

## Community Center Receives IRS Tax Exempt Status

By Allen Cook

After three years of applications and rejections, bureaucratic hurdles to overcome, and lots of frustration, the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) has finally received approval of its Internal Revenue tax-exempt status.

The status, termed a 501 (c)(3) after the statute section and paragraph, establishes the Center as a non-profit organization and allows donors to deduct their contributions from their federal income taxes.

In addition, the 501 (c)(3) status allows the Center to apply for special postal rates and avoid state sales taxes in purchases.

The status designation was made retroactive to tax filing year 1993.

According to MGLCC board member Charles Butler, who spear-

headed the application process, the application is a formidable process.

Butler said the application was actually begun in 1991, but was closed when no response was received by the IRS for clarifying information.

Typically, when an application for tax-exempt status is received, the IRS requests additional information—sometimes several times—before it makes a determination.

A second application was filed in August of 1993 after the Center determined to establish itself as an "educational" organization as opposed to a "social" one in order to gain the status.

Butler feels that the IRS agent assigned to the MGLCC application may have been homophobic or was prejudging the case.

*continued on page 9*

## State Facing Anti-Gay Ballot Initiatives This Fall

By Kim I. Mills  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—A year ago, hundreds of thousands of Gay people marched on the nation's capital to demand equal rights, seeking to shatter stereotypes of homosexuals as strange, perverted and predatory.

"A simple matter of justice" Gay men and Lesbians declared as they demanded legal protection from discrimination in jobs, housing and everyday life.

But when they returned home to America's heartland, many found themselves the targets of ballot initiatives, inspired by the Christian right, to strip civil rights protections won over the last 25 years. And now

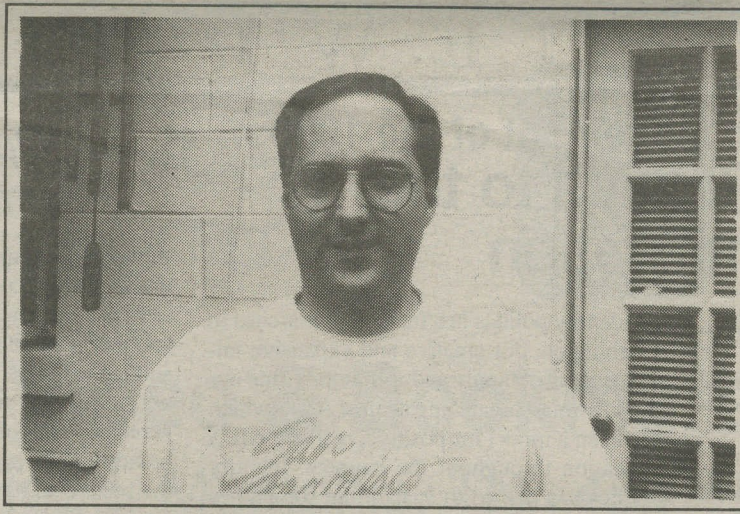
they've been put on the defensive.

Some conservative Christian leaders are collecting signatures in at least seven states for ballot referenda that would repeal or block laws to prohibit discrimination against Gays and Lesbians.

Some of the measures go beyond general references to homosexuals, citing bisexuals, transvestites, transsexuals and pedophiles. A measure in Washington state would ensure that no public school student is taught that homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality or transvestism are "presented, promoted or approved as positive, healthy or appropriate behavior."

An initiative in Idaho would force libraries to permit only adults to see

*continued on page 27*



Rev. Jim Hawk, founder of the Stonewall Mission Church in Nashville, will be guest speaker at a Memphis Pride, Inc. fund-raiser May 7 at MGLCC.

## Sister Spirit Founders and Opponents Report Fund-Raising Success

OVETT, Miss. (AP)—The Lesbian founders of Camp Sister Spirit say they collected \$10,000 during a recent fund-raising trip to San Francisco, money they plan to spend in part on security at the feminist retreat.

"I feel more empowered," retreat co-founder Brenda Henson said of the March 31-April 7 trip. "Just to know that you've got that support—we needed that."

Brenda and Wanda Henson, who consider themselves married, spoke on San Francisco radio stations, in churches and at a benefit dinner held in their honor, among other activities.

The \$10,000 came from a combined effort of about 30 San Francisco community organizations, Brenda Henson said. The San Francisco-based Prairie Fire Organizing Committee was the main group sponsoring the Hensons' visit.

Camp Sister Spirit has been the center of local debate since November 1993. The Hensons are converting a 120-acre pig farm in rural Jones County, near Ovet, into a feminist educational and cultural retreat.

The two have been frequently harassed, citing a mailed bomb threat

that has sparked an FBI investigation, phoned death threats and a dead dog's carcass left over the mailbox at the retreat's entrance.

Brenda Henson said some of the funds from the California trip would be used to add more alarms, barbed wire fences and an emergency generator among other things.

Mississippi for Family Values, the group opposing the camp's presence in Ovet, has raised about \$11,000 to fight the retreat, said James Hendry, one of the group leaders.

Currently, the fund is being used to pay attorneys representing 11 neighbors suing Camp Sister Spirit in federal court on the basis that its presence as a retreat constitutes a nuisance.

Mississippi for Family Values will hold a second fund-raiser May 14 in downtown Ovet, Hendry said. The first was held in March at Glade Elementary School in rural Jones County.

"This will be real informal. It'll only last a couple of hours," Hendry said. "It's mainly to keep people informed about what is happening, but we also plan to take donations."

## Court Rules Atlanta Domestic Partners Plan Unconstitutional

ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta officials say they will appeal to the Georgia Supreme Court a reported Superior Court ruling that the city's controversial domestic partners ordinance is unconstitutional.

Judge Isaac Jenrette will not officially enter his written ruling until May, but has told attorneys for the city he has decided the law is un-

constitutional, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported.

The law allows city employees and their unmarried partners to register as domestic partners and receive city insurance benefits.

The judge ruled "the domestic partnership ordinance was outside (the city's) authority under the municipal home rule act and the Geor-

## Doctor Writes of AIDS In Small Town

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (AP)—Dr. Abraham Verghese says AIDS is as real to the people living in the hills of Appalachia as it is to the residents of New York City's high-rises.

Verghese learned that firsthand during his years as a physician in Johnson City. Now he has chronicled the years he spent as a doctor in Johnson City in his book, *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story of a Town and its People in the Age of AIDS*, published recently by Simon & Schuster.

"I think a story like this set in a small town is somehow more real to people than when they read about AIDS in New York," he said. "I think everybody identifies with small-town America."

Verghese completed his internship and residency at East Tennessee State University's James H. Quillen College of Medicine. After a fellowship in Boston, Verghese returned to Johnson City in 1985 as a staff member at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Mountain Home, and an assistant professor at the college of medicine.

By the time he left Johnson City in 1989, Verghese had 100 AIDS patients, ranging from Gay men to hemophiliacs to a wealthy elderly couple from Kentucky, the victims of a tainted blood transfusion.

"I didn't realize until I left Johnson City how fascinating this story is to everybody," Verghese told the *Johnson City Press*. "I thought it was uniquely our story, but it really is a universal story."

"I think everybody can identify with the town and with mothers, with daughters, with parents, with pain and with heroism. These are all features of everyday life everywhere."

The book has been picked up by Vintage for a paperback release, as well as a Book-of-the-Month Club alternate selection.

11 Child Custody Battles

19 Black, Gay and Female Adds Up to Stresses

25 Miss Carlisle and Miss Fleming New Fiction

28 Will Hawaii Offer Gay Marriages?

Plus Local News National News Deep Dish & More!

## The Gay and Lesbian Movement of the 1990s: From Identity Politics to the Politics of Identification

By Becky Thompson

*The following was delivered as a speech at last month's BGALA rally held at Memphis State University campus March 29.*

In Henry Louis gates' visionary editorial in the Sunday *New York Times* (Mar. 27), the chair of the African-American Studies Department at Harvard University challenged us to move from "a politics of identity" to what he calls "politics of identification." Identity politics, he writes, "starts with an assertion of collective allegiance. It says: This is who we are, make room for us, accommodate our special needs, confer recognition upon what is distinct about us."

For Gay men and Lesbians, identity politics asserts that we see each other and that this collective sight is beautiful. Anyone who has been to a Gay pride march in San Francisco or New York knows that no ones does it better than we do when it comes to having a celebration, dressing with distinction, and creating new rituals as we two and three-step our way through life.

Identity politics has fueled our marches in Washington, our creative and expansive understanding of family and community, and our life-affirming organizing against AIDS which has been a model for positive, realistic AIDS education throughout the country. Identity politics has helped to sustain the sometimes flamboyant and always gutsy art, the poetry, screen plays, novels, dance by Gay men and Lesbians; those who graced us with their work before we talked in terms of "identity politics" and since. All of us would truly be impoverished without the writings of Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Joseph Beam, Audre Lorde, Lorraine Hansberry, Barbara Smith, Gloria Anzaldua; the music of Luther Vandross, Peter Allen, k.d. lang, Ma Rainey; the dance of the genius choreographer Bill T. Jones, Alvin Ailey; the athleticism of Martina Navratilova, the paintings of Leonardo daVinci and Michelangelo, and the list goes on.

If this were not enough, Gay men and Lesbians, historically, have also been at the forefront of progressive political change in this country. In the late 1970s, Harvey Milk be-

*Opinions expressed in editorials and commentaries are those of the authors*

came the first openly Gay official elected to the San Francisco City Council and, in the process, changed the course of history as he drew together a coalition of Asian, Black, Latino, and white voters; young and old voters, those new to politics; and those with decades of experience — all of whom worked together for broad-minded political change in that bay to the breakers city. An accurate telling of the history of community organizing in the United States would be sadly incomplete without attention to the willingness of Barney Frank to speak up as a Gay legislator; to the pioneering insight and creative wisdom of the founder of the Lesbian archives in New York, Joan Nestle, whose early understanding of U.S. politics came out of lessons she learned as a white Jewish Lesbian who went south during the civil rights movements. Likewise, any proper history of the Black Power movement, the feminist movement, the movement for fair and decent health care, prisoners' rights, and the rights of immigrants could not be told without celebration of Angela Davis' political vision and oratory brilliance. The list of Gay and Lesbian progressive, political change agents is long and it continues. It is for these and other reasons that this collective recognition is truly a cause for celebration and why I, as an anti-racist Lesbian teacher and writer, am proud to name myself and feel blessed to be part of the Gay and Lesbian movements. There has not been one moment since I came out as a Lesbian in 1979 that I wished I was straight. That is not to say that there have not been hard times. Many of us who speak our names with clarity face retaliation that has been fueled by bigotry and ignorance. But I feel joyful about my life as a Lesbian. As the Native American poet and novelist Paula Gunn Allen has documented, historically Gay men and Lesbians have been a proud, courageous, zany, and loving people. Identity politics have highlighted these truths and encouraged us to recognize each other and our eclectic, expansive, innovative, and remarkable heritages.

And yet, this collective recognition is not enough. We must, in the words of Henry Louis Gates, be willing to move from identity politics and the affirmation that engenders, to a politic of identification that defies neat racial and sexual divisions and unidimensional political alliances. The truth is that being Gay or Lesbian does not, itself, ensure and informed consciousness about race, class and gender.

The Gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe's racist depictions of Black Gay men and the Lesbian-organized cruise ship vacation brochures that advertise a sea of white faces are but two of many examples of where claiming one marginalized identity, namely being Gay and Lesbian, solidifies the maintenance of racism. Our potential as Gay people requires moving beyond homogeneous racial communities. It requires us to ask, whenever we see homophobia, how racism or sexism may also be involved. The bashing of Gay men is as much about heterosexist bigotry as it is about the maintenance of patriarchy as the bashers try to stomp out men who are willing

to gender bend and break out of the confines of a rigid masculinity. For the white Lesbians and Gay students, a politic of identification might include attending Black Student Union meetings, taking African-American Studies courses, or refusing to join or maintain membership in a racially exclusive country club. Apartheid anywhere is an affront to humanity. For the Black, Asian or white Gay men, please take care not to let your sexual identity fuel sexist behavior and exclusions. Gay men and Lesbians have worked closely together historically, but our histories are also very different. Being Lesbian does not protect women from rape, poverty, being silenced in class, having to prove, over and over again, our worth as scientists, teachers, and jet pilots. Men, both Gay and straight, are those who must stand against these injustices.

For the heterosexuals in the crowd, might I suggest, for example, telling your relatives that you are Lesbian or Gay during the family's next gathering this year. See how that goes. This experiment may well illuminate the consciousness raising that might need to occur in your family to make any way for a cousin, sister or uncle who is, in fact, Gay. This ritual of inclusion can also be a powerful preventative medicine against the ravages of loneliness, isolation, and self-doubt at the root of the outrageous suicide rate among adolescent Gays and Lesbians. We know that one out of three suicide attempts among this age group is Gay-related, a statistic that both heterosexuals and Gay men and Lesbians can and must stop.

Conscience is not on a gene. It is a product of what we teach each other. You don't need to be Gay or Lesbian to stand up against homophobia. In fact, sometimes the most effective educators about heterosexism are straight people. Seize the time.

As a third ritual of inclusion, look around and see who your friends are. Are they mostly all like you in terms of class, sexuality and race? What would it take on your part to make that different? Differences between us spark the imagination, our vision, and out sense of what is possible.

This heterosexual preening is all about fear. The truth is that sexuality is an expansive and ever-evolving capacity. Chances are, most of us are bisexual if left to our own devices. Heterosexist assumptions, assaults, and policies are so much about fear of sexuality in general. In this way, standing up against Gay bashing and bigotry is a way of standing up for the promises of sexuality in general that imaginative, creative and exciting capacity for the erotic that lives inside all of us. In this way, heterosexuals who support Gay rights are, in fact, supporting themselves, ourselves, all of our selves.

Along with the powerful and empowering chant of the 1990s "We're here. We're queer. Get used to it", may I offer up, "We're in gear. We have no fear. Let's get on with it." This chant makes room for all of us.

And we will need all of us to move forward.



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**Advertising Information:** Advertising information is available by calling or faxing (901) 454-1411 in Memphis.

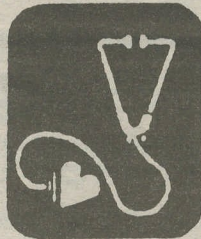
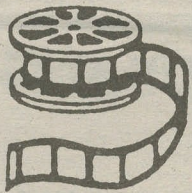
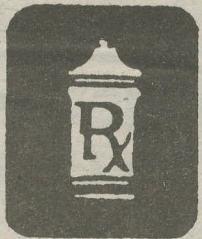
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*The Triangle Journal News is a member of The Associated Press.*

**Deadline for June 1994 TJN: May 15**

**Publication Date: May 27**

Mail or Fax news releases, letters, calendar items, or contributions to: TJN,  
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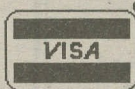
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## Ten Members of Gay Rights Group Elected as GOP Delegates

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — At least 10 members of the Utah Log Cabin Club, a Republican Gay rights organization, have been elected as delegates to Utah state and county GOP conventions.

"The main goal is to get our

party's ear, to let them know we're out here and who we are," said club President Chris Ryan, who was elected a delegate to the Salt Lake County GOP Convention. "It's a first step, a tiny one, but it's a start."

Parties elected thousands of del-

egates at neighborhood meetings held in voting districts throughout the state. Democrats and Republicans each try to fill the slots for about 2,500 state delegates.

Traditionally, Gay and Lesbian activists belong to Utah's minority party. The group Gay and Lesbian Utah Democrats has been active for several years.

"We'll fight against these people to the bitter end," said Gayle Ruzicka, president of the conservative Utah Eagle Forum. "They took us by surprise, but we'll be looking out for them now... They should support the platform, period. And if they don't, the party will rise up and do something about it."

State GOP officials do not discourage Log Cabin's efforts, said party chairman Bruce Hough. But some do suspect the group is interested more in promoting an agenda than electing Republicans.

"This is paradoxical and makes no sense at all," says Hough. "If you want to be Republican, be Republican. But why set yourself apart? A person's sexual orientation has nothing to do with the politics of the Republican Party."

The 150-member state Log Cabin Club supports Gay and Lesbian rights including legal recognition of same-sex marriages and Gays in the military, but the members tend to share their party's view on crime, abortion and parental choice on schools.

"I don't want conservative Republicans like Eagle Forum telling the state party what Gays and Lesbians are all about," said Ryan, a 28-year-old Navy veteran who volunteered for Sen. Orrin Hatch's re-election campaign.

The Utah group is one of 33 state chapters of the national federation, which has 8,000 members. Ryan founded the state chapter in 1993, after the Clinton Administration compromised on its election promise to allow Gays in the military by adopting the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

## Judge Grants Injunction in Suit Challenging Military's Gay Policy

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge ruled that six homosexuals who sued over the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy cannot be kicked out of the service until the case is decided.

U.S. Judge Eugene Nickerson issued the ruling Monday on behalf of five men and a woman who challenged the constitutionality of the policy on March 7.

The policy allows Gays to serve in the military as long as they are discreet about their homosexuality.

One of the plaintiffs, Coast Guard Petty Officer Robert Heigl, was notified last month that he would be discharged. The others feared that participating in the case could itself get them thrown out of the military.

"There is a serious question as to whether a regulation goes beyond what is reasonably necessary to protect any possible government interest when it inhibits six service members from continuing to speak in court to make a constitutional challenge," Nickerson said.

Under the new Pentagon policy, recruiters are not supposed to question men and women about their sexual orientation, and military officials are not supposed to try to ferret out suspected homosexuals.

The lawsuit alleges the policy violates homosexuals' right to free speech and equal protection under the law and is no better than the outright ban that preceded it.

The plaintiffs are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Two are on active duty; the rest are reservists. No trial date has been set.

The Justice Department did not return a call seeking comment.

"Today's ruling guarantees that these six individuals will be able to continue serving their country until we have the chance to prove that the law and regulations are unconstitutional," said William Rubenstein, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

## A Free-Speech Group Wants More Respect for Constitution

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — A free-speech organization named for Thomas Jefferson wants San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan to show a little more respect for the Constitution.

Jordan and Attorney General Janet Reno were among seven winners Wednesday of the 1993 Jefferson Muzzle awards for curbing free speech.

The nonprofit Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression singled out Jordan for removing a clergyman from the city's human rights commission for saying he believes the Bible says homosexuality is immoral.

Other winners named on the 251st anniversary of Jefferson's birth included:

—Attorney General Reno, for pushing for greater federal regulation of TV violence.

—The Bradford County, Fla., Board of Education for barring Miss America Leanza Cornett from using the word "AIDS" in talking to students in 1993.

—The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, for declining to carry AIDS-prevention advertisements because of their double-entendres.



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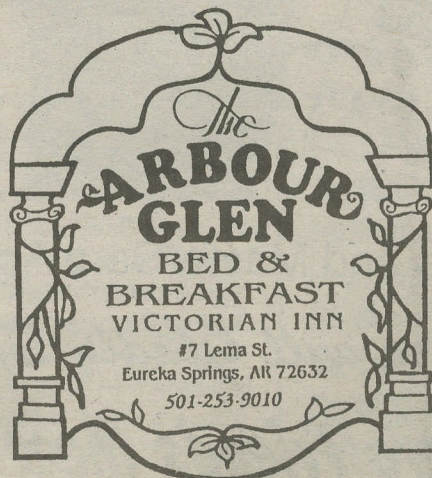
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## Russian-American Gay Couple Rejected at Wedding Palace

By Julia Rubin  
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Robert Filippini and Yaroslav Mogutin say they're breaking new ground in Russian-American relations. But there are some relations Russia isn't ready for.

On Apr. 12, authorities turned down the men's application for marriage.

The couple had arrived at Wedding Palace No. 4 clutching bouquets of flowers and their application for a two-groom wedding. But they didn't really expect the application to be accepted.

"The main thing is to draw attention to the problems of homosexuals in Russia, protest the politics of sexism and show the strength of Russian-American ties," Mogutin said.

The couple's visit to the marriage authorities came a year after Russia lifted a Soviet-era law that had made male homosexuality a crime punishable by up to five years in prison.

Since then, Russia's few Gay activists say discrimination has been rampant and Gay issues remain in

the closet.

Mogutin, a free-lance journalist who turned 20 on Apr. 12, and Filippini, a 41-year-old artist from New York, were ushered into the official registration room, where pictures of smiling brides and grooms line the walls and photographs of wedding cakes cover the table.

Reporters mobbed the tiny room as Karmen Bruyeva, director of the Wedding House, told the couple she could not accept their application. The Russian Code on Marriage and Family, she said, describes marriage as "a voluntary union of a man and a woman."

"I'm pretty broad-minded myself," Bruyeva said later. "But I'm afraid what they want is not possible under Russian laws."

Bruyeva advised the men to go to Parliament instead and get the law changed.

"We are disappointed, but not daunted," Filippini said afterward.

"We'll consult with friends, and see whether we should really try to draft legislation."

Filippini and Mogutin, who already have exchanged rings in a private ceremony, still plan a big

wedding party and a honeymoon in Europe.

One friend attending the registration was Evgenia Debryanskaya, director of the Triangle Association, Russia's first nationwide Gay advocacy group. She said the case was important "because it illustrates the absence of legal and social guarantees for people in homosexual families."

Russian Gays and Lesbians face discrimination getting housing, jobs, inheritances, insurance and adopting children, she said.

Debryanskaya said her group would help Filippini and Mogutin if they try to draft legislation.

But Lisa Granik, another friend of the grooms and an American lawyer specializing in Soviet law, questioned whether Gays fighting for their civil rights should expect much from laws.

"The law in Russia right now is really irrelevant, and the question is how (homosexuality) is accepted in society," she said. "There they've got a long way to go."

## French PWA Going Home, Won't Be Allowed To Return

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A chiropractor who returned to his native France Apr. 14 to visit his mother would like to come back to the United States, but probably won't be allowed to do so.

Fabrice DeSchryver, who has AIDS, boarded a plane to visit his recently widowed mother. With few exceptions, U.S. law does not permit foreign nationals with AIDS to enter the country.

"I fell in love with this country," DeSchryver, 34, said. "But this country doesn't want me."

DeSchryver, who is Gay, came to Kansas City in 1983 to study at Cleveland Chiropractic College. He became involved with a man he met while studying, and his lover developed AIDS in 1988. A year later, he died.

"I took care of him. I loved him — I still do. His mom is like my mom," DeSchryver said. "I want to be buried next to him in Iowa."

DeSchryver learned a couple of years later that he, too, had contracted AIDS. He believes he was infected in the United States.

Wherever he was infected, DeSchryver has lost his chance to

stay in the United States.

In 1987, Congress ordered that AIDS be added to the list of dangerous contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis, that the Immigration and Naturalization Service uses to exclude noncitizens from the country.

"It's unlikely (DeSchryver) will be able to get back in," said INS spokesman Rick Kenney.

Kenney said the Public Health Service, the attorney general's office and members of Congress are reviewing whether the ban on immigrants with AIDS should be lifted.

Just raising the possibility generates intense disputes, he said.

"There's so much opposition to its removal, they would never be able to change the rule until so many people stopped opposing it," Kenney said.

DeSchryver was in the United States under a temporary work permit that expired last week. He had hoped to apply for permanent residency, but his condition would prevent it.

"I told him not to spend the money," his lawyer, Howard Eisberg, said. "Even if we were successful with the employment aspects of his application, he would face a turnaround."

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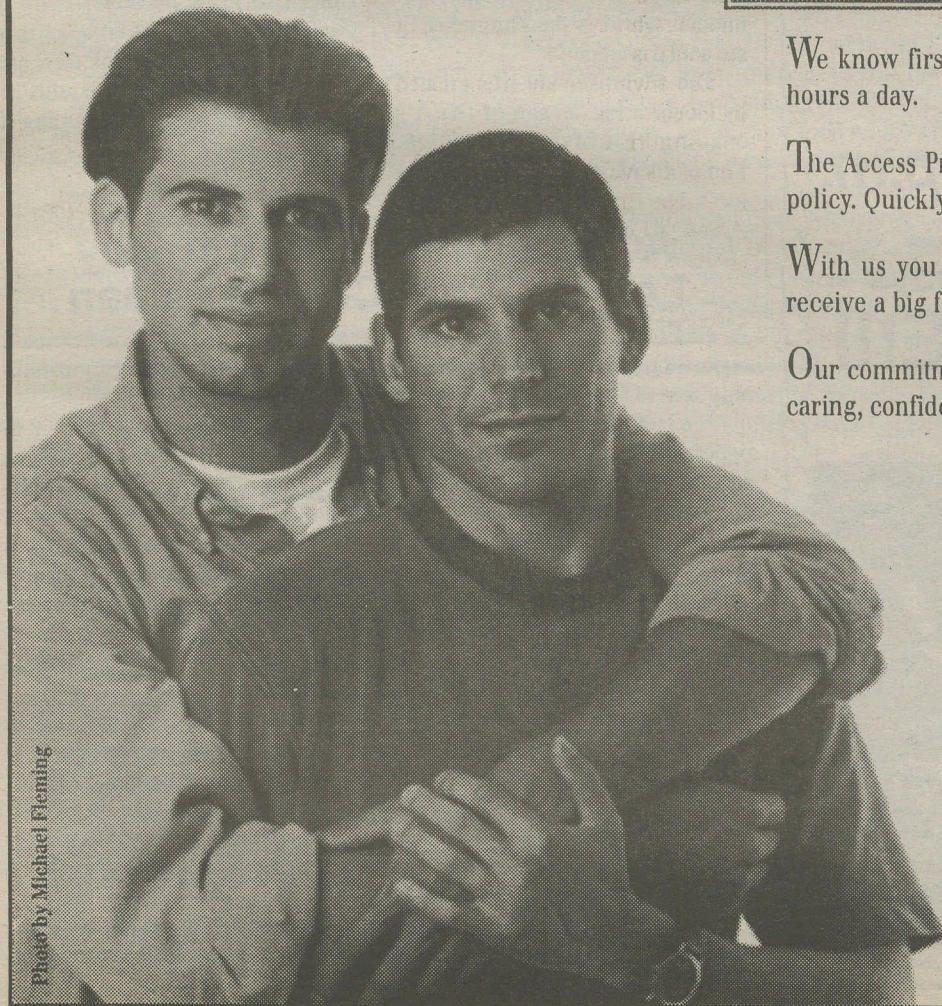


Photo by Michael Fleming

## IKEA Launches Ad Campaign Featuring Gay Couple

By Wayne Woolley  
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Swedish furniture chain IKEA helped build its image with its advertising slogan: "It's a big country. Someone's got to furnish it." Now, the company hopes to re-

flect the country's diverse lifestyles with four new commercials, one of which features a Gay couple.

"This is just the next logical progression," said Mark Sciumeca, marketing director for WHY-TV in Philadelphia and a former commercial network marketing executive.

IKEA, which has 12 stores in the United States and 118 worldwide, first aired the ad featuring the couple on Mar. 30 on stations in four major markets: New York, Houston, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

The company believes the spot, which shows two men shopping for a dining room table may be the first

television spot used by a mainstream advertiser depicting Gays.

"The campaign not only illustrates diverse lifestyles ... it reflects what's common to all of us: commitment to a relationship, the importance of family, and making a house a home," said Peter Connolly, the company's marketing director.

IKEA has operated in the United States for the past 10 years. Industry observers say the privately held company's U.S. sales are about \$400 million a year.

The commercial shows the men shopping for the table at IKEA and sitting at their new table at home. They do not say they are Gay or discuss their lifestyle. They do, however, allude to a committed relationship.

"You know, we went to IKEA because we thought it was time for a serious dining room table," one of the men says.

"We have slightly different tastes," the other says, adding that they met at his sister's wedding.

While the campaign is not the first to depict Gay and Lesbians, it's likely the first to do so on television, said Larry Gross, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communications.

Gross said most advertisements depicting Gays have been confined to newspapers, magazines and billboards. He applauded IKEA's decision to use a medium with a larger audience.

"It's a good thing. It's part of what you might call the standard procedure of social change in America," Gross said. "The commercial world is the barometer of the social change."

The advertisement was created by Deutsch Inc. as part of IKEA's ongoing "Lifestyles" campaign. Three other commercials in the se-

ries have shown a couple preparing for retirement, a divorced woman and an adopted child.

"The campaign acknowledges the emotional importance that goes into purchasing decisions and communicates that IKEA understands its consumers' needs and can fulfill their dreams," said Donny Deutsch, the agency's chief executive.

IKEA believes consumers were ready for their message.

"We don't think it's taking a chance to use a Gay couple in 1994," Connolly said.

But he added that the company recognizes the sensitivity, "since a consumer cannot choose when a television commercial comes into their home as they can with a television show." For that reason, the ads are not aired before 10 p.m., he said.

Connolly says reaction has been positive. All four network affiliates in Philadelphia ran the ad all week. Three said it drew no response.

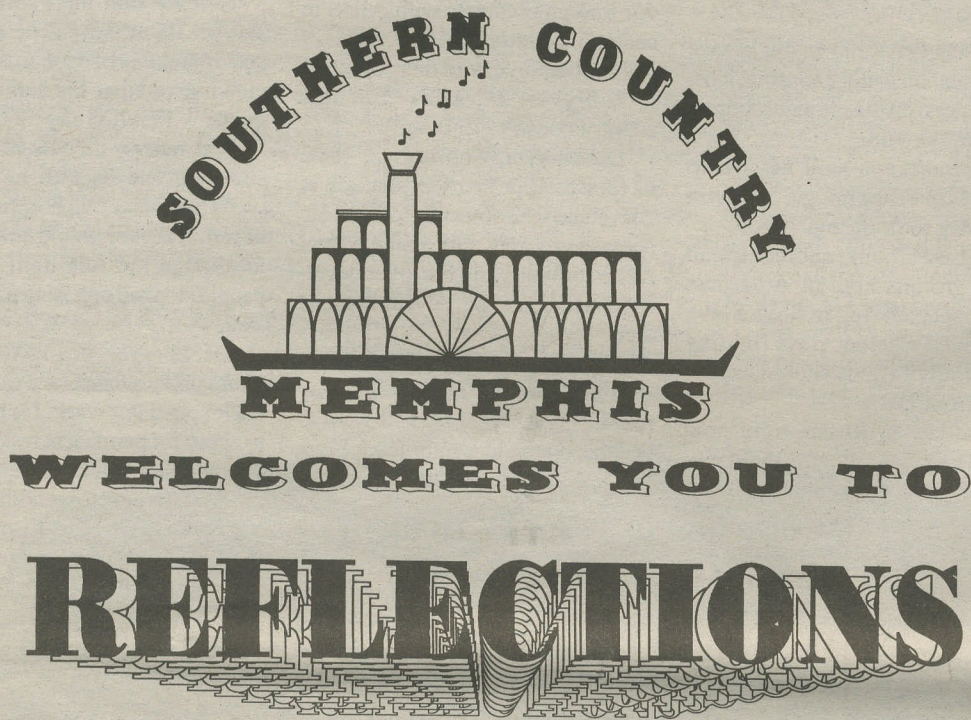
Tom Kane, president and general manager of the fourth, ABC affiliate WPVI-TV, said his sales department has averaged about five calls a day from people calling to complain.

"It's nothing real heavy," Kane said. None of the callers could specify their problem with the ad other than to say they don't like it "because you've got Gays in them. It's nothing deeper than that."

Sciumeca believes that while consumers in the largest markets may be ready for Gays in ads, he doesn't think most corporate advertisers are.

"IKEA has been a missionary company with all their advertising, they're innovative with the image they have created," said Sciumeca.

"You're not going to see an American mass marketer, with a product in all 50 states embrace this approach," he said. "I think there are a lot of companies with boards of directors who would be howling if they tried this."



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## Activists Receive Anti-Gay Letters From Congressman

FREDERICK, Md. (AP) — A letter explaining Rep. Roscoe Bartlett's opposition to several Gay rights initiatives in the House had been mistakenly sent to Gay rights activists, a spokeswoman said.

The fact that letters intended for supporters of his position were sent to opponents "would simply be a mix-up," said Cheri Jacobus, Bartlett's press secretary. Every effort is made to send each constituent "a tailor-made response," she said.

Two local Gay rights activists say they were outraged by letters from Bartlett, a Republican who represents Maryland's 6th District.

David Koontz and Tom Faulk, Frederick men active in the Western Maryland Gay and Lesbian Justice Campaign, told *The (Frederick) News-Post* that Bartlett sent them and other Gay and Lesbian activists letters stating his opposition to equal rights for Gays.

Faulk had written to Bartlett, urging him to support a Gay rights bill in the House. Bartlett responded with a letter detailing his opposition, that began, "Like you, I oppose creating a protected class for homosexuals."

The letter then goes on to say that Gays are not born Gay, but "their behavior is either chosen or the result of abuse. Homosexuality is a behavior, not a race or gender..." Bartlett wrote. "I assure you that I will continue to work to defend traditional family values."

Koontz received a letter from Bartlett that criticized statements made by Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders. Ms. Elders' remarks had been published in a recent edition of *The Advocate*.

## Gay Rights Marchers Rally at South Carolina Statehouse

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A diverse crowd of 1,500 to 2,000 Gay rights supporters marched through downtown and staged a rally on the Statehouse steps Apr. 16.

Marchers dressed in business attire and biker garb participated in the fifth annual parade sponsored by the Gay & Lesbian Pride Movement. It was the largest such gathering yet in South Carolina, said parade organizer Matt Tischler.

"I hope especially for those in the parade for the first time that this is a turning point in their lives," Tischler said. "For some, this is the first time they can show affection in public, a freedom others feel all the time and take for granted."

Marchers carried signs that read, "God made me Gay," and "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." One marcher wore a t-shirt that read "Loving Dad."

Speakers at the rally celebrated "coming out" in public and encouraged others to do so. Some compared their struggle to the civil rights movement and called for the repeal of sodomy laws and AIDS education in public

schools.

State Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, called for equal rights for Gay and Lesbians and respect for their dignity.

"We must reclaim this building and these steps," she said.

The keynote speaker was Mel White, a former ghost-writer for the Rev. Jerry Falwell and the Rev. Pat Robertson. White said Gays and Lesbians want religion in their lives.

"I am Gay. I am proud and God loves me for what I am," White said. "The fundamentalist church is wrong about Gay and Lesbian people."

A few Bible-carrying protesters who held signs saying "God's not Gay" and "God condemns homosexuality" stood at the back of the crowd and shouted objections.

Monitors placed by the rally's organizers stood between the protesters and the marchers to help ease tensions.

Tischler said the event was held to offer support to their community and offer a conspicuous presence to teenagers who haven't yet made their sexual orientation public.

## Court Voids Annulment Granted Because of Gay Affair

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — A sharply divided Kentucky Court of Appeals voided an annulment granted because the husband had a homosexual affair a month before the wedding, saying the proper remedy was a divorce.

Writing for the court, Judge John Miller said Apr. 15 it would be unconstitutional to void a marriage because of a spouse's failure to disclose previous homosexual affairs — but not heterosexual ones.

Miller cited the Kentucky Supreme Court's controversial 1992 decision overturning the state's sodomy statute. The landmark ruling established a state constitutional right to privacy and the right of Gays to equal treatment under the law.

Candace Denton of Mayfield sought the annulment in Graves Circuit Court after finding out about the affair, shortly after her July 6, 1991, marriage to Jeffrey Scott Denton. Mrs. Denton said she had been "fraudulently induced to marry."

In voiding the marriage, Judge John Daughaday agreed that a person's sexual orientation is a material fact involving the essentials of marriage and that it must be disclosed to a prospective spouse.

The annulment spared Candace Denton the

stigma of a divorce and meant that she could legally say she was never married.

The appeals court decision noted that a spouse's homosexual orientation may well cause a marriage to break down, but it said the proper remedy was a divorce, as Jeffrey Denton contended, rather than an annulment.

In a strongly worded dissent, Judge Wilfrid Schroder said the issue was not whether Jeffrey Denton was Gay or that he had a sexual encounter shortly before marriage, but instead that he misrepresented his sexual orientation "solely to provide a cover."

Schroder noted that Denton admitted in court papers that he married "solely to prevent public opinion from turning against him." That constituted "a breach of trust which affects the essentials of a marriage," Schroder said.

Candace Denton's attorney, Melinda Martin Ormsby, said Jeffrey Denton opposed the annulment because he did not want to admit the marriage was fraudulent for fear of opening himself up to damages in a separate civil suit filed against him by his wife.

Candace Denton is seeking damages for fraud. The action is pending in Graves Circuit Court.

## PWA May Be Victim of "Police-Assisted Suicide"

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A man dying of AIDS was the fourth man shot by Minneapolis police in the last two months, and the third to die.

Steve Cole, 23, was holding a knife in each hand after a 15-minute standoff Apr. 13 when police say he lunged and they fired. About 80 people, including his girlfriend, watched the events unfold.

Investigators are operating under the assumption that Cole may have been the latest example of what has become known as "police-assisted suicide."

"We are getting information on that person, that he was despondent, that he was sick, that he

didn't appear to have a long life expectancy and had made comments to others about having police end his life," Police Chief John Laux said.

But Cole's girlfriend disputed it. "He didn't want to have the police line up to assassinate him," Cathi Schmitt said.

Police spokeswoman Penny Parrish said officers fired in self-defense, striking him several times. The officers were identified as Curtis Graff, 32, a five-year officer, and David Pleoger, 24, a first-year officer.

Laux said he is troubled by the rash of recent police-involved shootings but does not believe that "there are trigger-happy cops out there waiting to shoot someone."

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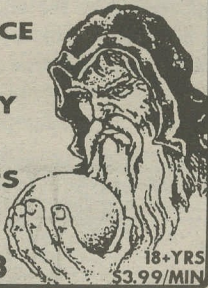
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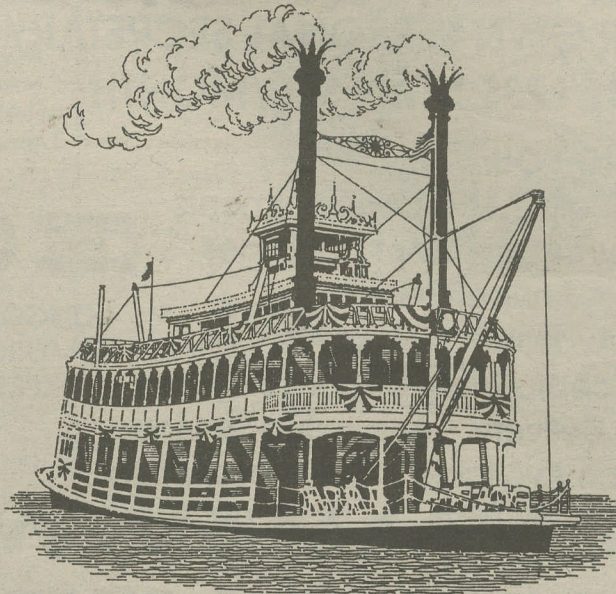
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## Visitation Based on Partners' Agreement Rejected

By Bob Egelko  
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The state Supreme Court rejected a plea for parental rights Wednesday from a woman who had signed an agreement with her lesbian partner, the child's biological mother, to raise the child together.

Georgia Prescott of Santa Rosa, backed by a lesbian-rights organization, sought recognition of a pre-birth contract with her lover to "jointly and equally parent the child" and refer any disputes to binding arbitration.

But a state appeals court ruled in January that the contract was unenforceable and that Prescott, as neither a natural mother nor an adoptive mother, had no parental rights. The state's high court unanimously denied review of the case.

The ruling was not issued as a precedent for future cases. But an advocacy group's lawyer said the message of the case for lesbians who want to be recognized as parents of the children they are helping to raise is to seek adoption, in the minority of California counties that allow non-relatives to adopt.

"The courts are caught, to a large extent, in outdated prejudices," said Abby Abinanti, legal director of the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights, which filed papers supporting Prescott in the appeals court. "The notion that biological link should be the only determining factor in what is a family is not something that is borne out by reality."

Carol Amyx, a lawyer for the birth mother in the case, said the ruling was not a setback for lesbians, but instead a recognition that a Les-

bian birth mother has the same rights as any other biological parent.

Enforcing the written agreement in this case would "treat the child as a commodity," Amyx said in court papers.

Prescott's partner, identified in court papers as Kerry B., gave birth to a daughter by artificial insemination in 1985. Prescott helped to raise the child, and continued to share parental responsibilities for more than a year after the couple separated in 1990.

But Kerry announced in 1991 that she would raise her daughter alone and allow visitation only on alternate weekends. She also refused arbitration.

Prescott's suit, seeking parental rights and damages, was rejected by Sonoma County Superior Court Judge Elaine Watters. The 1st District Court of Appeal upheld Watters in a 3-0 ruling Jan. 31.

State law recognizes only a natural or adoptive parent as a mother, said the opinion by Presiding Justice Clinton White. Courts have also recognized a "de facto parent," one who assumes a parental role on a daily basis; but White said that if a child is living with a legal parent and is not being harmed, a de facto parent has no right to custody or visitation.

"Custody of the child cannot be awarded to Georgia against the wishes of Kerry without a finding that parental custody would be detrimental to the minor," White said. He said the same restrictions apply to visitation by a non-parent that "creates conflicts and problems."

The women's written agreement did not change their legal status, White said. He stopped short of saying that no contract to share parental responsibilities could be enforced, but drew a distinction be-

tween those agreements and the surrogate-motherhood contracts upheld by the state Supreme Court last year.

In the surrogacy case, both the genetic mother and the surrogate who bore the child for a fee could be considered natural mothers under the law, so the court turned to the contract to establish their intentions, White said. By contrast, he said, only Kerry can claim maternity rights under the law in this case.

In seeking Supreme Court review, Prescott's lawyer, Caren Callahan, urged the court to recognize "the family that these parties created."

Adoption by a non-relative had not been permitted in Sonoma County while the couple lived together, Callahan said in court papers. Until such adoptions are allowed throughout California, she said, "entering into contractual agreements is the only way for lesbian couples to secure rights for themselves and their children."

## Anti-Gay Advocate Blasted By Vegas Mayor

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mayor Jan Jones on Apr. 6 confronted an anti-Gay rights activist who accused her and other Nevada politicians of promoting child molestation by supporting civil rights for homosexuals.

"Take your hate and fear and take it somewhere else," Ms. Jones told Lon Mabon, head of the United States Citizens Alliance, parent organization for anti-Gay rights initiatives in Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

"The statements you made are not only inappropriate, they're wrong, they're cruel, and they're hate and fear-mongering against both the governor and myself," she said.

Mabon had scheduled a news conference at City Hall to discuss the initiatives and Ms. Jones stepped out of a City Council meeting to respond to comments he made about her and Gov. Bob Miller at a church.

Mabon repeated his comments on Apr. 13 that anyone who op-

poses his initiative, as Ms. Jones and Miller have, is saying "there's nothing immoral about homosexual activity, lesbianism and cross-dressing."

Miller said Mabon's claims that political figures in Nevada condoned child molestation are so ridiculous that they make Miller's point for him.

Mabon said landlords and employers would be able to discriminate against Gays in housing and employment if the initiative passed.

## Roy Cohn Wielded Pen To Push Pets With White House

NEW YORK (AP) — Lawyer Roy Cohn was a regular correspondent with Ronald and Nancy Reagan, *New York Newsday* reported.

Frequently he wrote to help media mogul and *New York Post* owner Rupert Murdoch, the paper said.

Throughout his career, Cohn was a master manipulator, a favor broker and closeted homosexual who worked behind-the-scenes deals with the rich and powerful. He died in 1986 from AIDS.

Nearly two dozen Cohn letters and Reagan administration replies, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by *New York Newsday*, show the Manhattan lawyer uncharacteristically left a few fingerprints that survived his death.

Perhaps the best look at Cohn's relationship with Reagan — and the return the attorney expected for his friendship — is memorialized in letters that focused on Murdoch and his publishing empire.

For example, the letters show that

Cohn and law partner Thomas Bolan helped arrange at least one meeting between Murdoch and Reagan before the 1980 presidential election.

In a Jan. 27, 1983, letter to Reagan's top three advisers — Meese, James Baker and Michael Deaver — Cohn said he wanted to ensure that "at least one major publisher in this country ... would become and remain pro-Reagan."

Again and again, Cohn pointedly told White House aides that the introduction paid political dividends, *Newsday* said.

His letters referred to glowing Reagan editorials in Murdoch's *New York Post* and *Boston Herald-American*.

Indeed, one 1983 letter said the "Post and the other Murdoch papers gave their blood on a daily basis for Ronald Reagan."

Through a spokesman, Murdoch declined to comment on the correspondence and his dealings with the Reagan administration.

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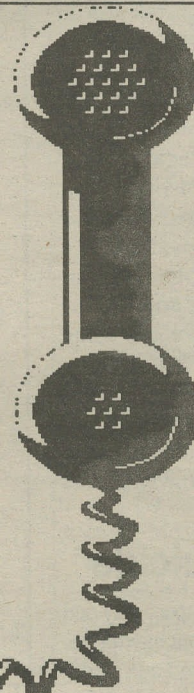
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# Bowling Beat

by Tony Matias

At press time for this issue, the Brothers and Sisters Bowling League will have wrapped up its eighth consecutive year of league bowling. However, due to the journalistic deadline placed on this writer, we cannot give you final results until next issue. Oh well, it gives you something to look forward to... So here we go

anyway...

## Lively Second Half Bowling Ends In First Place Tie

In what is believed to be the closest competition in league history, the second half of bowling was concluded on April 8 with the last position round, and final average scoring. Those boys of flying fancy, the *Stool Pigeons*, began the night with a tenuous two game lead over the streaking

striking team of *Nice Balls*, with the *Awesome Foursome* of the Pipeline, two games behind the second place team. After three very closely contested games, and the final series pin count, those *Nice Balls* had won 3 of 4 points to tie for first place. Using the league's tie-breaker rule, the *Stool Pigeons* were awarded first place for the second half season, and *Nice Balls* finished second.

The final championship roll-off was held April 15 and at the writing of this article, results were unknown. The roll-off was between both first place champions, *CD2* and *Stool Pigeons*, to determine first and second place trophies, while *Nice Balls*, and *Pipeline Awesome Foursome*, rolled-off for third and fourth place trophies. In addition to the championship roll-off on April 15, the

league also held its annual *Jackpot Night*, giving teams the opportunity to bowl for the share of \$2,000 in cash. Our hearty congratulations to all the bowlers who participated this year!

## League Officers Installed at Bar-B-Que Banquet

The Brothers and Sisters Bowling League held their end-of-year banquet on April 22 at Park Bowling Lanes. This year's banquet was a catered affair from that Overton Square institution, the Public Eye. Along with the good food was the presentation of individual achievement and team trophies. The league also acknowledged the installation of the officers for the 1994-95 league season. Voting was scarce this year as all current officers, with the exception of

league treasurer, were re-nominated, and voted for second terms by acclamation. The treasurer's position was put up to a league vote on April 15 and results were not known at press time.

This year's league also has made a donation of \$250.00 to Friends for Life. The donation was in memory of those siblings of years past who received great joy in being a part of the league every winter. It is the league's hope that next year several fundraisers can be held by the league membership to increase its donation for next year.

As this year's bowling season has concluded, I would like to take the time to thank my fellow league officers for the outstanding job they have done this year. Ron Shelton, vice president; Linda Etherton, secretary; Andy Cain, treasurer; and Pam Rowlett, sergeant-at-arms. Without these officers, and the many team captains, this league would not have enjoyed the success we have seen this year. I look forward to working this summer on planning next year's season. Until then, remember, it's not how well you scored it, it's how well you scored!

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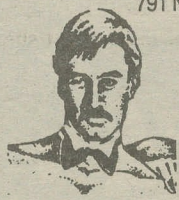
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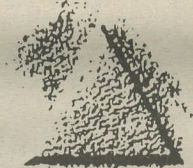
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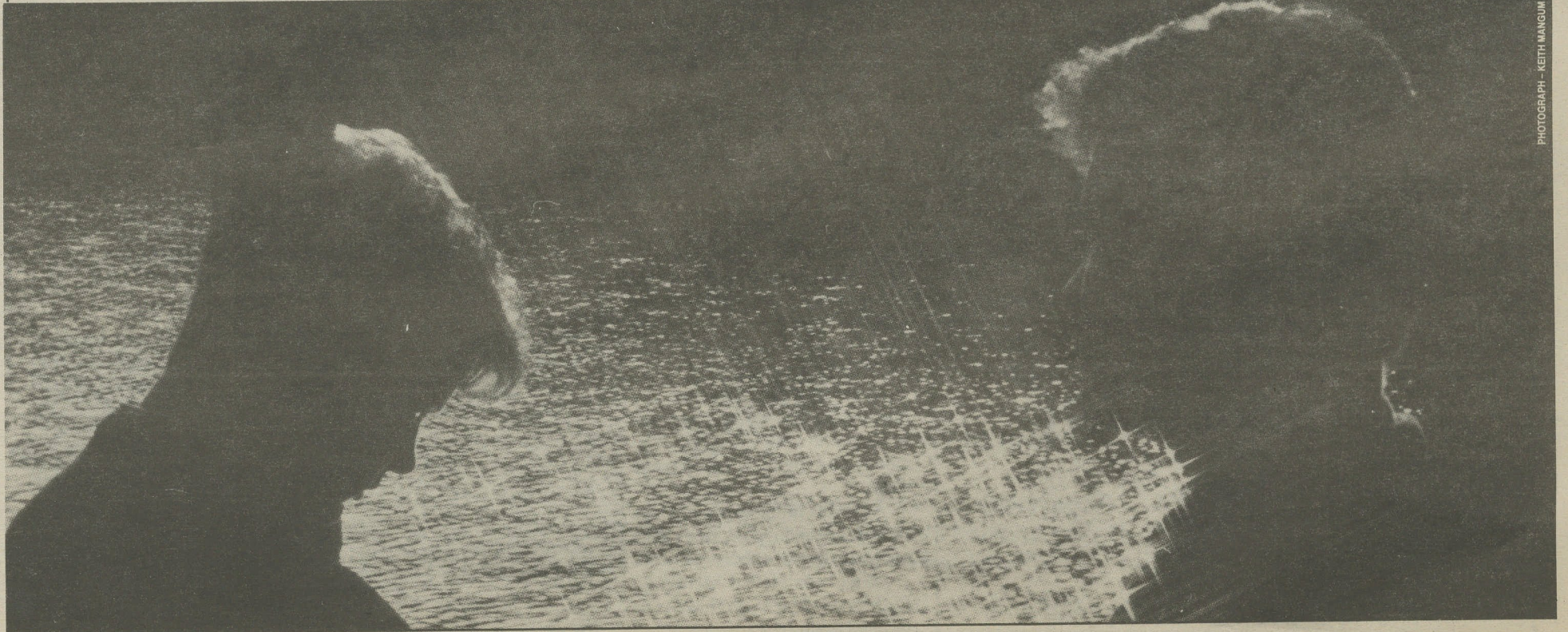


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# Mother Loses Bid To Get Son Back From Gay Couple

By Tim Klass  
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — The state Court of Appeals has ruled that a woman who gave up custody of her son, then tried to get him back after he was placed with Gay foster parents, has no grounds for her case.

The three-judge panel ruled unanimously Apr. 11 that because Megan Lucas, 22, of Orcas Island already had given up custody of the toddler, she lacked legal standing to petition to adopt him.

The decision reversed a ruling by Whatcom County Superior Court Judge Steve Mura, who said the 3-year-old boy could be placed with Lucas while the state evaluated whether she could adopt him.

Lucas, who bore the child while she was an unmarried teenager, surrendered her parental rights on Sept. 8, 1992, after a history of child neglect, drug and alcohol abuse.

She filed a request to reverse the decision on Sept. 9, 1993 — a day too late under state law. That left adoption her only chance.

But appellate Judge Rosselle Pekelis wrote that under state law, "termination of parental rights deprives a parent of standing to appear in all legal proceedings concerning his or her child."

The boy has been living with Ross and Louis Lopton of Seattle, who were granted custody as foster parents by the state Dept. of

Social and Health Services. Despite Mura's ruling, the boy remained with the Loptons because the state obtained a stay pending appeal. The Loptons hope to adopt the boy. Washington is one of six states in which adoptions by same-sex couples are allowed.

In court papers Lucas said having the boy raised by a Gay couple was "her worst nightmare." But she has also told The Associated Press that she wasn't fighting to regain custody because the Loptons are Gay.

Using unusually strong words, Pekelis criticized Mura for a ruling "so contrary to established principles in the law of adoption."

The decision will be appealed to the state Supreme Court and, if necessary, to the U.S. Supreme Court, said Richard C. Kimberly, Lucas' lawyer.

The case has been further complicated by a bankruptcy petition filed by the Lucases in August, a month before they began trying to regain custody of the boy.

They listed assets of \$5,677 and debts of \$43,573, but a private adoption specialist they hired to prepare a report to Mura on their parental suitability said they told her they were debt-free.

They were represented in Bankruptcy Court by David Vis, the only partner in Kimberly's law office at the time, but Kimberly has denied any knowledge of the bankruptcy case until sometime after the adoption battle began.

# A Year After Losing Custody, Lesbian Mother Awaits Court's Ruling

By Larry O'Dell  
Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Wednesdays are the toughest for Sharon Bottoms.

Every Wednesday, she has to again get used to giving up the son she lost custody of because of her sexual orientation.

She only sees 2-year-old Tyler on Mondays and Tuesdays, then the boy goes back to his grandmother, who sued for custody because she doesn't approve of her daughter's relationship with another woman.

"I miss everything about him," Ms. Bottoms said. "I miss being a mother the most."

It's been a year since a judge took her child away. Now, Ms. Bottoms waits with increasing anxiety for a Virginia Court of Appeals ruling that could return Tyler to her.

Tyler has lived with Ms. Bottoms' mother since April 5, 1993, shortly after a juvenile court judge declared Ms. Bottoms an unfit mother because she is a Lesbian. The decision was upheld by a circuit court judge.

Her appeal was heard in February, and a ruling could be issued at any time.

Lawyers for both sides say they'll take the case to the state Supreme Court if the appeal ruling goes against them.

In the meantime, anticipation rules every waking moment, despite Ms. Bottoms' best efforts.

"I keep myself very busy," the 24-year-old Ms. Bottoms said in an interview at the suburban apartment she shares with April Wade. "Our house stays very clean. I just do things to try to keep it off my mind."

Scattered throughout the apartment are many reminders: framed photos of Tyler, a poster-board card from supporters in California stapled to his bedroom wall, a lace doily with an ornate cutout of his name on a living room table.

She's not the only one left to wait. Ms. Bottoms' mother, Kay, is "getting apprehensive" and "wishes the decision would come on down," said her attorney, Richard L. Ryder.

The case made Sharon Bottoms a national figure in the fight for homosexual rights, a distinction she'd rather have gone without. Nevertheless, she is thankful for the support she receives.

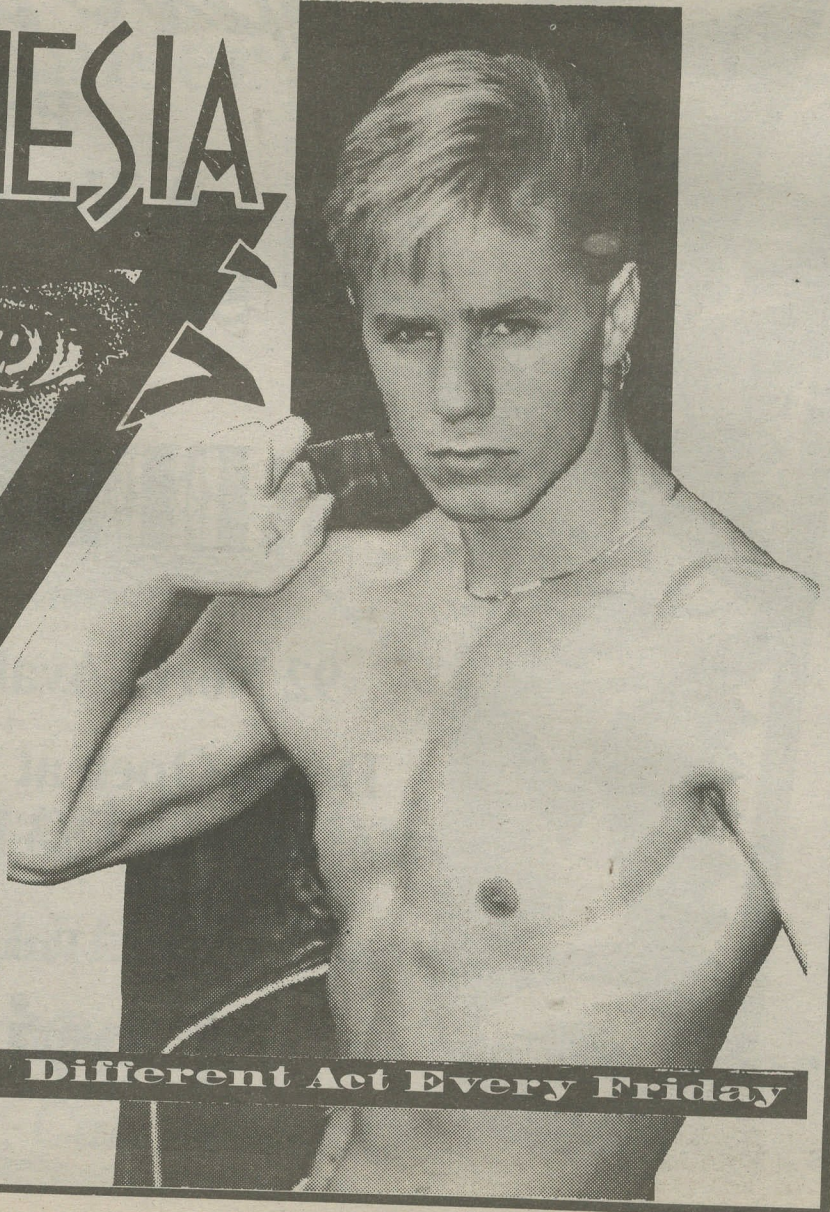
She shows three large manila envelopes stuffed with mail.

"Every single one is positive," she said. "And this isn't the half of it."

Since 1985, about 100 homosexuals have gained parental rights through the courts in what is called a co-parent, second-parent or same-gender adoption, according to San Francisco's National Center for Lesbian

continued on page 27

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## Gay Student's Book Review Spawns Controversy at High School

By Sean O'Sullivan  
The Salisbury Daily Times

BERLIN, Md. (AP) — In the past several months, 17-year-old Jennifer Canard, has twice called her mother in tears asking her to come to Stephen Decatur High School and take her home.

In addition to the pressure of schoolwork, Canard has gotten into shouting matches in the lunchroom, been called things unprintable in a family newspaper and jostled in the hall. She also watched the entire girls' washroom quickly empty as she entered.

Canard, a junior, returns to school each day only with a great deal of reluctance. Her mother, Debbie Hindi, said because of the past few months she no longer

feels certain her child will be secure in the hands of the school system. Every day seems to hold the promise of more trouble.

Why the anguish? Jennifer Canard is Gay and nearly everyone at Stephen Decatur High School knows it.

Despite her distinction as a target of scorn at SDHS, Canard appears to be a normal teen-ager: slightly shy around strangers and terminally embarrassed by her family. When her mother injected herself into a conversation, Canard rolled her eyes, flashed the braces on her teeth and drewled out as only a teen-ager could: "Mother!"

"I guess I'm different from most other kids... but I don't think so," she said.

Canard's emerging sexual ori-

entation, which she said she has never tried to hide, was elevated to a matter of public debate earlier this year after a parent complained in an open school board meeting about an article Canard wrote in the school newspaper.

In the November issue of the Stephen Decatur "Hawk," Canard favorably reviewed "Tim & Pete: A Unique Love Story," a book with homosexual themes.

"I am going to take a risk and recommend this book to anyone with an appreciation for humor and a love for the realistic," wrote Canard.

She did not realize exactly how risky that recommendation would be.

The review touched off a wave of homophobia at the school. A second wave followed a month

later when Tom Anderson, a parent and local political activist, complained *The Hawk* was "promoting the Gay agenda" in allowing the review to be printed. He said school officials should exercise more control over what is put into the newspaper.

"I (and several other parents) felt it was not proper for a high school paper. Suppose it had been (a review about) a pedophile love story," said Anderson. "The school paper is supposed to carry things about proms and sports events."

Canard's article was not sexually explicit, nor did it endorse homosexuality, but Anderson said encouraging students to read that book was "almost recruitment."

The paper's faculty adviser,

the school principal and the board of education all stood by the decision to publish the review, saying it was an opinion piece and Canard was entitled to her opinion.

"I honestly did not think (the review) would be controversial. I underestimated the opposition to that lifestyle," said student editor-in-chief Jamie Hand, adding she was happy to get some diversity of opinion in the paper.

Faculty adviser Shirley Moran said this was not the first article *The Hawk* has ever published that dealt with homosexuality.

Anderson's comments, however, caught the attention of the local press and two papers carried reports of the controversy. Soon afterward, a reporter called Canard at home and asked her point blank: "Are you homosexual?"

Canard, who said she had been struggling with that question for about two years, put the reporter on hold for several minutes to consider her answer and ask her mother for advice.

Hindi told Canard she could always decline to answer, but she eventually told the reporter she was bisexual.

She said she does not regret admitting the truth, but added, "Once you say it, it's not something you can take back."

The next school day, copies of the newspaper were all over. Canard said the negative reaction was not limited to fellow students. At one point, a faculty member holding a copy of the story, loudly voiced his negative opinion within earshot of Canard.

"The positive responses I've received have overcome all the negative things for me," said Canard, who has received many supportive phone calls and letters, some from Gay students who have looked to her for support.

While Canard said she had no regrets, she conceded her comments have made life tough.

"It has been stressful, especially for my family and for my mom," she said. "I just deal with it the best I can."



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## Loving Arms

# Student Who Threatened Gays Suspended For Two Years

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The University of South Florida student who made telephone death threats to a Gay and Lesbian student group has been suspended from the university for two years.

The student, sophomore Nelson Trujillo, was told he could reapply to USF before then but that he must first undergo counseling with a licensed mental health counselor. To be readmitted, Trujillo also must be willing to have his counselor discuss his case with USF's counselors.

Trujillo, 20, still faces possible criminal charges through the Hillsborough State Attorney's Office, which is reviewing the case. Trujillo's suspension from the university was disclosed Apr. 13 after student discipline officials reached a compromise with USF's victim advocate.

The student discipline office originally had resisted any release of the information, arguing that disciplinary matters are always confidential, except in cases of violence to particular people.

But under prodding from USF President Betty Castor, vice president Harold Nixon ultimately agreed to forward the information to victim

advocate Mary Poole, who then relayed it to two individual students who had come to her office for counseling after feeling victimized by the threats.

In several anonymous calls to the USF Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Coalition, Trujillo had identified himself as a killer and promised that particular numbers of Gay men, Lesbians and bisexuals would be murdered on certain dates.

Pam Morris, the co-chairwoman of the coalition, was one of the students who went to Poole's office for help. She agreed to tell reporters Trujillo's punishment, saying it was important that students and others know whether the university treated the death threats seriously.

Morris originally had gone to Poole after failing to get any other university office to respond to the threats. Castor has since said that campus police should have responded to the threats more quickly.

Trujillo has declined to answer questions from reporters, but in a letter to the USF *Oracle* newspaper, he apologized for making the phone calls, saying he was acting out of "deep frustration" with Gays and a "lifestyle" he cannot agree with.

# Dartmouth: ROTC Stays But Pentagon Should Change Gay Policies

HANOVER, N.H. (AP) — Army ROTC will stay at Dartmouth College, but the school's Board of Trustees says it's not happy with the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and will try to persuade the government to change it.

The board voted Saturday to keep ROTC but says last year's federal policy on homosexuals in the military places schools in an unacceptable position.

"The policy forces Dartmouth, as well as other colleges and universities, to make an unconscionable choice as to which students they wish to disadvantage," a statement said.

The board says it wants to ensure Dartmouth students can participate in the military program, but it wants an officers' training program that does not discriminate against anyone based on sexual orientation.

ROTC's anti-Gay policy runs counter to Dartmouth's equal opportunity policies.

The school said it might join court cases challenging the homosexual ban and might try to pressure the White House, Congress and military leaders.

"The trustees believe that Ameri-

can society is in a period of transition that will ultimately lead it to embrace full and equal participation of homosexuals in the military.

President Clinton's attempt to change military policy, while not wholly successful, has nonetheless accelerated this development. The trustees now commit Dartmouth College to help push the transition forward," the statement said.

ROTC has been disputed at Dartmouth for years. It was phased out in 1973, at the height of anti-Vietnam war sentiment. Army ROTC was reinstated in 1985. Four years ago, the college urged the Pen-

tagon to drop its ban on homosexuals in ROTC.

"The security interests of the United States are best served by public policies that assure a supply of talented officers from our colleges and universities and that the public regards as fair and appropriate. In my judgement, the Department of Defense's policy of discriminating against homosexuals in ROTC, at a time when all other forms of individual discrimination have been prohibited, puts both of these goals at risk," said a letter from university president James Freedman to the Department of Defense.

## Memphis Lambda Men's Chorus Fund-Raiser Dinner

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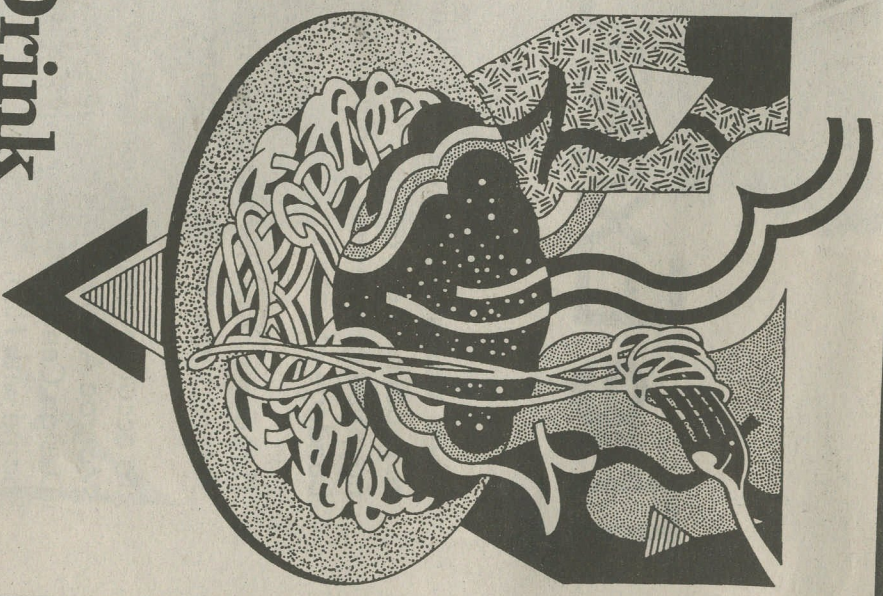
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## City Divided Over Domestic Partners Program

By Peggy Fikac  
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Is the issue fairness and fiscal responsibility, or immorality and ill-spent tax money? Depends on which side's talking about health insurance for the unmarried partners of Austin city employees.

The program applies to heterosexuals, Gays and Lesbians. It faces a citywide vote in May.

The controversial benefit was approved last year by the City Council. But opponents gathered thousands of petition signatures to place it on the May 7 ballot.

Backers of the insurance program have geared up to fight the ballot proposition, which would limit city health insurance benefits to an employee's spouse, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, and spouse's parents and grandparents. A spouse would be defined as an employee's husband or wife.

Now the jabs are flying, with each side characterizing the other as radical.

"We think it's irresponsible spending by the city in light of all the other problems we have ... We believe that it is morally wrong," said the Rev. Charles Bullock. He's

minister of Christ Memorial Independent Baptist Church and president of Concerned Texans Inc., a group that led the petition drive.

The city's program sends a message to young people that it's all right to live together without being married, and it condones illegal behavior because Texas has an anti-sodomy law on the books, he said.

Supporters of offering insurance benefits to employees' domestic partners say Bullock's group is wrong.

"This is not a vote on morality. This is a vote on fairness. This is a vote on equal benefits ... for equal work," said Hugh Strange, spokesman for the Mainstream Austin Coalition, a group formed to fight the proposition.

The program so far is well below initial cost estimates, which topped \$700,000, Strange added. Ninety-eight of the 492 eligible city employees have signed up at a cost of less than \$104,000, he said.

"This campaign... is about one one-hundredth of 1% of the city budget," he said. Nearly 70 of the workers in the program are heterosexual, Strange said.

Rob Schneider, former associate state insurance commissioner who

is with Consumers Union and supports the coalition, said uninsured people often do without less costly preventive care. They wait until an illness has progressed so far it requires treatment at a hospital emergency room, "the most expensive place in town," he said.

"The decision to extend health insurance benefits is not only a fair thing to do, it is a fiscally responsible thing to do," he said.

The benefits are not free, he added. Domestic partners must foot 50% of the city's cost, plus co-payments and deductibles, he said.

Strange called Concerned Texans "part of the radical right and their national political agenda into law."

An Austin win could give them momentum around the country, he said.

Bullock said his "grassroots" group has received no money from outside sources. Meanwhile, he said, the opposition is trying to raise money nationally.

"The other side calls themselves mainstream. Basically, it's a Gay agenda ... We're more mainstream. They're far, radical left," said Bullock.

He said he is not targeting homosexuals, and that he is just as concerned about the moral implications of heterosexual unmarried couples living together.

Many who oppose the program "don't even care about the religious

aspect of it," Bullock said. "We've got a multitude of people who are upset about the taxes here in the city."

While the \$104,000 is less than initial projections, the money could be used to address other problems, such as crime, he said. "It's a matter of principle."

## Two Ministers Criticize Mayor's Proclamation

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Two Baptist ministers say they don't believe the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. would agree with Mayor Martin Chavez invoking King's name in prohibiting discrimination against Gays.

Frank Cates, minister of Mount Zion Baptist Church and head of the local Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Ron Knight, pastor at St. Luke's Baptist Church, said that Chavez insulted the Black community by banning discrimination against homosexuals on the anniversary of King's death.

Chavez issued an executive order prohibiting City Hall from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or medical condition.

The mayor's news release Apr. 4 cited the anniversary of King's assassination.

"I wanted to take a policy action which was substantive in nature to mark his civil rights legacy in an appropriate manner. ... Today we take a small step toward justice; I believe Dr. King would approve," the news release said.

Cates and Knight said they don't believe in discriminating against homosexuals, but said Gay behavior shouldn't be a protected legal category because it goes against their Christian beliefs.

However, Chavez cited the words used by King's widow, Coretta Scott King, last year when she spoke in favor of Gays serving in the military.

She quoted her husband as saying, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. ... Like Martin, I don't believe you can stand up for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others."

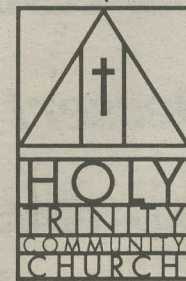
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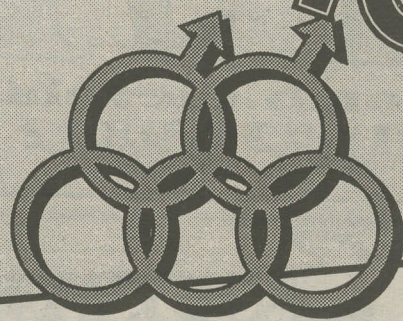
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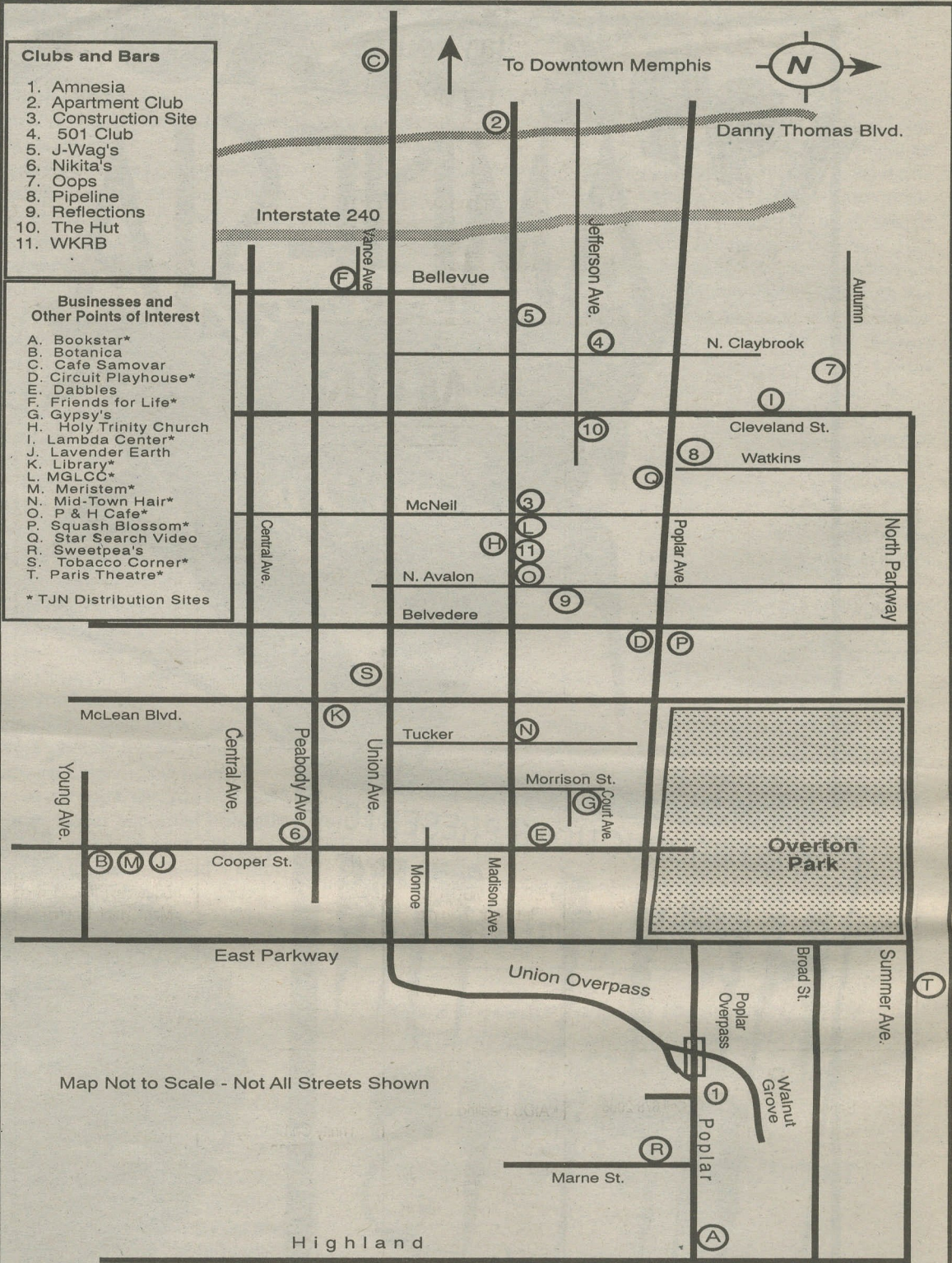
**Clubs and Bars**

1. Amnesia
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3. Construction Site
4. 501 Club
5. J-Wag's
6. Nikita's
7. Oops
8. Pipeline
9. Reflections
10. The Hut
11. WKRB

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- C. Cafe Samovar
- D. Circuit Playhouse\*
- E. Dabbles
- F. Friends for Life\*
- G. Gypsy's
- H. Holy Trinity Church
- I. Lambda Center\*
- J. Lavender Earth
- K. Library\*
- L. MGLCC\*
- M. Meristem\*
- N. Mid-Town Hair\*
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**MAY COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

						<b>29</b>		<b>30</b>	
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MGLCC Movie Night, 7 pm</li> <li>• Stations of the Cross, St. Therese Cath. Ch., 7 pm</li> <li>• Southern Country Dance Lessons, Reflections, 9 pm</li> <li>• Regional NOW Conference, Oxford, MS. Call Virginia Stallworth at 272-0560</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miss Southern Elegance Pageant, Reflections, 10:30 pm</li> <li>• Regional NOW Conference, Oxford, MS. Call Virginia Stallworth at 272-0560</li> </ul>	
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Trinity Community Church Services, 11 am &amp; 7 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gay &amp; Lesbian Support Grp., MSU, Call Dr. Alkekruze 678-2068</li> <li>• Gay Alternative Hour, WEVL, FM 89.9, 6 pm</li> <li>• Gay Life Styles Disc. Grp., MGLCC, 7pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gay Teens, MGLCC, 7 pm</li> <li>• PLUS - PLWA Support, MGLCC, 7pm</li> <li>• BGALA, MSU, UC, 3rd Floor, 7:30 pm</li> <li>• Lambda Men's Chorus Rehearsal, Calvary, 7:30 pm</li> <li>• Southern Country Dance Lessons, Reflections, 8 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7:30 pm</li> <li>• N.O.W. Mtg., Main Library, 7pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer Hour For Persons With HIV, First Congregational Church, 5:30pm</li> <li>• Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church., 7pm</li> <li>• GRACE Mtg. Call John 725-5237</li> <li>• Hell on Heels - Amnesia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MGLCC Movie Night, 7 pm</li> <li>• Southern Country Dance Lessons, Reflections, 9 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memphis Pride Mtg., MGLCC, 10 am</li> <li>• FFL Yard Sale</li> <li>• Bisexual Alliance, MGLCC, 4 pm</li> <li>• Women's Discussion Group, MGLCC, Call Terri 755-5764, 7:30 pm</li> </ul>			
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HTCC Services, 11 am &amp; 7 pm</li> <li>• ACT-UP Mtg., Meristem, 5:30 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G&amp;L Support Grp., MSU, Call 678-2068</li> <li>• Gay Alternative Hour, FM 89.9, 6 pm</li> <li>• FFL Dinner, St. John's Meth. Ch., 6:30 pm, 272-0855</li> <li>• Coming Out Group, MGLCC, 7 pm</li> <li>• Gay Life Styles Disc. Grp., MGLCC, 7pm</li> <li>• Lambda Men's Chorus Rehearsal, Calvary, 7:30 pm</li> <li>• Men of Ecstasy, J-Wag's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIDS Healing Svc./ Integrity Eucharist, Calvary, 6 pm</li> <li>• Integrity Monthly Mtg., Calvary, 6:30 pm</li> <li>• PLUS PLWA Support, MGLCC, 7pm</li> <li>• BGALA, MSU, UC, 3rd Floor, 7:30 pm</li> <li>• Southern Country Dance Lessons, Reflections, 8 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7:30 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer Hour For Persons With HIV, First Congregational, 5:30 pm</li> <li>• Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7 pm</li> <li>• GRACE Mtg./Liturgy, Call John 725-5237</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MGLCC Movie Night, 7 pm</li> <li>• Southern Country Monthly Hoedown, Reflections</li> <li>• Tsarus AIDA Run</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer State Pride Mtg., 2pm</li> <li>• MGLCC Potluck, 7 pm</li> <li>• Alliance Club Night, Pipeline, 10 pm</li> <li>• Aphrodite Variety Show, Reflections</li> <li>• Tsarus AIDA Run</li> </ul>			
<b>AD &amp; COPY DEADLINE FOR MAY '94 TJN</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HTCC Services, 11 am &amp; 7 pm</li> <li>• Women Writers Support Grp., Meristem, 6 pm</li> <li>• Tsarus AIDA Run</li> <li>• Lambda Men's Chorus Benefit Dinner, 5-7 pm MGLCC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gay &amp; Lesbian Support Grp., MSU, Call Dr. Alkekruze 678-2068</li> <li>• Gay Alternative Hour, WEVL, FM 89.9, 6 pm</li> <li>• Gay Life Styles Disc. Grp., MGLCC, 7pm</li> <li>• "Reclaim Your Sexlife" safer sex workshop for Gay men, MGLCC 8-10 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLUS PLWA Support Grp, MGLCC, 7pm</li> <li>• BGALA, MSU, UC, 3rd Floor, 7:30 pm</li> <li>• Southern Country Dance Lessons, Reflections, 8 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7:30 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer Hour For Persons With HIV, First Cong. Church, 5:30 pm</li> <li>• Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church., 7 pm</li> <li>• GRACE Mtg. Call John 725-5237</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sistahs Meeting, Meristem, 6:30 pm</li> <li>• MGLCC Movie Night, 7 pm</li> <li>• Southern Country Dance Lessons, Reflections, 9 pm</li> <li>• Tennessee Leather Tribe Club Night, WKRB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transgender Alliance, MGLCC, 1 pm for changing, 2 pm mtg.</li> <li>• Women's Discussion Group, MGLCC, 7:30 pm</li> <li>• Speaker-Rev Jim Hawk, MGLCC, 7:30pm</li> <li>• Military Night, Pipeline</li> </ul>			
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>TJN DUE OUT</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Trinity Community Church Services, 11 am &amp; 7 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G&amp;L Support Grp., MSU, Call Dr. Alkekruze 678-2068</li> <li>• Gay Alternative Hour, WEVL, 6 pm</li> <li>• FFL Dinner, St. John's Meth., 6:30 Call 272-0855</li> <li>• Gay Life Styles Disc. Grp., MGLCC, 7pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLUS PLWA Support, MGLCC, 7pm</li> <li>• BGALA, MSU, UC, 3rd Floor, 7:30 pm</li> <li>• Lambda Men's Chorus Rehearsal, Calvary, 7:30 pm</li> <li>• Southern Country Dance Lessons, Reflections, 8 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7:30 pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer Hour For Persons With HIV, First Congregational, 5:30pm</li> <li>• Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church., 7 pm</li> <li>• AA Mtg., MGLCC, 8 pm</li> <li>• GRACE Mtg./Liturgy, Call John 725-5237</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MGLCC Movie Night, 7 pm</li> <li>• Brothers &amp; Sisters Bowling League, Park Lanes, 7 pm, Call Tony 272-3875</li> <li>• Southern Country Dance Lessons, Reflections, 9 pm</li> </ul>				



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# Director Tries To Surmount Politics To Depict Real Cuba

By Susan Linnee  
Associated Press Writer

MADRID, Spain (AP) — On first reading, *Strawberry and Chocolate*, the Cuban entry that won the Silver Bear at the Berlin Film Festival this year, is about homosexuality, a politically charged subject in the Caribbean island nation.

But for director Tomas Gutierrez Alea, his ninth feature-length film is, even more, a pointed reminder that above and beyond politics there is the country called Cuba and its culture.

"This is a story about an educated, cultivated homosexual in love with his country," the veteran director said in an interview in the Spanish capital where he was presenting a retrospective of his work.

"Through him, we can speak about the country, about its culture, its music and about the city of Havana."

The 65-year-old director of *The Death of the Bureaucrat*, *Memories of Underdevelopment* and *The Last Supper*, feels there is too much polemicalizing about Cuba.

"It's seen either as a Communist

hell or a Communist paradise," he said. "It's hard to focus attention on the real country."

*Strawberry and Chocolate* takes place in Havana in 1979, an era when the Cuban government was arresting homosexuals as social deviants and imprisoning them in "re-education camps."

David, a university student who believes in the ideals of Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, encounters Diego, a homosexual who at first tries to seduce him with hard-to-obtain Latin American novels, Indian tea and Scotch.

Gutierrez Alea uses the non-sexual friendship that develops between the two men as the canvas on which to explore the nature of creativity and to illustrate how inquiring minds are caught in the web of a repressive, unimaginative regime.

In a crash-course on Cuban culture, Diego plays music by 19th-century composer Iganacio Cervantes and chides David for not recognizing a photograph of author Jose Lezama Lima — "our genius."

At one point, Diego, a free-lance photographer and artist brilliantly portrayed by 28-year-old Jorge Perugorria, shows David a crumbling, dilapidated Havana, demanding to know what right "they" have to allow a city once known as "the pearl of the Caribbean" to fall into ruin.

In the end, Diego is forced into exile because he is not free to function as a creative person in his own country.

Gutierrez Alea, who studied at Rome's Experimental Film Center in the 1950s, says he really has never contemplated exile, despite his many misgivings about the Cuban system.

Before 1959, Gutierrez Alea said there was no Cuban film industry of which to speak. About 85% of films shown were from the United States,

subtitled in Spanish. The rest were Mexican, aimed at the rural market that couldn't read.

The 33-year U.S. economic embargo has had one positive effect, he said. Cubans have been able to make and see their own movies.

Gutierrez Alea said he had no trouble getting his script for *Strawberry and Chocolate* approved by the Cuban Institute of Cinematic Art and Industry (ICAIC). The film was co-produced by the Spanish Society of Authors and Composers and Madrid's regional television station, Telemadrid. The lab work and sound mixing were done in Mexico.

He said the film would be shown commercially in several European countries, including France and Spain. He wasn't sure about distribution in the United States.

Things haven't always gone so easily for him.

"I have had great periods of contradiction and divergence with the system. There were times when I was marginalized and unable to travel abroad," he said. "But in the end, they have always had the maturity to respect me and my work."

Gutierrez Alea credits directors'

groups within the ICAIC with providing creative and emotional support for film projects that might get a bureaucratic thumbs-down if a director confronted the system alone.

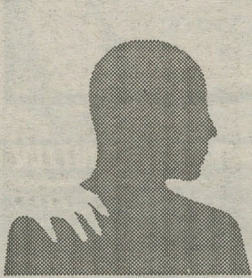
Before traveling to Berlin, he spent several weeks in New York working on a new script with his old friend, Edmundo Desnoes, author of the novel *Memories of Underdevelopment* on which the 1967 film was based. Desnoes left Cuba for the United States in the mid-1970s.

Gutierrez Alea said they talk often about exile and the virulence of those who have left the country they love just as much as those who remained.

The new script is based on *The Lost Steps*, a novel by Cuban author Alejo Carpentier.

The director is also at work on a treatment for "a black comedy" that takes place in today's economically strapped and fuel-starved Cuba.

"Someone dies in Guantanamo, but he has to be buried in Havana across the island. There isn't enough gas to transport the corpse all the way, so the coffin is transferred to another vehicle in the next province. Then something happens..."



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### Friends For Life HIV Resources

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- Leads on suitable space for office and food pantry relocation. Approx. 5,000 sq. ft. needed
- Daytime volunteer receptionists  
Ad space donated by the Triangle Journal News

# Black, Gay and Female Adds Up to Load of Stresses

By Jane E. Allen  
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's tough facing the dual prejudices of being Black and Gay — but it's even more stressful being Black, Gay and female, according to UCLA researchers.

A homosexual or bisexual Black woman suffers more depressive distress, which may include suicidal thoughts, than a Gay Black man infected with the virus that causes AIDS, they found.

However, their national survey of 1,432 homosexually active African-Americans found the most stress in Black Gay men sick with AIDS. Their distress scores were high enough to hint at probable clinical depression.

Study co-author Susan D. Cochran, a psychology professor at California State University, Northridge, and a research psychologist at the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of California, Los Angeles, said Thursday that the 20-question survey cannot diagnose depression. But it gives an indication of chronic strain, "a chronic feeling that life is hard."

The findings, published in the April issue of the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, were based on levels of depressive distress measured through such indicators as blues, loneliness, fears, physical symptoms, relationship problems and frequency of suicidal thoughts.

The survey of 829 men and 603 women who identified themselves as homosexually active African-Americans showed to have substantially higher levels of chronic strain than heterosexual Blacks or whites. The comparisons were based on past studies of depressive distress among straight and Gay white men and straight Blacks of both sexes.

"This study shows that distress and depression are problems that for African-American homosexually active men and women have gone unaddressed. Clearly, homosexually active men and women represent a highly stressed population with specific needs for mental health intervention," said Vickie M. Mays, a UCLA psychology professor and study co-author.

"It's a population we haven't heard from before," said Mays.

"African-American Gay men are just coming to our attention as a result of HIV. These are individuals who are likely to be your next door neighbors, who are likely to be working in a variety of jobs, who may not choose to openly identify as Gay."

She noted a past tendency to equate stresses among Gay African-Americans with stresses among any Gay group.

"We found that this population experiences high degrees of depressive distress, most likely brought on by the combined social stigmas often attached to being African-American, homosexual or both," Mays said.

Sylvia Rhue, a Los Angeles clinical social worker with a doctorate in human sexuality, said she's heard the triple whammy of racism, sexism and homophobia discussed among Black Lesbians.

"It's not because we're Lesbian, Gay and Black that we have higher levels of psychiatric dysfunction, but because we have so many things put upon us by being Lesbian, Gay and Black," Rhue said.

"Let's look at the economic factors that cause stress and depres-

sion. If you're female, you statistically make less than a man. If you're Black, you make statistically less than white people. If you're Gay, you can be fired at any second and potentially have fewer opportunities if you're out of the closet," she said.

And, 33% of Black Lesbians also face the stresses of being mothers, she said.

The study was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, both in Washington, D.C.

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## FDA Allows Doctor to Heat Patient's Blood in Experiment

By Henry Stern  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — With notes of caution about creating false hope, proponents of a limited study to review a once-dismissed AIDS treatment that heats a patient's blood say every potential weapon against the disease must be explored.

"Right now, the situation is pretty grim," Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., said. "If there is a chance to do something, then perhaps it's a situation for a great deal of optimism."

Lautenberg, who began advocating consideration of "hyperthermia" after learning of it from a constituent, spoke at a news conference giving further details about a feasibility study for the treatment.

Officials with the Food and Drug Administration said HemoCleanse Inc. of West Lafayette, Ind., recently won approval to conduct the experimental treatment on six patients in Miami. The FDA remains doubtful of the efficacy, but said it is worthwhile to explore alternative approaches.

The National Institutes of Health blocked similar research in 1990 by Dr. Kenneth Alonso and another

doctor in Atlanta, after declaring that one of the supposedly cured patients, Carl Crawford, had cat scratch fever, not AIDS.

The experiment was moved to Mexico, where another patient treated with hyperthermia died.

Crawford, 37, of Atlanta; and another former patient, Chuck DeMarco, 35, of Union City, N.J. were at an Apr. 14 news conference with Lautenberg and Alonso. Both said they are healthy and credited hyperthermia with their recovery from AIDS.

DeMarco, who told Lautenberg of the procedure at a town meeting, said he quickly began recovering after being treated three years ago in Rome. He had suffered from a chronic cough, was sleeping at least 18 hours a day and had Kaposi's sarcoma, a cancer common to AIDS patients that created lesions on his throat and thigh.

"I went walking around Rome for a couple of hours, hopped a train to Venice and spent 10 days there," DeMarco said.

Alonso said Pittsburgh-based IDT Inc., which is working with HemoCleanse, will test the safety of the device used to heat the blood up

to 115 degrees and put it back in the patient at a slightly cooler temperature to kill off the virus in bone marrow and organs. He said researchers need to see if the virus was killed, and if patients' immune systems are stimulated.

He said the original tests have been modified to reduce the flow of blood back into the body, thus improving safety levels. He likened the procedure to dialysis.

Alonso said 19 of 31 patients who underwent the procedure in Italy survived the first year, when statistics indicated only 11 would have survived without any treatment. He said learning survival rates for subsequent years have been hampered by difficulties in tracking patients since the studies were conducted outside the United States.

"We have demonstrated a survival advantage," Alonso said. "In this illness, what counts is survival. Do you live?"

Derek Hodel, treatment issues director for the AIDS Action Council in Washington, said the FDA has been appropriately cautious to allow studies on AIDS treatments to compile data.

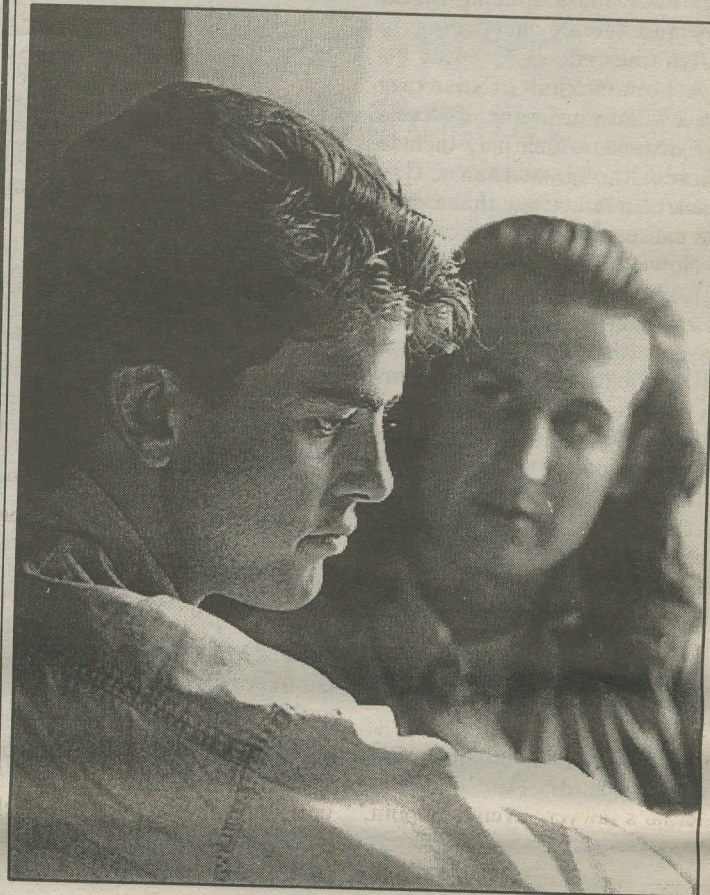
Hodel said it is too early to point

to "blood boiling" as reason for optimism.

"Hyperthermia had a big media splash before," Hodel said. "The

consensus in the community about hyperthermia is that it really had unwarranted publicity several years ago."

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## Does Disabilities Act Preclude Insurance Caps For PWAs?

By Frank Baker  
Associated Press Writer

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — A federal court battle involving a dead man and two New Hampshire companies could change how insurance companies deal with AIDS-afflicted clients.

Randy Senter, who was president of Carparts Distribution Center of Plaistow, died of AIDS in January 1993. Before then, however, he began legal action against Automotive Wholesalers Association of New England, a Peterborough-based provider of group health insurance.

Senter claimed Automotive Wholesalers improperly capped the amount of lifetime benefits available to AIDS patients at \$25,000. Otherwise, lifetime benefits are capped at \$1 million.

Senter's lawyers argue the Americans with Disabilities Act, which took effect in 1992, precludes such lowering of caps for AIDS patients. U.S. District Judge Martin Loughlin rejected the argument without a hearing last year, and the case recently was argued before the First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Boston.

"Carparts maintains that the cap on AIDS-related illnesses was instituted because AWANE had knowl-

edge of Mr. Senter's illness," Carparts lawyer James Reidy said. "Furthermore, Carparts maintains that such a disease-specific limitation on health benefits was in violation of state anti-discrimination statutes as well as the (Americans with Disabilities Act)."

Automotive Wholesalers oversees a medical reimbursement plan that is funded by employers and employees. The money contributed is used to fund people's claims, and is administered by a third-party company.

Senter and his employees were members of the plan, and had been since 1977. In May 1986, Senter was diagnosed with HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS. By the time he died, his medical bills totaled \$119,000, according to lawyer James Shirley.

Automotive Wholesalers instituted the \$25,000 cap Jan. 1, 1991, leaving Senter's estate with a hefty bill.

Automotive Wholesalers' lawyer James Schulte said the cap had nothing to do with Senter or his hospital bill.

"The people who were administering the plan did not know he had AIDS. In fact, the allegations are that not one of his company's 50 to 60 employees knew he had

AIDS," Schulte said. "The reason people at AWANE did not know is because claims are administered by a third party, and diagnoses are not included on claims checks."

Furthermore, Schulte said the disabilities act doesn't apply to this case. He said the act stipulates that for companies to fall under its auspices they must have at least 25 employees (Automotive Wholesalers has 10), be a "place of public accommodation" such as a hospital or restaurant, or be an employer.

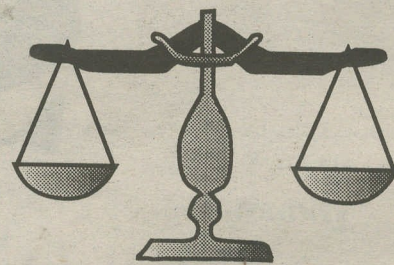
"The allegation is that (the act) applies to people who take on the responsibility of employers," Schulte said.

"We're not covered by the act. We're not an employer of Senter or his company, we didn't control the employer's plan. We offered a plan with certain benefits, but not different from what is offered by dozens of other companies."

A ruling is expected later this year, and Schulte said he wouldn't be surprised if the case is sent back to Loughlin.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York has a similar case pending, and it's believed to be the only other one involving issues raised in the Carparts case.

**SUSAN MACKENZIE**  
Attorney At Law



Suite 2518  
100 N. Main Street  
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## Boy Scout Board Member Denies Being Gay

SAN DIEGO (AP)—An executive board member of the local Boy Scout council testified in court that he isn't a homosexual, countering statements by two men who support overturning a ban on Gays in the scouting organization.

With his wife of 13 years and supporters watching, Christopher Leach of Poway on Apr. 18 denied he had visited a video store or bathhouse and said he didn't even know J. Mark Crouse, who testified April 7 that he had had sex with Leach in the spring of 1991.

Leach, 37, was initially called to testify last month by lawyers for the Boy Scouts who are fighting a civil lawsuit seeking to overturn the ban on Gays.

Leach had testified in March that homosexual practices are "contrary to the laws of God" and said the Scout oath's promise to be "morally straight" means that Gays should be barred from the organization.

The lawsuit was filed by Chuck Merino, an El Cajon police officer who was expelled from leadership of an Explorer group after he publicly revealed his homosexuality in August 1992.

After Leach testified in March, Merino's lawyer, Everett Bobbitt,

dropped a bombshell by bringing Crouse and Len Potter, an acquaintance of Leach's, to court. Potter testified he had seen Leach fondling another man in a Gay X-rated video store.

On Apr. 18, Edwards, representing the Boy Scouts and Leach, introduced into evidence documents showing Potter was convicted in Riverside County in 1988 of four charges of oral copulation with boys, for which he was sentenced to three years and eight months in prison.

Leach testified that he believes Potter is biased against him because he had to lay off Potter's former wife from her job at his accounting firm. He also said he had difficulties with Potter being late in making lease payments on a Jeep Comanche he rented to Potter.

Leach also denied having an affair with Crouse, saying that he spent his weekend evenings at Scouting activities or with his wife and family, going to the movies or out for pizza.

"I've never been into a Gay bathhouse, and I don't know a man named Crouse," Leach said.

Superior Court Judge Anthony Joseph is expected to issue a written decision in the case in a few weeks.

## PTA Members Worried By Resolution Protecting Gay, Lesbian Students

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Members of the PTA here are worried that a state PTA resolution concerning the protection of Gay and Lesbian students from harassment would promote a lifestyle they disapprove.

Colorado Springs is the headquarters of Colorado for Family Values, the group that led Amendment 2, Colorado's anti-Gay constitutional amendment, to passage in 1992.

Local PTA members attended an informational meeting about the resolution to be decided at a state convention in Denver April 28-30.

An eight-member committee of the Colorado PTA this winter passed the resolution unanimously, so it must be heard at the convention. The committee cited several studies showing unusually high dropout, suicide and homelessness rates for Gay and Lesbian youth.

Some groups are encouraging people to pressure the state organization to pull it off the agenda, but PTA bylaws prohibit that, state president Jan Haley told the overflow crowd of about 130 that attended the Apr. 11 meeting.

Even if it passes, local PTAs will not be forced to encourage their schools or district to change policies to comply, said Haley, a Colorado Springs resident. Passage would allow the state organization to be a resource for local PTAs seeking information or speakers.

The PTA, officials point out, has a long history of standing up for the rights of all children. They see the resolution not as an issue of condemning or condoning a certain lifestyle, but rather one of protecting students from harassment.

However, many parents and community members railed against the resolution. Some are worried that school officials won't require prior parental consent, as is included in the PTA resolution, before handing out information on homosexuality.

Pat Zynen, said parental consent won't be enough to shield youngsters. "Peers are still going to be talking to each other and sharing information with one another," she said.

Other parents charged that the resolution is an affront to families

who teach that homosexuality is immoral. "You realize you are discriminating against families with Judeo-Christian values?" said one woman.

Some PTA members, such as Randy Popineau from Madison Elementary, asked why the PTA didn't take a stand condemning the homosexual lifestyle because that would "better represent the state."

As evidence he pointed to the majority of Coloradans who voted for Amendment 2, which would prohibit laws protecting Gays from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

A study by one researcher, included in a 1989 report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, estimated that Gay and Lesbian teens may account for as many as 30% of all youth suicides. However the National Institute of Mental Health reported that a more recent study put the figure at 10%.

But those figures are hard to put in context. Researchers have said the percentage of homosexuals ranges from 1% to 10% — and any figure brings disagreement.

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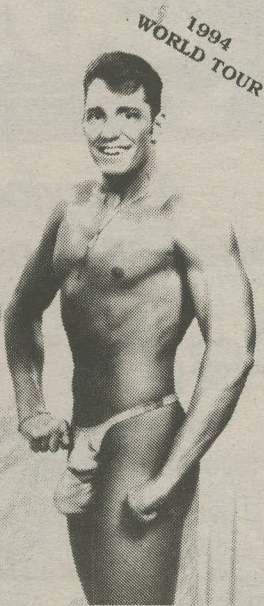
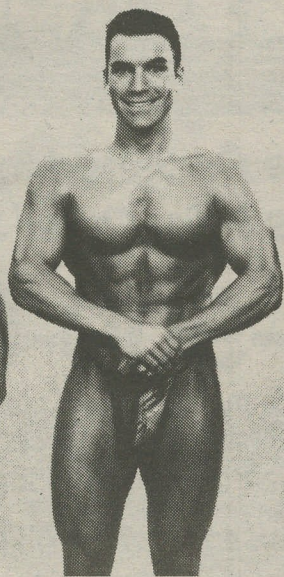
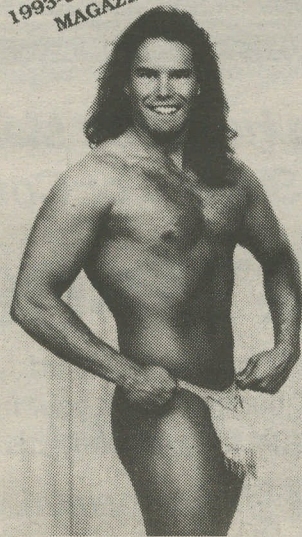


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# And This Was A Slow Month

We didn't do very many exciting things last month. We did, however, find friends in many of the same old places and we took the time to enjoy that. For a social flit-about like ourselves it was a most refreshing and pleasant interlude.

### Cut the Sweet Talk Department

It has come to our attention that the anti-Gay/Lesbian sentiment for which Mississippi is famous is very much in evidence in the North Mississippi casinos. Though we know at least two Gay men who went to work down there, we wonder if these allegations are true. Somebody let us know.

In case you are imagining that Memphis has turned into a wonderful, doesn't-matter-if-you're-queer place we wish to report the following incident:

An attendee at the recent Pearl Jam concert at the Coliseum told us that lead singer, Eddie Veder told the crowd that he really felt good on his arrival in Memphis. He saw sunshine and green things growing and men holding hands with women and kissing and men holding hands with men and kissing.... This provoked some hostile reaction so he asked for the audience's opinion by acclamation. When asked was it OK to be Gay in Memphis, the overwhelming majority voted no. There were vocal supporters but the majority disapproved. He then said, "Well, all of you who voted no are a bunch of fucking assholes!"

We respect those whose personal experience lead them to believe we are making progress, and we are. This incident, to moi, is just a tad scary. Which means we just need to stay busy.

### Pride News and Notes

We announce with great delight that Meristem and Friends will be this year's Grand Marshals for the annual Pride Parade. Audrey May was approached with the idea, the staff of Meristem met and all decided to participate. The Parade will step off from the MGLCC at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 12, and move down Madison, through Overton Square, then south on Cooper to Peabody Park for a rally. Music at the rally site will be provided by The Search (who played earlier this year for the Women's Discussion Group).

Saturday, June 12, the Expo will return to the MGLCC. This will be a community "trade show" including clubs, agencies, organizations and vendors. Part of the event will take place at MGLCC, part down the street at WKRB, and Holy Trinity Community Church (located across the street) will participate. This is a wonderful opportunity for finding out about that Resources listing you always wanted to investigate. Food and drink will be available at both Expo locations. For information about participating, see the Pride article on pg. 9.

That evening, the 14th annual Pride River Ride will leave the levy, I said leave the levy, around 9:30 p.m. on the Island Queen. Entertainment will be provided by the Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite. Tickets and details will surface during the month of May. This benefits the MGLCC and the Switchboard. Tickets will be \$18 in advance and \$20 on the dock.

A fundraiser for Memphis Pride will be held at the MGLCC on Saturday, May 21, at 8 p.m. Rev. Jim Hawk, founder of the new Stonewall Mission Church in Nashville will speak about the founding of this

church and what led him to begin a new worshipping community. Donations will be taken at the door.

We need volunteer assistance to help stage the main events of Pride weekend. The next meeting of Memphis Pride is Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. at

**Obscure Saying of the Month**  
New motto for the Germantown Housewives of Uniform Naugahyde:

Vidi, veni, dormi. (We saw, we came, we fell asleep.)

### The Runaround

Miss Southern Elegance will take place at Reflections on April 30.

Amnesia will present the Hell on Heels fashion show on May 5.

J-Wag's will present Thee Men of Ecstasy on May 9.

Aphrodite will hold a Variety Show at Reflections May 14 to benefit Loving Arms.

The Lambda Men's Chorus will hold a Pasta fundraiser May 15 at MGLCC.

Tennessee Leather Tribe will hold a Club Night at WKRB on May 20.

The Pipeline will hold a Military Night May 21.

GOCS will take its annual trip to New Orleans on Memorial Day weekend.

### Note of Passage

Liz Carrington (Tim Wyse) died during the month of April of complications from AIDS. She had a long career as an impersonator and was one of Memphis most beautiful performers for many years.

### Final Round

Why march? Why a Parade?

To find strength in numbers, to affirm ourselves through ourselves, to show ourselves to others who are looking for people like they are, to face oppression with support, to find unexpected friends and share the feeling.

And, of course, to have a Gay old time!

Ta, ta.  
Lady A.

MGLCC.

The following week, Volunteer State Pride, Inc., will meet in Memphis. The MGLCC will honor this organization at the monthly Pot Luck at the Center that evening.

A fundraiser at Reflections is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 4 to help underwrite Pride events.

### Bits and Pieces Department

Congratulations to the Community Center. Charles Butler has realized the culmination of his efforts and the dreams of many others in that the MGLCC now has official tax-exempt status.

Sweetpeas Florist has moved. Don't look for them behind the former Dillard's building at Poplar and Highland but across the street from East High School on Poplar. They have a new neighbor on the way which will make keeping it in the family much handier. More as it breaks.

Remember that cookbook? It is now called the Rainbow Recipes Cookbook. You may want to follow this. See the story on pg. 9.

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# The Stonewall Mission Church

## Searching For New Answers

by Vincent Astor

A new worshipping community called the Stonewall Mission Church held its first public worship service on Easter Sunday of this year. The pastor, Rev. Jim Hawk, states that it is still very much in the formative stages but the mission statement is very succinct. "The Stonewall Mission Church is a Christian community seeking to hammer out a sacred, spiritual space that promotes diversity, celebrates the interconnectedness of all of life, shares our gifts freely in ministry, and gives glory for all of these things to the One who is, The Source of Life."

The common Lectionary, used by many denominations, is followed often; there is Eucharist every Sunday; Stonewall Mission calls itself a Christian community. The ancient practices of ringing bells, the ceremonial lighting of candles and anointing with oil are re-emphasized in worship. But the church draws on many religious writings, ancient and contemporary, as readings during the service. The person giving the homily (homily speaking specifically about the readings, sermon being on any theme during worship) has five minutes to speak. Then anyone may share insights of their own. There is plenty of room for questioning; for re-asking the questions which Christians have thought were answered for hundreds of years and coming to new conclusions. They are willing to question all the way back to the Christian scriptures themselves and question anything they feel needs to be questioned.

"We would put ourselves squarely between MCC and Unitarians. We grew out of the Christian tradition and will live out of that experience. But people in this community are not afraid to question. The relationship that God and Christ have is something that we have an opportunity to have as living human beings. It is much more important to us to be Christ-like than to be Bible centered," says Rev. Hawk. "The Scriptures are not the sole authority for theological debates

today. That is not to say that they does not influence us; they are not the authority on which we base our theology. The solutions of those people whose history makes up the bible were good for their situations but not necessarily for ours."

Jim Hawk accepted a call to ministry while in high school and particularly during one World Methodist Conference. He studied at Vanderbilt and received his Masters of Divinity. At Scarritt Graduate School he received his Masters in Art and Religious Education. He was ordained in 1988 and came out in the following year. When he came out to his bishop in 1989 he called himself a self-avowed, non-practicing homosexual. The bishop commented that "practicing" was not the issue, "self-avowed" was. Jim withdrew his vow of celibacy and publicly challenged the policy of the United Methodist Church against ordaining homosexuals. In 1991 that denomination removed his licence to preach and his ability to receive an appointment to a church.

Over the next two years he became involved in the Gay and Lesbian pride organization in Nashville. Inclusiveness was his goal. "There were people outside the circle who needed to be included within the circle," he says. The same is true for the church.

"Now, I see this church as being Christ-like, a Christian church, by espousing the same values of allowing people to be included which were previously excluded. Before, they

said 'You are not loved'—when you come to this church you are loved. It's not psychological thing, it is a very sacred spiritual thing, to tell another human being that you are loved. That, I consider Christian."

"The redemptive role of Jesus Christ is vitally important. Without that message, without the life, death and resurrection of Christ, we would not have an appropriate understanding of our relationship with God. What moves us from the state we currently are in, to a new heaven and earth, whatever it will look like, that which moves us is our redemption."

The small community sees itself as planting the seeds and looking forward to the harvest. It will take courage to question the very roots of any individual's spiritual traditions and come to an individual's conclusions.

"We can ask questions of the faith which have never been asked before. It is so appropriate for queer Christians to do that; we are on the outside of the church looking in, by and large, and as outsiders we have a wealth of experience and we should be raising these questions. We are going to really deeply, and faithfully, ask some questions. The result of that will be redemption, wholeness, healing. Ultimately, redemption does not come easily but eventually we will be redeemed and made whole."

Rev. Jim Hawk will speak at a fundraiser to be held at the MGLCC on Saturday, May 21, at 8 p.m. to benefit Memphis Pride.

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## Now Is Time To Tell Mother The Truth

by Ace Lunden  
Syndicated Columnist

Well kiss ma' grits and butter ma' buns! Are you really old enough to remember a few years back when folks were saying we were homosexuals because we were "Mama's boys?" Of course, they never said that a Lesbian was a "Daddy's girl..." but what did they know!?

When one is afraid, they tend to grab at straws. However, I thought a lot about it because I wasn't a "Mama's boy..." and I wasn't much of a "Daddy's boy" either. I was a loner and didn't want to get too close to either because I knew I was a homosexual.

I was safe in my closet at that time; being truthful wasn't in my vocabulary. I practiced to make sure I wasn't like one of the lispy, wispy, sissies they thought was what a Homo was all about. See what a domineering mother can do to a child, they decreed.

After I came out of my closet, I did become very close with my mother. My dad had already passed away by that time. I did find out during those months that a mother-son relationship is something very precious... even for a son who isn't or wasn't a "Mama's boy."

We had some wonderful talks — this woman who provided me with life. This woman who was a bonafide "born againer." This woman who loved her first born. Her questions were nearly merciless at times as her love for her newly announced homosexual son drove her to search for answers. She was so sure she'd never see me in heaven now and her pain was real and great.

Yes, my coming-out was a very painful step for her as well. It probably is for all mothers, even when they tell us it's OK that we're Gay.

Now what's fascinating to me is that a Gay son now has facing

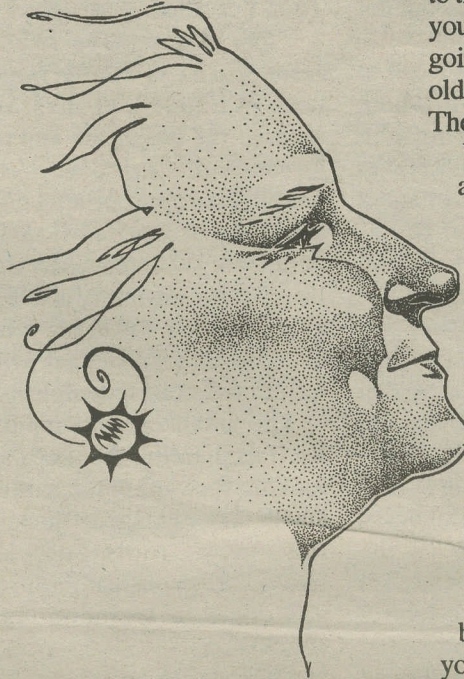
him, just as a Lesbian daughter would have, the most incredible opportunity! Getting to really know your choice of a maternal genetic tie. I wish I could have

known my dad in the same manner, but I was too slow in coming-out.

The only thing you'll have to work out ASAP if you're going to truly communicate with your mother is that you're going to have to break an old, well-developed habit. The habit of telling lies.

We've had to be if we are closet dwellers. When we exit our closets one of the first challenges we really face is learning to tell the truth. It's a good step to let Mom be in top spot to hear the truth.

Guess what I'm really trying to say is: your mother might become your best friend as well as your mother. She may not realize it during the process



of becoming, but she'll love it when reality sets in.

Remember: it's a process; so go with the flow, so to speak. Don't expect it to occur overnight. Part of the joy you'll experience during this process moves forward. To watch and create the picture you'd like to see in your relationship with Mom.

Now, in case you're saying you'd never be able to be intimate with your truths to your mother. Well, you want to remember what "intimate" is. For nine months you were inside her very body.

For the next 15 or so years, she not only saw every inch of your physical body, she taught you your A B C's, she bathed your wounds and lent a shoulder. And you think you can't be intimate with someone who already has been more intimate than you'll ever be able to be. She would love to learn to know, even if it might be fearful for her, just how her child has "turned out" now that you've grown up.

No matter what we call her - Mother, Mom, Mama, Mommy — we all have one. Even the anonymous author who wrote:

Me Mudder

When me prayers were early said  
Who tuckd me in my widdle bed  
And spanked my ass til it was red?  
Me Mudder.

Who lifted me from my cozy cot  
And sat me on an ice cold pot  
And made me pee, if I could or not?  
Me Mudder.

And when the morning lights had come  
And in my bed, I dribbled some  
Who whipped my tiny widdle bun?  
Me Mudder.

Who did my hair so neatly part  
And pressed me gently to her heart  
And squeezed me sometimes til  
I'd fart?  
Me Mudder!

Well that's it from the Poop Sheet.

Mr. Lunden is former Mg. Editor of Zipper Magazine and The Coast to Coast Times. His autobiographical legacy: *The Closets Are Empty... The Dining Room's Full is in hard cover by Ponderosa Publishing House.*

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# Miss Carlisle and Miss Fleming

Fiction by James Norcross

Miss Carlisle and Miss Fleming came to the high school the middle of my sophomore year. Mrs. Jackson, the English teacher, had to quit to take care of her husband, who'd been in an auto accident, so the school board called Louetta "Granny" Mottsinger to fill in. Mrs. Mottsinger had been a teacher for 40 years before she retired and was close to 80 now and deaf as cement post. Chaos reigned supreme in the classroom. Billy Bob Tutwiler saw to that.

Miss Carlisle came to the English Department; Miss Fleming became the girls' Physical Education teacher. We had never had a girls' gym teacher before. When Coach Ruffin filled in, he'd just done the minimum; he hated coaching the girls, said it was sissy work.

No one thought it odd that these two highly qualified teachers were suddenly available in the middle of the school year. Junior Perch, who was on the school board, said they'd come from a school up near the Arkansas line and that the town was damned lucky to have them.

Pauline Perch, Junior's wife, told her friend Fern Fitterling, "You know, the school board never planned to hire an instructor for girls' sports. They always got along without one, but Miss Carlisle just refused to come here without her friend — and we had to have an English teacher. Poor old Granny Mottsinger can't keep filling in forever."

"I agree, Pauline," Fern said, "I guess Miss Carlisle didn't want to be alone in a strange town, her being so quiet and not having any friends or family here. The two do seem close."

"Well," Pauline said, "I think it's nice that they have each other. Of course, it won't be any time until all the local boys will be coming around, especially to see Miss Carlisle. Say, do you know if the youngest Bodenhammer boy — you know, Mamie's boy — is he seeing anyone right now?"

Everyone fell in love with Miss Carlisle the minute they met her. She was a tiny thing — "No bigger than a minute" — Henry Fitterling described her. She had a ready smile and a big mass of auburn hair she kept pulled back with different colored ribbons. Her skin was a white and smooth

as new dime-store china, and her deep-set eyes met you right on.

Miss Carlisle walked into that classroom the first day and quietly took charge. Billy Bob Tutwiler was terrifying poor old Granny Mottsinger, but Miss Carlisle just looked him in the eye, then down at her seating chart and said, "William Robert, please take your seat. I am Miss Carlisle, and today we are going to start on Shakespeare."

No one ever saw Billy Bob so meek before, not even when his father, the preacher, looked down at him from the pulpit on Sunday mornings. Later, Billy Bob tried to tell Miss Carlisle that his name was not William Robert and that, like his father before him, had been named just Billy Bob. He even thought his birth certificate to prove it. Miss Carlisle just smiled and went on calling him William Robert.

Miss Carlisle loved Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Shakespeare, and she saw to it that all students learned to appreciate them. She even got Billy Bob so interested in vocabulary building that he became quite good at using the big words no one else knew the meaning of. If you asked him what a word meant, he'd say, "Look it up. That way, it will stay with you. That's what Miss Carlisle says."

While Miss Carlisle was petite, Miss Fleming was tall, probably 5'10" at least. She walked tall too, and carried herself with an air of a person who is proud of her height. She had close-cropped blond hair and spoke in a deep voice that demanded respect.

Miss Fleming took the girls' volleyball team all the way to the state championship. There was a big write-up on the front page of *The Star Journal* and a large picture of Miss Fleming with her arm around Claudia Howard, who was holding a huge trophy. Claudia was the captain of the team and also the high scorer for the season. Everyone in town was very excited over winning the championship — it was the biggest thing that ever happened in Henry County.

Miss Carlisle and Miss Fleming rented an old house out west of town that had been vacant for a long time, and looked it. The house, which belonged to Henry Fitterling, was basically sound, so the two teachers rolled up their sleeves and have the house a coat of paint. They

bought a garden tractor, planted a big garden with a crop of corn, beans, and tomatoes. Later on, they got a big dog they named Bowser and a little red pick-up truck.

"Those girls really fixed that place up," Henry Fitterling said, "Why, that Miss Fleming can fix a roof or set a fence post as good as any man. She's strong for a woman, sure make some lucky guy a good wife."

Fern Fitterling reported to Pauline Perch, "Miss Carlisle has painted the entire inside of that house the prettiest shade of peach and made the cutest curtains out of bedsheets. And the needlework she does — you can't imagine — crewel, cross-stitch, and I don't know what all. Why, she's even doing a needlepoint rug — a rug! She doing a block on each state of the union, with the state flower and state bird on it. She's been working on it two years, but she's only up to Nebraska. Such sweet girls, she and Miss Fleming."

"Wonder why they never married," Pauline said.

The teachers did not seem to leave their house or have friends who visited. Rev. Tutwiler made a call on them and invited them to church. They said they'd come, but they never did.

"Must be Catholic," Fern said. "Bet you're right," Pauline said.

Then the news swept through town. Miss Carlisle was sick. Really sick. "Cancer," Fern said.

"Inoperative," Pauline said, "Going to have to have chemotherapy, maybe has a year to live. She'll probably lose all her hair, and she has such pretty hair."

Miss Carlisle never said a thing, but she began to look tired and to miss days at school. Finally, she had to leave before the end of the term. Granny Mottsinger was called back to fill in.

Then Miss Carlisle was gone. There did not seem to be any family, for not ever a cousin appeared at this time of crisis. Rev. Tutwiler came again and offered a prayer, but Miss Fleming declined.

"Going to have her cremated," Fern said.

"Never heard of anyone doing that," Pauline said.

But arrangement for the cremation were made in the city, and Miss Fleming came back with a large bronze urn full of ashes. She also arranged for a dealer to come

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and buy the furniture. When everything was gone, Miss Fleming put Bowser, the bronze urn, and the unfinished needlepoint rug in the little pickup and just drove out of town — "Going to California," she told people.

As far as I know, Claudia Howard was the only one who ever heard from Miss Fleming

again. Claudia told me she got a note inviting her to San Francisco for a visit when school was out. Claudia said she was thinking of going.

"Such sweet girls," Fern said, "Like sisters."

"So devoted — wonder why they never married," Pauline said.

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## Anti-Gay Initiative Fails To Arouse Interest

By Kim Eckart  
*The Idaho Statesman*

LEWISTON, Idaho (AP) — The two rivers that define Idaho's only port city also shape the concerns of its residents.

The Snake flowing toward the Columbia and the Clearwater pouring past the Potlatch timber mill embody Lewiston's lifeline to commerce, recreation and economic survival.

The threat of a drawdown on the Snake — the vast waterway that separates Lewiston from its twin city across the Washington state line — dominates conversation like the Potlatch mill dominates the landscape.

The anti-Gay initiative sponsored by the Idaho Citizens Alliance still hovers upriver.

From Lewiston's downtown streets to a millworkers' bar, many residents say they haven't heard of the initiative that would prevent the state from granting civil rights protections based on sexual orientation. Their common response when asked whether they knew of the initiative:

"The what?"

The one sponsored by the Idaho Citizens Alliance.

"Who?"

That lack of knowledge might make this city of about 28,000 ripe for campaigning from both sides of the initiative debate.

But what both camps have found is that interest, once kindled, doesn't necessarily translate into activism.

Neither the Idaho Citizens Alliance nor opponents, Don't Sign On To Discrimination, have formed a chapter here. Instead, both sides rely on individuals to spread the word.

"Lewiston's been a black hole for me. It's been a real struggle getting leadership," said Alliance chairman Kelly Walton. "We've had a reasonable number of signatures, but nothing stunning."

The Alliance last month turned in 58 signatures to the Nez Perce County clerk. None have been turned in since. Other signatures may remain; signature-gatherers aren't required to surrender their petitions until July 8. The group must obtain 32,061 signatures in order to place the measure on the November ballot.

Election statistics show that Lewistonians traditionally vote Democrat. Only three Republican presidential candidates have carried the county since 1932: Ronald Reagan, Richard Nixon and Dwight Eisenhower.

But that doesn't mean opposition to the initiative will be any more concrete than support for the measure thus far, said Liz Brandt of the Moscow group Latah/Nez Perce Voices for Human Rights. The 'L' word to describe Lewiston Democrats isn't "liberal"; it's "labor."

"There's a difference," said Brandt, whose group organized against the initiative in February 1993. "This issue doesn't speak to a lot of people in Lewiston. For whatever reason, there are more economic and environmental issues, like the drawdown, taxes, salmon recovery. It's just not their issue."

Brandt said she wasn't surprised the initiative groups haven't made headway in Lewiston, a city where manufacturing employs more than 10%, and talk around town focuses more on money, fishing and the rivers than on civil rights and what initiative

supporters call "special rights."

Although many Lewistonians don't know about the initiative, they do have strong opinions about homosexuality.

At Campbell's Corner, a self-described "workingman's bar" south of town, half a mile from the Potlatch mill, a dozen men cluster around the small bar at 3:30 p.m. It's a slow rush, patrons explain, due to the opening of turkey hunting season.

"I don't want my grandkids learning about Gays. It's abnormal," booms Ralph Rogers, a 10-year veteran of the tissue mill at Potlatch. "I was pissed off when they took religion and saluting the flag out of school. I'll be damned if they bring this in. You teach kids all these morals when they're at home, then they go to school and learn something different. No wonder you can't get your kids to mind you."

While other patrons snicker agreement, the bartender wipes up a spill and shakes his head.

"I don't agree with the Gay lifestyle, but in the same token, these people are just folks," said J.R. Van Tassel, who has owned Campbell's Corner for 13 years and keeps a framed photo of Democratic Congressman Larry LaRocco over the bar. "We should treat people the same way. Sexual orientation is not a reason to prejudice people or give them advantage."

"It's like people get bored, and they need a cause," added Bob Sims, who also works at Potlatch. "They need somebody to hate."

At Yo Espresso, Lewiston's only espresso stand, Lewiston native Anne Vassar fixes lattes for her clientele. She attends Lewis-Clark State College.

"My best friend in high school was a Gay man. He was spit on, beaten, harassed. He dropped out of school," she said. "If this initiative passes, it'll just make that kind of thing OK. The thing is, this initiative isn't about homosexuality. It's a springboard to other things."

Two blocks down, Sharon Buttenhoff stopped washing windows at the Lewis-Clark Center for Arts and History, to offer her view on the initiative, which she says simply prevents Gays from "gaining other privileges."

"I just don't think Gays ought to have special rights or privileges," she said. "I'm not crazy about Gay clubs at the colleges, either."

Ron Wuestenberg, a Lewiston financial planner, said he'd only "briefly read" about the initiative but noted the similarities between it and Measure 9, an anti-Gay initiative defeated in Oregon in 1992.

"I don't think it's necessary," Wuestenberg said. "I feel like they're trying to impose their opinion here. I don't see Gays as a problem."

But like many Lewistonians, Wuestenberg said he hadn't "really formulated an opinion about it."

That's for later, he says, when he hears more about it.

Meanwhile, Lewistonians likely will look toward the rivers for political and economic debate.

"An initiative, eh?" said Marion Kayler, a retired farmer. "We'll have to watch out for that."

books or other materials on homosexuality.

Proponents of the measures say they are seeking to stop Gays from obtaining "special rights."

Asked to define "special rights," Mabon said: "That a wrong behavior, such as homosexuality or cross-dressing, would be (put) in the minority classification. To me, that's the epitome of being special."

Gays say they aren't seeking anything special, merely protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation — which is not included in the federal Civil Rights Act.

"I think it's going to be a tough battle," said Robert Bray, Western organizer for the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force's "Fight the Right" campaign.

Fresh off a 15-state organizing tour, Bray said the "shock troopers" of the religious right are exporting these initiatives around the country. "No community is safe," he said.

The seven states where ballot language has been filed for the November elections are: Arizona, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. Other states considered by Gay leaders to be potential targets are: California, Ohio, Oklahoma, Montana and Wyoming.

The current round of initiatives grew out of a mixture of success and failure in 1992 when factions within

the religious right sponsored two statewide anti-Gay amendments.

In Oregon, voters rejected Mabon's "Measure 9" which would have barred the state from using money or property to "promote, encourage or facilitate homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism or masochism." Public schools would have had to teach that those practices were "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse."

But in Colorado, voters approved the narrower "Amendment 2," which banned the state and local governments from prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Amendment 2 is the model for measures currently proposed in Washington state, Idaho, Oregon and Nevada. However, last December, the Colorado Supreme Court found Amendment 2 unconstitutional because it usurped "the fundamental right of an identifiable group to participate in the political process." But in a slap at Gay rights advocates, State District Judge Jeffrey Bayless, who wrote the ruling, said homosexuals don't need the special protections afforded minorities who have been victims of past discrimination.

Despite Measure 9's failure two years ago, 20 local governments have passed anti-Gay ordinances in Oregon this year. Mabon needs

89,000 signatures to get his measure on the ballot.

On April 8, a county circuit judge in Oregon ruled that Mabon's proposed initiative was legally flawed and not eligible for the ballot.

Earlier this year, Gay leaders implored President Clinton to take a stand on their behalf. On Feb. 14, he released a letter, which has become an organizing tool for those hoping to defeat the initiatives. "This is not an issue of 'special rights' for any one group," he wrote. "This is a battle to protect the human rights of every individual."

Suzanne Goldberg, a lawyer with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, said her organization either has mounted or will mount legal challenges to all the initiatives.

"The ultimate goal of the initiatives is to dismantle the civil rights structure," she said.

## Mother

*continued from page 11*  
Rights.

Kay Bottoms argued successfully that Tyler would grow up not understanding the difference between men and women. Sharon Bottoms said her relationship with her mother has gone from rocky to "no relationship at all."

Tyler's father, who was divorced from Ms. Bottoms in 1992, supports his ex-wife's claim.

Ms. Wade, a 27-year-old health food store manager, is barred from seeing Tyler. Friends take in Ms. Bottoms and her son for their weekly visits.

"I love him like he was my child," Ms. Wade said. "I don't want him to think I've abandoned him," Ms. Wade said.

Ryder, the grandmother's attorney, said Tyler is not confused now, but would be if left with the two women. Sharon Bottoms and Ms. Wade say those claims are nonsense.

"Children in homes with these relationships grow up fine if things are explained to them," Ms. Wade said. "They aren't born with racism or discrimination of any kind in their heads. They learn it."

## Living with HIV?

Support is available at the Center.

PLUS (Positive Living Under Stress) is a group for gays and lesbians who have taken the HIV antibody test and tested positive or are otherwise AIDS affected. PLUS is a place to talk and share with others — to express your feelings and get information. It's free and totally confidential. PLUS will meet on Tuesdays at 7:00 at the Center, 1486 Madison. The moderator is Nancy Hoskins of Friends For Life. For more information or to sign up, call Charles at 274-2524.



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## Hawaii Tourism Caught In Middle of Gay Marriages Fight

By Bruce Dunford  
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU (AP) — Joseph Melillo and Pat Lagon have been together for 16 years. They love each other. They want to get married.

That desire has led to a legal and political standoff that could have wide-ranging implications: Should Hawaii be the first state in the nation to license same-sex marriages?

For Melillo, there's an obvious answer.

"Marriage is to show your love for each other," he says. "Same-sex couples love each other just as much as opposite sex couples. We just want the same rights as everyone else — nothing more and nothing less."

That doesn't sit well with many members of the state Legislature, or with a number of religious and fam-

ily groups.

One of the benefits of marriage, says Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, "is that children are literally loved into existence. Society protects the true marital relationship and grants it a certain status and benefits because it values the bearing and raising of children."

The issue has ramifications beyond Hawaii.

Because each state recognizes marriages performed in another state, opponents fear that same-sex couples who got married in Hawaii would be considered married everywhere else, too — though experts say that would be unlikely.

And the potential impact on Hawaii's tourist industry, the state's economic lifeline, figures prominently in the debate: Threats of travel boycotts have come from both mem-

bers of religious and family groups and from Gay and Lesbian organizations.

It all started in 1992 when Melillo and Lagon and two Lesbian couples were denied marriage licenses. They filed a lawsuit, but a state judge rejected their arguments and dismissed it.

The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled last May, however, that the ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional on the basis of gender discrimination, unless the state can show a compelling reason for retaining it.

The case isn't scheduled for trial on the "compelling interest" issue until April 1995, but lawmakers are trying to head off a judicial decision by devising a legislative resolution.

The state House of Representatives passed a bill this session saying the compelling interest is a

concern for the health and well-being of future generations. That concern is the basis for the state regulating marriages and issuing licenses only to male-female couples, the bill said.

The bill does not change any existing rights, and arguments that it makes procreation the state's policy are false, House Judiciary chairman Terrance Tom says.

"The bill does not denigrate anyone's lifestyle," Tom says, "or dictate to anyone how to live their lives or who to love."

The Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project, formed in the wake of

the court ruling, has vehemently opposed Tom's bill.

"We believe that marriages and families should be based on love, commitment and dedication to the happiness and well-being of our loved ones, and not on our appearance or our ability to bear children," group spokeswoman Maggie Tanis said.

Kevin Kailey, president of the International Gay Travel Association, has warned that a tourism boycott stemming from Colorado's recent anti-homosexual referendum would pale in comparison to what could happen to Hawaii.

## Cobb Pledges To Welcome All During Olympics

MARIETTA, Ga. (AP) — Olympics officials are keeping mum about Cobb County's chances of hosting the 1996 volleyball competition now that the county has tried to soften its condemnation of Gays.

Billy Payne, president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, labeled as a good first step the proclamation by Cobb officials Apr. 20 vowing not to discriminate during the Olympics.

But Payne refused to say when ACOG would decide whether to give Cobb permission to host Olympic volleyball.

Gay rights activists said the county's proclamation — which comes after the county drew national attention last summer for condemning the Gay lifestyle — is meaningless.

"This changes nothing for us," said Jon Ivan Weaver, head of Olympics Out of Cobb. "What this is doing is giving fuel to our group."

County Commission Chairman Bill Byrne released a proclamation saying the county will "provide the best in hospitality, facilities and amenities for all athletes and all visitors from all participating countries, without discrimination or hesitation."

Gay rights groups have been fighting to get Olympic volleyball removed from the county northwest of Atlanta because of a resolution by the commission last year that said the Gay lifestyle is incompatible with community standards.

Byrne said he assured Atlanta Olympic officials that the resolution was not meant to imply that Gays are unwelcome in Cobb County.

"If someone is Gay, they're welcome in Cobb County, as they have always been," Byrne said.

Byrne said the resolution passed last summer was designed to head off domestic partnership legislation.

The resolution also was intended to express the commission's opposition to the teaching of homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle, he said.

Because volleyball athletes will be housed at the Olympic Village on the campus of Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Payne said, it would be difficult to move the games outside the Atlanta area.

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