can smile to let someone know you can't stand them.
21. You can freeze a troll from 20 feet away.
22. You're good pals with women other people can't stand.
23. You've always got an opinion.
24. You've read the book, seen the movie, done the musical.
25. You know how to dress strategically.
26. Your car has an amusing female name.
27. You're the only one at your high school reunion who looks a lot better than you did in high school.
28. You've got at least one framed picture of a pet.
29. If your mattress could talk, it would be Joan Rivers.
30. You know that sex complicates things. So?
31. You know that being called

- a "cheap slut" isn't actually an insult.
32. There's a married guy somewhere who is terrified of you.
 33. Nobody tells you what to do in bed...unless you tell them what to tell you.
 34. You have a medicine chest stocked for any occasion.
 35. You have at least one movie musical on video.
 36. You're embarrassed by people who sing in piano bars.
 37. You're not embarrassed to sing in a piano bar.
 38. You never hold a grudge for longer than a decade or two.
 39. You know how to make an entrance.
 40. You know when to make an exit.
 41. You worry about people you don't even know — like Liza Minnelli.
 42. You choose the most fabulous greeting cards.
 43. You know how to program your VCR.
 44. You've got sunscreen at every conceivable SPF level.
 45. You have a cologne display worthy of Bloomingdale's.
 46. You understand, viscerally, Joan Crawford.
 47. Some of your best friends are your ex-lovers.
 48. You know when to play dumb.
 49. You know what to do for a hangover.
 50. Yes, you do have a condom.
 51. You've called someone "girlfriend" who is neither a girl nor a friend.
 52. One or more of the following apply to you:
 - a) You adore Judy Garland
 - b) You hate Judy Garland
 - c) You hate people who adore Judy Garland.
 - d) You hate people who hate Judy Garland.
 - e) You don't give a damn about Judy Garland.
 - f) Who is Judy Garland?
 53. You can supply the last names to the following list:
 - a) Bernadette
 - b) Chita
 - c) Barbra
 54. You made Donna Summer a star.
 55. You made Donna Summer a has-been.
 56. Tanning salons were invented for you.
 57. You've made sunbathing a performance art.
 58. You know when the party's over.
 59. You know where to go after the party's over.
 60. You're fearless about fighting the elements, especially gravity.
 61. When you hear "a stitch in time saves nine" you think of
 - a) Your grandma
 - b) Your face lift
 - c) John Wayne Bobbit.

62. You know that pigs and bears are not necessarily rural wildlife.
63. You know that referring to someone as "a real lady" isn't necessarily a compliment.
64. Your favorite dinner accessory may also be your dinner companion.
65. You know that the most important part of a party's decor is the catering staff.
66. If your cat is a female, you swear it's a lesbian.
67. If your cat is a male, you swear it's a lesbian.
68. You sing along heartily with songs that make most females cringe, like "Stand by Your Man".
69. You've been to a bris, a barmitzvah, a christening, a first communion and too many weddings. You have a carefully considered evaluation of the food after each.
70. You'll never have to hear your mother complain about your wife.
71. A two-seater convertible seems perfectly practical to you.
72. You have a favorite Disney character and it's usually a nasty one.
73. You've left someone totally speechless.
74. You've shaved something other than your face.
75. All your friends do not have to "get along."
76. You have a large collection of anniversary pictures. They may be with different guys, however.
77. Your love handles are actually used as such.
78. When someone turns his back on you, you actually consider it an opportunity.
79. You've got a large assortment of movie star biographies.
80. You've got the most interesting coffee table books.
81. You know where to find a meat rack and it ain't in your kitchen drawer.
82. You have a sexual persuasion with its own flag.
83. At some moment in your life you've envisioned having back-up girls.
84. You know your enemies.
85. After a workout at the gym, you feel like a new man. And he's right there in the shower.
86. You're Barbra Streisand's biggest fan.
87. You know that Barbra Streisand's biggest fan is Barbra Streisand.
88. Not only have you added spice to your life — sometimes you've added side dishes.
89. You know that "small talk" can be about spirituality or politics, and "important issues" can be about hair.
90. You've actually lived out some of your fantasies.
91. Unlike most straight women, you have no problem being treated solely as a sex object.

92. You have no doubts about the accuracy of the Kinsey Report.
93. You know, by heart, every line in:
 - a) All about Eve
 - b) The Rocky Horror Picture Show
 - c) Your face
94. You are ALWAYS ready for your close-up.
95. You have 412 ways to tell someone to get lost. 136 are non-verbal.

96. You can lip-sync to at least one Supreme's song.
97. You have a carefully selected Yiddish vocabulary.
98. Even if you're in Kansas, you're not in Kansas anymore.
99. You know exactly how many martinis it takes.
100. When throwing a party, you know how to put out quite a spread. Sometimes after the party, too.

Lesbian Notions
by Paula Martinac
See Page 24

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Who Was Elizabeth Bishop?

Today recognized as one of the finest American poets of the 20th century, Elizabeth Bishop perfected a style of writing based on precise and nuanced observation. But behind her carefully crafted poems lay a troubled life, marked by a struggle with alcoholism and a series of turbulent relationships with women.

Tragedy came early for Bishop. Born Feb. 8, 1911, in Worcester, Mass., she never knew her father, who died from kidney disease when she was only 8 months old. Her mother, overcome with grief, went insane and was committed to a hospital when Bishop was 5.

The girl was raised first by her mother's family in rural Nova Scotia, then by relatives in Massachusetts, where she was miserable and suffered severe attacks of eczema and asthma. The eczema eventually cleared, but asthma would torment her throughout her life.

Her father's family was wealthy, so Bishop was able to attend an exclusive girls' boarding school, and then, in 1930, Vassar College. Although her remarkable literary gifts were already evident, her sense of herself as a writer took shape only after she met the poet Marianne Moore.

This meeting was arranged by the Vassar librarian, who was friend of Moore's, and took place at the New York Public Library in March 1934.

Moore became Bishop's friend, mentor, and, perhaps most importantly, a living example of a poet thoroughly committed to her craft. Speaking of her visits

at least two lesbian relationships over the next decade. She also became close friends with the poet Robert Lowell in the late '40s, but their relationship most likely remained platonic, albeit flirtatious.

Perhaps unable to accept her lesbianism, Bishop fell into a destructive cycle of binge drinking,

At the urging of her doctor, Bishop set off on a world cruise in the fall of 1951 with hopes of clearing her mind, but she got only as far as Brazil. There she fell in love with Lota de Macedo Soares, a wealthy landowner, and decided to stay. Bishop managed to get both her drinking and her asthma under control and, for a

years, Soares finally had a nervous collapse and a few months later, in September 1967, killed herself with a Valium overdose during a trip to New York.

Bishop's personal life was in shambles, but her career was thriving: she had won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1956, and in 1970, her *Complete Poems* won the National Book Award. That same year, she was offered a position teaching poetry at Harvard University.

There she fell in love with Alice Methfessel, a 26-year-old administrative assistant. Because of Bishop's drinking and general neediness, the relationship was often strained. In 1975, when it looked like it would be over, Bishop wrote what has become her most famous poem, "One Art," which begins, "The art of losing isn't hard to master." But Methfessel, in fact, stayed with Bishop right up to the poet's death, of a cerebral aneurysm, on Oct. 6, 1979, at her home in Boston.

Bishop's self-destructive drinking may well reflect an inner turmoil linked to her homosexuality. Still, one of her last poems hints that Bishop was on the verge of self-acceptance. "Sonnet," which opens with an image of the bubble "caught" in a carpenter's level, "a creature divided," ends with an image of liberation expressed in what is surely an intentional play on words:

"Freed — the broken / thermometer's mercury / running away; / and the rainbow-bird / from the narrow bevel / of the empty mirror, / flying wherever / it feels like, gay!"

Rawley Grau has won four Vice Versa Awards for his writing on gay and lesbian culture. He can be reached at GayNestor@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.planetout.com.

Suggested reading

Bishop, Elizabeth, 1983. *The Complete Poems, 1927-1979*. New York: Farrar Strauss Giroux.

Fountain, Gary, and Peter Brazeau, 1994. *Remembering Elizabeth Bishop: An Oral Biography*. Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press.

Lombardi, Marilyn May, ed., 1993. *Elizabeth Bishop: The Geography of Gender*. Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia.

Millier, Brett C., 1993. *Elizabeth Bishop: Life and the Memory of It*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.



to the Brooklyn apartment Moore shared with her mother, Bishop wrote, "I never left ... without feeling happier: uplifted, inspired, determined ... never to try to publish anything until I thought I had done my best with it." With Moore's guidance, the young poet's work began appearing in the leading literary journals.

While there may have been a romantic component in her relationship with the unmarried Moore, who was 47 when they met, it probably remained unacknowledged. But Bishop did have

self-recrimination and depression, often aggravated by asthma. Nor could she really settle down anywhere: in 1938, she bought a house in Key West with one of her girlfriends, but she continued to divide her time between Florida, New York and traveling. Although her poetry career took off in the 1940s — her first book was published in 1946 to great acclaim, and she received a number of prestigious fellowships and appointments — Bishop was feeling more and more confused about where her life was going.

few years, seemed to have found a home. Her happiness with Soares found expression in "The Shampoo," one of her few love poems: "The shooting stars in your black hair / in bright formation / are flocking where, / so straight, so soon? / — Come, let me wash it in this big tin basin, / battered and shiny like the moon."

But in the early '60s, the relationship started to unravel. Soares took a highly stressful political job, and Bishop began drinking again. After several difficult

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Rivendell Marketing Buys Press Pass Q; Vice Versa Awards, Press Summit Put on Hold

SAN DIEGO — Q Syndicate, publisher of *Press Pass Q* and organizer of the Vice Versa Awards and the Gay and Lesbian Press Summit, has sold the newsletter and has put the other projects on hold in hopes of transferring them to a future association of gay publications.

In January, Q Syndicate Publisher David Bianco signed a contract selling *Press Pass Q* to gay press marketing representative firm Rivendell Marketing for an undisclosed sum. Q Syndicate will work with Rivendell to continue to produce the newsletter for the next six months, and as of July 2001, Rivendell will produce the newsletter on its own.

As for San Diego-based Q Syndicate, the organization will focus on its other major role, providing syndicated content to gay and lesbian publications and web sites.

"I'm very proud of the community organizing we've done for the gay and lesbian press industry, but I've decided to refocus Q Syndicate on its primary role of being a one-stop shop for publications looking for gay content," Bianco said. "Fortunately, in the case of all three of these projects others have stepped forward to continue the work we began."

Bianco said he was confident Rivendell would continue to make *Press Pass Q* an important forum for editorial and business discussions about the gay and lesbian press. "Both of our organizations play a key role in working with virtually ever player in this industry," he said. "We're the largest content provider and Rivendell is the largest advertising provider to the gay and lesbian press."

Todd Evans, president and CEO

of New Jersey-based Rivendell Marketing, indicated he was excited about the newsletter. "*Press Pass Q* serves as an additional means of communication to those involved in gay and lesbian media," he said. "Having worked with this medium for a considerable period, I can safely say that the industry is dynamic in terms of change and *Press Pass Q* is a great way to communicate and better inform the professionals connected with this industry."

In addition, the Vice Versa Awards and Gay and Lesbian Press Summit are canceled for 2001, but may return next year, Bianco said. "Frankly, these are projects that were always awkward to have a newspaper syndicate coordinating," Bianco said. "There should be a gay press association in which the publishers themselves organize and coordinate awards, conferences and other community-building activities."

Frontiers Publisher David Gardner and *Between the Lines* Publisher Susan Horowitz are in the process of putting together a committee to plan a future such association.

Their effort, if successful, would not represent the first such organization; a Gay and Lesbian Press Association organized its own conferences, newsletters and awards in the 1980s and early 1990s but later dissolved. Gardner and Horowitz say they hope to work with other publishers to create a non-profit umbrella organization to serve the North American gay and lesbian press. Bianco has agreed to transfer the Vice Versa Awards and the Gay and Lesbian Press Summit to such an organization should it wish to take them over.

The Vice Versa Awards were started by Bianco in 1997 to recognize and reward quality writing, production and artistry within the gay and lesbian press. At ceremonies in Las Vegas in 1998 and Washington, D.C., last year, dozens of awards were given out ranging from Best Editorial to Best Publication.

The Gay and Lesbian Press Summit premiered last year, coinciding with the Millennium March on Washington, as an outlet for gay and lesbian press professionals to meet and discuss strategies for success. More than 200 people participated in last year's event.

Bianco said he looked forward to seeing a non-profit organization form to serve some of the roles Q Syndicate had played. "I tried very hard to keep the prices low for the community-building projects—entering the Vice Versas cost \$10 to \$15, and registration for the summit started at \$50." However, it was "very taxing" to put on such large projects with so little money coming in. "A non-profit organization could do fundraising, secure corporate sponsorships, even charge dues to member publications," he said.

Q Syndicate was founded in 1995, and now distributes a dozen columns and features to more than a hundred newspapers, magazines and websites worldwide. Rivendell Marketing, a gay and lesbian media placement and advertising representative company, was founded in 1979 to make it easy for national companies to advertise in gay and lesbian media. Today, Rivendell Marketing represents approximately 200 gay and lesbian publications in North America and works with almost every major advertising agency.

Boy Scouts Dump Seven Illinois Packs and Troops

OAK PARK, Ill. (AP) — The Boy Scouts of America rejected the charters of seven Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops because their sponsors challenged the group's policy of excluding gay members and leaders.

The seven were sponsored by parent-teacher organizations. Two other school-sponsored Scout groups found new sponsors.

The groups were believed to be among the first to lose their charters because of the policy. The 40 to 50 members in each group will be out of scouting unless their sponsors drop their opposition to the no-gays policy by Feb. 28.

"They are allowed to participate if they want to agree to values held by the Boy Scouts of America," said Gregg Fields, the organization's national spokesman. "If they don't agree, no one is forcing them to participate. It wouldn't be fair to the millions of members and families in the organization to allow people to pick and choose be-

tween the values and beliefs of the organization."

The sponsors of the Oak Park packs and troops said they couldn't abide by the no-gays rule because of village ordinances and school policies that ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"This collides with our beliefs," said Caroline Newberry-Schwartz, District 97 PTO Council co-president.

Ross Brinkman, committee chairman of a Cub Scout pack, said he agrees. He plans to pull his two sons out of scouting.

"Many people move to Oak Park because of its diversity, because they want to raise their kids in a diverse place," Brinkman said. "We want them to understand this is how we live. We can't change our lives for Boy Scouts."

Oak Park in 1968 was the first municipality in the nation to pass an open-housing ordinance, which barred racial discrimination in the buying and selling of homes.



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Lesbian Notions

By Paula Martinac

Gays and Guns - A Risky Mix

Ask any lesbian or gay man about the First Amendment and its protections of religion, speech and the right of assembly, and you'll undoubtedly get some very passionate responses. But what about our Second Amendment right "to keep and bear arms"? Although many of us support gun control, there's a new movement of pro-gun queers raising provocative questions that may help our community arrive at solutions to the problem of antigay violence.

It would be easy for progressives to dismiss the new attention-grabbing gays-for-guns movement as a strange offshoot of the gay male right. After all, the Pink Pistols, the lesbian and gay "shooters" group that already has chapters in nine cities, took its inspiration from an opinion piece by conservative gay journalist Jonathan Rauch.

In web magazine *Salon* last year, Rauch complained that gay people have too often presented themselves as victims and haven't been able to escape the stereotype of homosexuals as limp-wristed fags. Carrying concealed weapons that we know how to use could change our image and serve as the perfect deterrent to gay bashers.

Unfortunately, Rauch forgot to talk about lesbians, whose stereotype as swaggering bulldykes would have messed up his tidy argument.

Rauch's position on guns is consistent with his politics. But now progressive-thinking queers are coming out as pro-gun as well, and lesbians and bisexual women are reportedly joining shooters groups, too. The co-founder of Pink Pistols, for example, voted for Ralph Nader in 2000. And a recent article in the *Pittsburgh City Paper* about the fledgling Pink Pistols chapter there interviewed a member of the group who is active in the Democratic Party but rejects the traditional liberal stance for tighter gun controls.

What's all this about? Understandably, there is frustration in the queer community about our inability to protect ourselves. While we spend valuable money and time lobbying a resistant Congress for inclusion in the federal hate-crimes act, lesbians and gay men continue to be bashed and killed.

Now some in our community are arguing that hate-crimes legislation won't do any good anyway. The answer, they suggest, is for us to start toting guns — not to stage a revolution, but just to brandish or use them when attacked. Once

youthful gay bashers get the message that we're armed and dangerous, hate crimes won't seem like so much fun and the stereotype of gays as weak will shatter.

It's an interesting idea and one that crops up in the women's movement, too, since so often violent men view women and children as easy prey. The Massachusetts-based group Arming Women Against Rape and Endangerment (AWARE) runs workshops that train participants to use everything from pepper spray to semiautomatic weapons.

In addition, there's a historical precedent for suggesting that the lesbian and gay community arm itself. In 1966, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale founded the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense because they were fed up with the lack of progress the moderate, non-violent leadership of the civil rights movement had made through legislative channels. The Black Panthers encouraged blacks to protest gun control and to arm themselves against persistent racial violence. Interestingly, the Web site for the

Pink Pistols (www.pinkpistols.org) displays a quote attributed to Black Panther Stokely Carmichael: "I will be nonviolent with you as long as you are nonviolent with me."

But the persistent stereotype of men of color as violent and dangerous upsets the strategy of arming gay people. In New York City, for example, police officers have been known to open fire when they "mistake" an unarmed black man's wallet or pager for a handgun. For queer men of color, then, race complicates what to white pro-gun gays may look like an "easy" solution.

Although I don't agree with Rauch and the Pink Pistols about guns, hate-crimes legislation or cowboy individualism, I do believe we need to come up with new answers to antigay violence. And I don't mean sending additional lesbian and gay lobbyists to Washington.

For more than 30 years now, a variety of queer community-based solutions — everything from rioting in the streets to engaging in civil disobedience to founding social services to operating hate-

crimes hotlines — have enabled us to take care of our ourselves when straight people turned away from our issues.

Here's one idea that a few communities have already tried. Because antigay crimes often occur in neighborhoods where queers are visible and out, we might take New York City's Guardian Angels as a model for group action. Founded in 1978, the Angels are volunteers who receive training in physical self-defense, the art of verbal negotiation and first aid. They also learn civilian law and how to make citizens' arrests.

In the same way, queer safety patrols could operate as visual deterrents to crime by sending an important message to potential bashers: Dykes and fags know how to take care of their own.

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com. For more *Lesbian Notions*, visit www.planetout.com.

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ABOUT BOOKS

by Shannon Yarbrough



Maupin's Latest: *The Night Listener*

For those of you who know me personally, you are probably aware that I am very well read when it comes to gay fiction and literature. However, I do have a confession to make. I have never read anything written by Armistead Maupin, one of America's gay literary icons and best selling author of *Tales of the City*. I'll admit that I even thought he was dead, but then he returned (after an absence of eight years) with his newest publication entitled *The Night Listener*. I knew this was my chance to redeem myself to local Maupin fans while also having the chance to review something fresh and new.

Maupin definitely has a direct point of view, but a free-style form, when it comes to telling a story. His "tales" are very easy to comprehend, making him a quick and even addictive read. I can definitely see why his fiction became so popular so quickly.

Over the years, readers have become accustomed to being told a story directly; they do not enjoy novels that are cluttered up with detail that often cause them to read much slower. I remained very anxious to pick up *The Night Listener* at the end of each day, and found it even harder to put back down because I could not wait to see what was going to happen next. It definitely has that "easy-read" feel to it that keeps the pages turning.

Armistead's new book is told from the point of view of Gabriel Noone (the last name is definitely a metaphor used throughout the plot of the book). Gabriel is an openly gay California NPR-like radio star, whose short stories and narrative voice have become very popular across the nation.

Pete Lomax, an ailing 13-year-old who suffered extreme abuse at the hands of his own parents, is one of those devoted listeners living in Milwaukee. Pete has written his memoirs and his publisher has asked Gabriel to read it and offer a blurb to be printed on the back of the book.

Gabriel is deeply touched by the boy's story and wants to phone him to offer encouragement. Thus begins an extraordinary friendship that only grows deeper as Pete's health grows worse. Gabriel becomes very dependent upon their telephone relationship because he has been suffering from writers' block and his lover has recently moved out of their home.

Gabriel soon learns that nobody has ever met Pete in person; all relationships and conversations with

him have only existed over the telephone. So, Gabriel soon begins to question Pete's existence, as his own ordered existence begins to spin out of control.

A visit is arranged, but quickly canceled due to Pete's health. Pete's publisher has also withdrawn publication due to the fact that Pete's adoptive mother, Donna, refuses to let anyone interview Pete in person.

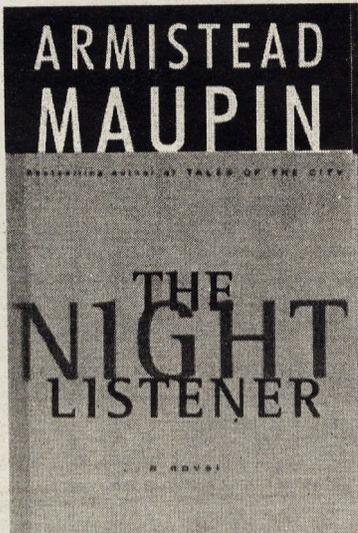
Gabriel's lover soon encourages him that this unique friendship would make a wonderful story, but Gabriel has no idea how to write

the ending. He packs his bags for Milwaukee to find out!

Upon arrival, he finds that the Lomax's phone has been disconnected and the only address he had was actually a rented, mailbox. As fate would have it, Gabriel runs into Donna in a local cafe just as he is thinking about returning home to California and forgetting everything that

has happened.

By this point, I'm more than half way through the book and wondering where Armistead is taking me



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with this. There were fewer than one hundred pages left for Gabriel to find out if Pete was indeed a real boy and not a contrived story of a prankster or cruel fan. I was in need of closure, and I needed it fast.

So, Gabriel follows Donna home and the story that follows is a series of plot twists that will leave your heart pounding. I have been told that Armistead Maupin is notorious for plot twists and surprises at the end of his novels. If true, he definitely upholds that reputation with this book, and I am certainly not going to ruin it for you now.

I, myself, began to question Pete's existence and was terribly anxious to see what Gabriel was going to discover. Maupin builds and builds upon this fact and saves all the surprises for the end as Gabriel plays out the possible conclusions throughout his journey for the truth.

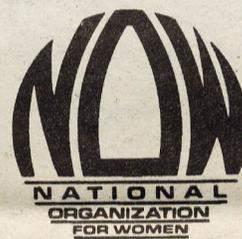
My journey to the end of the novel ended up with me having to reread the last several pages several times before it was clear to me. Yet, after asking someone else who

read the book and thought the same thing I did, I'm still not sure if it's clear.

All I can say is that if you enjoy gay fiction with a bit of mystery, touching themes and even some laughter, then this is a great selection. Sorry I can't compare it to any of his other work, but if it's even half as good then I am even more sorry that I have missed out. Armistead truly deserves his place at the top of the list of great American gay authors of today.

Don't take my advice though, read the book!

Shannon L. Yarbrough has lived in Memphis for almost six years. He is a freelance writer and photographer living in Midtown, and also hosts the Gay and Lesbian Book Club of Memphis. Questions or comments about this book or others you have read? Contact Shannon at TruCap24@aol.com. Next month, Shannon reviews an anthology of conversations and interviews with today's best known gay novelists.



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