

# Triangle Journal

## NEWS

Volume 1, Number 12

September 1991

Memphis, Tennessee

### Bishop Dickson to Integrity: "I Will Oppose You..."

Episcopal Bishop Alex Dickson told a group of approximately 25 people who met to discuss forming a Memphis chapter of Integrity that he would actively oppose them. Integrity is a national ministry "for the encouragement and nurture of Gay and Lesbian persons in Christian life" with roots in the Episcopal Church. The planning meeting was held on August 14, at which time Bishop Dickson explained his position.

He expressed support for members of the group as individuals, and support for their efforts to form a spiritual group, but said that he would actively oppose the group if it becomes a part of the national Integrity organization. His position is based on the stated goals of Integrity to work towards the ordination of Gay men and Lesbians and to seek formal church sanction for same sex unions. These goals, Dickson says, are contrary to the traditional teaching of the church.

The evening following the organizational meeting at Barth House on the Memphis State University campus, the facility was vandalized and words such as 'faggot' were written on the walls.

A nucleus of four men from Calvary Church and St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral began discussing the chapter organization with each other and sympathetic clergy in January. After contacting the national organization in May, the group decided to hold the first of three public meetings in August. Two more public meetings will follow in September and, if the group has at least ten paid members at that time, it will become an official chapter if accepted at the na-

tional board meeting of Integrity in October.

The debate over the acceptance of Gay men and Lesbians in the Episcopal Church was addressed at the recent General Convention of Bishops and Deputies. Resolutions calling for the ordination of Gay clergy and the blessing of same sex unions were brought before the convention. Bishop Dickson was vehement in his opposition to these resolutions and returned to Memphis to issue a Pastoral Letter stating this opposition. He sent a *Questionnaire on Human Sexuality* along with the letter and asked members of the church to "stand up and be counted just as the Bishops and Deputies did." Among the seven questions on the questionnaire were these: "Should the Episcopal Church ordain practicing homosexuals?" "Should the Episcopal Church bless same sex unions?" The questionnaire also addressed the issue of monogamy for both heterosexual and Gay clergy. Plans to organize a chapter of Integrity were not related to the Bishop's Pastoral Letter and questionnaire.

The vestry of Calvary Episcopal Church had voted to let Integrity meet at the church on the third Monday of each month. Organizers said that they have had some very positive response from other Episcopal clergy in the city.

There will be a meeting to discuss the acceptance of the national by-laws on Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30 PM. The first monthly meeting will be held on Monday, September 16 at 7:00 PM. Both meetings will be held at Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 North Second Street, and are open to the public.



Gay & Lesbian demonstrators picket the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Lebanon, TN, headquarters of the company, in protest of the restaurant's homophobic personnel policies. A Memphis Cracker Barrel was targeted August 11th with a sit-in of about 16 people.

### Memphis, Little Rock, and Nashville to Host HEART STRINGS and AIDS Memorial Quilt to Tour Nation

NEW YORK — In an unprecedented collaboration, two national AIDS organizations have joined forces to produce the largest AIDS fund raising event in history, to be called "An Event in Three Acts: Heart Strings • The AIDS Memorial Quilt • And You." The joint effort was announced Aug. 16 by the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA) and the NAMES Project Foundation.

Each of the three acts is a separate entity. Proceeds from the national tour will benefit local AIDS organizations in 25 cities around the country and stir involvement and commitment among the people it reaches in the AIDS epidemic nationwide.

"We are bringing together two of the nation's most respected AIDS organizations — both have won the Humanitarian Leadership Award from Funders Concerned About AIDS," said John Hartman, executive

director of DIFFA. "Our goal is to create an unprecedented impact in each city by recruiting thousands of volunteers, raising \$5 million and educating dozens of communities," adds David Lemos, executive director of the NAMES Project Foundation.

Act One is the stage production of HEART STRINGS, an upbeat musical variety show. Celebrity narrators and actors tie each musical selection together with the words of people with AIDS, their families, friends, and caregivers. The lyrics of well-known pieces of music take on new meaning in the context of the show.

Act Two is the public display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt on the weekend nearest the HEART STRINGS performance. The Quilt is also featured in the HEART STRINGS show. Displayed free to the public, the Quilt will provide a

*continued on page 25*

### Tennessee May End Anonymous HIV Testing

Anonymous HIV testing will become a thing of the past in Tennessee if implementation of a state health department plan goes into effect as scheduled Jan. 1, 1992. Confidential testing, which involves creating a registry the names of infected individuals, will continue. Most AIDS agencies recommend getting tested.

The plan calls for HIV to be added to an existing list of sexually transmitted diseases which are reportable. In Memphis, HIV testing has already been moved from a separate division and is now included in the "VD Clinic" activities.

The "final plan" was released to surprised community-based AIDS organizations on Aug. 16 at a Tennessee AIDS Council meeting in Nashville. Representatives of the organizations contend that while they knew this was coming, they had been assured that anonymous testing would be "phased out" not shut off. Tennessee is the last state in the region to offer anonymous testing.

According to the plan, the purpose for reporting is "to help individuals

and to promote disease intervention measures in a caring, sensitive, and competent manner." It is unclear how anonymous testing fails to meet that goal.

A further rationale of the plan is to provide more accurate reporting which will allow "more effective targeting of preventive and educational resources."

All physicians, laboratories doing the test, and health clinics will be required to report HIV positive test results.

In addition, contact tracing will be instituted wherein health department personnel will contact sexual partners of infected people without revealing who reported them.

Laboratories operating outside of Tennessee are not subject to the regulations and specimens sent out of state would only be reported if they voluntarily cooperated with the state health department.

A public hearing will be held in Memphis on Oct. 17 at 1:00 p.m. in the health department auditorium at 814 Jefferson Ave.

## Inside TJN

Test or Not to Test?  
p. 2

Military - G&L Issues  
p. 7

ATEAC - A History  
p. 8

HIV+ Doctors Urged  
to Keep Practicing  
p. 14

Health & Wellness  
p. 17

Travel's With Your Aunt-  
Eureka Springs  
p. 19

Leather Lines  
p. 21

Catholic Lesbian Retreat  
p. 22

HIV/AIDS News  
p. 24

Plus  
Deep Dish  
National News  
Letters  
Viewpoints  
and more

### Coalition Fades, LEGAL Appears

Attendees at the August meeting of the Memphis Gay Coalition voted on first reading to disband the organization. A final vote is expected at the September meeting. The 12-year-old entity will be replaced by two new organizations—LEGAL, a political activism group and a Gay/Lesbian service organization which has no official name.

LEGAL is not an acronym. "A major goal is to legalize our sexuality, so LEGAL is an appropriate name," said Bret Taylor, present secretary of the Coalition and one of the organizers of the new groups. The long descriptive name is Lesbians and Gay Persons Allied for Liberty, Equality and Political Action. Significantly, the name was chosen by 16 organizers during a 2 hour sit-in at a Cracker Barrel location in Memphis which coincided with the march and sit-in in Lebanon, TN, two weeks ago.

Besides holding numerous organizational meetings in preparation for the September MGC meeting, the group is registering people to vote at several Memphis bars during the last two weekends in August. Its purpose is: "...to inform the Lesbian and Gay community of its rights, promote awareness of Lesbian and Gay issues, and work toward equal rights and equal treatment of Lesbians and Gay men." A survey of political candidates is being prepared and a high profile will be maintained. One goal is an acknowledgement by and ultimately

*continued on pg. 10*



Radical Faeries from Short Mountain Sanctuary were among the demonstrators at the Cracker Barrel protest in Lebanon Aug. 11th.

# Too Many Strings to Gift Unethical

By Allen Cook  
TJN Co-Editor

Recently someone wanting to do a benefit for people living with AIDS approached a local AIDS organization. It seems they wanted to do a benefit, BUT they wanted to make sure that their money was only going to go to their friends with AIDS. To be specific they wanted to make sure that no IV-drug users would get the money and that it would be used primarily for white Gay males. In fact, they wanted that guaranteed.

I would hope that no reputable organization would consider honoring such a request.

It never ceases to amaze me the capacity the Gay community has to discriminate — even against its own members. Whoever made this request (and it's not the first of its kind), should re-examine the wisdom of their approach.

The list of assumptions and implications behind the request is unbelievable!

- It implies Gay males are not IV drug users when, in fact, 16% of all cases reported are among men who are both Gay and do IV drugs.
- It assumes that IV drug users are somehow undeserving of assistance.
- It seeks to separate the "innocent" from the "guilty," the "nice" from the "ugly."
- It seeks to base assistance on an arbitrary "qualification" rather than a condition or need. ("We'll give you money as long as it doesn't go to *those* people.")
- Its racist overtones are disgusting.

However ill thought out, we recognize the motivation behind the request.

For the past ten years, especially in Memphis, AIDS assistance has been up to the Gay community, despite the changing AIDS demographic. We haven't seen much support from non-Gay quarters. It was easy when most people needing assistance were Gay men. Our

donations, we saw, were helping people we knew.

Today it's a different story. As more and more non-Gay people develop AIDS and need assistance, we find the Gay community still funding virtually all the aid. But it's still true that about three-quarters of all cases in the area are among Gay men. Yes, some of our dollars are going to help non-Gay people — people, in some cases, we wouldn't be caught dead within 50 feet of.

While it might seem reasonable on the surface to designate a fund raiser specifically for our friends, it is blatantly discriminatory. Not only that, if such a proposal were accepted, it would probably be illegal for any federally tax-exempt charity to accept such conditions. Doing so would jeopardize their very existence.

So I ask, what if the shoe were on the other foot? How would you feel if someone wanted to mount an AIDS benefit as long as none of the money went to homosexuals?

Fair is fair. We're all in this together. AIDS doesn't discriminate and we shouldn't either. Nor should we be asked to.

# To Test or Not to Test?

by Allen Cook

Test. Now.

While proposed health department regulations to eliminate anonymous testing in Tennessee are just that — proposed — we believe they will take effect and anonymous testing will be gone January 1.

We recommend anyone who has put off testing to get it done now. The thought of a potential report to the state will just offer another excuse not to get tested.

There are now good reasons to be tested. Early intervention in HIV disease can add years to one's life. Monitoring of the immune system, elimination of bad habits, and moderation in your lifestyle all can help. Now, like most long-term conditions, the earlier you know the better.

We are, however, deeply concerned about why the state feels the need to create a registry of people who are HIV positive. They say it's so people can avail themselves of early intervention. Can't that happen with anonymous testing?

They say it's so they can get a better handle on who has the disease so they can design more targeted educational programs? An analysis of new AIDS cases can

tell us that already — new cases are among women, IV-drug users and their partners, and teens. The answer seems to me to target everyone. Create specific educational campaigns for various ages, sexes, and cultures.

They say it's so they can trace partners and warn them they might be infected. We wonder about the efficacy of tracing potentially ten years of partners — especially in the Gay community where partners may well be only first names.

We recognize that accurate numbers are impossible to obtain when anonymous tests are not trackable. A lot of people we know get tested anonymously every three to six months. Unfortunately, we don't think reportable testing is the answer.

To be fair, Tennessee has a creditable record of keeping confidential records confidential. There is a \$10,000 fine and immediate dismissal for anyone convicted of revealing health department records.

However, given the fact that health department representatives have repeatedly lied to AIDS organizations about the demise of anonymous testing, we're not sure we trust them that much. After all, they're the ones making the rules and now they're changing them.

Editorials appearing in The Triangle Journal News represent the opinions of the authors only unless otherwise indicated.

# TRIANGLE LETTERS

The Triangle Journal News welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be as short as possible and typed, if possible. All letters are subject to editing for clarity, spelling, punctuation, and grammar. All letters must be signed, but names will be withheld if requested. Anonymous letters will not be published. Send your letters to The Triangle Journal News, P.O. Box 11485, Memphis, TN 38111-0485.

## Get Involved!

Are we, as a community, going down the drain? That is a question that we all need to ask ourselves. The Community Center is there for everyone to enjoy. It provides in-

formation and also provides a chance to meet with people like ourselves. But instead of getting out and getting involved in supporting the Community Center, folks sit around thinking of things other people can do. It is fine to come up with ideas, but what is really needed is for those folks to come out and get personally involved. It would be a shame to see the Community Center close down because we as a whole, refused to get personally involved in saving it. Many people before us worked very hard to make the community the best it can be. Now, it is our turn to take action and join together, instead of letting it slip through our hands. We, as a com-

munity, need to get off our butts and really get out there and get involved instead of talking about it and thinking about things other people can do. I ask you, are you willing to help be a part of a community that we have tried to establish or do you want to sit around and not participate? We can all do our part to make Memphis a place of non-discrimination. We can have a great Gay and Lesbian community if we join together instead of trying to beat one another. It won't be that hard if we work together. It will also bring the community closer together. Thank you.

R. L. Danforth  
Memphis, TN



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## Feds Dismiss Complaint Against U.S. Judge Who Spoke Of 'Queers'

HOUSTON (AP) — U.S. District Judge Sam B. Hall used "inappropriate" language when he referred to Gay jail inmates as a "bunch of queers," but will not be formally censured, an appellate judge decided.

Judge Charles Clark, chief judge of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, said in a six-page ruling in New Orleans that Hall "did not go beyond the evidence in the case before him."

However, Clark admonished Hall for being insensitive to how the public would receive such comments.

"Judges who choose to inject their personal views into matters pending before them must look beyond the impact upon the rights of parties" in a lawsuit, Clark wrote.

"They should consider the effect their comments may have upon the public perception of fair, impartial adjudication in the judicial process."

## Ten Youths Indicted in Beating Death of Man Outside Houston Gay Bar

HOUSTON (AP) — Police charged seven more young men August 1 in the beating death of a man outside a Gay bar, raising to 10 the number charged in the July 4th attack.

All 10, ranging in age from 17 to 22, live in the northern suburb of The Woodlands. Bond was set at \$10,000 each. A Harris County grand jury indicted the 10 on Thursday.

They are accused of participating in the beating and stabbing death of Paul Broussard, 27, on the Fourth of July. Broussard, Richard Delaney, and another man had just left Heaven, a Gay nightclub in the city's Montrose area.

The three were walking four blocks to their car when a group of

Judge Hall failed to do this," Clark wrote.

Hall made the remarks July 11 in Beaumont during a trial in which a convicted drug offender sought more than \$100,000 in damages from Jefferson County for placing him in a cell where other inmates engaged in homosexual conduct.

Lt. John Cascio of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department testified that Gay prisoners are not routinely segregated from the general inmate population, a policy that disturbed the judge.

Hall asked if Gay prisoners would be placed "with another bunch of queers." Cascio said, "There may be other homosexuals in there and there may not be."

"Well, you can call them what you want to, and I will call them what I want to," Hall replied.

young men asked them for directions to the club. After a brief exchange, the group beat and stabbed the men, killing Broussard and injuring Delaney.

Gay activists called the assault a Gay-bashing incident, and complained that police did not do enough to protect people in the Montrose area, a predominately Gay area of town. At the time, police said they had no evidence to indicate the attack was motivated by anti-homosexual sentiments.

Earlier this month, Homicide Sgt. Waymon Allen said the group, most of whom had just graduated from high school, had decided to spend a summer evening in Montrose.

### Police Suspend Undercover Operation In Montrose

HOUSTON (AP) — Police have temporarily suspended an undercover operation designed to curtail Gay bashing in a largely homosexual neighborhood where one man recently was murdered.

The task force, which had conducted nightly operations in the Montrose community, eventually will resume operations but on random evenings, police spokesman Rick Hartley said.

Some officers cited mounting local and national publicity in halting the operation.

"It was getting to be like a circus," one officer, who asked not to be identified, told the *Houston Chronicle*. "We had curiosity seekers and we had newspaper and TV people from all over the United States. It was beginning to create diminished results."

Fifteen youths had been arrested during the operation, which ended Aug. 17. Undercover officers had been attacked with everything from a baseball bat to Mace.

The operation was launched in response to the July 4 murder of Paul Broussard, a Gay banker who was attacked along with two companions as the trio left a Montrose-area nightclub. Police arrested 10 Montgomery County youths in the attack (see story above).

The attack prompted an outcry by the city's Gay community, spurring a raucous demonstration in Montrose and a march in The Woodlands, the home of many of Broussard's alleged assailants.

## Legal Group Sides With Thompson In Guardianship Case

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The St. Louis County (Minnesota) Probate Court exhibited prejudice against homosexuals by rejecting Karen Thompson's request to be guardian for her former lover, the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union said Aug. 5.

"Throughout this case, the MCLU has maintained that the relationship of Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson should be treated the same as if they were a married couple," MCLU Executive Director William Roath said. "Thus, there should never have been any question as to who would be Sharon Kowalski's guardian."

Roath filed a legal brief with the state Court of Appeals in support of Thompson, who is appealing a judge's decision appointing Karen Tomberlin as guardian.

Kowalski suffered severe head injuries in an automobile accident Nov. 13, 1983. She had been living with Karen Thompson in the St. Cloud area in a Lesbian relationship, Roath said.

Karen Thompson and Ms. Kowalski's father, Donald Kowalski, shared guardianship of Ms. Kowalski until 1985. Over Thompson's objections, Kowalski was then made sole guardian. He suspended Thompson's visits and moved his daughter from a Duluth nursing home to one in Hibbing.

In 1988, the court ordered Sharon Kowalski moved back to Duluth, then Minneapolis, and finally to a nursing home in Robbinsdale, allowing Thompson to visit her.

Following hospitalization for a heart condition, Donald Kowalski resigned his guardian's position in May 1990. Thompson asked again to be guardian, but the court appointed Tomberlin, deciding that a "neutral third party" would best guarantee Kowalski receives support from her parents and Thompson.

Roath said the probate court showed prejudice by scrutinizing Thompson's private life and relationships, but conducted no similar scrutiny of Tomberlin.

"The court has thus made clear that a chosen partner is required to meet a higher standard than an unrelated 'friend of the family', solely because the partner is Lesbian and the friend is not," Roath said.

## Activists Urge Reinstatement of Gay Deputy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gay rights activists are seeking the reinstatement of a Gay sheriff's deputy they said was dismissed because of his sexual orientation. The Sheriff's Dept. contends former Deputy Bruce C. Boland was fired for writing a false arrest report.

But representatives of the Gay & Lesbian-Sheriff's Conference Committee say that Boland, of the West Hollywood station, was treated more

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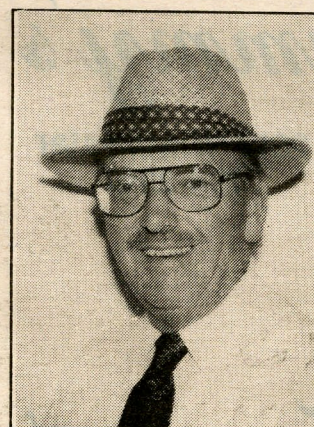


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harshly than deputies who had committed worse infractions.

Boland says he was fired Apr. 9, 1991, because he wrongly stated in a report for a man arrested for investigation of drug paraphernalia that he saw syringes on the front seat of the suspect's car.

Later, at a preliminary hearing, Boland said he actually saw the syringes in the back seat and had erred in the report. Prosecutors dismissed charges against the man.

Sheriff Sherman Block said that Boland's sexual orientation had noth-

ing to do with the firing.

Block said the deputy was fired because he filed a phony arrest report that put a man behind bars for 30 days until the deputy acknowledged his misconduct.

"The question I have for the Gay & Lesbian Committee is: What would be their position if a Gay went to state prison because of a falsification of a report by a straight deputy?" said Block. "I don't think that this is a Gay issue. I think the issue is very clear."

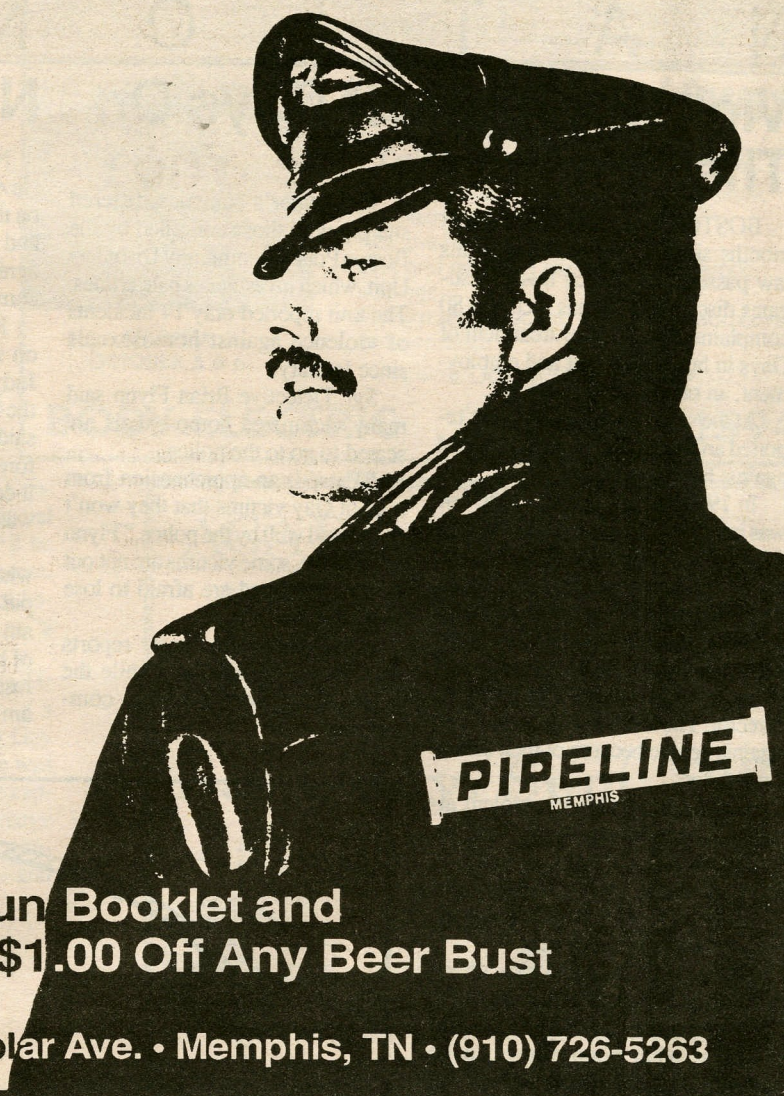
Boland has filed a \$90 million lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department.

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# Violence Against Gays On The Rise

## Navratilova Says She Was Betrayed

BOSTON (AP) — In the first 18 months since the state's Gay rights law passed, the agency that investigates discrimination has received 80 complaints about unfair treatment of Gays in housing, credit and employment, an official said July 25.

At the same time, Gay activists reported an increase in violence directed against homosexuals.

In 1990, the first full year the law was in place, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination received 41 complaints about discrimination against homosexuals. In the first six months of 1991, the MCAD received 39 complaints, said John Ahearn, the MCAD's associate director. The law bans discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation.

Gay activists also say violent attacks against homosexuals have escalated during the last six months in Massachusetts, and there have been 50% more attacks than during the corresponding period last year.

"When I sit here and pick up the telephone and talk to five people a day who have been attacked, I'm just horrified at what people have to go through because of their sexual orientation," said Robert Weinerman of the Fenway Community Health Center Victim Recovery Program.

The center said 109 Gay men and women have been attacked in 78 incidents in Massachusetts this year, with 69% of those incidents reported in the Boston area.

Weinerman told the *Boston Herald* that the struggling economy contributed to the rise in "Gay-bashing."

"With the bad economy, there is more anger and tension out on the street," he said, and added that 28% of the incidents occurred in June.

"We usually see an increase in violence with the warming weather," Weinerman said. "It gets warm, people get cranky."

The center's statistics differed sharply with those compiled by the Boston Police Community Disorders Unit, which investigates hate crimes. The unit reported only 14 incidents of violence against homosexuals since January.

Sgt. Detective Brian Flynn said many victimized homosexuals are scared to go to the police.

"There is an apprehension from a lot of Gay victims that they won't get treated well by the police," Flynn said. "Also, some victims are not out of the closet and are afraid to lose their jobs."

Also, the health center reports anonymous complaints, while the police only count criminal complaints.

NEW YORK (AP) — Martina Navratilova, a shrewd and savvy player on the tennis court, says she was naive and stupid for signing a cohabitation agreement with her long-time female companion.

In an interview broadcast July 26 on ABC's 20-20, Navratilova says Judy Nelson tricked her into signing the agreement in 1986. Navratilova said she never read the document before signing it and didn't realize what it contained, even though the signing was videotaped.

"I thought I was smart, but now when I see the video, I say, 'How stupid were you?'" Navratilova said. "I am very trusting, and that's the point of being naive, which is pretty embarrassing to admit that at the age of 35 I am naive. But I was then."

Nelson, who lived with Navratilova

for seven years, filed suit in Fort Worth, Texas, against the tennis player seeking one half of all Navratilova's earnings during their relationship, which ended earlier this year.

Navratilova denied reports that she had offered Nelson \$2 million to settle the suit. "I don't have that kind of money," Navratilova told Barbara Walters. "I mean, I give her that, and I'm broke. I might just as well start all over again — 18 years of playing tennis down the drain."

Navratilova said she believed Nelson "truly loved me" and that they lived together "as man and wife." But she said she now thinks that Nelson also was motivated by money.

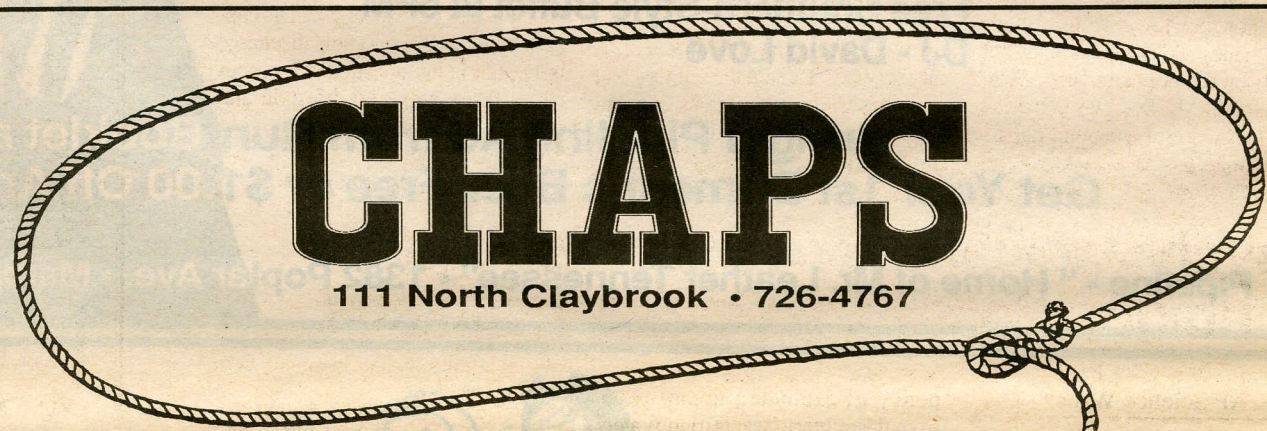
"She figured either she was going to have me or she was going to have a lot of money," Navratilova said.

Asked whether she considered the cohabitation agreement as trading sex for money, she said: "No, I wouldn't go that far. Maybe love for money."

Navratilova said she paid Nelson a salary starting in 1985 and that it reached \$90,000 per year in 1990. She also said she would have married Nelson if it were legally possible.

Although she prefers the company of women to men, Navratilova said she was physically attracted to men as well as women. "I am attracted physically to both," she said. "I just prefer emotionally the company of women."

Navratilova also said she would like to "pass on these genes" to another generation, and "I think I would make a pretty good mother, but at the same time, I'm almost 35."

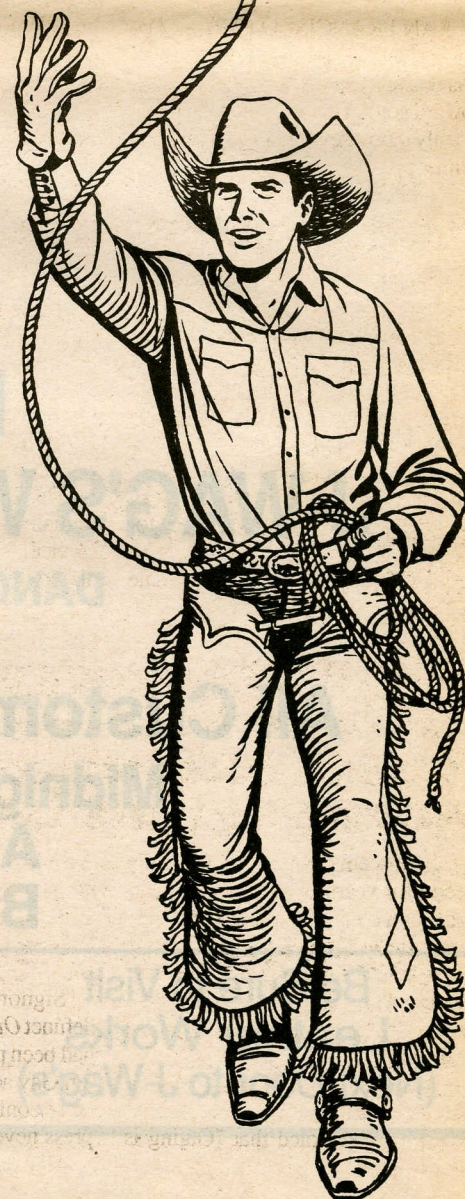


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# Defense Chief: Gays Should Be Allowed To Hold Pentagon Positions

By Christopher Connell  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)— Defense Secretary Dick Cheney believes that homosexuals should be allowed to hold civilian jobs at the Pentagon, and that so long as their job performance is satisfactory, "their private lives are their business."

Homosexuality is grounds for dismissal from the uniformed military services. Cheney noted that he inherited this policy and did not vigorously defend it, saying merely that he did not find it "fundamentally wrong" given unique aspects of military life.

In an appearance Aug. 4 on ABC's *This Week with David Brinkley*, Cheney was asked by reporter Sam Donaldson about a report in a Gay publication, the *Advocate*, that a high-level Cheney aide was homosexual. Donaldson did not name the official.

"I take it, Mr. Secretary, that this individual who must defend department regulations as a spokesman is not going to be asked to resign?"

Donaldson asked. "Absolutely not," replied Cheney. "I have operated on the basis over the years with respect to my personal staff that I don't ask them about their private lives," said Cheney, a former congressman. "As long as they perform their professional responsibilities in a responsible manner, their private lives are their business."

"I would also argue that it's none of your business," Cheney added. The *Advocate*, in its article, was critical of the Pentagon for its policy against homosexual in the military. The secretary said the ban on homosexuals in the uniformed services "applies specifically to the military, not civilians. And ... it's a policy I inherited."

He added, "I don't think it's fundamentally wrong for us to make a distinction between civilian and military service." He said the military ban was "based upon the proposition that Gay lifestyle is incompatible with military service."

He cited such "unique aspects of

military service" as lengthy deployments at sea.

"You cannot make the kind of separation in the military between private and professional life that you can with respect to civilians," Cheney said.

Cheney was asked about the military policy toward Gays by Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., an openly homosexual member of Congress. Frank asked how a homosexual could be a target for blackmail if he was open about his sexual preference.

Cheney dismissed the fear that homosexuals posed security risks as "a bit of an old chestnut."

Cheney recently criticized the Air Force for mishandling the case of a captain who'd taken part in a Gay rights parade one day before he was scheduled to be discharged. The captain received an honorable discharge only after being questioned by security officers about his lifestyle and possible breaches of security.

# Psychological Association To Fight Pentagon Policy On Gays & Lesbians

By Malcolm Ritter  
AP Science Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The American Psychological Association has declared it will help lead the way toward getting the Pentagon to accept openly homosexual people into the military.

The Pentagon's policy of excluding homosexuals is "based exclusively on prejudice and not on fact," said Stephen Morin, a member of the association's board of directors.

The association plans to assemble a coalition of professional, scientific and higher education organizations to "get a coordinated front to attack this policy," Morin said.

The declaration was adopted Aug. 18 by voice vote of the Council of Representatives, which sets policy for the association.

The Pentagon had no immediate comment, spokesman Capt. Sam Grizzle said by telephone.

In recent interviews, several psychologists said the Pentagon policy is not justified by research.

"From a scientific perspective,

there really is no firm basis for the policy of excluding homosexuals from the military," said Brian Waters, president-elect of the association's military psychology division.

The policy excludes talented people for "rather arbitrary reasons," said Gregory Herek, an associate research psychologist at the University of California at Davis and one of several speakers who addressed the policy at a symposium.

But Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Doug Hart said military life includes working and living together for long periods under difficult conditions, and "it's the military's conclusion that homosexuality could have an adverse effect. ... You're not going to have people working together as well."

The Pentagon has called homosexuality "incompatible with military service." The presence of homosexuals could damage discipline, order, morale, mutual trust and confidence; interfere with the system of rank and command and the worldwide deployment of personnel under minimal privacy; and harm the military's recruitment, retention, public

acceptability and security, the Pentagon says.

The Pentagon said in June that it had no research supporting the idea that homosexuals would be a security risk, and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney last month called the notion "a bit of an old chestnut."

Michael Kauth, a University of Mississippi doctoral student in clinical psychology who spoke at the symposium, said there is no evidence that the presence of openly homosexual personnel would cause trouble in order or morale.

Nor is there rationale for concluding it would undermine trust or confidence, he said in an interview. Soldiers with widely different education, values and backgrounds bond because of common military experiences such as basic training and maneuvers, he said.

As for heterosexual soldiers concerned about being viewed sexually by Gays, "this occurs within a YMCA or in a gym," but peer pressure and social norms regulate behavior, Kauth said. "There's no reason to believe the military situation is any different."

# Advocate Outs Cheney's Aide

What seems to have been an open secret for years and a whispered rumor for a couple of months has been confirmed. Assistant Secretary of Defense Pete Williams is Gay. The disclosure was made by Michaelangelo Signorile in the Aug. 27 issue of *The Advocate*.

In printing the 11-page article, Richard Rouillard, editor in Chief of *The Advocate* noted that "Outing is the weapon of last resort."

"We're talking about a man who knowingly assists in the the promotion of policies designed to thoroughly undermine the community in which, part-time, he lives," Rouillard wrote.

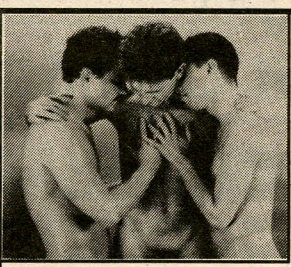
Signorile, formerly of the now-defunct *Outweek*, wrote that Williams had been publicly outed by Washington Gay activist Michael Petrelis at a news conference, but the mainstream press never picked up the story.

His story had been in repartition

stages for several months.

Openly Gay Rep. Barney Frank is quoted as saying, "if you have someone who's Gay administering an anti-Gay policy successfully in an agency that says we can't have Gay people, I think it helps undermine that policy to expose the government's hypocrisy to the people."

As of presstime, there has been no comment from the Pentagon regarding the allegations.



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# Court Allows Arguments On Whether Army Can Dismiss Homosexuals

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal appeals court reinstated a lawsuit to address whether the Army was entitled to discharge a former captain because she acknowledged her homosexuality.

The three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit said Dusty Pruitt's 1983 lawsuit deserved a hearing.

"We will not spare the Army the task ... of offering a rational basis for its regulations, nor will we deprive Pruitt of the opportunity to contest that basis," wrote U.S. Circuit Judge William Canby Jr.

Pruitt sued the Army in 1983 when she was honorably discharged from her duties in the reserve.

The Army dismissed her after her sexual orientation was revealed through an interview she granted with the *Los Angeles Times* in which she discussed her military career, sexuality, and religious views as an ordained Methodist minister.

U.S. Dist. Judge William P. Gray had previously ruled that Pruitt's firing had not violated her First Amend-

ment rights to free speech.

Gray also said she had no basis for arguing that dismissal of homosexuals from the military was unconstitutional because "substantial deference" was required from the judicial branch when dealing with Army regulations.

Canby agreed with Gray's ruling on the First Amendment. However, hearings will determine if the Pentagon had adequate reasons for excluding homosexuals from the military.

"The question is not whether the Army is free to discharge her for her speech, because it did not do so. The question is whether the Army is entitled to discharge her for her homosexuality," Canby wrote.

Jon Davidson, co-counsel to Pruitt said "what it eventually will mean is an end to the military's irrational policy of excluding loyal, dedicated and talented service members solely because they are Lesbian or Gay."

The ACLU said over 1,000 acknowledged homosexuals were removed from military duties last year.

# ATEAC—It's About Caring

By Vincent Astor  
TJN Columnist

*AIDS—Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome—has everything to do with caring. Caring for one's own body and health. Caring about those an individual is most intimate with. Caring for and about people who are sick. Caring about people struggling with stigma, illness, ignorance and dying.*

*Mostly, to thousands of people, it's all about not caring at all.*

*In Memphis, those who cared took steps to care more—specifically—and founded the Aid To End AIDS Committee six and one half years ago. No one knew then how long ATEAC would be necessary. It appears there will be a need for a long time. ATEAC has recently begun to adapt for a long career and it's a good time to look back a bit.*

*In January of 1985, the Queen's Men, a social organization which was very prominent in the Mem-*

phis community, organized a meeting of concerned individuals to address the problem of AIDS and those people with the disease. The Memphis Gay Coalition had used money from a 1983 fundraiser to distribute the first brochures in Gay bars and adult theatres and had printed AIDS in-

## A Memphian's Memoir

by Vincent Astor

formation in *Gaze* since it had been available but there was no AIDS-specific organization.

AIDS, at the time, was the subject of much discussion and concern but only one or two cases had been reported in Shelby County. It hadn't hit home yet but these people wanted to be ready. The meeting was well attended by leaders from the Gay/Lesbian business community, the activist community, service and social organizations, and interested individuals. TQM presented a proposal that an organization be formed which was named the Aid To End AIDS Committee (ATEAC). The motion was passed and a Board of Direc-

tors was chosen. The first seven board members all came from the Gay/Lesbian community bringing with them many areas of expertise. By March, the first by-laws were approved and the charter received.

The new group went to work at once and received a \$9,000 grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors which enabled the organization to produce and distribute AIDS information in the Memphis area: general information brochures, safer sex information and public service announcements. The first *AIDS Update* was published as a insert to *Gaze* newspaper in the summer of 1985, with an additional distribution of 10,000 copies. The cause attracted a surge of support from individuals and groups within the Gay/Lesbian community. The Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite organized a blood donation program with ATEAC and the long task began. One of the first instances of client emergency assistance came in late 1985 when the president of ATEAC convinced an apartment management company not to evict a client.

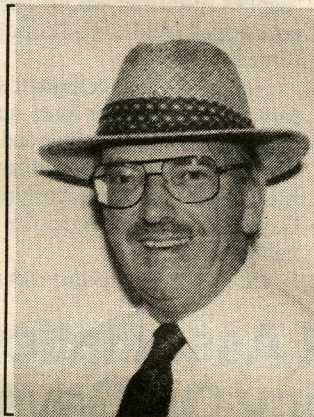
In 1986, the first volunteer training sessions began. Memphis now had a support group for people living with AIDS and a group of volunteers called Buddies to provide one-on-one emotional and practical support. ATEAC co-produced

the Circuit Playhouse production of *As Is*; a screening of the film *Buddies*; and published, along with the Memphis chapter of the Red Cross, a teen information brochure which gained nationwide attention. A separate AIDS hotline was established to remove the burden from the Gay Switchboard and tax-exempt status was granted.

In 1987, another organization, the Human Response Council, was founded as a grassroots organization dedicated to direct services and housing for its clients. ATEAC began to be criticized by some about its operations and account-

ability. A full page ad addressing the main questions appeared in the September issue of *Gaze*. It detailed the necessary separation of government grant money specified for education and money that could be used for client services. It mentioned in passing that ATEAC had been involved in renting and furnishing an apartment for a client and that direct financial assistance to another was paying the rent. Though confidentiality forbade mentioning names, the first client to receive housing assistance became ATEAC's most

*continued on page 9*



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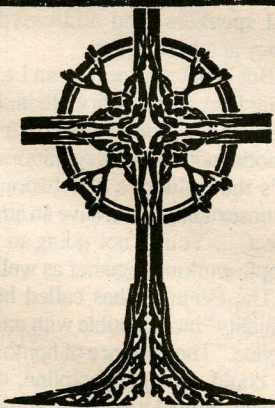
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THURSDAY - THE LOVE CLUB - 7:30PM  
(Support group for family, friends,  
and loved ones of AIDS patients)

SOCIAL OUTREACH GROUP  
(Gay community outreach activities)



**ATEAC**

*continued from page 8*

famous spokesperson, the late Peter Barrosse.

ATEAC is one of the few organizations which has used designated donations for client services only, and kept these separate. ATEAC serves all clients who seek its help, if they are HIV positive or have AIDS, without discrimination. The ad offered direct answers to direct questions about finances and encouraged people to call with other questions. Unfortunately, though well supported, Human Response Council was not as open about its accounting procedures and secretive about its board meetings. It eventually foundered due to a lack of cohesion between its founder and its board in 1989.

The first ATEAC Auction was held in 1987 at George's. The next year, it catapulted into mainstream fundraising by moving to the Airport Hilton and raising over \$7,000. Each year since, it has reached into the tens of thousands of dollars and it is ATEAC's primary fundraiser. More support began coming from outside the Gay/Lesbian community as the epidemic touched more people and caring individuals responded. In November, staff was hired and the agency moved into its original offices at 689 Melrose.

In February of 1988, Alpha House, a residence for ATEAC clients, was opened. It remained open until December of 1989 when, down to one resident, the ATEAC board decided that maintaining clients in their own dwellings was more important than dormitory-style housing. 1988 was also the year of three films concerning AIDS awareness at Circuit Playhouse and the production of *A Dance Against Darkness*, an original play about AIDS with music by former Memphian Roy Barber.

In 1989, a full time education coordinator was hired and AIDS Awareness nights began bringing information and safer sex kits into the bars directly. That summer, ATEAC co-sponsored one of the greatest fundraising and community building events in the history of Gay/Lesbian Memphis—Heart Strings. This touring revue was underwritten by Design Industries Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA) and endorsed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It brought new volunteers from all four points of the compass, put ATEAC and AIDS issues before many new groups and individuals and proved to be one of the most memorable events of the decade.

In 1990, the staff expanded to

three, with the addition of an Education Specialist. The Auction continued to grow, volunteer support was high and goodwill fundraisers continued. A new conflict arose when a former employee turned against the board in the troubled summer of 1990 and put many people on the defensive. In order to conduct business more efficiently, the board instituted new election procedures, following the example of organizations such as St. Jude Children's Hospital. Most board meetings became intensive work sessions instead of public forums and ATEAC began to experience growing pains. Support continued and voluntarism remained strong. New programs such as STOP AIDS, a Gay male outreach workshop, and the ATEAC food pantry were initiated. Other fundraisers were staged out of the generosity of the Memphis theatrical community, fashion community and hairdressing community.

Staff renewed itself again in 1991 as the agency continued its development. Much renewal is still in progress. The Annual Meeting in the summer and three other quarterly board meetings still provide public discussion. The board contains diverse individuals from many different areas of the community, each bringing individual expertise and experiences. Several new groups sponsored theatre and cabaret benefits. This past summer, ATEAC left its former offices for new quarters at St. John's United Methodist Church and is planning its future as a stable, long-term, human services agency.

There are two major support groups, one for people living with AIDS and another which includes people living with HIV infection. The former Buddy program is being expanded to include a new cadre of Carepartners, volunteers providing an array of services to over 200 clients on ATEAC's rolls, with their own support mechanism. The agency continues to reach out through education to specific groups with a new program for women. STOP AIDS and AIDS Awareness Nights continue to provide safer sex information and kits, and advocacy for clients' human rights and well-being remains ongoing. ATEAC maintains working relationships with MIFA, the Health Department, the Visiting Nurse Association, the Med and other Gay, Lesbian and non-Gay organizations; locally, regionally and nationally. The long task continues.

*There have been some individuals, dissatisfied and disgruntled for their own reasons, who harshly criticize certain aspects and policies of ATEAC. One thing remains—compassion. ATEAC pro-*

*vides a full range of direct, non treatment-related, services to people living with AIDS and HIV. It is the primary agency in the area to provide these services, the oldest in Tennessee, and the agency*

*which can still help when every other avenue is exhausted. And ATEAC does not discriminate. Its volunteers and staff provide the same compassion that spurred its founders to action in 1986.*

*ATEAC began with a few caring individuals caring a little bit more. The faces change, the structure evolves, but the caring remains. It will go on.*

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## Men's Chorus Concert—A Review

by Vance Reger  
TJN Columnist

On a rainy Sunday afternoon with nothing important to do, a friend suggested that I take advantage of the odd sensation of being an audience member for a change, and go hear the Lambda Men's Chorus concert at the Church On the River. This was, as it turned out, a good idea.

The pastoral setting of the church creates a perfect mood for listening in a relaxed atmosphere.

The chorus was vigorously led by Don Griesheimer, who kept watchful pairs of eyes and hands on the responsive group (such audible consonants!).

Beginning a Broadway evening with Gilbert and Sullivan is complimentary to the composer but not quite accurate in the piece represented. Nonetheless, the two excerpts from *HMS Pinafore* were succinctly presented and the tongue-in-cheek "When I Was A Lad" nicely done by no-mention-in-the-program-as-soloist Ben Thompson.

The whole program was really very well done, and I would be hard pressed to pick which I enjoyed most. If I had to pick, "Who Can I Turn To" seemed the best over all in its delivery of sound and mood. Although I am appreciative of "One Voice," by Barry Manilow, in its content, the last piece on any program needs to be the best-performed. It was not.

The group has a good blend, which most

choruses lack, and I applaud Don and his boys for a good demonstration of vocal unity.

The group needs bodies, and I recommend that anyone join who can carry a tune and learn. I even know of people who don't read music singing with the symphony chorus, so that's no excuse. The group meets on Tuesday nights at the Community Center, so go—expose yourself to art, and have fun at the same time.

So, I liked it, and now I have one suggestion. The concert lasted 45 minutes, including intermission, and this is really much too short. I suggest no less than one hour, fifteen minutes for a standard concert length. Don't hide your light under a bushel.

To the rest of you who were not there, try showing your support for your community and go to their next performance. I believe in supporting live music in any form and these fellows really did a good, if slightly tight-at-the-seams, solid performance. Congratulations to all.

*Mr. Reger is a member of the Memphis Symphony.*

## Carepartners

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## New Youth Group Has Good Start

by Gary Bodell  
Vice President YLGA

There's a new group in town designed to deal with the problems and questions of Gay youth. The group, Young Lesbian and Gay Alliance (YLGA), has already made plans for addressing the needs of young Gays between the ages of 18 and 25 during the next few months.

On August 14th YLGA elected officers. They are: Roy Danforth, president; Gary Bodell, vice president; Robert Jones, secretary; and Marc Ritchie, treasurer.

On August 28th, a lawyer, Susan Mackenzie,

spoke to the group. On September 4th, Vincent Astor, Education Specialist with the Aid to End AIDS Committee, will present a program. At the September 11th meeting, YLGA president, Roy Danforth has arranged for an adoption representative to speak. Future topics will include: a Gay couple discussing the secret of the longevity of their relationship, substance abuse, sexual abuse, coming out, and more.

On the 25th of August YLGA had their first fundraiser: a car wash. If you have any other questions concerning this group, call 276-4651 for more information.

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Q) Can I participate in the American Life Resources Program if I have a term life policy?

A) Yes! The American Life Resources Program can accept term life insurance policies.

Q) Can I participate in the American Life Resources Program if I have a group life insurance policy?

A) Yes, as long as your group insurance policy allows you to convert your policy to an individually owned policy.

Q) My life insurance does not have any cash value built up....Do I still qualify for the American Life Resources Program?

A) Yes! The American Life Resources Program is based upon the net policy benefit amount of your life insurance policy, not the policy's cash value.

Q) Will I have any tax liability on the proceeds I receive from American Life Resources?

A) Under current United States taxation laws, the sale of a life insurance policy for financial remuneration obligates the seller of the policy to report the proceeds as income. However, there is a bill pending in the United States Senate that would make these proceeds tax exempt.

Q) Should I obtain the advice of an attorney or CPA prior to participating in the American Life Resources Program?

A) Yes! American Life Resources recommends that all of its clients consult with an attorney and a CPA prior to participating in the American Life Resources Program.

Q) Will my medical benefits be affected if I participate in the American Life Resources Program?

A) Not necessarily. Each individual situation is different. Your American Life Resources representative will review your current medical benefits with you.

Q) Will I continue to be responsible for paying the premiums for my life insurance policy if I participate in the American Life Resources Program?

A) No! American Life Resources will take over the responsibility of paying the premiums on your life insurance policy.

Q) How long will it take to know if I qualify for the American Life Resources Program?

A) American Life Resources will notify you approximately four weeks after receiving your completed application.

Q) Once I am notified that I qualify for the American Life Resources Program, when will I receive my funds?

A) Immediately upon written acknowledgement of assignment from the insurance carrier.

Q) I am very interested in enhancing the quality of my life through the American Life Resources Program. What should I do?

A) Simply contact Gil Gilbreath your American Life Resources representative.

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## Bowling Starts Sept. 6

At a meeting Aug. 20 at WKRB, sixteen teams were formed for this year's season of the Brothers and Sisters Bowling League. This year, the teams are moving to the Park Lanes, Park and Getwell (next to the Big Star).

Organizers say that some teams are incomplete and new bowlers will be accepted on the first night of bowling, Sept. 6. In fact, additional teams can be formed if enough people attend. Each team has four people on it. New bowlers should arrive by 6:15 pm. Bowling will begin at 6:45 p.m.

For more information, call Mark at 726-4890.

## LEGAL

continued from page 1

a direct connection with city government.

"We are actively recruiting women's involvement and the involvement of African-Americans and other minorities. We have mandated male and female co-chairs from the start," says Taylor. There will continue to be meetings at the Main Library. Membership will be defined on several levels with active participation a criterion for full voting membership.

It has been proposed that 10% of the Coalition's present treasury be used as start up money for LEGAL, with the balance being used to fund the Gay Switchboard under the new service organization. Many details have yet to be worked out and discussion will continue at the next Coalition business meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 3, in Meeting Room A of the Main Library at Peabody and McLean. GayRap will also be held at its regular time and place and will be another working meeting for the two organizations.

## The Director's Chair Center Has Lots To Do

By Gary Bodell  
MGLCC Director

During the month of August, the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center has undergone a lot of changes. The entire floor has been completely repainted a new shade to replace the dull maroon that we used to have. Also, the small office in the back of the Center is being structurally reworked into a larger meeting room. The ever growing library and office space will be at one end of the meeting room for anyone who cares to read or check out a book.

I would like to personally thank the people who assisted me in all of this "reconstructive surgery." I'd like to thank Vincent Astor, Bill Hanley, and Michael Rogers for helping in the cleaning; Michael Meyers and Michael Rogers for the painting; and those who donated various articles of furniture and such. Thanks also to those who have donated money and our "angels" who donated the paint for the floor and materials for reworking the partition and information center. Thanks to David Jeffries and Tracy Clark for a lot of practical advice and hands-on assistance.

Video night, which is every Thursday, is expanding to give you a better selection of Gay-oriented movies to enjoy. We will start showing two movies each video night. The theme for September is "Foreign Movies." To start the month on a happy note, we will be showing "The Clinic" and "A Virus Knows No Morals" on the 5th. Both are extremely comical in their satirical look at AIDS. On the 12th, we will offer "Wonderland" and "Entertaining Mr. Sloane." On the 19th we will have "My Beautiful Launderette" and "Maurice." And finally, on the 26th, we'll show "Querelle" and one other movie to be selected. As an added feature during this "Back to School" season, Saturday, September 7th will be Marilyn Monroe Nite. To start the evening, at 6 p.m. we'll

## Women's Newspaper Set to Launch This Month

A new bi-monthly newspaper for women is being launched in Memphis.

Dottie Jones and Vicki Grimes named the newspaper *Hera Sees* after the Greek goddess, Hera. The advertising supported paper will be free to the public and feature news and information about, for, and by women. Contributions from women writers will also be featured.

show "How To Marry A Millionaire." At 8 p.m. we'll see "Some Like It Hot." And we'll conclude the evening with "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" starting at 10 p.m. Popcorn and soft drinks will be available.

A special Community Center yard sale will take place on September 7th at the MGLCC. Donations for the sale will be accepted through the 4th. A GDI Club night at the Pipeline will benefit the center on Sept. 28 (if you don't know what GDI means, ask anyone in college; if you don't know what a club night is, ask anyone at the Pipeline).

Various groups hold their regular meetings at the Center. The Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite meets on the first Sunday of the month; the MGLCC Business/Board meeting is on the second Monday; the Coffee House, which provides feminist entertainment, is on the third Friday; the MGLCC Potluck is held every third Saturday; and B-GLAD meets on the third Sunday. The Young Lesbian and Gay Alliance (YLGA) meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., following the free AIDS/HIV testing sponsored by the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department from 5-7 p.m.; the Lambda Men's Chorus rehearses every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.. Other smaller events and activities happen just about any time the Center is open. If you have any further questions about any of the groups or events mentioned, please contact the MGLCC at 276-4651.

The MGLCC needs your help! We need more volunteers to staff the Center on its days open. We need financial support. We need several sheets of plywood paneling to finish the library/meeting room remodeling. We want your business card, special event notice, newsletter or business flyer for our information center. We want to be the first place a Gay or Lesbian person goes to find a like-minded professional or service. Use us as a resource!

According to Ms. Jones, the first issue has sold enough advertising to cover its cost, an unusual thing among start-up ventures of this kind.

Ms. Jones is coordinator of community education and development at the Southern Poison Center. Ms. Grimes is events coordinator for Newhouse Convention Services.



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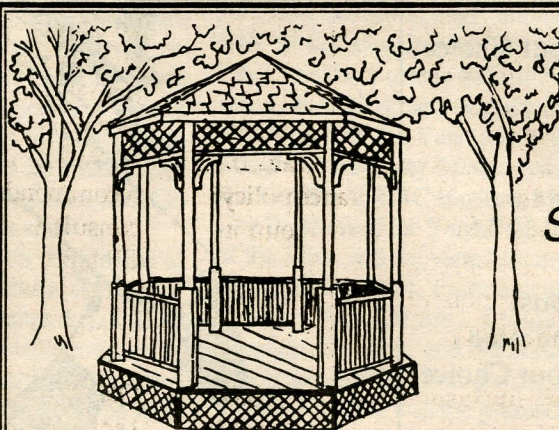
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## Spare Time Frolics with Lady A.

Hooty Lesbians in one set of mountains and hooty Faeries in another. Where will it all end? Hopefully, never.

You gotta watch those Faeries, when they go out to play it just might be a sit-in. Something like Really Fresh Diversion. Simply faaaabulous.

By the way, Ken Scully from Eureka Springs says Hi to the Faeries at Short Mountain. Wauka, be well.

### Stuff and Such

Yes, Chiquita, it's Leather Month Again. The first Unity Run will take place Labor Day weekend, sponsored jointly by Wings and Women of Leather (never fear, you'll hear all about it next month) and Tsarus will hold its annual Aida run Sept. 20, 21 and 22. Maybe we'll make it this time.

Tsarus has let slip that it has all new faces on its new board. It also raised over \$1,200 at the S/M auction which, we were given to understand, was cluttered with bargains.

Fancy Goodman was feted for her 45th birthday by habitués of The Hut. The celebration lasted 16 hours. It included a visit from an old flame (whom she didn't remember until he took his clothes off). Misty McIntyre performed a special matinee show. It is now generally accepted that Miss Goodman is officially no longer chicken.

WKRK has had its share of birthdays too, Sharon Wray turned fiftysomething in late August. Dee Dee Whitaker celebrated the birthday of someone named the Chicken Queen at one of her Friday shows during which we ourselves were provided the dirt with which to embarrass said CQ. It was delicious. Leslie also had a very good birthday cake we just happened in upon.

Aphrodite had armloads of food for their Friendship Day at the Community Center. Bette Hefner, in her inimitable fashion, took exception to the absence of a large refrigerator so guess what! The MGLCC is fixin' to get one! The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

Speaking of which (not grease, pinhead) the Community Center is in mid-spiff this coming month. A whole fresh new look is in the process, be sure to check the foreign film series on Thursday Video Nights, a Marilyn Monroe Triple Feature on the 7th, after the Yard Sale, and Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Piano on the 27th. This is the first of the Center's own coffee houses which will feature old standards and sing-a-longs on the venerable green upright at the Center. Who knows, the Spike Jones Memorial Gay Glee Club may once again shake off the mould.

Clubs, clubs, clubs. This month's newest is growing by leaps and bounds—Southern Country Memphis. A chapter of Southern Country, its purpose is to promote, teach and enjoy Country/Western Dancing. The efforts of this group have turned Chaps' format to entirely Country/Western and is so popular there are lessons two nights a week. And boy is it a heap a' fun.

Our psychic sources also indicate that the next new club will finally make a statement to the two-wheeled butches of the commu-



Lady A's  
Pounds

nity. If we say any more, someone has threatened to compromise us before the time is right. You may say, Myrtle, and you will be right, "Well! Isn't that a strange choice of words!" You didn't need all that sleep, now did you, dear?

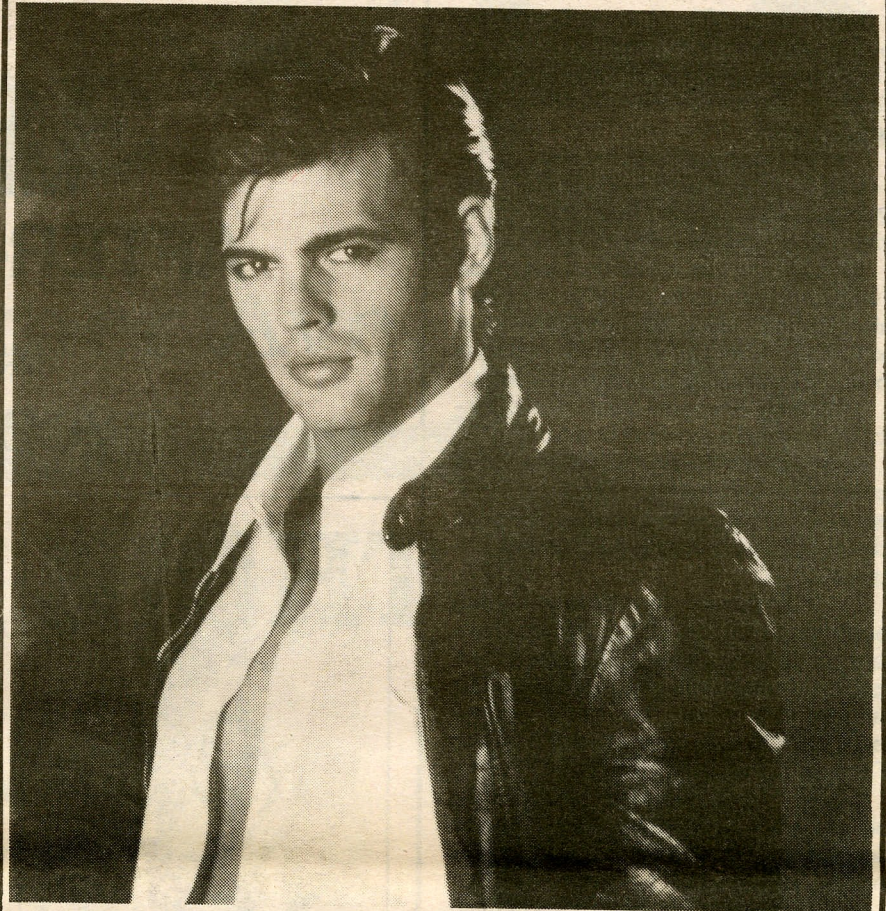
An event unique to Memphis will take place at the Pipeline on Sept. 28. It is a Club Night without a club—GD 1. All proceeds will benefit the Community Center and there will be the normal games and such. All the Memphis Leather clubs will have a chance to compete for prizes in a semi-run format and you can Choose Your Own Title, sash and all, at a booth which is the brain-tumor of Memphis' only 3-time Mistersister. Go on, rack your brain, or just show up.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to An Afternoon With Friends. Not many people realize that food stamps do not cover personal hygiene items as staple as toilet paper and toothpaste. It is a basic need that gets overlooked. Over 1300 of these items were collected by Marty Hurley and friends and will be distributed through the ATEAC Food Pantry to needful People Living with AIDS.

We had a pleasant afternoon at the Lambda Men's Chorus Concert on the 25th. They have what it takes, voices, volume, enthusiasm, talent and technique. We only wish they were a bit less formal and a bit more relaxed. One needs to *hear* how much they are enjoying what they do, which we know they are.

Ha, ha! You have now read through all of this dirt, just ready to pounce, thinking that we had forgotten the BIG ONE. Fooled you! We actually attended the Trixie

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Thunderpussy Awards at J.-Wag's and were very amused. Surprisingly enough, at least 50% of the awards were complimentary. Lily Christine, Lorretta and Billie Jo Casino won Life Achievement plaques, the Pipettes won Group of the Year, Mark Whitehead won the Community Service Award for his work on the ATEAC auctions, Meristem as Gay Business of the Year, Barbara's as Bar of the Year, and we were honored as Volunteer of the Year. Entertainers Sofonda Peters, Van Damm, Emma Tation, Monique, Jo Ann, and Summer Holiday were distinguished in various categories. An unexpected treat was the presence of actor Dick Sargeant in the audience (remember Darrin II on Bewitched?) who signed many autographs and is very handsome. So is Van Damm, an Arrow-Shirt male dancer if ever we saw one, but we fear we are not his type.

### Mush Department

We are delighted beyond even our capacity for adjectives to announce the official bonding (and how!) of John Poole and Wallace Richards at cocktails on September 1.

The Runaround  
Chaps and Southern Country Mem-

phis will hold a Hoe Down on Sept. 7, the next Bucket Queen Pageant will take place on Sept. 14. Thelma Lou will give it up!

The Pipeline will hold a Flamingo Fling Sept. 14, a White Party Sept. 27, and the GDI Club Night on Sept. 28 to benefit the MGLCC.

Alliance will hold a club night at J.-Wag's on Sept. 14.

The Apartment will hold the Duchess of Memphis Pageant on Sept 8 and Ebony of Tennessee on Sept. 22. Congratulations to the winner of Miss Junior Miss who was selected right at press time.

Veronica York will return for two nights, Sept. 14 & 15, to Reflections.

Male Order will return to J-Wag's on Sept. 6 & 7.

G. Bellington Rumples will hold its first annual Miss Bellington Rumples pageant on Sept. 19.

### Final Round

You know, it's more fun when you share. How's about another weekend?

Ta, ta.  
Lady A.

# Doctors With AIDS Advised To Keep Practicing

By Paul Geitner  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A young Boston dentist was crying when he called. Fresh out of school, the man had just started his practice when he got the bad news: He was infected with the AIDS virus.

It wasn't the fear of death that upset him — it could be years before he even developed symptoms. What had him in tears was the more immediate prospect of losing his livelihood.

"He's got a fortune in bills from school and if he tells his patients he's HIV positive, he's ruined," said Dr. Jack Rosenberg, founder of the Manhattan Dental Guild, which represents about 150 Gay dentists around the Northeast.

"I told him, 'Keep your mouth shut ... practice properly and it shouldn't be a problem.'"

Despite official reassurances that the risk of getting AIDS from a doctor or dentist is infinitesimal, AIDS panic has moved from places like schools and restaurants into the medical profession.

The most dramatic manifestation: a bill passed recently by the U.S. Senate that mandates 10-year prison terms for HIV-positive professionals who perform surgery without telling patients of their infection beforehand. *[Editors note: That bill has not been passed by the House of Representatives and is not currently law.]*

"Health-care workers are the monsters of the moment," said a Gay Atlanta physician who didn't want his name used because not all his patients know he is HIV positive.

The topic has become taboo among health-care workers, many of whom are afraid even to be tested for HIV for fear that a positive result will cost them their job.

"There really is a witchhunt atmosphere out there," said San Francisco attorney Benjamin Schatz, who runs a national support program for HIV-infected health-care workers. "The doctors and dentists that I speak to feel abandoned by a medical establishment that is more concerned about public image than public health."

Most experts believe there are many more who are infected with HIV but are symptom-free.

Despite those numbers, the case of Dr. David Acer in Florida is the only confirmed instance of doctor-to-patient infection. The dentist apparently infected five of his patients before dying of AIDS last year. The exact means of transmission remains a mystery. But published reports, based on interviews with his staff and social workers, said that Acer ran a sloppy practice.

Those who oppose efforts to restrict HIV-positive health-care workers say the Acer case supports their position.

"Patients can contract HIV from physician's offices — those who don't maintain good infection control procedures," Rosenberg said. But the medical establishment doesn't want to "panic the public about that. So they say, 'OK, we'll get everyone who is HIV-positive out of business and now you're safe.'"

The Centers for Disease Control recommends that HIV-infected health-care workers not perform certain surgical or "invasive" procedures unless they get permission from a panel of experts and inform their patients.

Another Senate bill backed by the White House would require states to enforce those guidelines or lose some federal money.

But Rosenberg and others say that realisti-

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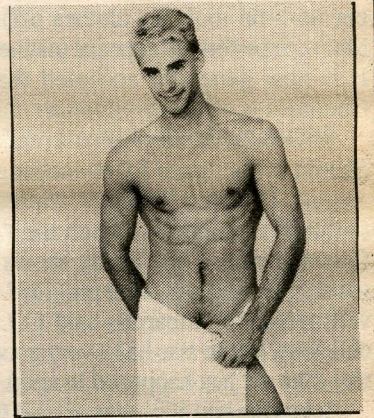
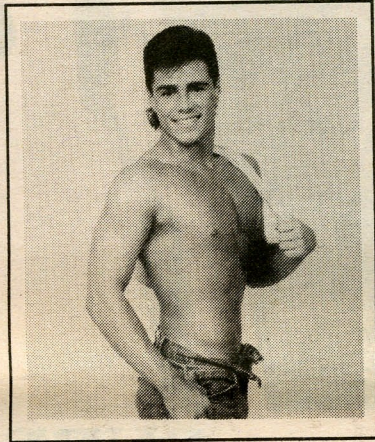
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cally, following the guidelines would mean the end of a doctor's entire practice.

Schatz said he spoke recently to a radiologist who only occasionally does invasive procedures.

"He would like to be able to just stop doing invasive radiology, but he knows if he does that his partners will realize he's HIV positive and then force him out of his practice," Schatz said. "These people are really between a rock and a hard place."

Barbara Fassbinder, an Iowa nurse who became infected with HIV while treating an AIDS patient in a hospital emergency room, said she has spoken to many other nurses who fear they may have gotten HIV on the job.

"They are afraid to even get a test because if they know they are HIV infected, it may cause them to lose their job," she said. "So they would just as soon not know." And that, she warns, will cost lives if it keeps people from getting early treatment.

Schatz said all the physicians he's spoken with say they would restrict their practices if they felt they posed any risk at all to their patients. But they believe the furor to be medically unjustified or, worse, a dangerous smokescreen.

"It's missing the whole point of preventing transmission of HIV," said Dr. Dan William, an internist with a large AIDS practice. "The issue is really that dentists and physicians should practice the best possible precautions either way."

Many also see the guidelines as a violation of their own privacy rights. "A patient stands much more of a risk of being injured by a health-care worker who has a drug or alcohol problem, and yet the patient has absolutely no access to any kind of information like that," Fassbinder said.

The question patients should ask of their doctors is not "Do you have AIDS?" Rosenberg said, but rather: "Are you sterilizing your equipment properly? Are you wearing fresh gloves with each patient? Are you disposing of used

materials properly?"

Many HIV-infected doctors, especially in rural areas, say they feel terribly isolated. "They can't go to AIDS support groups," Schatz said. "They can't talk to people in their workplace. I know people who drive 100 miles to get their AZT because they don't want anyone in their community to know they're HIV positive."

The AMA has said it intends to assist programs in the states to provide career counseling and job retraining to infected doctors. But those who counsel HIV-infected health-care workers say most are afraid to go public. "Who wants to quit and face legal expenses and national notoriety?" Schatz asked.

And for others, like the young dentist in Boston, quitting now is economically impossible. "He's really got a very nice practice and it's growing and there's no reason for him to stop working," Rosenberg said. "Any other kind of a job you could get based on general education certainly wouldn't begin to pay off the medical or dental education."

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**Review**  
**Love Bites**

by Gary Coughlan

Take some popular porn stars (Kevin Glover, Christopher Ladd, Erich Lange, etc.), mix them in a plot about a modern-day vampire in West Hollywood, eliminate the usual hardcore porn associated with most Gay films while keeping tasteful nudity and hot love scenes, add a lot of witty dialogue and you have *Love Bites*. This 1988 Campfire Video production is available locally from Star Search Video at 1411 Poplar Ave.

Young Jake Hunter (star of *Jerker* Tom Wagner) is obsessed with vampires even so far as neglecting his sexy bedpartner. Convinced that a rash of "fag-bashings" in West Hollywood is actually the work of a vampire, Jake loads his backpack with a stake, crucifix, and other paraphernalia and arrives at the alleged vampire's home.

Inside the home is Lesley (Christopher Ladd), a hustler who's been hired for the vampire's sidekick Mansfield (who is described as "no Rob Lowe, not even Peter Lorre"). After some bitchiness, the vampire arrives. Count Sanders (Kevin Glover) and Jake verbally spar as their attraction grows. Jake escapes with a drunk Lesley back to his apartment. Count Sanders tells Mansfield he is tired of "347 years of one-night stands" and thinks he is in love with Jake.

Convincing a now-sober, but reluctant Lesley to assist him in destroying the vampire, Jake returns to the Count's home. Jake's mission takes second place to his growing lust for the handsome Count who spares no effort in seducing the willing Jake. Lesley even winds up with Mansfield. The story, after dealing with the weighty issues of AIDS (which even affects vampires, the Count says) and "fag-bashing," has a hopeful ending. *Love Bites* emphasizes romance and wordplay and the love scenes between the Count and Jake are quite explicit and hot.

**TV Sees More Gay Characters**

Gay, Lesbian, and bi-sexual themes on TV will be more prevalent this season according to *TV Guide*.

NBC's *L.A. Law* will continue the storyline begun this season involving C.J. Lamb, one of MacKenzie Brackman's newest associates. On NBC's *Dear John*, Kirk will reveal his wife left him for another woman, and ABC's *Roseanne* will feature Martin Mull and Michael Des Barres reprising their roles as a Gay couple.

Even *Star Trek* may be getting into the act. *The Advocate* says that Gay and/or Lesbian characters may be introduced this season.

According to Richard Jennings, executive director of GLADD, "The fear that sponsors aren't going to go for Gay or Lesbian storylines is disappearing.


**Top 20 Video Rentals**

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The following are the most popular video rentals as they appear in the Aug. 26 *Billboard* magazine. Copyright 1991, Billboard Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission.

1. *Sleeping With the Enemy* (Fox)
2. *Misery* (Nelson)
3. *Goodfellas* (Warner)
4. *Edward Scissorhands* (Fox)
5. *L.A. Story* (Live)
6. *Kindergarten Cop* (Universal-MCA)
7. *The Russia House* (MGM-UA)
8. *Awakenings* (RCA-Columbia)
9. *New Jack City* (Warner)
10. *Hamlet* (Warner)
11. *Reversal of Fortune* (Warner)
12. *Lionheart* (MCA-Universal)
13. *Flight of the Intruder* (Paramount)
14. *King Ralph* (MCA-Universal)
15. *Green Card* (Touchstone)
16. *The Grifters* (Miramax-HBO)
17. *Look Who's Talking Too* (RCA-Columbia)
18. *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze* (RCA-Columbia)
19. *Once Around* (MCA)
20. *Postcards From The Edge* (RCA-Columbia)

All videos listed are available at Star Search Video, 1411 Poplar Ave. Star Search also has a wide selection of Gay/Lesbian-themed video tapes in their "Special Interest" section.



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## Hooked On A Feeling— Part II

by Becky Caperton, M.S.

Last month we started a series on addiction to sex, romance, or relationships. This time I want to look at sexual addiction, what it is, and how it manifests itself.

Sexual addicts are obsessed and preoccupied with sex, define everything sexually and sexualize all perceptions and relationships. However, sexual addiction is not a relationship but a lack of one—both with the object of gratification and oneself.

Like any other addiction, sexual addiction is mood altering and becomes a fix which is increasingly harder to satisfy. There are several different levels of sexual addiction, broken down in terms of seriousness and the effect on others.

Level one addiction, repressive sexual addiction, includes those who are obsessed with repressing their own or others' sexuality and is characterized by frigidity, impotence, obsessive sexual purity, religious sexual obsession, sexual anorexia, and treating others as sexual objects.

Level two, passive sexual addictions, is characterized by excessive sexual fantasizing, passive pornography, and voyeurism.

Level three addiction is characterized by acting out fantasies, excessive masturbation in private or public, exhibitionism, prostitution, active pornography, voyeurism-exhibitionism,

telephone sex or "New Age sexual freedom" in which a partner uses another to get a sexual fix.

Level four sexual addiction includes violent sexual addiction. The addict may become violent, engaging in child molestation, prostitution rings, rape, incest, sadomasochistic sex or other forms of sexual violence.

Sexual addicts don't necessarily progress from one level to the next; they may stay in one type of addiction. Serious sexual addiction can occur anywhere along the continuum.

While we know very little of the genesis of sexual addiction, we do know that addicts come from dysfunctional families in which they learn to treat themselves and others as objects to be manipulated for gratification, and dysfunctional families are the norm in this society. Studies also indicate a high incidence of sexual abuse in women who later become addicts.

Dysfunctional families are not the sole source of sexual addiction. Some religions are notorious for their obsession with and repression of sex. Because the things we try to repress become obsessions, obsession and repression go hand in hand. Also, society tends to treat women like useless objects. This gives approval for rape, incest, and other brutal sexual acts in which women are treated not as people but as objects of gratification.

## Holidaymakers Find Condoms In Hotel Rooms, Youth Hostels

By Patrick McDowell  
Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — Visitors thronging the Riviera in search of deep tans and summer romance are finding new standard equipment awaiting them this year — condoms.

Along with soap and towels, hundreds of hotels from Nice to Cannes are stocking a condom in every room as part of a government program to halt the spread of AIDS.

In addition, youth hostels and campgrounds along the coast are being equipped with machines that distribute condoms for free.

The idea is to get young people in the habit of safe sex.

"Summer is a time of greater sexual encounters, because people meet more people, feel more liberated, have more time," said Dominique Charvet, head of the government's anti-AIDS agency.

France has the highest per capita rate of AIDS in the 12-nation European Community. About 14,000 French citizens have died of AIDS and an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 are believed to carry the virus.

To curb it, the Agency for the Fight Against AIDS launched a \$500,000

condom-awareness campaign July 15.

About 500 hotels in the region are participating in the voluntary program to distribute 600,000 condoms during the summer. About 200,000 condoms are being distributed at youth hostels and campgrounds in coastal regions.

Annick Cangat, owner of the three-star Hotel Splendide in Cannes, distributes one condom per room.

"They can ask for more if they want, of course," Mrs. Cangat said. "So far, no one has. I think most bring their supplies with them."

Some hoteliers refuse to participate, saying the spread of AIDS would be better controlled by distributing information, not condoms.

"A condom is not a bar of soap," said Pierre Gouirant, director-general of the Hotel Westminster in Nice. "We shouldn't impose them on people indiscriminately. If people want condoms, they know very well where to buy them."

Hostel authorities report some young people have found alternative uses for the condoms.

"They put water in them and make water bombs," said Beatrice Philippi, who works at a Nice youth hostel.



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## Murder Grief In Dahmer Case Followed By Gay-Bashing

By Robert Dvorchak  
AP National Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee's Gay community was jolted with each grisly admission of murder by Jeffrey Dahmer, who told authorities he lured men back to his apartment, drugged and strangled them and cut up their bodies.

Now grief over the slayings has been compounded by a backlash since the killings were discovered. Homosexuals said they've endured tossed eggs, verbal taunts, telephone death threats and other harassment.

"People who hate the Gay community now know where we're located," said Scott Gunkel, 31, a bartender at a Gay club and president of Milwaukee's Lambda Rights Network, a Gay and Lesbian group.

A message on his answering machine Tuesday said: "You got what you deserved. You're going to get more of it. If you don't shut up, you'll be next."

Gunkel said the killing spree has hit the Gay community hard. "That's all everybody's talking about. He was stalking us. He used us as a feeding ground," he said.

Dahmer admitted killing 17 males. Some of the victims were Gay men lured by offers of money to pose for pictures. Dahmer, who told his family and probation officer he is homosexual, drank at Gay bars.

"He would always leave alone. He didn't mingle. Ninety percent of the time he didn't talk to anyone. Most of his contacts came outside the bar," said a worker at Club 219 who refused to give his name.

Dahmer told police that one of the 11 mutilated bodies found in his apartment was that of a deaf and mute man he met at Club 219.

Because of the slayings and the backlash, turnout is lower at the Gay bars south of downtown, homosexuals said. The industrial area, once called the "Gay ghetto," is becoming more upscale.

The slayings were revealed at a time when Gays face fears about AIDS and bitter struggles for equal rights. Wisconsin was the first state to pass a ban on discrimination against homosexuals in housing, credit and employment.

"The Gay community is going back into its closet. They don't feel safe anymore," said Larry Taylor of the local Black and White Men Together. "For him to come into our community to stalk and murder us, it's sickening. He has ruined and destroyed a lot of people's lives."

Interest in the case is so high that the biweekly Gay newspaper *Wisconsin Light* is printing a special edition this week for the first time in its four-year history.

"We've been telling people to protect yourself. Watch who you go home with. Watch who you talk to in bars," said Terry Boughner, executive editor.

"This guy took off after the ones in our community who were the most susceptible, the most vulnerable, the ones least able to defend themselves. He especially sought out Gays who were Black, elements of the two groups he hated most."

At least 11 victims were Black, police said. Dahmer is white. Many

people are questioning how the slayings could have gone on for years unnoticed, and some claim the police ignored calls from Blacks and homosexuals.

Three police officers have been suspended for failing to save the youngest identified victim, Konerak Sinthasomphone, 14.

The boy was seen May 27 staggering in the street naked and bleeding. Dahmer apparently convinced the officers that the boy was his lover and they were having a spat. Several Black residents who called the police said the officers told them to mind their own business.

Some said lifestyle traits may have contributed to the slayings. "Many people don't use their real names," bartender Gunkel said. "They don't have close contact with their families. They're somewhat transient. We have a hard time keeping track."

At C'est La Vie, another Gay bar, patrons are riveted to the television and shout "Turn it up! Turn it up!" when reports about the murders are aired.

"All of a sudden, friends that have been missing are dead. There's quite a bit of shock," said owner John Clayton.

### GET INVOLVED!

HEART STRINGS was the largest single AIDS fundraising event in Memphis history. It will return in April 1992 along with a 3-day display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. If you helped before, we need you now. If you wish you had helped, now is the time to step forward.

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## Arkansas Advisory Committee to Focus on Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights

After listening to presentations from various individuals and representatives from various organizations, the Arkansas Advisory Committee of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission decided to concentrate on Lesbian and Gay rights in 1992. Other issues presented to the committee included the Arkansas judicial system, children's rights and racial violence.

The six-member committee will gather facts on how the issue of Lesbian and Gay rights impacts on both children and adults and how it affects the administration of justice. A public forum will be held in the spring of 1992. The committee will submit a report of its findings to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Arkansas does not have a civil rights bill.

The executive director of The Women's Project, Suzanne Pharr, made a presentation to the committee. According to the *Arkansas Gazette*, Pharr spoke of Arkansas' sodomy law and the abuse of Gays and Lesbians at the hands of the police. She said, "This class of people [Gays

**"Gay men and Lesbians are attacked because even chickens attack and kill deviants among them."**

and Lesbians] are denied even the most basic rights to privacy." She spoke of Arkansas' sodomy law saying, "It's read as a reason to kill, basically."

The following is Pharr's presentation to the committee:

The Women's Project was invited here today because we have a ten-year history of working to eliminate sexism and racism. One of our major projects is to monitor biased violence against women, people of color, Jews and Catholics, Lesbians and Gay men. In this work, we keep track of the activities of organized hate groups such as the KKK and Aryan Nations, as well as individual acts of biased violence, and we organize community responses to bring an end to this violence.

In considering what to present here today, we thought about discussing the extremes of violence against women in the state: not only the battering, rape, incest, abduction and terrorization, but the fact that in 1990, 68 women were killed by men. Women's human rights and civil rights are violated daily because we are not given the right to live free of violence either in the streets, the workplace, or the home.

We also thought about discussing our concerns about the deepening of racism in the workplace as employers fight affirmative action plans, and hire people of color at the lowest level jobs with the least job security and benefits. Or our concerns about the current local movement to take away civil liberties—such as local recommendations to impose a curfew on teenagers in "specific neighborhoods," and those neighborhoods are in almost every case low-income and predominantly African-American.

But finally, we decided to talk about a class of people that has no protection under civil rights laws and are consistently denied equal access and protection: Lesbians and Gay men. Nationally, our ten percent represents some 30 million citizens who are denied rights to secured housing, to health care and spousal benefits, to trials by juries of our peers, to jobs without overt dis-

crimination and firings—simply because of the difference of our sexual identity.

Because there is a sodomy law in Arkansas that is specific to Gay men and Lesbians, this class of people, representing some 230,000 as ten percent of this state, are denied even the most basic right to privacy. The injustice of this law leads to further discrimination and violence because it helps shape negative attitudes toward Lesbians and Gay men. Fundamental civil rights are violated when citizens are not provided safety and are instead harassed by the very people who are supposed to protect them. We saw evidence of this absence of general safety when we provided a training on Lesbian and Gay issues to the police recruits.

While saying that "everyone deserves protection, no matter who he is," the recruits called Lesbians and Gay men "an abomination of God," said that if a man were in women's clothing, then he was asking to be beaten up, that they didn't want to deal with homosexuals for the fear of getting AIDS, and that of course Gay men and Lesbians are attacked because even chickens attack and kill deviants among them. A young woman in Little Rock was thrown up against a wall, publicly humiliated, and arrested for dancing with another woman at a dance bar. When two Lesbians were repeatedly harassed and their property destroyed by a man next door and they reported it to the police, they were placed under a restraining order along with the attacker.

Because there is no legal protection for Lesbians and Gay men, and in fact there is a law that actually increases discrimination and violence, Lesbians and Gay men throughout the state lose their jobs, their children, their safety and good health, their lives. Thus, when a man in Northwest Arkansas is taken out on a country road by two men, stripped of his clothes, stabbed four times, and left for dead with his throat cut, we know there is little hope for an exhaustive police investigation or a fair trial if the attackers are ever caught. Or when two African American Lesbians were arrested recently for allegedly killing a woman in the Delta, we know that the combination of racism, sexism, and rampant homophobia will block the possibility of justice at every turn.

We submit to you that every human being has a basic right to the expression of her/his sexual identity and the lifestyle and culture that accompany it—whether that identity is Lesbian or Gay, heterosexual or bisexual. As women should not be discriminated against because we are not male, neither should Lesbians and Gay men be discriminated against because we are not heterosexual. In this country there is a socially and legally enforced norm that is male, white, heterosexual, and able-bodied, and those who are not a part of this constructed norm require strong laws and even stronger vigilance in order to receive justice and equality.

A first small step toward developing equal protection under the law for Lesbians and Gay men would be for this Advisory Committee to hold hearings concerning lack of responsive or abusive response by the police to Lesbians and Gay men, and the subsequent fear that Lesbians and Gay men have about reporting violence against them. The second step would be the inclusion of sexual identity under Civil Rights laws. After this step, the really hard work of gaining true justice begins.

(We'd like to thank the Women's Project for providing us with this information. For more information about the Women's Project, refer to their listing under Community Groups in the Arkansas Resources Directory.)

## Greenwood Hollow Ridge

### Ozark Bed & Breakfast

Exclusive Resort for Men & Women

Hot Tub • Country Club Privileges

Rt 4 Box 155

Eureka Springs, AR 72632

(501) 253-5283

## State's Homosexual Youth Find Haven In LR Support Group

by Geoff Tucker  
Arkansas Gazette Staff

(Reprinted with permission from the *Arkansas Gazette*, Saturday, July 13, 1991.)

"Sarah" entered a hospital in January 1989 for treatment of depression. Sarah, now 20, had recently told her mother she was a Lesbian.

"I felt like I needed an unbiased and non-religious person to talk to," she said.

She has suffered from depression since age 12. A counselor at the hospital directed her to a support group for help.

In early 1989, the Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force had formed a youth support group in Little Rock.

About 14 people attended the first meeting in June 1989.

Six months later the group christened itself PALS—People of Alternative Lifestyles.

PALS members average about 17 years old. They help each other cope with their sexuality through discussion of issues.

The Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force provides adult sponsors for the teen group.

David Harris, 40, a decorations manufacturer and former schoolteacher, and Jennifer Chilcoat, 26, a librarian, are the current sponsors.

PALS now averages 22 members and meetings are held weekly.

In addition to the meetings and discussions, social events are planned—volleyball games, miniature golf, camping.

"Isolation is a problem because Gay youth have no contacts in the world who understand their problem," said Andy Humm, director of education at the Hetrick-Martin Institute for Lesbian and Gay Youth in New York.

Harris said the Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force received about 15 phone calls in the past six months from teen-agers across Arkansas "who would love to come to PALS meetings."

"For example, if you live in Mena and you're 14 and your parents don't know how you feel, then you're stuck. I've had parents call looking

for help for their kids, trying to find them some place to go."

"If I could have had just one person say 'Gays and Lesbians do exist. You're not the only one. It's OK,' that would have made a world of difference for me," said Chilcoat.

Harris and Chilcoat are the third pair of adults to be sponsors for PALS.

Harris said he works with PALS "to help alleviate some of the pain" for the teenagers. "I remember growing up and feeling so alone and different from everybody else."

Harris said it's easier to "hush up" such things in small towns.

And that's the reason the [task force] started PALS. To give a safe place for teens to meet others who feel the same," he said.

Chilcoat and Harris both said teenagers go through an evolutionary process as they deal with their sexuality.

Letting others know of one's homosexuality—or "coming out"—is especially difficult, they said. "It's a process you begin at some point and never finish really," Harris said.

Gay and Lesbian teens often lose families and parents after they've just come out and find families and parents among the Gay community. That's especially important when you're leaving high school or on your own for the first time and can't rely on your family," Chilcoat said.

Harris said social workers and physicians who are aware of the group occasionally make referrals to the group.

That was how "Sarah" learned of the group. Sarah grew up in a small town southeast of Little Rock. Her name was withheld from this story at her request—she fears people in her hometown would ostracize her younger sister, who lives there with their father.

Sarah now lives with her mother in Little Rock. Her parents are divorced. Her mother said she is happy Sarah has PALS for support.

Sarah is one of the teens who says she's benefitted from the PALS meetings.

"Anyone who counts in my life knows. I consider myself extremely fortunate."

## Dignity/Little Rock

Dignity/Little Rock is an up and coming organization. After a successful spiritual retreat in June, the group is looking forward to the Region VII Conference October 25-27, 1991. But their big news is the revival of the Dignity/Little Rock monthly newsletter. The group is particularly interested in attracting women to join them.

Dignity has a Mass the first Thursday of each month, a business meeting every second Thursday, a forum with guest speakers every third Thursday, and a social every fourth Thursday. All meetings are held at St. Vincent's Infirmary Medical Center in the AP&L Room of the Center for Health and Education, except for the Mass which is held in St. Vincent's Chapel.

For more information about Dignity/Little Rock, refer to the listing under Community Groups in The Gay Arkansas Resources.

## Travels With Your Aunt Who Needs Palm Springs Anyway?

by your very own Aunt Endora,  
Lady A.

One of the pleasantest weekends we have ever spent came at the beginning of August, courtesy of Greenwood Hollow Ridge Bed and Breakfast. It was on account of good things we had heard about Shirl and Maria and their five acres of comfort that we drove all that way to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, to see for ourselves (your aunt and her handsome traveling companion, tee hee).

The drive through northwest Arkansas appears lengthy on the map but was truly very pleasant. If one has the time, there are small attractions to be visited along the way and plenty of fine vistas and overlooks. We had never actually seen an atomic reactor before, it wasn't listed in AAA, but the lake it overlooked was much prettier. We didn't have time to find out what is what in Fort Smith, but we did seek out Ron's Place in Fayetteville, just to see what life is like. It takes a bit of doing, although Fayetteville has its pretty streets, to find Ron's, and we wish we could tell you what it looks like.

It opens much later than we could stay. It appears to be spacious, big enough for dancing and events, and is nestled behind Ron's salon. We stopped by to chat and found Ron very busy with his last customer of the afternoon (elbow deep in henna or something) and he could only holler a greeting. The two sweet young things in the front seemed quite immersed in the TV and really didn't care to visit at all. We hope to do better next time.

Driving in the mountains of Arkansas was very beautiful in the afternoon and the portents were all good when we reached Inspiration Point right at sunset. In these here hills every bend could be a postcard. Even as you approach the town, there are many motels but most of them are nestled in trees and some even have nice vistas of their own. Commercialism is a lot less than one would expect, and perhaps gentler (we were told that it takes an act of Congress to allow any trees to be cut down). We arrived just at twilight to Greenwood Hollow Ridge and met our innkeepers.

Eureka Springs abounds in bed and breakfast facilities. Greenwood Hollow Ridge lies off to itself on the way to Lake Lucerne—just within Eureka Springs, near to many of the country western/folk shows, but outside of the crowded areas. It sits on five acres, is very private, takes only Gay and Lesbian guests and is decorated simply and comfortably. It's kinda like staying with kinfolks—the best kind of kinfolks. We were shown to the largest unit, having kitchen, private bath and living room. Several other units are bedrooms upstairs which share a bath. There is a large hot tub, friendly animals and a world of information. A skilled innkeeper, Shirl is ready

with any kind of information about what to do and what kind of food is served where, but will allow guests to explore or just relax. We also experienced two breakfasts-without-end which were creative, plentiful and delicious. Vegetarian meals can also be provided.

After a moment to stretch and relax, our innkeepers showed us to a very fine Gay-owned restaurant, Cafe Amargost. Words fail to describe the quality of the food. Here's a hint, ask for the Chicken Pecangese [sic]. You may not get exactly that, you may have to do with almondine, but you will be happy. Prices are moderate to small splurge.

We had our first tastes that night of the two Gay/Lesbian hangouts in Eureka Springs. The Center Street Bar and Grill is more than the name implies. Gay owned and operated, it has a lower floor restaurant and an upper floor which features rock bands. Part of the mountain itself is exposed inside Center Street, the building actually straddles a hump of stone. If you go upstairs from the restaurant to the music room you will be crossing the entire narrow block and come out on the opposite street.

By the way, if you say "ground floor" in Eureka Springs you may get in trouble. The Historic Loop and downtown district are built in a steep valley which abounds in mineral springs. One hotel is seven stories tall and has a ground floor entrance on each floor, it's like that in Eureka Springs.

On the end of this same narrow block is Chelsea's Piano Bar and Restaurant. It is also two stories and has the atmosphere and musical ambiance of a vintage '60's coffee house. You might hear a keyboard/guitar duo or someone just out of the blue at the grand piano. That happened to us, but that's another story. It is very relaxing and laid back. It is also very romantic, especially as it gets later, to walk the steep, winding streets and windowshop with a nice somebody. Streetlights are present but not omnipresent and the night skies may be enjoyed in many areas.

Eureka Springs has many interesting structures, museums and attractions. Most prominent is the Passion Play and Christ of the Ozarks. This is a complex containing several separate attractions of its own and it too is set amidst natural scenery. We did not attend this time. Entertainment wise, there are several country western/folk shows in town—we even could have taken in an Anita Bryant show. No, we are not making this up. It was pleasant to realize that her show was the only one in town which felt compelled to give away dollar discount coupons at local convenience stores. We opted not.

There are various ways to experience life in past years in the area; a heritage village, a steam train ride and museums showcasing different time periods. For the most part, the older

parts of Eureka Springs are militantly Victorian. Many fine homes and many cozy cottages remain from this period. A lot of them retain, or have recovered, their original charm. Many of the multitudes of individual springs have interesting grottoes and stories of their own. Of the choices, we toured Rosalie, one of the gingerbreadiest houses on record. It is also for sale (as it is still a residence); there are a number of quaint homes available.

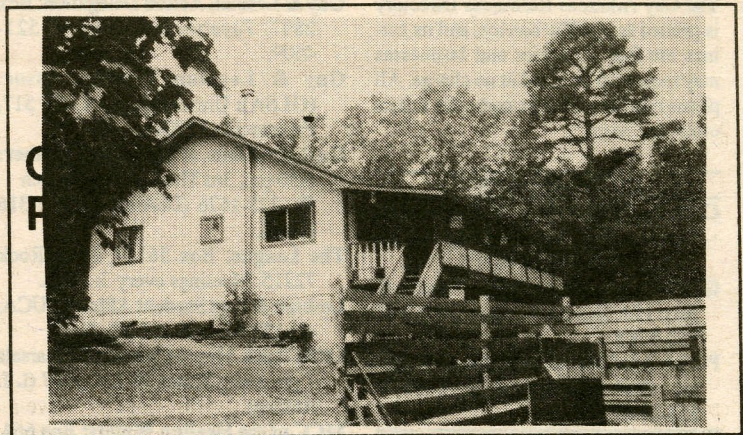
We took our trip back in time with a visit to the Miles Musical Museum, which we remembered from many years before. It had expanded its huge collection of mechanical and unusual musical instruments and has collections of many other unrelated things. It was kind of fun to see a Hammond organ and Leslie cabinet displayed with the 50 or so harmoniums and melodions and band organs—oh my! Mr. Miles is in his 80's and is still expanding his collection.

We had a snack at Ermilio's Italian restaurant, and hope to return for more, and that evening we again visited the two bars. Dinner at Center Street was very enjoyable; we did not remember tasting cream of artichoke soup before. It is a bit more expensive, but the escargot was also first rate (so we were pretentious, so get over it).

We took a whirlwind tour of several other Gay bed and breakfasts before leaving. Three of these are almost in a row on the historic loop. Cedarberry Cottage is furnished traditionally and is decorated very tastefully. Across the street, the Maple Leaf is furnished and decorated in a more contemporary style; the upper unit is very cool and cozy. We saw a relatively new one, the Arbour Glen. Its main attraction is that it overlooks a green hollow from both of its verandas—deer and other animals pass by during the breakfast hours. This one is aside from the street and a bit more secluded. All these feature special breakfasts and welcome Gay and Lesbian guests. We should note, it is wise when making reservations to ask if the owners are family. One motel has been advertising to attract Gay/Lesbian business but does not have the same reputation as the ones we visited.

To top the trip off, we stopped briefly to visit the Purple Iris Inn, between Eureka Springs and Inspiration Point. We were told what we would find. One of the hosts appeared and we said, "We were told to ask for Martha the Greek—Shirl the Lesbian says to say hi." Martha and Joyce then ushered us into their own living room, placed fresh lemonade into our hands and we had a lovely chat.

The Purple Iris is a motel with various sizes and styles of accommodations. The rooms are all different, comfortable and spotless. Though they have many types of guests, they host a Family Weekend each year when the whole place is reserved for "family."



Greenwood Hollow Ridge, Eureka Springs, Arkansas sits on five acres and serves only Gay and Lesbian guests.

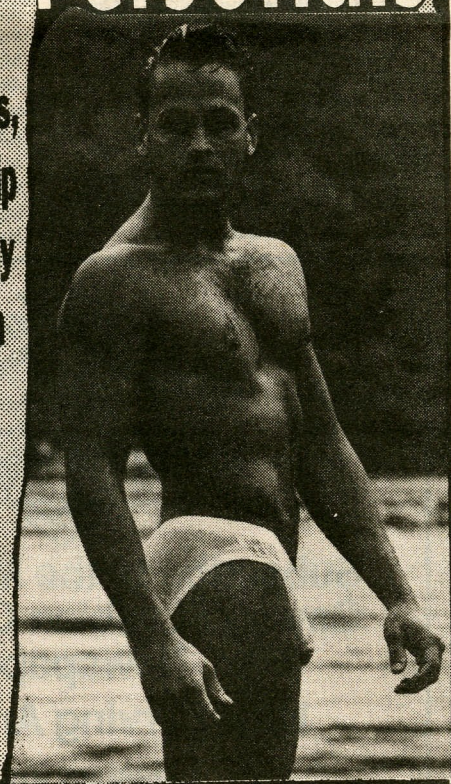
It goes without saying that the community is very close knit and communicates a good deal and that we did not get a chance to meet many of the business owners nor all of the bed and breakfast owners who are family!

After the second breakfast-without-end, courtesy of Shirl, we finally

had to leave Greenwood Hollow Ridge. She and Maria were busy with new improvements even as we said good bye. It was a most satisfying stay—when you go, look for the little humorous touches in the decor. And tell them Lady the A. says hi.

# TENNESSEE Phone Personals

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8

1-900-454-3401

.95/min

The Gay Arkansas Resources Directory is printed as a public service, and its listings are free. Agencies and businesses may request to be listed at no charge. All phone numbers are area code 501 unless otherwise noted.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

**Cedarberry Cottage Bed & Breakfast Inn:** Number 3 Kingshighway, Eureka Springs 72632 ☎ 253-6115.

**Greenwood Hollow Ridge:** Route 4, Box 155, Eureka Springs 72632 ☎ 253-5283.

**Purple Iris Inn:** Route 2, Box 339, scenic 62W, Eureka Springs 72632 ☎ 253-8748.

#### CARDS & GIFTS

**Wild Card!:** alternative cards & gifts • Bowman Curve Center, 400 N. Bowman, Little Rock ☎ 223-9071.

#### COMMUNITY GROUPS

**A.B.S.:** Naturist/nudist organization • Write A.B.S., Route 8, Box 264-A, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

**ACLU of Arkansas:** 209 West Capitol, Suite 214, Little Rock 72201 ☎ 374-2660.

**ACT-UP Little Rock:** 7 pm, 1st & 3rd Fri. • 1419 S. Taylor, Little Rock 72201 ☎ 661-9408.

**Arkansas Coalition Against Censorship:** ☎ 664-2810.

**Arkansas Gay & Lesbian Task Force:** Box 45053, Little Rock 72214 ☎ 666-3340. Board/membership meeting 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4th Thurs. Call to confirm.

**Arkansas Women's Political Caucus:** Box 2494, Little Rock 72203.

**The Body of Christ:** Box 1364, Little Rock 72203 ☎ 374-1693. Rev. Ron Burchman, Sun. Service 10:45, 318 Main, North Little Rock.

**Concerned Citizens for Lesbian & Gay Rights:** Political action, contact Mark Burnett ☎ 663-8609.

**Diamond State Rodeo Assoc.:** Box 806, Little Rock 72203-0806 ☎ 224-6119. Meetings 7 pm, every 2nd Sun.

**Dignity:** Box 3015, Little Rock 72203 ☎ 758-3512. 7:30 every Thurs., Chapel service 1st Thurs., St. Vincent's Center for Health Education.

**Gay & Lesbian Action Delegation:** Box 2897, Fayetteville 72701 ☎ 521-4509.

**Gay & Lesbian Student Assoc. (GLSA):** University of AR, AU 517, Fayetteville 72701.

**Gays, Lesbians, & Straights Together:** 6:30 pm, 3rd Thurs., U.U. Church ☎ 225-1676 (DeAnn) or 376-4316 (Tom).

**The League:** Box 56117, Little Rock 72215. Meetings every 3rd Sun.

**Lesbian & Gay Student Alliance: UCA,** c/o 123 West 21st, Little Rock.

**Little Rock Men's Chorus:** Rehearsals 7 pm every Thurs. ☎ 221-9007 (I. J. Routen).

**MCC of the Healing Waters:** Box 664, Berryville 72616 ☎ 623-1049 (Cheri) or 525-8629 (Jon).

**MCC of the Living Springs:** Box 365, Eureka Springs 72632 ☎ 253-9337. Services 7 pm, Bible Study 7 pm, Thurs., Elk Street.

**MCC of the Ozarks:** Box 92, Fayetteville 72702-0092 ☎ 443-4278.

**MCC of the Rock:** Box 1964, Little Rock 72203 ☎ 753-7075. Services 11 am, 2017 Chandler, North Little Rock.

**Northwest Arkansas Gay & Human Rights Coalition (NGHRC):** Box 3177, Fayetteville 72702.

**Officer's Club:** National leather assoc., Box 4392, North Little Rock 72116 ☎ 758-0835.

**Off the Wall:** Gay & Lesbian Bowling League, Mon. nights, 8:30 pm, Pike Lanes, North Little Rock.

**PALS (People of Alternative Lifestyles):** (Lesbian & Gay youth group ages 16-22) Wed., 6:45-8:15 pm, 210 Pulaski Street, Little Rock. Call AGLTF

**Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays:** Support, action, social group for all interested, Gay or not • 7 pm, 2nd & 4th Thurs., Unitarian Church, Minister's office, Little Rock ☎ 821-4865 (Shirley Hemdon).

**Phoenix Alcoholics Anonymous/Phoenix Al-Anon:** (Lesbian & Gay Outreach) Little Rock ☎ 224-6769 (Frank) or 821-4255 (Barbara). Meetings Sun., 5 pm & Wed., 8 pm, Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church.

**Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns, Synod of the Sun:** (AR, LA, OK, TX) • Rodger Wilson, 3235 Kimmore, Dallas, TX 75223 ☎ (214) 823-2317.

**Pulaski County N.O.W.:** Box 662, Little Rock 72203 ☎ 663-1333.

**Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN):** ☎ 375-5908.

**Triangle Book Club:** Monthly discussion 7pm, 3rd Thurs. ☎ 221-3565 (Bill) or 664-0817 (David) or 664-7565 (Alan).

**Unitarian Universalist Church:** 1818 Reservoir Road, Little Rock 72207 ☎ 225-1503.

**Women's Project:** 2224 S. Main, Little Rock 72203 ☎ 372-5113.

#### COUNSELING / HEALTH SERVICES

**Adult Counseling Services:** Box 2883, Hot Springs 71914 ☎ 623-1089.

**Adult Survivors of Incest:** (Support group sponsored by the Women's Project) ☎ 372-5113.

**American Life Resources:** (Financial Program for the terminally ill.) Gil Gilbreath, Box 1058, Forrest City, AR 72335 ☎ (501) 633-0554.

**Arkansas AIDS Foundation:** 5911 H. Street, Box 250007, Little Rock 72205 ☎ 663-7833. Board meeting 4th Thurs.

**Battered/Formerly Battered Lesbians Support:** Advocates for battered women ☎ 376-3219 or 1-800-332-4443.

**Lee Cowan, LCSW:** General counseling, grief & healing specialization, 1706 Magnolia, Little Rock 72202 ☎ 664-7252.

**Disabled Lesbians Support Group:** 4th Mon. each month, 7:30 pm, ☎ 372-5113.

**Gay Men & Lesbian Support/Therapy Group:** 5-6:30 pm, Tues., 210 Pulaski (free) ☎ 374-3605.

**Helping People With AIDS:** Box 4397, Little Rock 72204 ☎ 666-6900.

**Ralph Hyman, Ed.D.:** Psychologist specializing in Gay & Lesbian counseling • The Psychotherapy Center, 210 Pulaski, Little Rock ☎ 374-3605.

**Arden Kate, LCSW:** Feminist therapist, co-dependency, addictions, women's issues, Little Rock ☎ 224-0127.

**Lesbian Support Group:** 7-8:30 pm, 2nd & 4th Tues. ☎ 372-5113.

**Kathy Martone:** Individual, marital, relationship counseling, women's issues • The Victory House, 115 S. Victory, Little Rock ☎ 376-9529.

**Mary Ann Mattingly, M.S.:** Counseling for Lesbians • Gay men, & survivors of sexual abuse ☎ 666-1024.

**Pine Bluff HIV/AIDS Support Group:** 2500 Rike Drive, Box 1019, Pine Bluff 71613 ☎ 541-6000 (contact Carolyn) or 534-1834 (contact Lloyd).

**Psychotherapy Center:** Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group & HIV/ARC/AIDS Support Group, 210 Pulaski, Little Rock ☎ 374-3605.

**Washington County AIDS Task Force:** Direct services & education, Box 4224, Fayetteville, 72702 ☎ 443-AIDS (7 pm • 7 am).

**Dr. Kurt Wilhelm:** Counseling for Gay men/Lesbians/couples 1511 Center, Little Rock ☎ 378-0300.

#### HELP & INFORMATION LINES

**AIDS Information Line:** ☎ 666-3340 (Little Rock). 1-800-448-8305 (outside Little Rock), 6:30 • 10:30 pm daily.

**AIDS Hot Line:** ☎ 443-AIDS (7 pm-7 am).

**Arkansas Coalition Against Violence to Women & Children:** ☎ 276-1872.

**Gay & Lesbian Switchboard:** ☎ 666-3340 (Little Rock). 1-800-448-8305 (outside Little Rock), 6:30 - 10:30 pm

**Hate/Violence Hotline:** For collection of occurrence statistics only ☎ 1-800-347-HATE.

**Narcotics Anonymous:** ☎ 373-8663.

**National AIDS Hotline:** ☎ 1-800-342-AIDS, 1-800-344-SIDA (Spanish access), 1-800-AIDS- (TTY-Deaf Access).

#### LEGAL SERVICES

**Anne Owings Wilson:** Attorney-at-law, 804 N. Ash, Little Rock, 72205 ☎ 664-3537.

#### MEDIA

**The Lariat:** monthly newsletter of the Diamond State Rodeo Association, Box 806, Little Rock, AR 72203-0806 ☎ (501) 224-6119.

**Lesbian & Gay Directions:** monthly newsletter of the Arkansas Gay & Lesbian Task force, Box 45053, Little Rock, AR 72214.

**News of the Gay & Lesbian Community:** Arkansas Gay & Lesbian Rights of Fayetteville, Box 2897, Fayetteville 72701 ☎ 521-4509 or 443-0661.

**Ozark Feminist Review:** Women's newsletter • Box 1662, Fayetteville, AR 72702.

**Triangle Journal News:** Monthly newspaper published by Printers Ink • Box 11485, Memphis, TN 38111-0485 ☎ (901) 454-1411.

**Up & Coming:** Women's newsletter • Box 718, Fayetteville 72702.

**Women's Music:** Sun., 7-9 pm, KABF 88.3 FM.

#### NIGHT CLUBS / DINING

**Backstreet:** 1021 #Q Jessie Road, Little Rock ☎ 664-2744.

**Center Street Bar & Grill:** 10 Center Street, Eureka Springs ☎ 253-8102.

**Chelsea's Plano Bar & Restaurant:** 10 Mountain Street, Eureka Springs ☎ 253-6723.

**Christopher's:** Center & 6th (in the Little Rock Inn), Little Rock ☎ 376-8301.

**Court Garden:** 305 Garrison Avenue, Ft. Smith ☎ 783-9822.

**Discovery III:** 1021 Jessie Road, Little Rock ☎ 664-4784.

**Ms Febe's:** Center & 6th (in the Little Rock Inn), Little Rock ☎ 376-8301.

**Our House Lounge:** 235 Broadway, Hot Springs ☎ 624-6868.

**Ron's Place:** 523 W. Poplar, Fayetteville ☎ 442-3052.

**Silver Dollar:** 2710 Asher Avenue, Little Rock ☎ 663-9886.

**Village Landing:** 3028 N. 6th, Ft. Smith ☎ 783-9101.

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

**Ed Linzel:** piano tuning, piano & organ instructions ☎ 661-9961.

**Shields-Marley Studio:** photography, brochures, catalogs, etc. • 117 S. Victory, Little Rock 72211 ☎ 372-6148.

**Travel by Phillip:** Box 250119, Little Rock 72225-0119 ☎ 227-7690.

## Arkansas Calendar

- |             |       |   |
|-------------|-------|---|
| Sept. 1     | Sun   | Tea Dance to benefit The League, 4-9 pm, Discovery Women's Music, 7-9 pm, KABF 88.3 FM                    |
| Sept. 2     | Mon   | Alliance for Women's Concerns, 12:30-1:30, Student Union Room 301, Fayetteville                           |
| Sept. 6     | Fri   | Family, friends, significant others, HIV+, AIDS support group, 6:30 pm, 210 Pulaski (free), 374-3605      |
| Sept. 7     | Sat   | People Affected by AIDS Drop-in Center, 3-5 pm, AR AIDS Foundation (sponsored by AAF & RAIN)              |
| Sept. 8     | Sun   | Happy Hour to benefit The League, 5-9 pm, Discovery R.A.I.N. Careteam Training, 9-4:30 Lakewood Methodist |
| Sept. 9     | Mon   | Women's Music, 7-9 pm, KABF 88.3 FM   |
| Sept. 10    | Tues  | Alliance for Women's Concerns, see 9/2  |
| Sept. 13    | Fri   | Family, friends, significant others, HIV+, AIDS support group, 6:30 pm, 210 Pulaski (free), 374-3605      |
| Sept. 14    | Sat   | Helping People With AIDS  |
| Sept. 15    | Sun   | HIV Testing, free, anonymous, Call AIDS Foundation  |
| Sept. 16    | Mon   | People Affected by AIDS Drop-in Center, 3-5 pm, AR AIDS Foundation (sponsored by AAF & RAIN)              |
| Sept. 20    | Fri   | Happy Hour to benefit The League, 5-9 pm, Discovery AGLTF Rummage Sale                                    |
| Sept. 22    | Sun   | RAIN Day 6—in service & education 2-5, memorial & healing 5-6, Hot Springs                                |
| Sept. 23    | Mon   | Women's Music, 7-9 pm, KABF 88.3 FM   |
| Sept. 23-26 |       | The League  |
| Sept. 24    | Tues  | Alliance for Women's Concerns, see 9/2  |
| Sept. 25    | Wed   | Family, friends, significant others, HIV+, AIDS support group, 6:30 pm, 210 Pulaski (free), 374-3605      |
| Sept. 26    | Thurs | Heartsong Retreat #3—Subiaco Abbey  |
| Sept. 27    | Fri   | HIV Testing, free, anonymous, Call AIDS Foundation  |
| Sept. 29    | Sun   | Disabled Lesbians Support Group, 7:30 pm, Women's Project - 372-5113                                      |
| Sept. 30    | Mon   | AGLTF Board/membership meeting, 7:30 pm Unitarian Universalist Church (Call to confirm)                   |
|             |       | Arkansas AIDS Foundation Board Meeting  |
|             |       | People Affected by AIDS Drop-in Center, 3-5 pm, AR AIDS Foundation (sponsored by AAF & RAIN)              |
|             |       | Happy Hour to benefit The League, 5-9 pm, Discovery Women's Music, 7-9 pm, KABF 88.3 FM                   |
|             |       | Alliance for Women's Concerns, see 9/2  |
|             |       | Family, friends, significant others, HIV+, AIDS support group, 6:30 pm, 210 Pulaski (free), 374-3605      |



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## Leather Travelogue

by Vance Reger  
TJN Leather Columnist

Well my friends, I'm back for a few weeks, and have much to report in a limited space, so bear with me and here goes.

I went on vacation to the West Coast during the second half of July, and while there, I took in the Mr. Southern California Drummer and Drummer Boy contests. Winner of the Mr. Southern Cal title is Jeff Snyder, art director of *The Leather Journal*, and the Boy title deservedly went to Tony Klatt. Both shows were expertly produced by Brian Dawson (Mr. Drummer 1989) and Roger Earl (of Marathon Films) and overseen by Terry LeGrand (also of Marathon Films). I visited with many friends and comrades in leather doing my damndest to show that leather is alive and well in the South, as I promised. I was treated very hospitably by all, and even mentioned at the Mr. Drummer contest.

The weekend of July 26 found yours truly at the Seventh Annual Leather Weekend at Russian River, a resort community a few miles north of San Francisco. (During this time, I understand the annual Tsarus Auction went beautifully — congratulations to them!) Yes, there was a contest at the river; Mr. Russian River Leather and Boy were chosen, and several interesting-looking individuals were lurking about during the weekend. It was also a full moon. I did get a chance to do some politicking and visibility work, and have a great amount of fun at the same time. I recommend the river to anyone who needs a place away from the city to clear the brain of anxiety and urban tension.

Went back down to San Jose (below S.F.) with a friend of mine and his boy (Steve Lesh, Mr. Northern California Drummer 1990, and Shiloh) who entertained me excessively. Next day I went back to spend the night in San Francisco.

Then back to Atlanta for the Annual Hotlanta River Expo, until Aug. 5, when I finally got some time back home in Memphis. I did manage to appear officially at the Mr. Hotlanta Contest, and was treated beautifully. I really recommend this event in the best sense. I can honestly say that I saw more muscle per square inch that weekend in one place than I have ever seen anywhere else. Great for the libido!

The weekend of Aug. 9 found

Matt Presley and me up in Nashville for the Conductors Bar Night.

The weekend of Aug. 16 was spent at one of my favorite fund raising events of the year — the Fantasy Leather Weekend in Omaha, Nebraska.

Matt Presley and I (along with Amy and Leona of Omaha) added our presentation of a pirate fantasy to the list of the annual show, and it was met with acclaim by all. Thank goodness for spontaneity, Vincent Astor's suggestions, and a pratfall I managed to do landing on my ass with Matt on my shoulder.

I have been fortunate, to say the least, to have done as much travel as I did, and to see so much positive activity in our country for and by many leather communities.

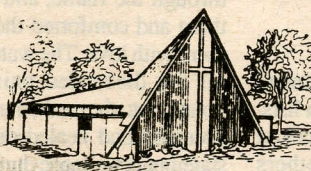
I have seen what appears to me to be a consolidation of communities; it would seem that interest in leather is dwindling, but everywhere I visited, it seemed to be concentrating in one place, rather than several bars, going to one or two. Clubs are just as active and visible as they ever were, perhaps more. A new attitude of leather is surfacing that is more community-conscious than in the past, and that is to our benefit, I think. The more visible people of leather become, the more accepting the rest of the Gay community becomes towards our preference. Then interest is cultivated, and the circle begins.

This is happening in our corner of the country as well, and I thank all who are contributing their efforts and time. I speak mainly of the consistently growing leather discussion group and the positive attitude from all. If you have been meaning to go, don't put it off. We've been making some great strides and have been growing closer as well. I wish to thank and applaud Matt Presley for his imaginative projects, and those supporting him. We're becoming a community, folks, and it can only get better when some others decide to become visible.

Perhaps the greatest example of what I believe makes up brotherhood happened last weekend in Omaha.

The final day, Sunday, usually has a survivor's brunch at a local bar. Finding the proffered victuals insufficient, we went across the street to a restaurant in search of substantial food. It began with seventeen of us, then groups kept wandering in until the entire fifty-five title-holders plus showed up, and we had a brunch blast going full force.

Then it happened.



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It appeared that a boy (who shall go nameless) lost his airline ticket in the move out of his hotel room, and mentioned it to a friend, who made a short announcement to the rest of us. In only five minutes from that instant, we raised enough to get him home. It averaged \$100 a minute. Nothing was said but a semi-tearful thank-you from the boy, and we went on with the party. However, three or four of us at our table had only to look in each other's eyes to feel the overwhelming energy present at that moment. This is what leather is about, folks. Unconditional support and love for each other, no questions asked.

This wasn't the only example I saw and felt that summer, but it was the most powerful. I have had

my faith in our brother/sisterhood renewed, and I hope you all get a good dose of it as soon as possible.

Coming events to attend are the Unity Run by Women of Leather and Wings. Call them for details, but I wouldn't miss this.

Aida is approaching, and I would ask your friendly Tsarus member about it. (This is the outdoor run, not the opera.)

And, of course, the International Mr. Drummer Contest in San Francisco (at which I will be applying for the Big Job), the week of Sept. 17-23. This coincides with Leather Pride Week, and the infamous Folsom Street Fair.

Until next time, my friends, wear your leather, be visible, and play safe, sane, and consensually.

Thought for the month comes

from Geoffrey Mains—

*"Leathermen lives their lives in a form of mental isolation from the mainstream of society that has been maintained by stigma. An almost universal condemnation of leathersex, more commonly understood only as sado-masochism, raises a barrier about their social life, companionships, and expectations. It does so in much the same way that Gay and non-Gay experiences have long been separated... Some men (and women) may dress in leather; these and others may play with it. But leather is no affectation; it is an expression of the soul."*

# Retreat for Catholic Lesbians

by Anita C.  
Special to Triangle Journal News

There was no burning bush, no male voice proclaiming, "Remove your shoes; this is holy ground," but we knew that the place we gazed upon was holy ground. The voices we heard were women's voices, voices of our sisters saying, "You are welcome here, just as you are." We had arrived at Rockhaven, at the Retreat for Catholic Lesbians; we knew that we had come home, and that it was good.

Each of us (there were thirty-four) had taken many journeys to arrive here—physical journeys from Iowa, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, Nebraska, Virginia, and Indiana—emotional journeys of fear and anger and joy and self-discovery—spiritual journeys of longing and searching and praying and peace, and we brought to our retreat the collected wisdom and woman energy of all of us to share with each other, with the earth, with the past, with the future. We came, in couples and alone. Catholics, catholics, nuns, ex-nuns, mothers (one of us had ten children), Mormons and all religions, to honor ourselves as Lesbians, to offer praise and to proclaim unity, to deepen our spiritual connection to the power within each of us, and to remind ourselves that to touch the Holy we must touch the depths of our inner beings and connect to the Holy in each other.

We had as our guide Tobias Hagan, a woman whose own journey of self discovery, enhanced affirmation of her connectedness to women, and deep sense of native American spirituality provided her with the power to lead us on our own journeys within and to enable us to empower ourselves.

Friday evening as we trickled in slowly, each one expressed an immediate at-home feeling. We knew we were welcome, and, as one sister remarked, "We really had no ice to break." Supper was a lively affair, and when we gathered that evening for inclusion ceremonies, we did so as a fledgling community. In pairs we introduced each other to the group, and I remember thinking as a sister introduced me and spoke of the particulars of my journey, that at last I was in a room where someone, many someones, were really listening and really cared. The first session addressed the joy of being a woman and the power that each of us has. Tobias linked power to the traditional concept of grace and one simple statement seemed to touch each of us. "There is enough power to share; you do not need to give yours away." We talked about keeping power and choosing relationships. We spoke at length in a later session of enumerating the gifts of womanhood—sensitivity, trust, nurturing, humor, patience, strength, sensuality, sexual

ity, intelligence, concern—so many gifts that we filled the wall with lists.

After the gathering, some talked quietly in the gentle dark, others swam, some spent time alone. What is really difficult to communicate as I speak of what we did is how we did it, how much love there was, how much humor. Perhaps I can just say that later as we swam that evening we removed more than our shoes and that the sounds of real womanly joy filled the hills around us. I watched peacefully those couples around me, holding each other and sharing this incredible experience together. I would be lying if I said that their love did not make me feel some of my own pain from past rejection, but truthfully no one was excluded from the bondings we all shared as we learned to love ourselves more deeply. The laughter was real, and the joy was not feigned.

Saturday morning the more hardy among us hiked or had an early swim and then gathered for a session on nonviolence. At first glance, the title suggested images of battering or abuse, but actually the session was positively concerned with the concept of the warrior woman who does not need violence, which is the outgrowth of anger, because she does not give her power away. It is this giving away of power that causes anger and rage in the first place. The warrior woman "holds her power and faces the world lightly." (*Starwoman* by Lynn Andrews) Using the work of Toni Wolff as a guide, we discussed the quadrant of feminine consciousness including both the positive and negative qualities of the Mother, the Amazon, Hetiara (helpmate), and the Sibyl. Each of us then named the two areas we most identified with and addressed our needs to balance all four qualities as well as to eliminate the negative elements which upset the balance. At the end of the gathering, we circled the room and named ourselves as one.

This discussion led quite naturally into the group sharing which we experienced in the afternoon. Two central issues seemed to be the focus of that sharing—dealing with anger and claiming ourselves publicly. That evening, one of the most moving moments of the retreat occurred—the ritual of healing. Before the ritual, each woman had gathered a stone to bring with her. On the table in the center was a bowl of water, a towel, and a lighted candle. We were directed to speak our names and then say where or from what we needed healing, whether fear or the need for external approval or lack of self-love or workaholicism or codependency or family tensions or the needs that fill the life's journey of the truly human soul. Then we were instructed to hold our stones in our hands and to push all the pain we felt into the stone, to pour it out of ourselves into the stone away from ourselves. Each of us then took our stones, washed the pain away with the water, dried them gently with

the towel, warmed them briefly through the flame, and then cradled them and comforted them and filled them with love. The water, filled with all the discarded pain, was then poured into the earth, our mother, who accepted and healed our hurts. The statements we made during this ritual: "I am Anita, and I need healing for... and I am healer," underscored the need to keep and to use our power within. We enumerated the qualities of the warrior woman: the courage to stay and fight, to not look for another to save the self, to establish healthy boundaries, to speak out, to protect self, to assert self-worth, to act with conviction, to take responsibility for life, to have freedom from bondage to fear, to not be "one up" on another, to take a stand for beliefs and values, to work for a goal, and to be confident.

As warrior women, then, we assembled on Sunday morning to discuss Lesbian ethics. As a stimulus for discussion we were given a chapter from the book *Lesbian Ethics* by Sarah Hoagland. Much of what we said revolved around the concept of attending as a way of interacting with others. Perhaps a quote from the chapter defines it best: "Enabling a friend's abilities, not protection of victims and control of situations, would motivate our interactions." This means that as we face situations together we steady each other and ourselves. By attending to another we add our energy to theirs. One member of the group said it very simply: "When I am in crisis or in need of making a decision and someone is attending to me, it changes nothing, yet it changes

*continued on page 25*

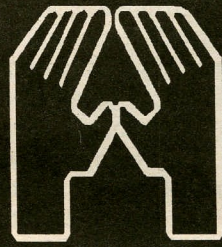
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# The Rock Story

by Rosebud  
Lesbian Retreat Participant

As in everything I do, I took the instructions "bring back a rock to the evening workshop" to heart. After a very relaxing afternoon of sunning, reading, and playing with the other women in the pool, I headed up to my room for a quick change and a walk. As I traveled down the narrow road on my way to the river, I began to take notice of the area around me; the scrub brush and poison oak lining both sides of the road; the partially clouded blue sky peeking through the enormous trees of all sizes and variety; and as I closed in on the area which leads down to the river, the sound of voices filtered up to me and I noticed a group of people, men, women, and children, playing and picnicking in the area I wanted to be. So I walked a little further down the path and about 30 yards along, it began to change and I remembered Sr. Lillian saying "sometimes it gets confusing which path goes where the further along you go." So I turned around to start back and as I did the trees began to sway back and forth with great exuberance and as I looked up I cried to them "I don't know what you're saying, I haven't learned your language yet!" As I spoke, the trees began to calm down as though they understood my willingness to listen, but my inability to hear.

I went back to the area where the picnickers were and walked down the hill towards the river. As I left their presence and energy, I began my prayer to Mother Earth to help me locate a rock most suitable for me. I prayed to Father Sun to shine on me and warm my heart that I might respond to the rock looking for me also, and I prayed to Grandmother River to calm me and help me to feel reassured that I am deserving of this. I knelt down by the water's edge and looked out over the river. As my eyes came back to the shoreline, I looked down and saw a rock sticking up about half way out of the mud. I gazed at it and realized it had a picture of some sort on it. I picked up the rock, held it in my hands examining it, walked over to the water and washed it off and as I looked at it once again, I noticed a rainbow being reflected from the sun through the water on the rock. I knew at that moment the rock was mine. I thanked Mother Earth, Father Sun, and Grandmother River for their generosity and support and walked back towards the retreat feeling very comforted and special.

Holding my rock in my hand, I turned it over and over and noticed the picture appeared to take on the shape of a bird, and one side of the rock was shaped like the slope of a mountain. Both discoveries seemed so important to me, the bird representing freedom and the ability to take to the air and soar (like an eagle) and the mountain, my most comfortable place to be, made me immediately think of my vision quest and I knew I

would do my quest in the mountains somewhere. I felt as though I had been given another gift as well.

Much later that same day, I volunteered to tag along while several others went to look for their rocks. I was filled with excitement and expectancy, I just knew this would be as special for them as it was for me and I looked forward to the seriousness and the reverence I felt would be forthcoming. Off we trudged down the same path I had taken earlier that day, down the same hill we went towards the same river and I'm still feeling the ceremony about to begin when I hear "Ooh, I don't want to walk through that sand" and "Well, here's rocks right here" and "What about these?" and "These will do." I laughed to myself about the simplicity of this

group's hunt and knew that even without the ceremony, their rocks would be just as special to them as mine was to me.

## Tobias

by Sue Cracker  
Lesbian Retreat Participant

We gathered beneath the shade of the fifty-five year old oak and wondered and listened to her teachings... Wondered at the strength of her trunk covered with a thick mantle of bark. We closed our eyes and envisioned her roots spread beneath us throughout the earth, gathering nourishment, strength and courage, and saw others driving through the earth's mantle and encircling the hot core, absorbing the radiant energy from Her center and transporting it upward to the canopy

above. It fell as sap from her leaves upon us and sweetened us.

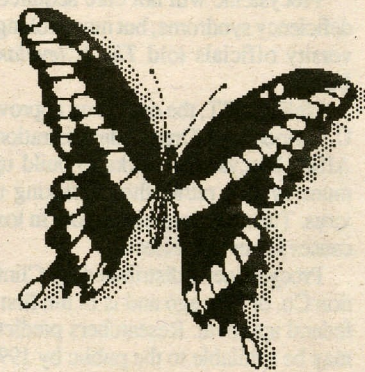
We lay in her shade and listened to her branches intertwine with the branches of surrounding trees in the grove as she lent support and strength to the entire forest of young and old whose roots were too shallow to support themselves.

We listened with our ears as she told our truths and our lives. We breathed deeply her incense, drank her water, and listened to the drumming and chanting of her rituals. We drank her medicine. We looked deeply into her eyes and saw the wisdom of a crone as she sat on her mound of dirt and poked the earth with her cane to show us with her words and her pictures.

She shared her power with us and we our powers with each other and when we departed our powers had multiplied such that there were not

enough baskets to gather the remains. Our hearts full, we carried our blessings with us to share in our communities and left the remaining blessings that we were unable to carry on the altar for the Goddess to distribute according to Her plan.

Blessed be.



# Women of Memphis

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## Human Testing Slated for New Anti-AIDS Drug

CLEVELAND (AP) — University Hospitals of Cleveland in September will begin human testing of a new drug designed to fight AIDS, a newspaper reported.

Procysteine will not cure acquired immune deficiency syndrome, but may prolong life, university officials told *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*.

Unlike AZT, the only drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to fight AIDS, Procysteine works to build up the immune system rather than attacking the AIDS virus. The new drug also is low in toxicity and causes fewer side effects.

Procysteine is distributed by Clintec Nutrition Co. of Chicago and is in the first stages of federal approval. Researchers predict the drug may be available to the public by 1993.

"If all goes well, and there's no telling what the tests will show, this drug may replace or complement the existing standard (AZT) in the next few years," said Dr. Michael Lederman, director of the Cleveland AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at University Hospitals.

The AIDS unit began studying the drug in February and will begin testing it on patients in September, upon receiving a contract with Clintec and with permission from the hospital's institutional review board.

The new drug enhances the ability of the immune system to fight off the AIDS virus by increasing the levels of glutathione in the cell, which inhibits the replication of human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS, said Dr. John T. Carey of University Hospitals.

AIDS activists have complained that the federal government takes too long to bring new drugs to the U.S. market.

"The United States has a long and slow process of drug approval," said Oscar Zambrano, a social worker at the clinical trials unit. "However, because of the urgency of the AIDS epidemic, the federal government may speed up the approval process."

Researchers said that while a cure for AIDS might not be discovered for some time, ways to treat the fatal disease are improving.

"I think the whole field of HIV therapy is in a turning point right now," Carey said. "The future of anti-HIV therapy is going to be in the approaches of a variety of drugs and combinations, and this drug (Procysteine) looks to be in those combinations."

In the study, anyone who has taken any other anti-retroviral drug, such as AZT, is not eligible. The 10-week clinical trials will involve a one-day hospital stay plus two weekly intravenous injections of the drug.

## Researchers Find Part Of HIV Could Be Vulnerable To Vaccine

RALEIGH (AP) — Part of the AIDS virus could be vulnerable to a vaccine, though Duke University researchers who made the discovery caution that it's a long way from being useful to patients.

In a July issue of the journal *Science*, the Duke researchers identified a portion of the virus that allows the penetration of immune cells, which protect tissues and organs. They said that same portion might offer a way to disable the virus itself either by a vaccine or drugs.

Bryan Cullen, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Duke University Medical Center and head of the research team, called the findings "another critically important step" in learning about how the virus spreads.

The AIDS virus has baffled scientists trying to develop a vaccine or drugs to fight it because it attacks the very cells that protect the body from infection. The virus also changes form so rapidly it has been impossible to develop an effective vaccine.

The portion of the virus identified by the researchers is called the "V3 loop," a small pro-

trusion of protein that sticks out from the virus.

The V3 loop was thought to be vitally important to the virus' ability to hide from the immune system because the loop constantly mutated and changed. But to its surprise, the group found that in most virus from patients, one area on the V3 loop was similar.

The group also found that the V3 loop is responsible for getting the virus into the cell. If the virus cannot get into the cell, it cannot spread.

"This information makes the V3 loop an attractive target for chemotherapeutic agents drugs because it is active at the surface of the cell," Cullen said. "Many drugs can't pass the cell membrane. If they are directed at the cell surface, they won't have to."

Dani Bolognesi, director of The Center for AIDS Research at Duke and head of the Central Immunology Laboratory, said the discovery might disclose the "Achilles heel" of the virus.

"The V3 loop is an ideal target because it displays itself to the immune system, then can mutate to escape like a chameleon," he said. The area on the virus "is a likely target for a vaccine."

## Society's Fears Help The Spread Of AIDS, Counselor Says

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — Fear of talking openly about sex, drug abuse and death has contributed to the rapid spread of AIDS in the United States, a participant in an AIDS counseling seminar says.

Society continues to debate the sexual content of television programs, movies and books, despite what some describe as a "sexual revolution" in the 1960s, said Karen Benjack, an Atlanta psychotherapist who attended a conference recently in Greenville, S.C.

Society is "sex phobic," she said.

"It's no surprise that HIV infection is ram-

phant, because society can't talk about sex," Ms. Benjack said. "Society uses the homosexual population as the scapegoat for all of its fears about sex."

Patients with AIDS often have underlying problems that aren't identified through normal counseling methods, seminar participants said.

The grief and bereavement processes the patients and their families go through are different because of the stigma associated with the disease, they said.

A survey of a select group of Atlanta patients diagnosed with the HIV virus showed that 65 percent of them had been sexually or physically abused as children, Ms. Benjack said.

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That history of abuse creates low self-esteem in many people, causing them to resort to self-destructive behavior that can put them at a greater risk of contracting AIDS, she said.

Such information can make a difference in the kind of counseling a patient needs, she said. She urged those who counsel AIDS patients to seek more family history.

## ACT-UP Protesters Burst Into CNN Studios

ATLANTA (AP) — Four members of the AIDS activist group ACT UP burst into the studio of Cable News Network's Headline News, but weren't seen or heard by viewers because a taped sports segment was being broadcast at the time.

The four men broke away from a public tour of CNN's Atlanta headquarters July 26 and made their way into the Headline News studio, said CNN spokeswoman Steve Haworth.

"They disrupted nothing," Haworth said.

The protesters disagreed.

"The anchor, Lyn Vaughn, went running from the studio, and we consider that a disruption," said demonstrator David Lowe.

The four were ejected by CNN security personnel, who turned them over to Atlanta police. They received warnings for criminal trespassing, but were not charged, Lowe said.

The protest was to "draw attention to the media's role in spreading misinformation and panic" about AIDS, ACT UP — the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power — said in a statement.



# Women's Equality Day Celebrated at MSU

by Lisa McGaughran  
TJN Contributor

Memphis NOW, the Women's Action Coalition, and the Women's Political Caucus sponsored a Mid-South Women's Equality Day celebration on August 25th at Memphis State University. August 26, 1920 was the day the 19th Amendment passed, giving women the right to vote after 70 years of lobbying. August 26th is the national Women's Equality Day commemoration each year.

Speakers representing NOW (National Organization for Women) included Memphis chapter president Leslie Hester and state chapter president Susan Mackenzie. Hester emphasized the event's opportunity to network between different women's political groups. Mackenzie spoke on the importance of lobbying to stop the nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court and to overturn the Court's recent abortion Gag Rule on clinics receiving the Title X funding.

Tables were set up with representatives from NOW, the Women's Political Caucus, Meristem Books, League of Women Voters, Women's Sexual Assault Resource Center, Center for Reproductive Health, Charlotte Harper's city council campaign, and

American Women in Radio and Television. Several candidates in the upcoming city election attended, including Sarah Kyle, Barbara Sonnenberg, Mary Rose McCormick, and Andy Alissandratos. Charlotte Harper addressed the audience with her goals.

Music was provided by a women's folk group called Liaison and a folk duet.

About 50 people attended, reflecting Memphis' usual apparent lack of political awareness and concern, despite current moves to implant another right wing, anti-choice justice in the Supreme Court by the Bush administration and despite nationwide occasional right wing media events such as the Wichita Operation Rescue demonstrations, aimed at carving away at women's rights to choose different types of health care, including abortions. Some of the same groups which are threatening choice rights are attacking Gay rights and companies which support Gay rights groups (i.e., a recent church ban announced on WCRV against Nutri-Systems "because they support Lesbian groups and pro-abortion groups.") And this low attendance comes too in a time when women still have not been able to pass an amendment granting equal rights. ERA efforts began in 1923,

when the amendment was first drafted by suffragist Alice Paul.

Privately, some feminist activists say that they believe people will not stand up for equal rights for women until women have lost all their rights. "I hope the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade* in one big piece, so people will wake up. I hope they don't overturn it piece by piece... because people are such sheep," said Wanda Mathis, a member of NOW's Mid South regional council, by telephone from Nashville recently. "They'll get up and do something when they're hit with a big blow all at once."

Paula Casey of the Women's Political Caucus and National Woman's Party recently cited the fact that a large sculpture of the faces of three suffragists presented to the Capitol in 1921 has remained hidden in the Capitol's basement despite activists' attempts to have it brought upstairs, as "an example of how sexist and backwards the attitudes towards women continue to be in today's world." Casey also pointed out that "only three percent of the public memorials in this country are dedicated to women." Casey recently helped produce a video on the history of the women's movement. The video, called *Vote 70*, was shown at the event.

# Women's Retreat

*continued from page 23*

everything." The development of the ability to attend to others is closely linked with the tasks of intimacy. Tobias reminded us that intimacy is necessary to our psycho-sexual maturity and enumerated the tasks of intimacy as negotiating and accommodating, not enmeshment.

The ritual of Sunday morning was the Cup of Blessings. Each woman wrote a list of blessings on a small sheet of paper. One by one, each stood and spoke aloud the greatest blessings she had received from our weekend, placed the paper in a plate and poured several drops of water into a goblet. When the goblets were full and each woman had spoken, two members of our group passed the cups of blessings around, and we drank from the fullness of the women who had shared this time with us. "I have been blessed by the wom-

anly beauty of all of you," one said. Another cried as she whispered, "I have learned to feel again." "I have been blessed by being reminded all over again how lucky I am that God made me Gay and that I have had the courage to be the way He/She made me," still another added. The water that was left was returned to the earth to bless and renew her as she blesses and renews herself and us.

And so, it was over. But it can never really be over, for we gave our energy to the center of that room for other women who came after us, just as we had received energy from those who had gone before. It can never be over for how could we ever forget not only the tears but also the laughter, and laughter there was, an abundance of it. It can never be over, for we were home in this place, where there were no confusing messages, only peace and welcome and belonging. It was a place and a time to grow strong, but we knew that we could not physically stay there—that it was a place and a time to keep within, to remember, and to use when we needed to be reminded that each of us, marvelous Lesbians that we are, have come from and remain in the great heart of the Holy, beloved, beautiful, and blessed. We all want to return next year and meet new women who come to join us. We want to return for renewal, for laughter, for sharing, for woman-energy.

We didn't need the burning bush. In fact, we didn't even miss it.

*Editor's Note: The Rockhaven Retreat occurred July 5-7 at House Springs, Missouri.*

# HEART STRINGS & Quilt to Tour

*continued from page 1*

second and harder look at the issue of AIDS and dramatically illustrate the enormity of the epidemic.

Act Three, which takes place at the Quilt display, is, quite simply, a call to action. Volunteer registration tables representing local AIDS organizations will be set up with brochures and staff to assist people in taking the next step of volunteer commitment.

"The two projects combined will be a catalyst for change," expressed Lemos. "In the past, people who have seen HEART STRINGS and the AIDS Memorial Quilt felt a personal need to take action against the spread of AIDS. The Third Act will provide an opportunity for people to participate, to get involved."

HEART STRINGS, a project of DIFFA, first opened in Atlanta to a sold-out audience in September, 1986. The more than \$120,000 raised that night went toward direct care for persons with AIDS and preventive education in the Atlanta area. Since then, HEART STRINGS has raised more than \$3 million for AIDS organizations around the country through the Atlanta shows and the 1989-90 national tour, which went to 26 cities.

Little Rock, Memphis, and Nashville have signed on to produce the show in the spring of 1992 although dates and venues have not been finalized. All three hosted HEART STRINGS during the 89-90 tour.

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was launched in 1987 as



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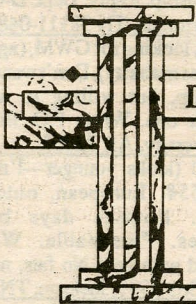
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a memorial for those who have died of AIDS. Today the quilt is comprised of more than 14,000 panels — each one remembering the life of someone who has died of AIDS. The NAMES Project Foundation displays portions of the Quilt across the country and overseas. It was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988, and in 1990, *Common Threads*, a documentary about the AIDS Memorial Quilt, won the Academy Award for "Best Feature Documentary."

"We realize this is an ambitious

project, but we're confident our goals are within reach," said David Sheppard, Executive Producer of HEART STRINGS. "Response from the last tour was so overwhelming that even more cities, volunteers, and corporate sponsors asked to become involved in this year's event.



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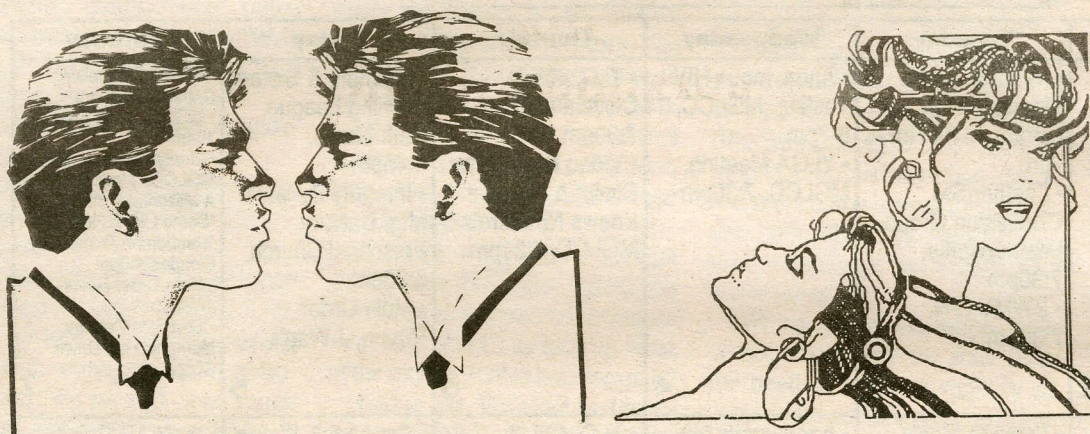




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