

Court Strikes Down Tennessee 'Sodomy' Law

By Karen Miller
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Chris Simien no longer has to worry that he will be denied a license to practice clinical psychology simply because he is Gay.

That is because a law making it illegal for homosexuals in Tennessee to have sex is no longer enforceable.

In a one-line decision June 10, the state's highest court declined to review the January ruling by the state Court of Appeals that private sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex is protected by the state constitution.

"What it does is lift part of the yoke of oppression on us," attorney Abby Rubinfeld said.

She represented Simien and the other four people who filed a lawsuit challenging the 1989 Homosexual Practices Act.

The law made illegal any "sexual penetration" between people of the same sex, including sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio or anal intercourse.

If convicted, homosexual Tennesseans faced fines of at least \$50 and 30 days in jail, but many could and did lose their jobs, homes and children simply for being arrested or accused, Rubinfeld said.

At least 25 people were prosecuted under the law between 1989 and 1993, when the lawsuit was filed, Rubinfeld said.

None of the plaintiffs had, but she said they lived with that worry every day.

"The whole concept was pretty

ludicrous to me, but it was also very scary," Simien said.

The Elton, La., native had moved to Nashville to work on his doctorate in clinical psychology. He has one year left to finish his dissertation and hopes to apply for his professional license after that.

"I didn't want any kind of foolish law like this to affect my future career," he said.

Now it won't.

Sharon Curtis-Flair, a spokeswoman for the state Attorney General's office, declined to comment on the Supreme Court's action except to say there would be no further appeals.

That is because the lawsuit relied upon the state constitution's privacy protection, rather than the federal constitution.

The state had appealed the February 1995 ruling by Davidson County Circuit Court Judge Walter Kurtz that the law was unconstitutional.

The state had argued that the Legislature was attempting to protect the public health and safety when it enacted the law because homosexuals have a much higher incidence of AIDS and other problems.

Rubinfeld said some 20 other states have anti-sodomy laws on the books, including several in the South.

Recently, Georgia's Supreme Court ruled its anti-sodomy law constitutional, while Kentucky's was overturned. Challenges to anti-sodomy laws are pending in Louisiana and Montana.



Pride Activities Deliver on Promise

It just keeps getting better. That was the consensus among the thousand or so people attending the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade and Festival held on Sat., June 8. Last year's crowd estimate was set at about 700.

Memphis Pride, the festival organizer, had promised a "bigger party with more purpose" and delivered on it.

Riding high on news of the U.S. Supreme Court's rejection of Colorado's anti-Gay referendum, the Memphis Gay and Lesbian community celebrated its pride on

one of the most beautiful days of late spring.

The weekend actually began on Friday night with The Belle Curves holding court on the Memphis Showboat for the 17th Annual Gay Pride River Ride. Although the weather may have hurt attendance, it didn't dampen spirits.

At 2:00 p.m. the next day, about 1000 people paraded through midtown in the largest Pride parade in the city's history. Balloons, banners, marchers and decorated cars and trucks snaked from Overton Park to the covered garage at Holy

Trinity Community Church on Madison, site of the Pride Festival.

Once there, parade marchers joined people already gathered for the Pride Festival — an amalgam of political speeches, entertainment, vendors, food and drink.

Ninth Congressional District hopeful Steve Cohen rallied considerable support for his challenge of six other contenders for that seat.

Cohen pointed out that no other candidate or Tennessee legislator had supported the Gay and Lesbian community more than he had.

Madison Location to Close MGLCC To Elect New Board July 6

At last month's MGLCC board meeting, members present voted to give up the lease on the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center's location at 1486 Madison.

The issue of raising funds to pay the rent and staffing the location has taken precedence over donor development and programming to such an extent that the current board and membership decided to reorganize the Center and examine the direction it is to take.

"The Center is not disbanding," said board president Hunter Johnston. "Too many of us feel there is a need for an alternative social and meeting space. However, two regular users of the Center have found new homes for their own reasons. We all felt that the next board should have the freedom to develop some new ideas and new directions without the obligation of having to raise that amount of money to the exclusion of everything else."

New board members will be elected on June 6 at the Center's current location. All interested parties are welcome.

Negotiations were undertaken with the owners of the building in the hopes that an interim plan could be worked out, since the signing

of the lease has always coincided with board elections.

"They wouldn't accept any less than a year's lease which gives no leeway whatsoever," said Miki Zulewski, board treasurer. Some problems with upkeep of the roof resulted in unsafe conditions and damage to MGLCC property last winter.

Board and members unanimously voted to continue responsibility for and maintenance of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, now in its 20th year of service. The Center took over the responsibility for the Switchboard after the Coalition was disbanded in 1991 and, during that time, has provided staff support and inaugurated a 24-hour recorded answering system. Allen Cook, co-editor of *TJN*, is Switchboard volunteer coordinator.

"The Switchboard is one of the most important services in the tri-state area and the MGLCC is committed to its future," said founding board member Vincent Astor. Under the MGLCC's tax-exempt status, donations to the Switchboard are tax deductible. MGLCC also receives money as a designated organization through United Way.

The Center's furniture, equip-

ment, video collection and library will be placed in accessible storage provided by one of the board members. Early plans are to maintain the monthly potluck dinners at rotating locations. The book and periodical collections housed in the library will have limited reference access until it is feasible to reopen a new location.

MGLCC was founded in 1989 by the now-disbanded Memphis Gay Coalition. It opened a space in the autumn of that year near the corner of Claybrook and Madison. It has since relocated twice in order to improve the location and has been in the current building three years.

Lambda Men's Chorus, Holy Trinity Community Church, Safe Harbor MCC, the Memphis Transgender Alliance and Memphis Pride, Inc. were all founded in and used the Center for meeting space. Holy Trinity and Safe Harbor have both moved to spaces of their own due to growth.

The Center has been home to support groups, 12-step meetings, video presentations, coffee house nights, potluck dinners, art exhibitions, holy unions, drama rehearsals, and the Pride Festival but current usage has declined.

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Plus Local News, Quick Clips and More!

Support Steve Cohen

By Allen Cook
TJN Co-Editor

This month *The Triangle Journal News* breaks a long-standing tradition of not endorsing political candidates for office.

In the past we felt that, quite frankly, none of the candidates deserved our support. Some sought the support of the Gay community but wanted to distance themselves from what could be a political liability.

Quite frankly our endorsement of Steve Cohen over Harold Ford, Jr. for the Democratic candidacy of the Ninth Congressional District is one we take with some trepidation. The elder Ford has an almost perfect voting record of supporting causes we believe in, but has never openly supported our community. His son, however, is an unknown quantity.

Steve Cohen, on the other hand, has consistently supported not only Gay rights, but also rights of minorities and women's rights to say nothing of his support of a state lottery, casino gambling and horse racing for Memphis and his disdain for the recent bill seeking to display the Ten Commandments in every classroom.

It has not gone unnoticed that Sen.

Cohen has actively sought out the Gay community. Over the years he has served on the Friends For Life Advisory Committee and both Heart Strings host committees.

He agreed to speak at this year's Gay Pride Festival (while Harold Ford, Jr. declined) and later showed up unannounced at a fund-raiser at WKRB.

His record stands squarely behind the concept of individual rights and a number of prominent Gay people are involved in his campaign. We also understand that the Human Rights Campaign is taking an active role in this election.

In our opinion, Sen. Cohen, in his many years in our state senate, has shown the kind of willingness to take the heat of otherwise unpopular issues — an attribute that will hold him in good stead in Washington.

If you are not already registered, get so immediately. As I write this, Mayor Herenton has endorsed State Rep. Rufus Jones making this a decidedly three-man race in a field of six candidates.

There is no doubt a Democrat can win this seat, let's make sure we send someone with experience who, incidentally, is on our side.

Opinions expressed in editorials and commentaries are those of the authors

L E T T E R S

The Triangle Journal News welcomes letters from its readers. Letters should be as short as reasonable and typed if possible. Although names may be withheld on request, all letters should be signed and include a phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be printed. All letters are subject to editing for spelling, punctuation and grammar. However every effort will be made to maintain the original intent of the writer.

Letters should be mailed to: Triangle Journal News, P.O. Box 11485, Memphis, TN 38111-0485 or faxed to (901) 454-1411. Our e-mail address is TJNmemphis @AOL.com.

Astor's Beads Read for Review

I would like to confront Vincent Astor about the review in last month's issue about Theatreworks' production of *Transition*. If you are such a big supporter and member of the Memphis Gay community, then you should be ashamed of yourself. You are not a big time critic from New York; you are one of us, along with the cast and crew of *Transition*. You should applaud them for their effort in bringing Gay theatre to the Memphis community, instead of criticizing. Remember, this is community theatre, not the tenth season for *Cats* or *Chorus Line*. These are also members of your own community, your brothers or sisters (Gay or straight). And the statement about the involvement in the production not indicating sexual preference was very professional in my eyes. Imagine that, the playwright just happens to be a poet and a hairdresser. He must be a fag!! Since this was a Gay play, I guess everyone in the play must be a floral arranger or interior decorator. The statement just shows those who are less educated about our lifestyle that just because you can act, that doesn't make you homosexual. And I don't know about you Mr. Astor, but I live in Memphis, not "Mayumphiyus", and I also know how to say it the correct way too. So, rush off to the big apple if you want to write big-time reviews. I'm sure they have plenty of room for one more worm! And to the cast and crew of *Transition* (Gay or straight), I

applaud each of you for a marvelous job. Thanks again!

Shannon L. Yarbrough
Memphis

Girl, methinks thou dost protest toooo much! —Eds.

AIDS Mastery Weekend Lauded

I had the fortunate opportunity of attending this weekend the most profoundly moving experience of my life. Living in this world with HIV and AIDS and the effects it has on our community it is so affirming to know that we here in the Mid-South have such an organization as the Mastery Foundation. The weekend consisted of close fellowship, self-evaluation, and much needed support from a community that not many are aware even exists. This group of people make this intensive weekend workshop available periodically throughout the year to anyone willing to participate. This is not a workshop of idle chatter and sitting around moaning and groaning about the woes of living with HIV, but a Life-Affirming weekend filled with Love and Light. I just wanted the community to be aware of what a blessing this workshop can be to anyone living in our world today, especially those touched by HIV and AIDS in whatever manner. My deepest heartfelt THANKS to the many faces and hearts of the Memphis-based Mastery Foundation.

With love,
Chuck Latham



Box 11485, Memphis, Tennessee 38111-0485
Phone (901) 454-1411 (Evenings)
Fax: (901) 454-1411 E-mail: TJNmemphis@AOL.com

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Co-Editors

Allen Cook • John Stilwell

Staff Writers

Vincent Astor

National News Editor

Mike Morgan

Contributors To This Issue

Michael Schiffelbein • Butch Valentine • Terry Orgel

Robin L. Marvel • Chuck Saylor • Brian Pera

Production

Vincent Astor • Allen Cook • Bob Dumais • John Stilwell

Advertising Sales

Vincent Astor • Bob Dumais

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P.O. Box 11485 • Memphis, TN 38111-0485

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Chicago Gears Up for First National Lesbian/Gay Political Convention

CHICAGO — OutVote '96, the first Lesbian and Gay political convention, promises to draw hundreds of activists here in August, between the two national political conventions, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

The three-day event will feature

appearances by Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, D-Ill., U.S. Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros and Rep. Steve Gunderson, R-Wisc. Also on hand will be HRC's Campaign '96 spokespeople Candace Gingrich, Sean Sasser and Chastity Bono

"It is critically important that Gay Americans, along with our friends and families, play active roles this election season because we will be literally voting for our lives," said Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director. "OutVote '96 will give our com-

munity the skills necessary to help elect fair-minded officials at every level of government."

The convention, which will take place Aug. 16-18 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, will include workshops on such subjects as voter registration and get-out-the-vote techniques, media and fund-raising. Issues discussions will center on how to talk about Lesbian and Gay issues using the latest polling data, funding for AIDS prevention and research, Lesbian health concerns, and the plethora of issues being used by religious political extremists against our community.

The convention will also include the presentation of the first Human Rights Campaign Equality Awards to some of America's most courageous crusaders for Lesbian and Gay rights.

The cost to register for the convention: \$95 before July 1; \$125 after July 1; or \$140 at the door. HRC has also obtained a special OutVote '96 rate of \$119 per night, single or double occupancy, at the Sheraton Chicago.

For more information and registration forms, call (202) 628-4160 ext. 8933, or visit the HRC Website at <http://www.hrcusa.org>.

Gay Protestors Gather at Clinton Appearance

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hundreds of Gay rights demonstrators, many waving signs and shouting slogans, gathered near the home of Sen. Dianne Feinstein on June 9 to protest President Clinton's opposition to same-sex marriages.

On a brief visit to San Francisco, Clinton was at the Democratic senator's home to attend a private fund-raiser after an environmental speech at the Presidio.

Police barricades kept protesters across the street from Feinstein's residence in the ritzy Presidio Heights neighborhood. The crowd of about 200 was loud but not unruly and there were no reports of arrests.

The crowd dwindled noticeably as the evening wore on. By 7:45 p.m., more than an hour before Clinton was scheduled to depart, no protesters remained.

Clinton spent about 2 1/2 hours at the senator's home and then flew to San Diego.

Among the protest signs spotted earlier were: "Human beings are not Political Currency" and "You Have Betrayed Us Clinton."

"Clinton is stabbing us in the back again, taking our money, taking our vote," said Susan Hester, 45, of San Francisco. "It'd be nice to have a Democratic president with a backbone."

Oakland resident Arwyn Moore said she attends few protests but was outraged when Clinton made his announcement.

"It doesn't make sense," said Moore, 23. "He's trying to say he supports equal rights for Gays...(But) we can't get married. You can't go halfway with equal rights."

There was a small group of Clinton backers, including one person whose sign read, "The Bay Loves Bill."

There was no sign of protest a few blocks away at the Presidio, where a crowd of 750 invited guests had listened to Clinton speak about the conversion of the historic Army base to a national park.

Clinton got strong support from the Gay community during the 1992 campaign, but he has disappointed activists. Most recently he said he would sign a Republican-backed bill that would keep same-sex marriages from having any legal effect under federal law.

The announcement prompted Mayor Willie Brown to suggest that the president cancel his visit. But Clinton refused to change his travel plans to visit San Francisco as part of a three-day West Coast campaign swing.

"I don't think any president has ever been more sensitive to the fundamental human concerns or the legitimate interest of Gay Americans than I have," Clinton said last week.

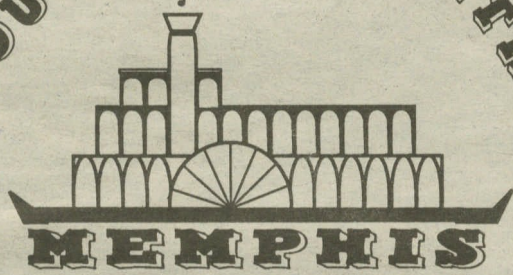
Starting on June 7, fliers circulated in the San Francisco Bay area urging people to gather at Feinstein's home to "Protest Clinton's Republicanization."

The Rev. Jim Mitulski, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church, insisted the protests would be peaceful.

"If President Clinton comes here expecting angry rioting, he will be disappointed," Mitulski said.

San Francisco's three Gay supervisors said they wouldn't attend the president's speech unless he met with them to discuss their concerns. White House officials said no such meeting was planned.

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Poll Finds No Consensus on Defense of Marriage Act

WASHINGTON — There is no clear consensus among Americans on the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, according to a poll conducted for the Human Rights Campaign, the largest national Gay and Lesbian political organization. The survey also found Americans overwhelmingly believe this issue should not be a legislative priority, and that it will not be a litmus test for candidates.

According to the national poll of 1,022 Americans conducted between May 31 and June 2 by The Mellman Group, 37 percent of Americans support the bill "defining marriage as only between men and women for the purposes of federal law," while 29 percent said they oppose it.

This lack of agreement was confirmed in another line of questioning. A total of 39 percent of those polled said they think this legislation is unnecessary, while 31 percent termed it necessary; a full 30 percent said they were not sure of the importance of such a law.

There is no consensus among Americans on the Defense of Marriage Act," said David M. Smith, communications director of the Human Rights Campaign. "These results indicate the Republican strategy of using the Gay marriage issue as a political strategy is fail-

ing to gain traction with voters and has the potential to backfire."

While opinion on this bill remains muddled, an overwhelming majority of those surveyed agreed there are more pressing issues facing Congress than attempting to outlaw same-sex marriage.

Only 13 percent said that "passing this law should be an important priority." A total of 73 percent said "there are lots of other issues" that are much more important than creating a federal statute to define marriage as between a man and a woman.

Further, this legislation is more likely to be viewed as a political ploy than as an attempt to strengthen the American family. More Americans (32 percent) accept the view that "this law is just an attempt to play politics, scapegoat Gays and embarrass supporters of civil rights for Gays, and is not really very important" than adhere to the view that "Gay marriage is a real threat to the American family and it is important to pass the law" (27 percent). Only 27 percent said they believe Gay marriage is a threat to the family; 41 percent would not even venture a guess.

This issue will not be a litmus test for candidates in November, according to the poll. Only 17 per-

cent said a candidate's vote against the Defense of marriage Act would be a "very convincing" reason to vote against that person. By contrast, 54 percent said a candidate's vote to cut Medicare would be a "very convincing" reason to vote against that individual.

Another indication of the low political resonance of this issue: Only 10 percent of those polled said they would be very likely to vote against a candidate with whom they otherwise agreed if he or she opposed this law. Six percent said they would be very likely to oppose a candidate with whom they otherwise agreed if that candidate supported the Defense of Marriage Act.

The bill was introduced last month in both the House and the Senate. One of its primary co-sponsors is Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, the certain Republican nominee for president.

It is sad that after a distinguished 35-year career in Congress, Senator Bob Dole will end his Senate career with a bill that is nothing more than cheap election-year Gay-bashing," Smith said. "Doesn't Congress have anything better to do?"

The poll results are based on a national survey of 1,022 adults interviewed by telephone between

May 31 and June 2. The study is based on a random-digit dialing probability sample of all telephone households in the continental United States, which ensures that every telephone household had an equal chance of participating in the survey. The margin of error for the sample as a whole is +/- 3.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. The margin of error for subgroups varies and may

be larger.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national Lesbian and Gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that Lesbian and Gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

Judiciary Subcommittee Marks Up So-Called Defense of Marriage Act

WASHINGTON — The markup of the inappropriately titled "Defense of Marriage Act" provided further proof that this bill is nothing more than crass election-year politics, the Human Rights Campaign asserted.

The fact that proponents of this clearly unconstitutional bill couldn't even articulate why they think it's necessary just demonstrates that it's a cheap political ploy," said Kim I. Mills, an HRC spokeswoman. "No state recognizes same-sex marriage, and Hawaii — the only state that might — is at least two years away from that decision."

During the markup, Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., who is chairman of the full committee, claimed that the timing of the bill "is dictated by the courts," referring to the case in Hawaii.

What action by what court, and when did it happen?" shot back Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.

Hyde offered no answer.

Frank then pointed out that the Hawaii case actually began in 1993, and that Congress felt no need until last month to introduce legislation.

Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition — which

has been pushing anti-same-sex marriage bills in legislatures across the nation — said his group would put its full force behind getting the federal "Defense of Marriage" bill to President Clinton's desk before Labor Day. "The organized Gay lobby will go into orbit," Reed said, admitting that the strategy was aimed at embarrassing Clinton, who has said he would sign the bill as it was originally written.

The only thing that will send the

Gay lobby into orbit is if Ralph Reed and his boss, Pat Robertson, wind up in a position where they are telling President Bob Dole whom to nominate to the Supreme Court," said David M. Smith, HRC's communications director.

The "Defense of Marriage Act" was reported out of the House Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution by a vote of 8-4. Committee members split strictly across party lines.

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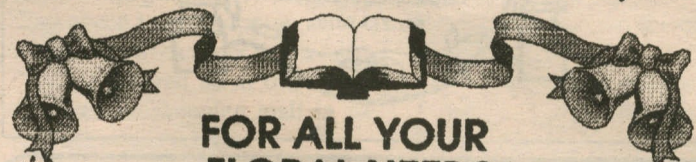
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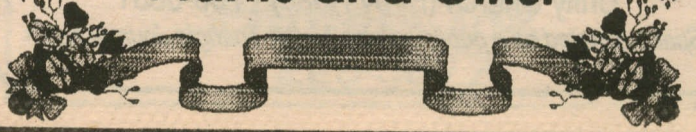
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Bono Loves Gay Daughter, But 'Can't Handle' Idea of Gay Marriage

By Cassandra Burrell
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Sonny Bono, whose daughter is a lesbian, says he understands Gay rights activists who support same-sex marriage, but he just "can't handle" the idea now.

Bono, R-Calif., told fellow members of the House Judiciary Committee that he supports a bill that would define marriage as a legal union of one man and one

woman in federal law. Opponents have denounced the bill as discriminatory.

"I'm not homophobic. I'm not a bigot. I'm not pandering to hatred," Bono said Tuesday. "I simply can't handle it. It's nothing else, but at least I want to honestly say that to you and throw aside all the legal rhetoric."

His comments came at the end of a long committee hearing on the bill, which was introduced last month by Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga.

Bono said he sees the Gay point of view and loves his daughter, Chastity Bono. He respects Gays and is a close friend of Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who is Gay.

But Bono still opposes Gay marriage.

"I think it breaks down to whether you're able to handle something or whether you're not able to handle something. I don't like my daughter any less because she's Gay," he said. "I wish I was ready, but I can't tell my son it's OK."

Frank said he appreciated the "candor and the decency" that motivated Bono's comments. But he continued to maintain the bill was fundamentally unfair to Gays.

Bono decided to co-sponsor the bill despite an article published in the January issue of *The Advocate* in which he told his daughter, who is a magazine writer, that the idea of Gay marriage "seems fine if that's what they want to do. Yeah, I'll support that, unless there are any costs involved, but there don't appear to be any."

Bono spokesman Frank Cullen said the magazine took Bono's comments out of context, making it sound like unqualified support. It wasn't, he said.

Cullen also said Bono was more concerned about a court case that could make Hawaii the first state to recognize Gay marriages. If that happens, other states could be required to recognize same-sex marriages performed in Hawaii.

If the bill becomes law, it will allow states to reject the legality of those marriages.

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For Gays, A Chance for Refuge

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Until six years ago, Sergey Fedetov would have been labeled a deviate. Now he is considered a persecuted minority.

The 23-year-old Russian is a homosexual. He was granted asylum on May 10 after crossing the Mexican border into California in December.

Fedetov calls it a "big miracle."

In an affidavit to an immigration judge, Fedetov said he was beaten and blackmailed by police in his town of Yoshkar-Ola, 400 miles northeast of Moscow.

"I decided then that I would go to the United States. I had heard that homosexuals lived freely without beatings there," he wrote.

Gays probably comprise only a fraction of the asylum cases considered by the U.S. Immigration

and Naturalization Service. But they represent a broadening U.S. view of who deserves refuge.

"American immigration law is grappling with the full reality of persecution," said Suzanne Goldberg, staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a Gay legal organization.

Like everything else involving immigration, the change is controversial.

"This is actually an extension of the rights revolution, of the cultural war, into asylum law," said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, which favors reducing immigration. "We have to ask ourselves whether that's sensible."

Until 1990, INS regulations said homosexuals could be barred from

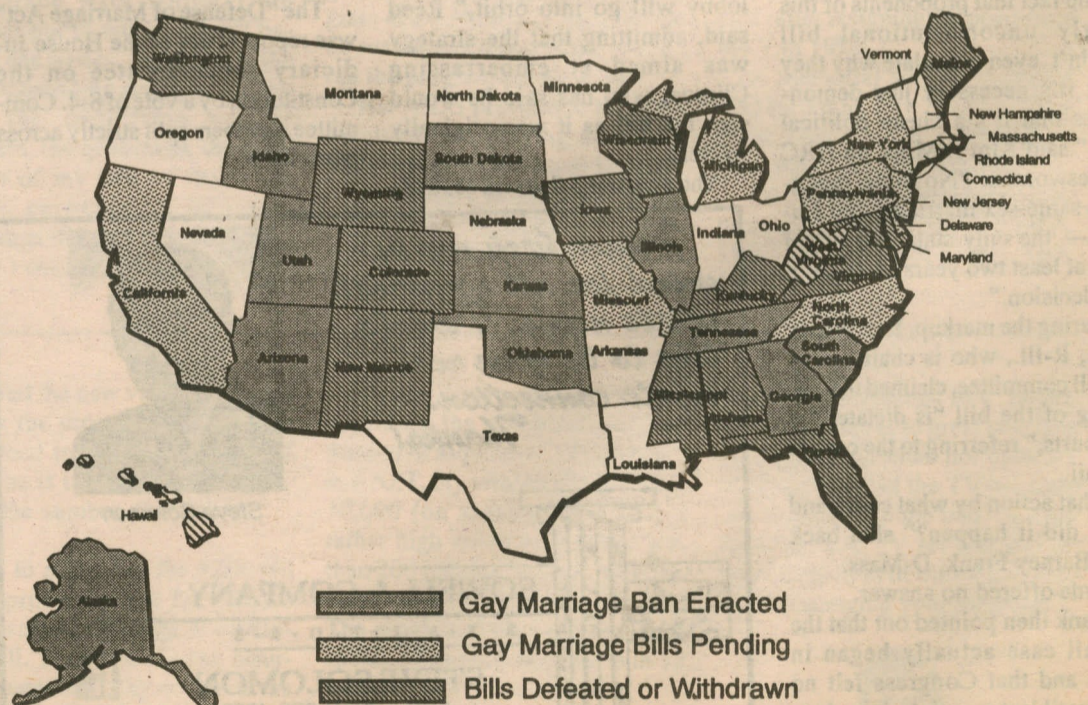
entering the country because of "sexual deviation." In 1994, the INS officially said Gays could be granted asylum as members of a persecuted "social group." In March 1994, a Mexican man who said he was beaten and raped by police there became the first homosexual granted asylum.

The INS does not specifically track homosexual asylum cases, but the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission in San Francisco said it knows of about 35 cases in which asylum has been granted.

About 300 Gays have contacted the group about asylum, said Sydney Levy, asylum project coordinator.

By contrast, the INS in March had 485,720 asylum claims pending.

Status of Same Sex Marriage Bills Across the Country



Supreme Court Hands Gay-Rights Advocates Another Win

By Richard Carelli
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —The Supreme Court provided more good news for Gay-rights advocates Monday by throwing into doubt Cincinnati's denial of discrimination protection to homosexuals.

By a 6-3 vote, the justices ordered a federal appeals court to restudy its ruling last year that upheld a Cincinnati charter amendment in light of their decision last month striking down a similar Colorado measure.

In the Colorado case, the justices provided a dramatic victory for Gay rights by ruling, 5-4, that a state constitutional amendment violated homosexuals' equal-protection rights.

In Cincinnati, a 1993 voter-approved amendment to the Ohio city's charter barred enactment or

enforcement of any law aimed at ending bias based on sexual orientation.

"The court today shows the power behind its ruling last month," said Suzanne Goldberg, a lawyer with the Gay-rights Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. "After weathering a nationwide onslaught of anti-Gay and anti-civil rights measures, we are beginning to emerge triumphant in this arena," she said.

Robert Knight of the conservative Family Research Council said, "The Supreme Court is stacking the deck against parents, clergy, the Boy Scouts and businessmen who are being targeted by coercive Gay-rights laws."

He said the court "has quit its role as constitutional umpire and is now batting cleanup for the homosexual rights movement."

Cindy Abel, executive director of the Gay-rights group Stonewall

Cincinnati, said the latest high court move "demonstrates that it truly is unconstitutional to deny Gays and Lesbians the possibility of obtaining basic protection from discrimination."

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas dissented from Monday's one-paragraph order.

Writing for the three, Scalia said the Cincinnati case differs from the Colorado dispute because it "involves a determination by what appears to be the lowest electoral sub unit that it does not wish to accord homosexuals special protection."

Scalia added: "The consequence of holding this provision unconstitutional would be that nowhere in the country may the people decide, in democratic fashion, not to accord special protection to homosexuals."

The three dissenters said they would leave the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling intact or grant review and hear arguments in the dispute next fall.

Gay-rights advocates sued over Cincinnati's 1993 charter amendment. Their lawsuit contended that the measure unlawfully thwarted their political participation.

U.S. District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel struck down the measure, but the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed his ruling.

The appeals court ruled that Spiegel wrongly concluded that homosexuals comprise a legally identifiable class of people, such as Blacks or women, who are entitled to civil rights protection.

The 6th Circuit court said the amendment rationally was aimed at lifting liability from those citizens who choose "to disassociate themselves from homosexuals."

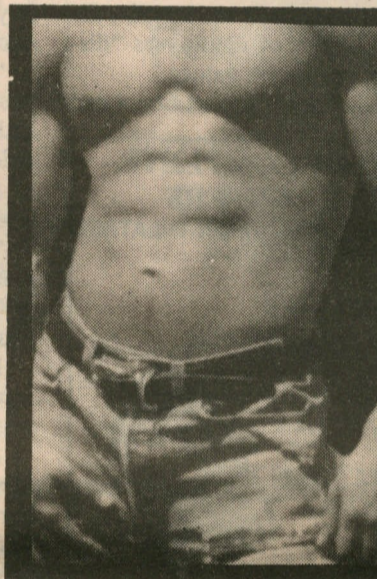
Cincinnati voters approved the charter amendment by a 62-38 percent count.

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Disney Unaffected by Boycotts, Analysts Say

By E. Scott Rechard
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — To boycott Disney, Southern Baptists will have to do a lot more than just steer the kids clear of Epcot Center, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Home Improvement*, *Monday Night Football* and the *Mighty Ducks*.

There's *Live with Regis and Kathie Lee*, *Siskel & Ebert*, *Bill Nye the Science Guy*. Hollywood Records. Hyperion books. *Discover* magazine. ESPN. Ten daily newspapers. Ten TV stations. Twenty-one radio stations.

Oh yeah, better toss out that *Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman* and ditch the *Missouri Ruralist*. Tack'n

Togs Merchandising? *Industrial Safety & Hygiene News?* *Feedstuffs*, *Motor Age*, *New Steel*, *Outdoor Power Equipment?*

All once part of Capital Cities/ABC, now part of Disney.

Same for *Women's Wear Daily*, *Institutional Investor*. Not to mention *Ob. Gyn. News*, *Stamp Collector*, and the Wichita regional telephone directory.

So it will be tough to follow through on the boycott, urged by Southern Baptist leaders last month for the denomination's 16 million members. They said Disney's tolerance of Gay nights at its theme parks and benefits for Gay partners of employees "disparages Christian values."

Then again, if Wall Street and

Hollywood observers are right and history repeats itself, there really won't be that many people boycotting anything for long anyway.

Sidney J. Sheinberg, the president of MCA/Universal when it became the first studio to offer health insurance to partners of Gay and Lesbian employees, said he knows of no case in which boycotts have had a material effect on an entertainment company.

Universal Pictures was embroiled in a bitter feud in 1988 when it released *The Last Temptation of Christ*, denounced by some conservative Christians for its portrayal of a very human Jesus with sexual desires.

"I personally always love these people who know what God wants and likes and think others are misguided. The humility of that kind of thing always bothers me," Sheinberg said.

"They've spoken their little piece and they've gotten their little headlines and nothing's going to happen."

Disney stock has seen no unusual fluctuations since the boycott was announced.

Analysts said repeated boycott threats against Disney, many stirred up by the Gay-cleric film *Priest* and other mature-themed offerings from its Miramax subsidiary, have had no discernible impact on the company's results.

Indeed, despite earlier boycott

calls from groups like the American Family Association, Disney officials say demand for all their products is high, with surging attendance at the theme parks in Florida and California.

Disney limited comment to a statement saying, "We find it curious that a group that claims to espouse family values would vote to boycott the world's largest producer of wholesome family entertainment."

The company said it would not accede to demands to deprive people of health benefits and said that to deny admission to a group, as the Baptists wanted, was something no tourist attraction anywhere would do.

American Family Association President Donald E. Wildmon said he thinks the boycott is gaining momentum.

Accusing companies from Time-Warner Inc. to AT&T and MCI of catering to homosexuals, Wildmon said Disney is the most appropriate boycott target because it promotes itself as a family-oriented company while producing filth.

Disney recently purchased Cap Cities/ABC for \$19 billion, adding to its empire network television, cable operations, television and radio stations in most major markets, a newspaper chain, and extensive publishing operations.

Indeed, it's hard to imagine

mainstream America without Disney and hard to imagine a successful boycott, said Jill S. Krutick, a Smith Barney entertainment analyst.

"They're very far-flung and it's very hard to avoid Walt Disney," she said. "They're an important part of our cultural fabric."

Merrill Lynch analyst Jessica Reif agreed. "Disney has a very high-quality product and I don't think consumers want to butt into corporate America, especially over health-care issues," she said.

Richard Jennings, executive director of Hollywood Supports, a group that lobbies for workplace rights for homosexuals, said 40 entertainment companies, including every major studio, have extended benefits to same-sex partners of employees.

To boycott every such company would essentially mean shunning popular culture, he said.

"I think you'd sell your TV and not go to any movies and not go to theme parks. And probably not listen to the radio much either," he said.

The emotions stirred up by the debate are undeniable. One well-regarded Wall Street analyst said he would talk publicly on any other topic but would no longer speak for attribution about Disney and Gays.

Too many nasty letters and crank calls would ensue.

"People are crazy on both sides of the issue."

Southern Baptists Offer Lukewarm Support to Disney Boycott

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Southern Baptists in Kentucky have mixed reactions to a call from the denomination's leaders to boycott the products of entertainment giant Disney.

Many support the boycott in principle, called for in mid-June by church leaders because of what they see as a move by the company away from family values.

Delegates representing 16 million Southern Baptists cited Disney's extension of health benefits to companions of homosexual employees, its admission of Gay and Lesbian events to its theme parks and the release by Disney subsidiaries of movies with adult themes and language.

"I think the (boycott) is a good step to wake Disney up to the fact that they are not supporting the complete family atmosphere that they say they are," said Basil Hall, the minister of music at Southern Heights Baptist Church in Lexington. "I believe that there are things that Disney has done that would question its family entertainment value."

He said his congregation would likely support the boycott.

But Tim Gilkison, a retired law enforcement officer and Southern Baptist churchgoer from Lexington, thinks most — but not all — Disney products and movies are good for families.

"Most of what Disney has done has been up front and good for the community," said Gilkison, who was shopping at The Disney Store in Lexington recently. "I've got a grandson that I'd love to take (to Walt Disney World)."

Since the convention has no

binding power over its members, Rosemont Baptist Church Pastor Gilbert Tucker thinks the boycott will have little effect, anyway.

"I don't think it will amount to much," said Tucker, who says he belongs to the more moderate arm of the denomination.

"I don't agree with everything that Disney does, but I'm not all fired up for a boycott," Tucker said. "If I don't like a movie, I won't go see it."

Clinton Objects to Boycott

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton opposes a boycott of Walt Disney Co. by Southern Baptists over the issue of Gay rights, the White House said.

"He doesn't agree with that particular position," press secretary Mike McCurry said. "That doesn't change his faith or membership in that denomination."

Clinton is a lifelong Southern Baptist. He has been outspoken on behalf of the rights of homosexuals, saying he has done more for Gays and Lesbians than any other president.

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Slaying of Amendment 2 is Lawyer's Latest Victory

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—The U. S. Supreme Court's rejection of the anti-Gay rights Amendment 2 was lawyer Jean Dubofsky's latest victory in a long career of accomplishment.

Earlier, she forced state social services to stop dumping the mentally ill on the streets in the early 1990s. She also helped push through the 1968 Fair Housing Act as a fresh-out-of-law-school aide to U.S. Sen. Walter Mondale, D-Minn.

Dubofsky is "the person people come to when they have important cases they can't afford to lose," said Rick Hills, a former associate in Dubofsky's Boulder firm and now a professor at the University of Michigan Law School.

Dozens of lawyers from across the nation collaborated to fight Amendment 2 in the courts. They all point to Dubofsky as the bulwark of the historic fight for Gay rights.

Her opponents agree.

"I thought she did a great job for her clients," said Colorado Solicitor General Tim Tymkovich, who defended Amendment 2 at all

levels of state and federal court. Dubofsky "left no stone uncovered" in trying to win the case, yet acted with constant professionalism despite the high emotions of the cause, he said.

Throughout her career, the 54-year-old Dubofsky has tempered headstrong political and social views with a desire to achieve practical results. She would rather win an important case with a carefully tailored argument than risk losing in a splashy effort to "make new law."

In the Amendment 2 case, Dubofsky kept the focus on winning, Hill said, which meant crafting a protest to Amendment 2 that would appeal to at least five members of the Supreme Court.

Arguing for her way while keeping cool began early for Jean Eberhart Dubofsky, whose life started in a conservative family in Kansas. "Everybody in Kansas is a Republican," she said.

At Stanford University in the early 1960s, she joined friends who worked in the beginnings of the civil rights movement.

"I felt strongly I needed to find

something that would let me be helpful to people," Dubofsky said. So she went to Harvard Law School.

"There were so few women lawyers when I started. I almost felt an interloper in law school. Women weren't judges, or even law clerks to judges," she said. The fact was disconcerting and "freeing" at the same time, because "anything you did as a woman was gravy."

She graduated and became an assistant to Mondale, then Minnesota's progressive young senator. She was immediately thrown into big disputes over fair housing and international trade.

She married Frank Dubofsky while working in Washington, but they soon looked around for a better place to raise a family and settled on Boulder.

She has served as a deputy attorney general for the state and later as a state Supreme Court justice appointed by Democratic Gov. Richard Lamm. Most of her career, however, has been in private practice. She takes on liability appeals

and other more mundane cases to pay the rent while working cut rate or for free on social justice lawsuits.

As for Amendment 2, "It still seems ridiculous," Dubofsky said, recalling her first reading in the newspapers of Amendment 2. "Why in the world is there a need to take away all protection from discrimination from the one group most likely to be discriminated

against?"

Despite decades of success in law, Dubofsky is not completely satisfied with her lawyer's role in the social causes she cares about.

"You spend lots of time digging back out of holes you're put into, instead of making positive moves," she said. "That's the drawback of lawyering, merely remedying things, instead of starting new things like a teacher does."



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TLT's 1st Drag Race A Success

Submitted by Tennessee Leather Tribe

MEMPHIS — The race may have gotten off to a late start due to inclement weather, but \$351 was raised for Friends For Life's PWA assistance fund on the evening of June 9 at the WKRB racetrack during the Tennessee Leather Tribe's first annual Drag Race.

The competition pitted chiffon versus chrome as Memphis' finest drag queens battled head-to-head with acts from the local leather community. Performers included Crystal Jo Jennings, Ferra Sappington, Simply Vonna, Jere Douglas, Betty Wray, Oh-Feel-Ya/George, Jr., deejay Carol, and members of Tsarus, Alliance and Wings. In the end, the leather community claimed the

winner's status, but only by a nose. At one point in the show, heavy dew on the speedway threatened to make the competition a little slippery, but the situation was promptly overcome.

Tennessee State Senator Steve Cohen (D-Memphis), candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, made a surprise appearance and speech before joining Jere Douglas on the track for a reprise of his stirring performance of *God Bless the U.S.A.*

The T.L.T. Racing Association would like to thank WKRB's Sharon Wray for emceeding the event and everyone else involved for their generosity, help and support. Plans are already underway for the second annual Drag Race to be held next year in conjunction with Memphis Pride Weekend.

Lady Peaches Dies at 50

Lester Phillips, 50, known to many, if not most, people as Peaches, died June 19 in Memphis of heart failure following a long illness. She had a long career as an entertainer, appearing in drag at Club Rosewood and Club Paradise in the Black community and at the original George's, the Family Affair, Apartment Club, Club Xscape and many other locations in the Gay and Lesbian community.

She always styled herself a true believer in fashion and glamor. Her other career teaching band, swing choir and computer (and always pride) gained her fame and re-



Lady Peaches (Lester Phillips) 1946-1996

spect from church, family and colleagues. She leaves an aunt and uncle who raised her, one adopted son and three grandchildren.

100 Years of Gay Erotica at Amnesia

On Wed., July 17 at 8 p.m., MGLCC will present 100 Years of Gay Erotica at Amnesia. More than 300 slides accompany a verbal presentation to tell the story of Gay sexual awareness and identity from the 1800s on.

Slides run the gamut: Gay-identified saints, Baron Wilhelm Von Glöden's Sicilian Lotharios decked out in togas, early 20th century photos from private collections, photographer George Platt Lynes' hidden nudes, Brassai's documentary forays into the underbelly of Parisian nightlife, Bob Mizer's American Muscle Guild, Paul Cadmus' Sailors and Floozies, 70s clones The Village People, Jeff Stryker, Marky Mark and his funky bunch, Pierre et Giles, Tom of Finland and more.

Admission is free, cash bar available.

(Last month's TJN published the date as July 14. We apologize for the error.)

Forum on Lesbian/Gay Marriage Set

"Love Makes a Family: The Case for Lesbian and Gay Marriage," a forum and discussion for the Lesbian and Gay community and their supporters, is set for Sun., Aug. 25 at Holy Trinity Community Church.

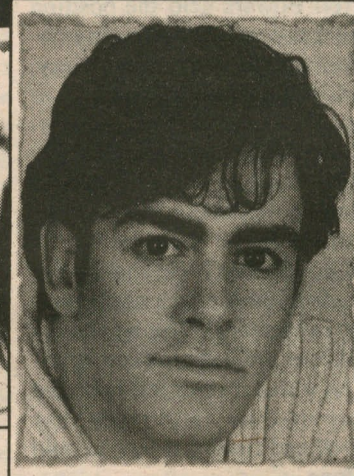
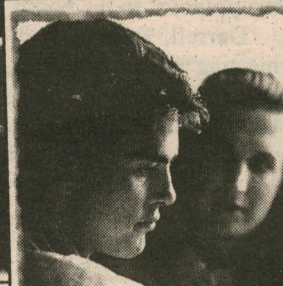
The forum will be held from 7-9 p.m. at the church at 1559 Madison Ave. A recep-

tion will follow.

The forum is co-sponsored by HTCC and the Memphis Chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Organizations wishing to provide informational exhibits during the reception should call HTCC at 726-9443.

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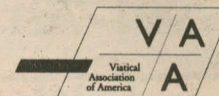
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FFL's Feast for Friends Celebrates 4th Anniversary

By Terry Orgel

In 1992 I began working at Friends for Life. I was fortunate enough to have as my coworkers a small, but dedicated group of individuals who worked very hard to serve the AIDS community. Darrell Bowers held the position of peer counselor/food pantry coordinator, and, I'm happy to say, my friend Darrell's "buddy," or volunteer support friend, was Derrick Moore. Derrick had recently moved to Memphis from Atlanta where he had been involved in starting a dinner program for the AIDS community. He and Darrell discussed developing a similar program in Memphis. This was a very ambitious program for an organization with only two full-time and two-part-time employees, but Darrell and Derrick knew it could be done.

Darrell was definitely "the man who can" behind the dinners. He wrote a proposal to be presented to the Board of Directors of St. John's United Methodist Church. He got the proposal into the hands of Rev. Frank McRae and convinced him that St. John's should open the church for these dinners, and he got Rev. McRae to present the proposal to the board.

Darrell, Derrick and I held a meeting with the chairperson of the church Missions Committee, Mrs. Utterback. She, too, was excited enough to agree to take this on as a project. It wasn't easy. There were many people who were concerned about the health risks involved. Dr. Scott Morris (physician, associate pastor of St. John's and the driving force behind the Church Health Center) came and discussed these fears and provided guidelines for us. Darrell and I had to attend classes and become

certified by the health department on regulations involved in food service. We lined up a corps of volunteers, all of whom were required to have current TB shots, and by July of that year, it was time for dinner.

What a wonderful time it was. Everyone involved was so excited. One client came up with the name of Feast for Friends; one person developed a logo; another sewed pillows for people to sit on. Many volunteers came and did all the setting up, cooking, serving and cleaning up. Florists began donating flowers for the tables and entertainers throughout the city began donating their services to sing, dance and play. Sometimes various organizations even donated the food.

This was definitely more than just dinner. This was a time for people to come together with their family members and loved ones to be in an atmosphere of openness and acceptance; a place where each individual's contribution made a difference—a place to network and meet others. Every person was made welcome and no one had to identify whether they were, in fact, HIV+ or whether they were there as an interested friend of the community. This meal was served to clients by waiters, on tables set with tablecloths, flowers and candles. An atmosphere of dignity and respect was created that made so many people want to be involved.

I remember the first anniversary dinner well. Darrell was in the hospital battling his final illness. But he told his doctor he had to be present at this very special evening. No one really expected him to make it, but he arrived, wearing a mask because he was so fragile,

and surprised us all. That night Darrell received a standing ovation from everyone present — an ovation that was well deserved!

I am so pleased that over these last few years, this important program has only continued to grow and prosper. There are so many people to thank for this success, and I would like to name a few of them. I know I'll probably leave someone out, so please forgive me if your name ought to appear here. It's been a long time since I've been involved on a regular basis and I may not be entirely up to date.

• Martha Bowers, Darrell's mother, who has continued all these years to oversee the kitchen and perpetuate the program; David Gairhan who has cooked nearly every meal ever served.

• Dottie Jones and Angie Dagastino, who know the importance of their personal contribution.

• Tim Andrews who created the concept of the hors d'oeuvres table.

• Sister Mary Jane Herlik who provides us with a blessing.

• Butch Valentine who has created a renewed enthusiasm and works so hard to make sure other agencies are aware of every dinner. With Butch in charge, the din-

ner nights have grown from filling about 10 tables to filling 17 tables at the last dinner.

• Ed Brandon who oversees each evening

• Sally who has worked at the dinner for the entire four years

• Chris who has washed nearly ever dish used.

Also the entire Friends for Life and St. John's board for continuing to make this program possible. And to Vincent Astor and Anette Chaney who were there with us in the beginning.

Also to Derek Underwood, Gene Dale Rust, Ron Hampton and Charlie Lewis who helped to get us off the ground and can no longer be with us. I know there are a hundred others.

There is a saying that it is not our job to complete all the tasks we start in this world, but neither are we allowed to shirk out responsibility to begin those tasks. Many of the beloved friends who worked so hard to start this wonderful community program have had to leave us without completing their task, but they did a wonderful thing for all of us by taking up the responsibility of beginning it for us all.

Congratulations to Feast for Friends. Best wishes for many years of continued success.

Sheridan Lambe, LCSW
Joyce Schimenti, LCSW

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Feast for Friends 4th Anniversary Dinner Mon., July 8 Bring Your Friends!

Feast for Friends is a service to the HIV infected and affected community including people living with HIV or AIDS, their friends, caregivers, family and friends.

While the dinner is free, those who are able are requested to make a donation to offset expenses.

Bluff City Sports Association Standings

(as of 6/23/96)

Team	Wins/Losses
1. Amnesia Haze	8-0
2. J-Wag's Jaguars	6-2
3. Mid-South Vision Peepers	5-3
4. Pipeline Pirates	5-4
5. Amnesia Knights	3-5
6. Cole-Haston Clippers	1-6
7. WKR Bee's	0-8

Barker's Dress-Up Tests Limits of Gay Aesthetic

Review by Brian Pera

Clive Barker has said that a Gay aesthetic permeates everything he does, and *Lord of Illusions*, his latest directorial effort, bears that out.

There is blood and gore, endless permutations of the flesh, none of it atypical Barker, but as well there are spastic sissies lurking about in clubwear, jealous lovers, misunderstood souls harboring unspeakable secrets and women glorified as drag glamor vehicles.

The plotline itself is simple enough: Cult leader holds brain-washed followers in trance-like servitude, takes young girl hostage; band of ex-followers comes to the rescue, killing leader, dispersing cult and burying leader's corpse miles below the earth's surface, points unknown. Later the ex-followers are killed off systematically, save for Swann, who had been the cult leader's chosen one gone bad. Swann now lives with the young female hostage grown up into supermodel. When ex-members of the cult collect to dig up their resting master and restore his unhuman powers, Swann, himself invested with the leader's "difference," must do battle.

Of, course, there's a bit of

straight iconography thrown in to keep the majority's interest, however lamely, in the form of a noir-style butch detective who comes to figure it all out, and have the uber-model in the process. Aside from these trappings the tone is pure Gay camp and kitsch.

The leader's most faithful follower, who single-handedly sets out to unearth his beloved, is the sissy from hell. Caesar haircut, shaved eyebrows, lanky figure garbed in spandex and glitter jersey, he's a Disco 2000 club kid tripping on X. He is sullen and sharply tongued, sadistic, everything we have come to expect from an era which has articulated his likes on film, whether it be Oliver Stone's homicidal ninnies in *JFK* or the Ed Gein-gone-trannie killer of *Silence of the Lambs*. He is Nancy boy-cum-bad-ass, a conundrum, but there you have it. And his central character motivation is to rekindle his sadomasochistic relationship with his cult leader sugar daddy. The thanks he gets is a kick in the groin from that very man, which by all accounts he seems to relish.

Troubled soul Swann sets up house with his supermodel, though theirs is not a relationship of love,

but of convenience and gratitude, not unlike many a man and his beard: He saved her from the cult; she saved him from speculation. He sits around his gothic mansion brooding under a mop of spidery hair: She seems to float from one designer gown to another, each more transparent than the last, a drag queen itching for a chanteuse number. She falls for the detective in a big way, and has sex with him on a gauzy canopy bed. The scene strangely manages to appeal to both straight and Gays at once, as the focus is as much the woman as the chiffon and the sinewy intricacies of the detective's every back muscle.

But the love story of the film is the subtext of the triangle between Swann, the cult leader and spastic, all fighting for each other in such self-destructive ways as to ruin all their chances of consummation. Spastic wants leader, leader wants Swann, Swann doesn't want leader, leader, doesn't want spastic and everyone concerned wants to destroy the competition. It's a story not unknown in Gay bars, though here it's carried out to high drama-queen proportions.

And Barker, bless his naughty

English boy heart, is nothing if not a drama-queen. He seems to be the kind of queer who never fits in, even among his own, who spent his days fantasizing about Dungeons and Dragons' scenarios, pining for gothic ghoulie boy of the minute, holed up in his room listening to goth-rock full of chants and cacophonous effects, drawn to bondage and discipline scenes and so forth. Which isn't to say he's done any of this: Likely the closest he's gotten to B and D is the D and D. He'd rather fantasize about wax drippings than feel them. Rather watch than participate, which anyway is often the modus operandi of many a prolific writer and artist such as he.

To complain that the man typically gets the woman, that all the Gay-identified characters end up dead in Barker's scenarios is true but misguided; for, true to the genre in which Barker works, such is the format. The storyline is, if nothing else, ultimately a reaffirmation of traditional security in the face of tenuous diversification and change, the facing of the transitory horrors of corporeal flesh. Everyone knows that the fun of games like D and D is

in confronting the aberrations encountered along the way, not in the tediously tried and true happy endings. The happy endings are formality. Playing the game is an excuse to participate in such "lifestyles" and transgressions, and eventually embrace them. Exactly why so many parents went into tizzies over their young sons' preoccupations were the kiss of death.

The end results hopefully transcend the perimeters of the game itself. Through playing it and exploring its diversity, its participants might come to realize it's potentially much more promising, liberating and fulfilling to be the ogres met along the way and that the ogres aren't so grotesque once the lights are turned on. We can only wait for them to find the light switch. Barker hasn't yet found it, though surely, with all his recently found Gay affirmation, he's getting close. It's much more productive to let a mind like his find its own way than to force it into a strict idea of political correctness.

(Brian Pera will present 100 Year of Gay Erotica at Amnesia on July 17 at 8 p.m. at Amnesia.)

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Gay Teens Given Place to Meet in New Hampshire

By Carrie Sturrock
Concord Monitor

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—From a distance it looked like any other high school dance.

Teenagers arrived wearing everything from jeans and sneakers to black boots and short funky dresses. Some smoked outside on the sidewalk. Most danced to pulsing music on a second-floor basketball court laced with strings of Christmas tree lights.

Up close, there was nothing typical about it: young men were dancing with other young men; women with women.

Sponsored by the support group Concord Outright, June's event was an evening for Gays, Lesbians, bisexuals and their straight allies to socialize. More than 80 people — some from as far away as Massachusetts and Maine — attended the dance, which wasn't publicized in newspapers or posted on high school bulletin boards.

"We didn't put it in the newspaper because we didn't want people to say, 'We don't have anything to do — let's go get those Gays in East Concord,'" said organizer Ryan Bolin, a senior at Concord High School.

News of the dance spread to other New England Outright groups by word of mouth. Only about 20 of the teenagers who attended live in the Concord area. It's so difficult for Lesbian and Gay youths to meet people like themselves, they don't mind traveling hours to expand their social circle.

"When you start dating as a Gay teen, any kind of event, from fundraisers to support groups, becomes a social event as well," said Bolin. "Those are excuses to bring the Gay community together."

The dance's sponsor, Concord Outright, started a year ago. The group holds weekly meetings where an average of 30 teens aged 14-22 come to talk, said Knox Turner, one of eight adult chaperones at the dance and a board member of Concord Outright. New Hampshire now has six Outright groups: Monadnock, Portsmouth, Concord, Hanover, Nashua and Chocorua.

While the group is primarily for support, many view the meetings as social events. Often, Turner said, after going through the week unable to discuss important issues with their peers, these young people consider the weekly gatherings a release.

The dance served a similar purpose. Outright has now sponsored two such events, which, like any other high school dance, give youth a chance to flirt and meet people, Turner said.

Terry Lochhead, president of the Children's Alliance of New Hampshire, said it is important for Gay and Lesbian teenagers to have a meet-

ing place.

"Gay kids go through misery trying to figure out their identity and trying to have a social life without being martyred," she said. "When it comes to socializing, some kids are Gay. Are we going to blank them out or are we going to give them an outlet for socializing?"

Traditional social and support institutions can seem distant and unavailable to Gay and Lesbian teenagers, said Steve Smith, a guidance counselor at Coe-Brown Academy in Northwood.

"My experience would lead me to feel that people who are Gay probably suffer more depression and are more prone to suicide," he said, adding that well-run support groups and events might help students lead a healthier, more positive life.

For Bolin, living in Concord as a Gay teen is frustrating. Only a tiny percentage of the teenage population acknowledges being Gay, he said, and within that you have to find someone with similar interests.

On top of slim pickings, Gay and Lesbian teenagers often come to terms with their sexuality later than their heterosexual peers and consequently haven't developed their dating skills as much, Bolin said. He noted that few people came away from Saturday's dance with a potential new girlfriend or boyfriend — they just had a lighthearted evening of fun together.

Wearing a "March for Jesus" T-shirt and shorts, Bolin stood outside the community center on Eastman Street Saturday greeting people with hugs and hellos. Some were straight friends from Concord High. Most he had met at Outright meetings around the state.

Bolin attended his first meeting last year. He drove to one in Peterborough, far enough away, he hoped, to avoid meeting anyone he knew. At the time Bolin considered himself a confused heterosexual. What he found at the meeting surprised him.

"These were normal teens who weren't flamers or butch girls, and they were in monogamous relationships and not sleeping around," said Bolin. "I had felt that because I didn't fit into any of the stereotypes, I couldn't be Gay."

After a while he began telling people he was bisexual, a label he felt comfortable with because to him it meant he still had one foot in the heterosexual world. Only recently did he begin acknowledging he was Gay.

Bolin remembers hearing a guy at an Outright meeting call another guy "cute."

"I thought 'That's so weird,'" he said. "I've never felt so out of place because you never hear that."

Due in part to that experience, Bolin is careful not to make his straight friends uncomfortable by

saying similar things.

Several teenagers who attended the dance said coming to terms with their sexuality had been a difficult, often painful process.

Seventeen-year-old Candida Martinez of Weare is involved in her first serious relationship with another young woman. They met at Concord Outright. Talking about herself, she said she doesn't like labels.

"I feel that if you label yourself a Lesbian, you have to conform to that," she said. "I think it's natural to be attracted to both sexes. I don't feel comfortable labeling myself. I prefer women, but I can't say I'm not attracted to men."

A few weeks ago, she attended the Winnisquam Regional High School prom with a different young woman. During the evening, people stared at them rudely, she said. When Martinez walked into the bathroom, the six teenagers applying makeup gave her a dirty look and abruptly left.

"I didn't know how to deal," said Martinez. "Going to prom with a girl — my sexuality hit me in the face."

Her father in California doesn't know, she said, and her mom thinks she's too young to label herself.

"My mom feels teenagers are too young to put a title on their sexuality," she said. "If it's just a phase, so be it — let me experiment and have fun."

Martinez is thankful that the Gay, Lesbian and bisexual teenage community has events to attend. Without them, said David Barnard of Augusta, Maine, it's difficult to approach people. He often finds himself looking for symbols to identify other Gay young men and avoid making a mistake, but has nevertheless misread guys wearing earrings or bandanas in their back pockets.

"You do have to go upon symbolic things if it's not visibly clear," he said.

Barnard added that being Gay can be difficult and it's common for people to wish they weren't. "There are some great things about being Gay, but who wants to be in the minority?"

People have different ways of struggling with the issues. Travis Peters of Ashland, like many Gay teenagers, refers to himself as "queer" and "fag" to combat the frequent insults.

"I believe it's one way to combat homophobia — you're turning the words around," said Peters, who is 17 and has his hair arranged in long, light brown spikes. "Instead of having a bad meaning, they have a good meaning."

Sage Hylton-Lemons of Portland, Maine, who frequently hears classmates call him fag and queer, didn't mind driving two hours to feel comfortable with his peers. The shy 16-year-old is the only one in his school to have publicly said he's Gay. And

for that he's paid a price. Last Friday, he said, two seniors cornered and punched him in an empty hallway until someone walked by.

"I'm looking to transfer to a school in the area that's more accepting," said Hylton-Lemons.

It took a long time for him to figure out he's Gay. In the fifth grade he found himself attracted to another boy but ignored the feelings. In the

seventh grade he learned what homosexual meant from a vocabulary list. In the ninth grade — before coming out of the closet — he had the first of many anxiety attacks.

At events like the one in Concord on Saturday night no one asks him why he wants to be Gay, something he explained is not a choice.

"Why would I choose to be hated and harassed?" he said.

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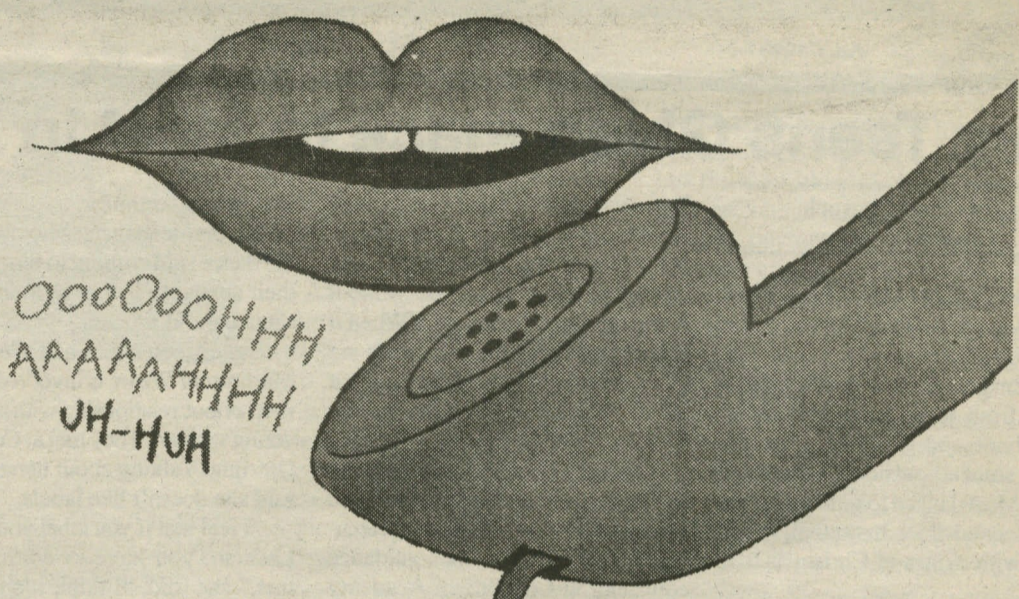
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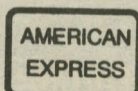
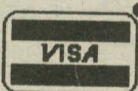
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Lesbian Couple Loses Appeal in Rejection of Adoption Proposal

DENVER (AP) —The Colorado Court of Appeals on June 13 rejected a lesbian couple's attempt to adopt each other's child.

The two, identified only by their initials, live together as same-sex domestic companions. Each is the natural mother of one of the two children named in their petition. They had appealed a Jefferson County District Court's rejection of the adoption attempts.

Each sought a "co-parent" adoption decree that would, in effect, grant her the rights associated with a "stepparent adoption" for the other woman's child, while retaining parental rights over her own.

Before seeking adoption each took steps to preserve an ongoing relationship with the other's child. Each has designated the other as the guardian or conservator for her child.

Likewise, each conferred on the other medical and financial powers of attorney, and powers of attorney for her child, and designated the other as agent for parental decisions.

Also, each prepared a will and trusts listing the other as primary beneficiary, and the children as alternate beneficiaries.

And they acknowledge that the family "will remain intact even if the adoptions are not granted."

Judge Michael C. Villano held the children were not available for adoption within the law, because the women were not married to each other, and because each sought to retain parental

rights over her natural child while consenting to the other petitioner's adoption. Same-sex marriages are not recognized in Colorado.

Accordingly, the judge concluded he was without jurisdiction to rule on the petitions, and dismissed the case.

In their appeal the couple argued Villano erred when he ruled that because each refused to relinquish her parent-child relationship with her natural child, the children were not available for adoption.

The Appeals Court agreed with the judge, noting that if a proposed adoption fails to conform to law, the efforts to adopt must fail and a judge has no au-

thority to enter an adoption decree.

Liberal construction doesn't allow a judge to rewrite law, the decision continued.

There was no requirement for the judge to hold a hearing to determine whether the adoptions were in the best interests of the children, as the couple argued, the court added, and there was no denial of due process.

NY Governor Introduces Sweeping Hate Crime Bill

By Michael J. Martinez
Associated Press Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Crimes against people of different sexual orientations have been included in a new bill stiffening penalties for so-called hate crimes, introduced June 14 by Gov. George Pataki.

Pataki's bill would elevate hate-related offenses one category higher than they normally would be. For example, a third-degree assault charge that was proven to be a hate crime would be raised from an "A" misdemeanor to an "E" felony, giving the judge the ability to impose harsher sentences.

Class A and B felonies are ex-

cluded from additional sentences in Pataki's bill.

"These despicable acts intimidate and disrupt entire communities, and do damage to the civility that is crucial in a democracy," Pataki wrote in his memorandum of support. "Current law does not adequately recognize the harm to public order and individual safety that hate crimes cause."

In addition to crimes against those of different sexual orientation, hate crimes, as defined by Pataki's bill, also include crimes committed because of the victim's race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, age, or disability.

See *Hate Crime Bill* on p. 28



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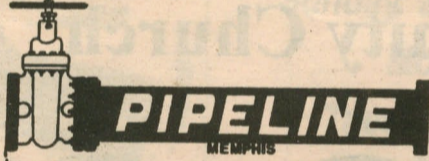

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TJN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE 30 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am • Living Word Christian Church, Services, 10am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Bible Study 5:30pm; Worship Service 7pm • WAC Meeting, Coffee Cellar, 2pm	JULY 1	2 • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, WKRB, 8pm	3 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm	INDEPENDENCE DAY 4 • Celebrations all over town (Check the ads!)	5 • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, 501 Club, 9pm	6 • MGLCC Board Meeting, MGLCC, 1pm • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Training, MGLCC, 2pm • BWMT Board Meeting, Alternative Restaurant, 3pm • "... Larry Kramer..." Benefit Performance, Playhouse on the Square 10pm • Backstreet's First Birthday Party
7 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am • Living Word Christian Church, Services, 10am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Bible Study 5:30pm; Worship Service 7pm • WAC Meeting, 7pm, call 272-3638	8 • Feast for Friends Anniversary Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm	9 • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, WKRB, 8pm	10 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm	11 • NOW Meeting, Coffee Cellar, 7pm • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Gay Skate Night, 8-11pm, Skateland on Summer Ave.	12 • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, 501 Club, 9pm • BWMT Movie Night @ Herb's	13 • Camp Beach, Pipeline, 3pm • BWMT Condom Night, Crossroads/501 • Alliance Club Night, Club 501
14 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am & 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Services, 10am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Bible Study 5:30pm; Worship Service 7pm	15 Deadline for August '96 TJN	16 • Integrity Eucharist & Healing Svc., 6pm; Dinner/Mtg., 6:45pm, Calvary Episcopal • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, WKRB, 8pm	17 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • BWMT CR @ John's, 7pm • 100 Years of Gay Erotica, Amnesia, 8pm	18 • NOW Meeting, Coffee Cellar, 7pm • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm	19 • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, 501 Club, 9pm	20 • Memphis Pride, 11am, call 726-4868 or 725-1698 for location • BWMT Fish Fry & Picnic, Call Hal for info 276-0168
21 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am • Living Word Christian Church, Services, 10am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Bible Study 5:30pm; Worship Service 7pm • WAC Meeting, 7pm, call 272-3638	22	23 • Integrity Board Mtg., 6:30pm • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, WKRB, 8pm	24 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm	25 • NOW Meeting, Coffee Cellar, 7pm • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Miss Bitch's Birthday, Crossroads	26 August '96 TJN Due Out • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, 501 Club, 9pm	27 • Belle Curves, Backstreet
28 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 10am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Bible Study 5:30pm; Worship Service 7pm • Potluck, Safe Harbor MCC	29 • Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm	30 • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, WKRB, 8pm	31 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • BWMT Wine & Cheese @ Albert's	AUGUST 1 • NOW Meeting, Coffee Cellar, 7pm • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm	2 • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, 501 Club, 9pm	3

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(Midnight - til...)

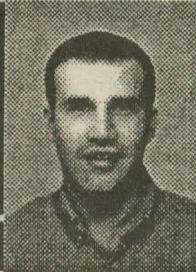
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SHOW (11 PM - Midnight)
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PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO



Was Alexander Hamilton "Queer as a \$10 Bill"?

Were there any Gay heroes in the American Revolution?

For decades, American Gays and Lesbians have researched and publicized evidence of the homosexuality of famous Gays and Lesbians in the past, including figures from the American Revolution. Just like African-Americans pointing to the role of Crispus Attucks during the Boston Massacre and American Jews glorifying Haym Solomon's contributions to financing the Continental Army, American Gays and Lesbians have searched for Gay heroes in our nation's founding drama. Finding fellow travelers who played a role in the genesis of the country is a way of asserting a community's ownership of part of American his-

tory, and its continuing right to exist in America. Blacks, Jews and Gays have all understandably felt nervous about whether the rest of America considered their place in American society to be secure — and so they have emphasized past contributions to important American historical events. (A similar process takes place within the Gay and Lesbian community when drag queens or people of color who feel marginalized assert that they were responsible for the Stonewall rebellion.)

Of course, claiming that Gays contributed to the American Revolution is quite different from demonstrating that specific famous Revolutionaries had same-sex relationships or identities that we

would recognize as "Gay." Indeed, there is scant evidence of Americans before the late-19th century whose identities embraced same-sex sexuality. Nonetheless, in honor of our nation's 220th birthday, here are three men who have been put forward as Gay heroes of the American Revolution:

• **Alexander Hamilton**

Jonathan Ned Katz's *Gay American History*, published in the bicentennial year of 1976, contains several letters from the future first Secretary of the Treasury to fellow Revolutionary soldier John Laurens. The letters are filled with passion and innuendo, such as when he ended a 1779 letter with: "I have gratified my feelings, by lengthening out the only kind of intercourse now in my power with my friend."

• **Baron Friedrich Von Steuben**

Randy Shilts' 1993 book *Conduct Unbecoming* makes a strong case that Von Steuben — a Prussian military hero whom Benjamin Franklin recruited to help train the Continental Army — was Gay. Steuben left Europe under accusations of "having taken familiarities with young boys." He arrived at Valley Forge, where he led Continental soldiers in uniform drills and military exercises — and became close friends with both Hamilton and Laurens. He was eventually promoted to division commander right before the war was finally won at Yorktown.

• **George Washington**

Though his view is accepted by few scholars, in a 1993 article

"George Washington's Gay Mess: Was the Father of Our Country a Queen?" University of Massachusetts Professor Charley Shively argued in the affirmative. Shively's assumptions and methods are unconventional, as he asserts: "Assume everyone is homosexual until proven otherwise." His article (which was printed without footnotes) nonetheless does a yeoman's job of questioning the assumptions of traditional historians that all famous people are straight unless evidence of repeated same-sex intercourse can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Shively's portrait of Washington is one of a prissy queen "who spent hours fussing over his uniform, his hairdo, his sword and other military paraphernalia." He surrounded himself with handsome and brave young soldiers, and evinced little interest in women, including Martha — with whom he bore no children.

How much evidence does it take to prove that a George Washington or an Alexander Hamilton was Gay? And if they were Gay, does it matter? Scholars struggle with questions like these all the time. Certainly, knowing that important people in the past were "Gay" can help boost the self-esteem of Gays and Lesbians, especially youth. But rather than re-writing "straight" biographies of American heroes to make them "Gay" biographies, a more promising project (albeit more ambitious) would be to look at the biographies of all famous Americans of the past with an understanding of the complex nature of human sexuality — and the impotence of labels like "straight" or "Gay" as applied to people who never encountered any such categories.

Who was Oliver Sipple?

Oliver Sipple was a disabled ex-Marine who saved the life of the President of the United States. On September 22, 1975, Sipple was standing near the entrance of the St. Francis Hotel in downtown San

Francisco, hoping to get a glimpse of President Gerald Ford, who had just finished addressing the World Affairs Council inside. When Ford stepped out of the hotel, Sipple noticed a gray-haired woman who aimed a gun toward the President. He wrestled her to the ground, and although the gun went off, no one was injured.

When questioned by the Secret Service, he begged them not to release his name to the press. They did so anyway — the near-assassination of President Ford by Sara Jane Moore was a major national story. Soon, Sipple faced the public revelation of something he hoped to keep out of the newspapers: the fact that he was Gay. Harvey Milk — who later became San Francisco's first openly Gay elected official — is said to have contacted *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Herb Caen, who promptly included a brief item about Sipple in his column. Caen wrote of the celebrations of Sipple's heroism in a Gay bar the night of the assassination attempt — and listed Sipple as a volunteer in Milk's campaign for office.

Several other newspapers followed with stories about "The Gay Vet" and the "Homosexual Hero," and when Sipple's family found out, they refused to speak with him. Sipple responded by suing the *Chronicle* and other newspapers for invasion of privacy, but the courts rejected his case, arguing that by choosing to save the president's life, he had become a public figure.

President Ford — embarrassed by the affair — did not invite Sipple to a Rose Garden ceremony or grant him a Presidential Medal of Honor. After weeks of waiting, Sipple finally got just a brief note of thanks for his heroism.

David Bianco, MA, teaches Gay and Lesbian history and politics at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. If there's anything about the history of Gays and/or Lesbians you've always wondered about, contact him in care of this newspaper or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.



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Taxes on Church Truck Used for Anti-Gay Pickets Questioned

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — If a church uses a pickup truck to haul signs calling the sheriff a Nazi and alleging that Bob Dole “loves Gays,” does the truck qualify for the religious exemption from property taxes?

The Shawnee County appraiser says no, the Rev. Fred Phelps’ Westboro Baptist Church says yes, and the state Board of Tax Appeals has been asked to sort it out.

The church, whose members are a familiar sight in Topeka and other cities picketing against homosexuality, bought the 1995 Ford 150 last June and applied for a property tax exemption on it.

County appraiser J. Mark Hixon recommended against exempting the truck from what he said Friday would be a \$476 property tax bill.

At issue is whether the signs themselves are strictly religious in nature, or have political overtones.

Hixon said he was uncertain of the religious significance of a placard about “Nazi Meneley” — an apparent reference to Shawnee County Sheriff Dave Meneley — and another on the truck itself bearing the words “Dole” and “Gays” separated by a picture of a heart.

At a hearing May 30 before the tax board, church attorney Fred W.

Phelps Jr. — the pastor’s son — argued the truck is used exclusively to haul signs and that they are integral to the church’s religious activities.

He questioned Westboro Baptist clerk Chris R. Davis, a son-in-law of the pastor, about the signs.

“I don’t characterize it as picketing. I call it street preaching, street ministry,” Davis said.

Answering another question, Davis also said many of the signs

carry references to Bible verses.

Assistant County Counselor Richard W. Eckert asked Davis on cross-examination if many of the signs also conveyed political messages. Davis replied that any political overtones were “a side effect.”

Eckert asked if the signs about elected officials were intended to sway votes.

“I don’t have any hope or desire that’s going to happen,” Davis

said.

Hixon was the only witness for the county. Questioned by Phelps, he said had not talked to any clergy about the signs to determine whether they had any religious connotation.

He said that whenever there was a question about the use of property for which a tax exemption was sought, he would recommend against an exemption and let the

Board of Tax Appeals hear evidence and decide.

Hixon quoted one sign that referred to a man who mooned some church members. The man, Jan Hamilton, is the husband of Shawnee County District Attorney Joan Hamilton.

“I’m not that familiar with the Bible, but I don’t think there’s anything like that in there,” Hixon said.

NY Mayor Against Gay Marriage, Favors Couple Registration

NEW YORK (AP)— Mayor Rudolph Giuliani says no to Gay marriage.

“I believe marriage should remain the way it is,” Giuliani said Monday after a City Hall ceremony to honor Gay and Lesbian city employees, according to the June 18 *Daily News*.

“I think people that are Lesbian and Gay should be given respect (and) equal treatment under the law, but my position is similar to President Clinton’s,” the mayor

added, in response to a question.

Clinton said that he would be willing to sign a bill to block same-sex marriage. The federal measure would allow states to refuse to recognize Gay marriages, even if sanctioned by a state.

But Giuliani said he supports the city policy that permits unmarried couples to register their unions with the city clerk. That qualifies domestic partners for survivorship rights and, in the case of city employees, health coverage.

PWAs, Animal Rights Activists Square Off

WASHINGTON (AP)— AIDS patients are accusing animal rights activists of blocking lifesaving medical research.

They place the lives of animals above the lives of me and my friends,” Jeff Getty of San Francisco said June 18. He added that he received death threats during an experiment last year to see whether a baboon’s bone marrow could treat his AIDS.

But another PWA Steven Simmons, a member of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said, “Fighting AIDS doesn’t mean ignoring animal suffering.”

Thousands of animal rights activists gathered in Washington, an annual visit to lobby Congress to strengthen laws protecting animals used in scientific research.

Animal rights activists targeted Getty because last year he received bone marrow from a baboon killed so doctors could first check it for pathogens.

That experiment failed because the baboon’s marrow didn’t survive inside Getty, said HIV-infected PETA member James Brown. Those research dollars would have been better spent on safe-sex education, he said.



Homosexuals were often “purified” by burning as this would release them from the temptations of the flesh. (1552 woodcut—*Cosmographie Universelle* of Munster)

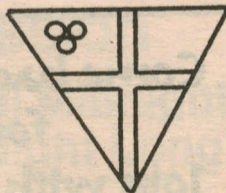
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Community In A Flutter Over Gay Pride Flag at School

ORANGE, Mass. (AP) — School administrators in this blue-collar town are trying to calm a community uproar over their decision to let students fly a flag widely viewed as a symbol of Gay rights.

Known as the rainbow flag, it flew this spring at Mahar Regional School on a pole beneath the American flag.

"I believe there should be only one flag flown that unquestionably represents our community, and that's the American flag," parent Brenda Zimmerman said Tuesday. She said the rainbow banner is "a political flag."

She helped collect an estimated 350 signatures on petitions protesting the display of the rainbow flag, which features six horizontal stripes of different colors.

The rainbow flag went up at Mahar in April at the request of the Student Council, with the approval of administrators at the combined

junior-senior high school in this central Massachusetts town.

The school's Gay-straight student alliance was awarded the flag by Gov. William F. Weld's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth. The alliance, like such groups statewide, operates with help from the state's Safe Schools program, which fights illegal discrimination and violence against Gays.

"We feel that the flag should be flying because ... it encompasses everyone, including people who are bigoted," said Micah Silver, who will be a junior and vice-president of the student council next fall.

"This flag says that people who have different opinions can voice them freely," he said Wednesday. "It represents anyone of any beliefs, any religion, any sexuality, any color."

Mahar Superintendent Eileen Perkins said the flag was meant to

demonstrate "that the school protected and wanted every student ... to feel safe, regardless of race, color, religion, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation."

That was not what it represented to the protestors, however.

"It represents things that most of us don't believe in. It represents homosexuals," said Bill Fellows, a Korean War veteran. "Either they're going to have to climb back in the closet or be a little bit more low-key."

Energized by the flag protest, some parents have also complained that the school's health curriculum is teaching the use of condoms and presenting homosexuality as normal. Zimmerman said parents need

more details about the curriculum so they can pull their children from such classes.

The flag and health education issues have prompted rumblings of trying to vote out the current School Committee or seeking alternative education.

Robb Johnson, a Boston advocate for victims of anti-Gay violence, agreed that the rainbow flag is "understood to be a symbol of Lesbian and Gay affirmation, and it also speaks to diversity on a broader scale."

The flag was flown earlier this month at Boston's City Hall Plaza during Gay Pride Week.

However, David LaFountaine,

chairman of the governor's commission, takes a broader view.

"The rainbow flag is a symbol of people from different cultures and different backgrounds uniting to combat prejudice. It's really shameful that anyone would object to the rainbow flag being flown at a school," he said.

The 11-member School Committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday to hear the views of protestors on both the flag and health education. The superintendent said she is considering ways of giving parents more information about the health classes.

Both the American and rainbow flags are down for the summer, since school is not in session.

Waiter Fired Over Roommate With AIDS Wins \$6,500 Judgement

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — A Tulsa man who claimed he was fired as

a waiter at an upscale restaurant because his roommate had AIDS

has been awarded \$6,500.

The decision is one of the first of its kind dealing with wrongful termination of an employee because of his association with a disabled person, lawyers for Paul Saladin said May 28.

Saladin, an eight-year employee of The French Hen restaurant, sued owner Terry Turner in 1994, claiming that Turner violated the Americans With Disabilities Act when he fired Saladin in 1993.

The act prohibits discrimination against individuals because of their association with anyone who has a disability.

Saladin lost his job at the south Tulsa restaurant after a customer allegedly complained to management about overhearing another customer ask Saladin about his

See Walter on page 28

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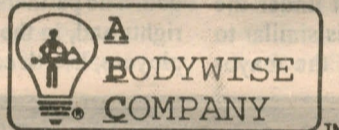
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South Beach — More than *La Cage* Opening

By Gerald Libonati
Special to TJN

South Beach is the new American Riviera. Gay tourists are discovering its glittery, fame-soaked, streets abuzz with writers, actors, models, people-watchers and anyone seeking a change of pace. It's hot, both figuratively and literally. Put on your sunglasses and be a star on Collins Avenue.

The area is already the fashion photo capital of the world as photographers and models flock to the island for year-round work. In your wanderings you're likely to come across a photo shoot or two.

South Beach is also emerging as a popular movie location. Come at the right time and you might get to watch a scene in progress. Sly Stallone envisioned greater Miami as an east coast film production center and has donated money for the restoration of the grand old Gusman Theater. He was so taken with Miami that he bought a house on Biscayne Bay right next to Madonna's.

Cher is also house-hunting. More and more first run movies are being filmed in and around South Beach. Recent releases include *The Birdcage*, *Fair Game*, *The Substitute*, *True Lies*, *Just Cause* and *Up Close and Personal*. Even movies that are not set in South Florida like *Kindergarten Cop* contain generic scenes that are shot here.

Gay tourists are openly welcomed on South Beach for a number of reasons. Even *The Miami Herald* has acknowledged that Gay money (much of it from out of state) was responsible for the glitzy transformation that occurred here. Most of the Gay clubs and establishments in Miami Beach are on South Beach. And, recently, the area hosted a conference for Gay travel agents in an effort to bring more Gay tourists to the island.

Theater

Once the domain of refugees and the elderly, Miami Beach was considered a cultural desert. Now, however, theater, concerts, ballet and the symphony are all available. First-run shows like *Sunset Boulevard* can be seen here. Because of the elaborate sets required in this blockbuster production, the Miami and Ft. Lauderdale theaters will

combine to produce Weber's masterpiece. *Sunset* will debut in September at the Fort Lauderdale location for an extended six-week run. Tickets are now on sale through the box office or Ticket Master. Edward Vallela has taken the Miami Ballet to new heights. The Miami Symphony Orchestra has its own theater. And name performers like Billy Joel, Bette Midler, Liza Minelli, Elton John

Downsiding

One of the concerns of tourists coming to Miami is crime. It's been nationally reported because Miami is a world popular destination and similar crimes in other cities might not get as much attention. Sensational headlines involving tourists over the years have usually occurred when a visitor unwittingly leaves the expressway and gets lost in a high-crime area. Every major city has them and Miami is no exception.

Liberty City, where several tourist-crimes have occurred, is located just north of the Airport Expressway (112) between the airport and Interstate 95. 112 is one of two east-west expressways that will take you into the city. If you are concerned about getting lost in Liberty City, ask for directions to the Dolphin Expressway (836) or simply remain safely on the highway until you've passed the toll booth. The Airport Expressway (112) is located on the north side of the airport and 836 is located on the south side of the airport.

The Dolphin (836) takes you through the heart of downtown

and Rod Stewart have always performed here.

Sports fans can find Dolphins, Hurricanes, Panthers and, of course, the ever-present Miami Heat.

South Beach, as the name implies, is the southern tip of Miami Beach, a long breakwater island separating the City of Miami and Biscayne Bay from the Atlantic ocean. South Beach extends to about 23rd street. In the northeast end of SoBe, from approximately 6th street is the art deco district where this unique architectural style has been preserved. Take an art deco tour or follow the signs on your own tour. The Lincoln Road Mall is at 1 6th street. This is not your typical mall. It's a tropical, open-air pedestrian boulevard flanked by sidewalk cafes, art galleries, restaurants, bookstores and Gay bars. It's the home of the Miami Symphony and the alternative Colony Theater. The Sony building contains the recording studio of Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine. North of 41st street you'll find the stretch usually seen in older movies about Miami Beach showing the famous Fountainbleau and Eden Roc Hotels, Surfside and motel row.

Miami providing a spectacular vista of cruise ships and expensive island homes as it transports you across Biscayne Bay. It is the route you would take to South Beach. On the north side, 112 skirts a high-crime area for a few miles but it also crosses Biscayne Bay and lands you at 41st street on Miami Beach. It is the most convenient route connecting to Fort Lauderdale and points north. Both expressways connect to 95 and both require a 25¢ toll.

Most tourists don't have problems with crime, however. They enjoy a safe and pleasant holiday.

Politically Speaking

Despite the fact that Florida is generally conservative with a large population of immigrants who usually register Republican, the area continues to support one of the largest Gay communities in the nation. In fact, you may recall that it was from Dade County that Anita Bryant launched her infamous campaign to repeal Gay rights. Had she lived anywhere else, she might not have noticed. Miami Beach still enforces a non-discrimination policy that includes sexual orientation.

In June, Gay pride marchers are

greeted with encouraging signs in shop windows with no counter demonstrations like those that have occurred in some other major cities. The event is covered by the local media and public television celebrates this time with a flurry of Gay programming. The march has, in the past, alternated between Miami and Ft. Lauderdale, the two major Gay destination points in South Florida. This year Pride South had a parade in Fort Lauderdale on Sun., June 23. It was followed by the festival at War Memorial Auditorium on US-1.

Winter Playground

If you're sensitive to the heat you might want to plan a winter trip when the weather is exceptional. New Year's Eve is Miami's time to shine in the national spotlight. The Orange Bowl Jamboree Parade on Biscayne Boulevard is the biggest night-time parade anywhere. Plan ahead and order bleacher seats from Ticket Masters for about \$18.00. Hotel rooms should be booked well in advance for this time of the year.

There are a number of hotels and guest houses on Miami Beach which cater to a Gay clientele including The Bayliss, European

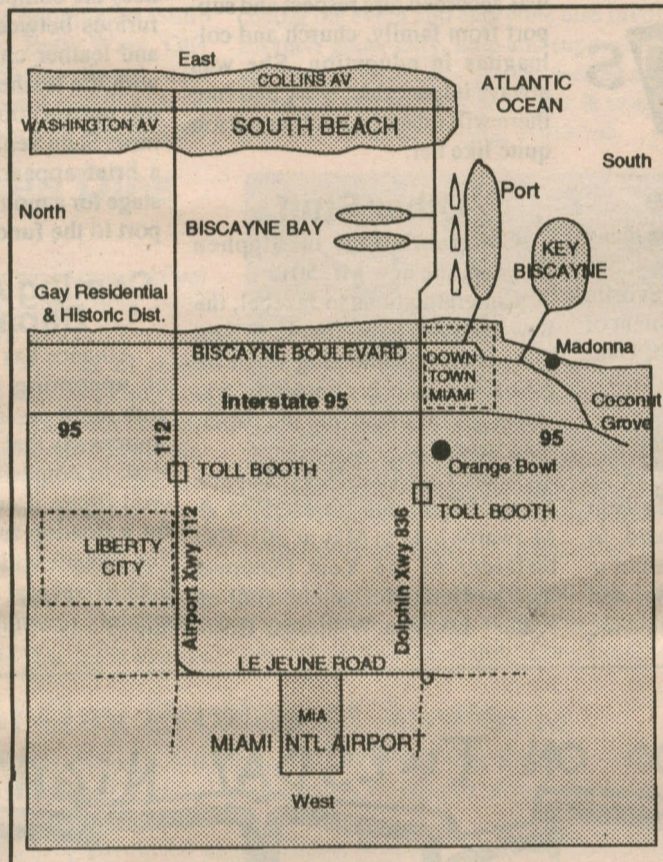
Guest House, Island House and Normandy South (the last is men only, non-smoking and clothing optional).

Just across the bay, connected by scenic causeways are the cities of Miami, Coconut Grove and Key Biscayne. You can visit the Palace of Vizcaya where the president met the pope, flip a bird at the Parrot Jungle, see palms and tropical plants at Fairchild Gardens, eat Cuban on Calle Ocho or take a cruise on an oceanliner. Miami boasts the largest cruise ship industry on the planet. Just 20 miles and as many minutes north is Fort Lauderdale, and three hours south by the overseas highway is Key West.

Getting Connected

If you want to call ahead, try the Miami Beach Community Center at (305) 531-3666, the Fort Lauderdale Community Center at (305) 563-9500, the South Beach Business Guild at (305) 234-SBBG, or Pride South at (305) 771-1653.

(Gerald Libonati is the author of *The Adjuster*, a Gay time-travel adventure novel, and *Tropic Lights*, the Gay novel set in Miami. He has written for *The Miami Herald*, *The Advocate* and other newspapers and magazines. *The Adjuster* is distributed by Alamo Square.)



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Larry Kramer Did What?

You'll have to read on to find out. By the by, we are now beginning our ninth year of dishing the dirt and chronicling the community.

Pride Recap

It was as we expected it to be, the biggest and most successful Pride ever. A lovely boat ride, in spite of the weather working against it, but including the Belle Curves working in its favor. Net proceeds were over \$700 for MGLCC.

Participation in the parade and Festival exceeded 1,000 with a huge crowd intently listening to Sen. Steve Cohen's speech. The entertainment at the Festival held several surprises. Work schedules and unexpected illness prevented Nicole DuBois, Pebbles, Derek Dean and Steve Smith from performing. However, Chuck Paar and the recently chosen Mr. 501 Stephen Holland stepped in. Both their performances were of very high quality and we hope to see them again soon. Chador and company, a new female face on the Memphis music scene, and Thom Malone (Mr. Gay Tennessee All-American) rounded out the afternoon. Watch for the release of

Chador's new recording coming out in July.

Thanks to all the speakers, Mike and Marty and all of the elves who turned out to set up and clean up the space. Thanks to parade coordinators Sandy Kozik and Tommy Simmons and our volunteer color guard and banner carriers. Crossroads took first place for decorated vehicle and P-FLAG for walking group. A visiting church, Safe Harbor from Jackson, MS, took second place for walking group and Vince LaPlante for vehicle. Third place vehicle went to 501 and walking group went to Holy Trinity. Thanks also to 501, WKRB and J-Wag's for the loan of large fans, Holy Trinity for the loan of the covered space and A. S. Barbaro, distributors of Miller and Miller Lite, for Grand Sponsorship. And to everybody else that helped and attended. We, in spite of any opinions to the contrary (read Mule) are merely human and largely forgetful.

Public Service Announcement

We have a rare opportunity in 1996 to send a proven friend to our community to Washington. It is more usual that we are surprised

to find who our friends are in Congress. This individual has solicited our votes directly and proved himself our friend by his voting record and courageous stands. Vote for Steve Cohen August 1 and again in November.

support base and new programming. There are plans to continue monthly pot lucks at rotating locations. Furniture, equipment and the library and memorabilia collections will go to accessible storage and the Switchboard will continue as always.

zation Award—Sylvia Dollar; Bartender of the Year—Jeff Hardy of the Pipeline.

We really are not qualified to compare Backstreet's new dance room to others, we are seeking volunteers for same. We did enjoy some excellent lighting effects.



Patriotic Note

As is customary, there are many celebration choices for July 4. See what's cooking at your favorite watering hole. The entertainment of note is another offering by the Over 50 girls at 501.

MGLCC Corner

In July, MGLCC will give up the lease on its present Madison Ave. location. The new board, to be elected July 6, will reexamine the needs that the Center serves and will concentrate on developing the

Note of Passage

We acknowledge the passing in June of our dear sister Lady Peaches. She was a pioneer entertainer both in the Black and White Gay/Lesbian community. She also was accorded rare respect and support from family, church and colleagues in education. She was always impeccable, witty and fun; there will never be another person quite like her.

Other Stuff

Congratulations to Stephen Holland, the new Mr. 501.

Congratulations to Jezebel, the new Miss J-Wag's. Thanks to Sam Graves for remembering when we asked and who is constantly trying to get his name into the paper. And here it is!

Better Late Than Never Department: Highlights from the M & M awards held in May at 501. Entertainer of the Year (Second Year)—Hetti McDaniels; Hall of Fame—Lorretta Williams; Hori-

Benefit Recap

The Tennessee Leather Tribe Drag Races (to benefit PWA Services at Friends For Life) raised over \$350 at WKRB the evening of June 9. Despite a late start (tee hee) the competition was fast and furious between drag performers and leather community members with the leather community coming out on top (?) but only by a nose. State Sen. Steve Cohen made a brief appearance and took the stage for a moment to lend his support to the fund raiser.

Coming Attractions Department

Alliance has informed us about an upcoming Olympic-themed club night on July 13 at 501. Our sources say that the only sport they wish to emphasize is watersports (you figure it out). July has plans for a floating fundraiser for Feast For Friends which will find members at several locations raising money. (continued on pg.28)

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Larry Kramer Play to Benefit Memphis PWAs

By Vincent Astor

A special added attraction during the run of Playhouse on the Square's *Forever Plaid* will be a limited run of the Off-Broadway hit *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*. A one-man show performed by *Plaid* cast member John Butterfield, the play consists of a series of meticulously crafted scenes that are alternately lyrical, brutal and hilarious.

The "Kiss" represents a turning point in the character's life after he sees a performance of Kramer's forceful AIDS play *The Normal Heart* and gets a wake-up call to activism and involvement.

A special performance July 6 at 10 p.m. will benefit Friends For Life and Aloysius Home. The appeal of the show has been broad, both to Gay/Lesbian and non-Gay/Lesbian audiences. It is written as an honest portrayal of the Gay male experience using brilliant wit and boyish style rather than cannonades of anger or shock. It explores the broad range of Gay male experience beginning in childhood and culminating in an awareness that

coming out and community involvement are crucial to a Gay man's personal development. Apathy and self-centeredness are the major sins.

The play was written and performed by David Drake beginning in 1992. He and successor Eric Paepfer have performed and toured the show to many areas since. The content is presented intimately and is very nearly autobiographical both of the playwright and this generation of urban Gay men in general—a sort of Gay Everyman.

"This is as much my story as it is David's and many Gay men can say the same thing," says actor John Butterfield, "This makes it a worthwhile piece for a non-Gay audience to see. It can also be a very positive role model for young Gay men."

Butterfield was engaged to perform the piece at the Off Center Theater of Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center in 1995. Since then, he has produced and performed it himself in four other areas. He has performed professionally for 10 years with a hiatus in Boston where he sang with the Boston Gay Men's Chorus.

He has had major roles in such diverse plays as *Death of a Salesman*, *West Side Story*, *Les Liasons Dangereuses*, and *Sunday In The Park With George*.

"The content and message is so important to me that I de-emphasize myself as actor though sometimes it seems to be my script because it is so close to my own experience," says Butterfield. "It is not a sledgehammer message play, it is written very lyrically and is mostly easy to listen to." His awakening to involvement was his first performance of this play, rather than the Kramer piece.

The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me by David Drake. Benefit Performance Sat., July 6 at 10 p.m. Following the benefit will be a cabaret featuring members of the *Forever Plaid* cast. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Friends For Life, Star Search Video, Meristem Books and Dabbles Hair Co.

Regular performances are Friday-Sunday, July 12-21. Curtain at 10 p.m. Fri./Sat., Sun. 9 p.m. Regular ticket prices are \$10 in advance and \$12 day of show. Call 726-4656 for information.

Texas Supreme Court Hears Arguments of GOP, Gays

By Peggy Fikac
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court, siding with the state GOP, ruled June 19 that a Republican Gay and Lesbian group doesn't have to be allowed an exhibit booth and advertising space at the party's state convention.

The court — on which Republicans have a 7-2 majority — unanimously blocked a temporary injunction issued by State District Judge John Dietz of Austin.

Dietz had ordered the Republican Party of Texas to sell the Log Cabin Republicans an ad in the convention program and to provide it with a booth at the gathering, which began June 20 at the Alamodome in San Antonio.

Dale Carpenter, president of the Log Cabin Republicans and a GOP state convention delegate, said he and other group members still would distribute materials at the convention and might set up a booth outside the Alamodome.

"The decision to exclude us from the convention has been made by party officials and not by rank-and-file Republicans in this state, many of whom have indicated their support for our right to participate in the debate within our party," Carpenter said.

"What it means for us is that the battle for inclusion is not over. ...

We are going to continue to work at every level of the party until this party upholds its ideals of limited government and individual liberty for all," he said.

Ruling just hours after hearing arguments in the state GOP's appeal of Dietz's decision, the Supreme Court said it didn't have time to prepare a full opinion addressing all of the issues presented.

But in an unsigned ruling, the court said it had heard enough to grant the GOP's emergency motion and block Dietz's injunction.

"We are tentatively of the opinion that state action is required for there to have been a violation of the constitutional rights asserted by the Log Cabin Republicans and that such action was not present under the facts of this case," the court said.

The Log Cabin group, which advocates equality for Gays and Lesbians, had said the GOP violated its right to free speech, due process and equal rights.

The Log Cabin Republicans also had said the GOP breached a

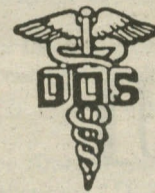
contract with the group by revoking a booth assignment and refusing ad space. The court found that claim didn't warrant a temporary injunction, either.

GOP lawyer William Charles Bundren, in urging the court to block the injunction, said political parties have the right to determine exhibits at their conventions.

Party officials have said they didn't want the Log Cabin group to have a booth because the group's goals conflict with the party platform, which opposes homosexuality.

The GOP even could preclude Black Republicans from having a booth at the convention if the party chose, Bundren said in response to a question during the hearing from Chief Justice Thomas Phillips, a Republican.

"This is not a public street. This is not a public forum," Bundren said of the convention, which he described as a private function carried out under party members' constitutional right to assemble.



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Hate Crimes Bill

Continued from p. 17

"In a pluralistic society where hate speech is protected by the First Amendment, there are many dangers," said Leslie Neustadt of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which helped author the governor's bill. "Concern about hate crimes is legitimate and serious."

While Democratic lawmakers joined the Anti-Defamation League in praising the bill, state Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, one of Pataki's top Republican allies, said his house would not consider the measure. The Senate ended its session Friday.

Bruno said his house already addressed

the issue of hate crimes through a bill passed earlier this year.

"We have done a bill that gives the judge the prerogative to increase the penalty if there is a particular hate-related motivation for any particular person or group," Bruno said. "We think we have acted on that as we should."

The state Senate has passed a bill that would give judges the option to impose higher sentences for assaults involving bias, but does not extend that to other crimes. The Senate bill also includes sexual orientation in the list of groups affected by hate crimes.

"There are peculiar dangers involving all crimes motivated by hate," Neustadt said. "The Senate's response is to deny or ignore that."

Waiter

continued from page 24

longtime companion, Ed Gaudin, who was dying of AIDS, attorneys said.

In a 26-page opinion, U.S. District Judge Terry C. Kern ruled that Turner engaged in unlawful discrimination.

"(Saladin's) relationship and association with a person with a disability was a motivating factor in (Turner's) decision to suspend and discharge Saladin from his employment at The French Hen," said Kern,

who heard the case during a non-jury trial in March.

Greg Bledsoe, one of Saladin's attorneys, said that although evidence about the sexual orientation of both Gaudin and Saladin was introduced, it was not the focus of the case.

The decision, he said, sends a broader message to employers: "The disabled need to feel free to associate with the non-disabled in an integrated society."

"I think a lot of people will benefit" from the ruling, Saladin said. He added that he had received positive and negative feedback.

Quick Clips

(Continued from pg. 26)

S.P.I.T. (St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament) will hold a Camp Beach night at the Pipeline on July 13.

During the run of *Forever Plaid* at Playhouse on the Square in July will be several performances of *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, a one man show to be performed after the main show on the theatre's main stage. A performance benefiting Friends For Live and Aloysius Home will be held July 6 which will include a late night cabaret to follow. See article for further details.

Don't forget 100 Years of Gay Erotica, sponsored by MGLCC, at Amnesia Wed., July 17. Amnesia is also presenting two different groups of male dancers and two headliners. There is also amateur male stripper night. Oh yes, and drag headliners. See the ad and take your choice.

Final Round

You're on your own next month, chiquitas. We're on vacation.

Ta, ta.
Lady A.

Daring New Single Takes on Homophobia

By Daniel Jenkins

The first single release from Me'Shell NdegeOcello's album *Peace Beyond Passion* is a daringly outspoken song about homophobia entitled "Leviticus: Faggot." The lyrics deal with the story of a young Gay man who comes out of the closet and must deal with society's homophobia. The brave decision by Maverick Records and NdegeOcello to release the track as a single was a surprise. Songs with brutally honest lyrics about sexuality are a tough sell to radio stations and music video outlets.

Resistance has been strong among radio programmers at R&B stations across the country. Programmers are uncomfortable with the in-your-face title and the lyrics that unabashedly deal with religion and homosexuality. Warner Bros. black music promotion team has reported many "mean-spirited comments" by programmers who received the single. Only a handful of stations have been willing to play the single.

Resistance has also been strong among video programmers. Black Entertainment Television turned down the video. While MTV and VH1 debate whether they will play it. The video, like the song, is in-your-face and features a young black male who is kicked out of his parents' home because he is Gay. He ends up on the streets and ultimately commits suicide. MTV has asked that a scene depicting the razor blade used in the suicide be edited from the clip.

NdegeOcello is determined to keep the message intact. "If programmers want to change the video to soften the message, then I personally would rather they just not play it," she says.

(Daniel Jenkins is a Gay activist and music columnist who makes his home in San Francisco. He creates a daily electronic newsletter called *OUTVOICE!!* which features news information about Gay and Lesbian music. The newsletter is free and can be obtained by sending email to DjOUTVOICE@aol.com.)

Study Shows HIV Concentration Test Predicts Disease Outcome

By Paul Recer
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Measuring the concentration of the AIDS virus in the blood gives a more accurate prediction of the disease prognosis than does a test that counts the number of white blood cells, according to a study published May 24.

In a study of 180 men infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, scientists at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center found that the amount of virus in the bloodstream gave a better forecast of how soon a patient would get sick than did a CD4 T-cell count, the measurement that has been used for years.

The study is published in the journal *Science*.

The primary targets of HIV are CD4 T-cells, the helper white blood cells that are a key element of the body's immune system.

Healthy levels of these CD4 T-

cells are 800 to 1,200 per cubic millimeter of blood. HIV kills these cells and the body makes more, but over time the count can drop. The level of CD4 T-cells has been used routinely as a marker for disease progress and the timing of some anti-viral treatments has been based on CD4 counts.

This actually is an imprecise and indirect way to predict how fast a patient would get AIDS after an HIV infection, said Lawrence A. Kingsley of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, the senior author of the study.

"Even those patients who appear healthy with a high CD4 count can progress very rapidly toward AIDS," he said. CD4 counts, said Kingsley, do not respond rapidly and can lag behind a powerful surge by the HIV infection.

University of Pittsburgh researchers took blood samples every six months from the 180 patients, some of whom were followed for more than 10 years. At

the beginning, all of the patients tested positive for HIV infection, but none had progressed to the point of having AIDS, the advanced stage of HIV disease.

The blood samples were tested both for CD4 T-cell counts and for the presence of HIV RNA, the genetic material of the virus.

The study compared two groups of patients with about the same CD4 T-cell counts — about 500 — but with different virus concentrations. Within six years, half of the group with virus concentrations above 10,900 HIV RNA molecules per milliliter of blood died, but of the patients with HIV levels below 10,900, only 5 percent died.

This showed that the HIV concentration was more predictive of the disease progress than the T-cell count, the study said.

"The criterion for treating with anti-viral drugs has been a T-cell count of 500," said Kingsley. "We know now that many individuals with such high CD4 counts are ac-

tually on a rapid downhill course."

A better indication of when to start anti-viral treatment, he said, is the HIV RNA level.

"This is an important finding," said Dr. Neil Graham, an HIV specialist at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center. "It shows that people with high viral loads should start therapy irrespective of their CD4 T-cell counts."

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said the finding could improve treatment.

Kingsley said a new blood test, now being evaluated, will enable physicians in most clinics to routinely measure viral loads.

Science is the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Lab Study Suggests Oral Sex Poses Strong HIV Infection Risk

By Paul Recer
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oral sex may not be safe sex, despite the belief of some that it poses a small risk of spreading the AIDS virus, researchers report.

The study, which involved exposing monkeys to HIV in controlled experiment, showed that viral infection occurred through oral exposure with fewer virus particles than in controlled experiments of rectal exposure.

In effect, said Dr. Ruth M. Ruprecht, "this study shows that people need to know that oral sex is not safe sex."

"This is important public health information that should be widely published," said Ruprecht, a virologist at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and the senior author of a study published in the journal *Science*.

Earlier studies have hinted that receptive oral sex represented a risk for HIV infection, Ruprecht said. But many people have thought infection could occur only if the receiving partner had cuts or sores in the mouth. Many people, she said, assumed that oral sex was a safe alternative to other forms of intercourse.

"I've talked with physicians who work in AIDS clinics who felt that oral sex is not that much of a risk," said Ruprecht. "Very few people use condoms for oral-genital contact."

"On the basis of reports on humans and on our study, unprotected receptive oral intercourse should be

added to the list of behaviors that place people at risk for infection by HIV," she said.

Ruprecht led a laboratory team that experimentally exposed monkeys to the simian immunodeficiency virus, or SIV, a virus closely related to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Six of seven monkeys that received doses of SIV virus at the back of the tongue developed simian AIDS disease. And the minimum dose of SIV to cause infection through oral exposure was less than the minimum dose required to cause SIV infection through rectal exposure, Ruprecht said.

However, Dr. Ronald O. Valdiserri, an expert on HIV transmission at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, noted that the monkey study was not a true model for human exposure to HIV.

"It was an experimental condition, so you cannot have a 100 percent correlation," he said.

In humans, for example, rectal sex often involves tears in the rectal lining, providing a direct pathway for virus to enter the bloodstream. That is usually not a factor in oral sex.

Also, Valdiserri noted, the Ruprecht team used pure SIV virus. In humans, transmission is more likely to involve exposure to cells that are infected with the virus, instead of the virus itself. That may change the infection risk, Valdiserri said.

The study, nevertheless, gives "laboratory validation to what we have observed in the past," said Valdiserri. He noted that the CDC has long supported the idea that "oral sex is not a risk-free activity."

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Sad to Say, Happy to Hear



Sad to say... Nearly 6 of 10 American oppose Gay marriages according to polls, and support Clinton's signing of the anti-Gay marriage bill.

Happy to hear... These figures are not really all that bad when you consider this issue has not even been an issue until recently. Besides, our own polls show most people don't care. (See page 5.)

Sad to say... What is this bill, exactly? The bill defines, for federal purposes, marriage "as the legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife." The bill will allow states to deny recognition of same-sex marriages held in other states and to withhold benefits to partners of federal employees.

Happy to hear... "If that's all it does, then I'll sign it," says the POTUS. Clinton is right-on when he says the Republicans shouldn't bring the bill to a vote because it only pits one group of people against another.

Sad to say... But they're going to anyway! The House Judiciary Committee voted along party lines to send to the full House the bill, which will be easily passed because of the majority of Republicans.

Happy to hear... The bill will have a much harder time getting passed in the Senate. Democrats plan to tack on amendments, such as Gay anti-discrimination laws, the GOP will certainly not like.

Sad to say... Whenever Gay rights are mentioned, people start screaming about same-sex marriages, benefits, affirmative action, etc.

Happy to hear... Our friends to the north aren't afraid to take a stand on a controversial issue. The Canadian senate passed a bill to ban discrimination against Gays in federal agencies and federally regulated companies. The representative of THE Queen is expected to approve the bill as a matter of routine.

Sad to say... San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown's advice to Clinton on his visit to the city: "Don't come! The city's free-wheeling and active Gay community is split on the issue of Gay marriages and Clinton's stand on the issue.

Happy to hear... The POTUS went, saw and conquered. There were, of course, some demonstrations, but they weren't all that. "I don't think any president has been

more sensitive to the legitimate interests of Gay Americans than I have," Clinton said. He's as right as rain, plus it took a lot of guts to publicly say what he did.

Happy to hear.... Protection from HIV without condoms may become a reality because of a drug called PMPA. Prelim research on animals show that a vaginal gel containing PMPA can stop transmission of HIV by preventing the virus from reproducing. Well, that's GREAT for those who use a vagina during sex, but will they think to test it in KY-Jelly.

Sad to say... Animal activists have long protested the use of lab animals for medical research for cancer, Alzheimer's, AIDS and such. They seem to forget there are federal and state laws to ensure the animals are being treated as humanely as possible.

Happy to hear... Most everyone is an animal lover and hates for anything bad to happen to our furry little friends, BUT.... every single drug being researched and used in the fight against AIDS, including the promising PMPA, has involved the use of lab animals. The eventual discovery of THE CURE and a vaccine will come directly from these efforts. Stop the experiments? Yes, if we would test the vaccine on the activists.

Sad to say... There are only three southern states where laws against homosexual acts by consenting adults in private can no longer be enforced.

Happy to hear.... Tennessee became one of them (along with Texas and Kentucky) when the state supreme court declared the statute an unconstitutional infringement on privacy rights. Sex acts committed in public, or between adults and minors, regardless of gender, are still illegal. That's O.K.

Happy to hear.... The "portability insurance" bill is one step closer to reality. The Senate passed the bill 100-0, but the House is still wrangling with it. The bill would allow workers to maintain their health insurance if they change jobs, thus eliminating concerns about preexisting conditions. Employees with HIV are as ready for this as an un milked cow at high noon.

Sad to say... Yes, the Supreme Court overturned Colorado's Amendment 2, which allowed discrimination against the Gay community, and was pure Gay-bashing by referendum. But it was not a

decisive victory with battles still to be fought on many other issues.

Happy to hear... Right here in the River City, in the heartland of the Bible Belt, is a loud voice of reason. *The Commercial Appeal* ran an editorial titled "No To Gay Bashing" which, in part, stated "laws that try to legislate morality turn easily into weapons of vengeance and ostracism against citizens who are simply different. NO state and no free people can benefit from such ugliness." BRAVO!

Sad to say... Over 300,000 people with HIV/AIDS have had to tap into the Ryan White Fund since it began six years ago.

Happy to hear... Clinton has added more muscle by signing a five-year extension to the program and increasing the funds to \$738 million for '96 — up from \$632 million from last year.

Happy to hear.... Locally, the Ryan White Consortium will be providing \$329,013 for AIDS-related services through nine agencies during the 1996-97 grant period. People with HIV/AIDS are needed and encouraged to become active in this wonderful and important endeavor. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 3-4:15 at the United Way office on Union near Cleveland. Call me at Friends for Life (272-0855) for more info.

Sad to say... Since we are close cousins, what's unsafe for monkeys may be unsafe for humans. Six of seven Rhesus monkeys became infected with SIV, the monkey's AIDS, after being dabbed on the back of their throat with the virus. It took less of the viral solution to infect them orally than rectally. No sore, cut or gum disease was present, so forget about saliva or stomach acid killing the virus. This proves that "oral sex is not safe sex," according to Dr. Ruth Ruprecht, the head of the research team.

Happy to hear... The same study shows it is highly unlikely that sharing toothbrushes and eating utensils or casual contact such as kissing transmits the virus. So keep on kissing — but sharing toothbrushes?.... YUCK!

Sad to say... It's the Baptists this time and they're worried "Mickey will leave Minnie for Donald." The 13,000 delegates to their convention, held in New Orleans (a city famous for its family values) voted by a show of hands to boycott Disney because they believe the entertainment giant has strayed

from its traditional family values.

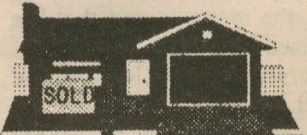
Happy to hear... Disney's Big Sin? Allowing Gay Day celebrations and extending health benefits to live-in partners of Gay employees. "We question any group that demands we deprive people of health benefits and we know of no tourist attraction in the world that denies admission to people as the Baptists are insisting we do."

Sad to say... The race for the 9th Congressional District has two big named Democrats battling it out — state Sen. Steve Cohen and Harold Ford, Jr., Congressman Ford's self-proclaimed heir apparent. It's gonna be a doozey!

Happy to hear... We know where Steve Cohen stands on Gay issues and we need more like him in D.C. What about Harold, Jr.? Lord knows he's cute enough, but is he Gay-friendly? Here's a possible hint, maybe even a hidden message, excerpted from a recent interview with the CA: "My ideal concert would be Al Green, Michael Jackson, Prince and Barbra Streisand." Streisand? Well!!!!

Sad to say... Most political candidates in Memphis never show themselves at Gay activities, much less Gay bars.

See *Sad/Happy* on page 32

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ADVENTURES IN TWO-STEPPING

Fiction by Michael Schiefelbein

First of two parts

"Suck it in, Freda!" Deland Wallace, who had lost the coin toss, fastened his partner's brassiere. "If you hadn't stuffed it so much, this would have been a lot easier on both of us."

"Sour grapes!" Adjusting the two bulging cups in the bathroom mirror, Neil Korenski shook his head in mock pity. "You know I won fair and square. Besides, who are *those* shoulders going to fool?" He nodded in the mirror toward Deland's T-shaped torso which framed his own slight physique.

Of course the coin toss had been completely pro forma. It was obvious from the start who should be the man and who should be the woman, but standing behind a rather stunning new Neil in mascara and tiers of platinum curls, Deland found it easier to harass Neil than to compliment him—Neil knew that. Not that Deland couldn't compliment. He'd learned to affirm his staff at Federal Express with laudable regularity. He'd also proven frequently to himself—Neil knew how important that was—that he could be direct even with a friend with whom he shared a sometimes frightening intimacy. Secure in this knowledge, he permitted himself to tease Neil when he felt so inclined.

Neil liked to undermine Deland's strategies. On their first meeting three years before in a dark neighborhood bar, when Neil could no longer bear Deland's undesigning Southern politeness, he put the moves on him just to see him squirm. "Look, Sir!" Deland had drawn back from Neil's advances and raised both hands. "I shall be forced to defend my honor!" He tossed his balding head as though tresses cascaded down his back. Neil laughed and Deland stiffened into an affronted posture. Neil savored his power to change Deland's attitude, even if it was from one persona to another. Over the years he had learned to penetrate all the personas, and he intended to exercise that power now.

"Really Deland," Neil faced Deland now. "Am I going to fool anyone? I mean, we're talking a straight bar, not a drag show. I don't want a gang of vindictive cowboys to take me out back and beat the living hell out of me—and ruin my make-up." Neil added the last part before Deland could, to force a direct answer. It worked.

"You look good."

"How good? Could I fool someone on the street?"

"That's different. A bar is dark. And you'll be dancing with me. No one will get that close to you."

Deland closed the toilet lid and sat down. "It might help if you were a little less endowed." He squeezed one of Neil's stuffed bra cups.

Neil sighed, turned back to the mirror, and rolled mascara onto his lashes. "Oh, what I've let Douglas drive me to."

"I thought we were doing this for the fun of it." The tone in Deland's voice was unmistakably parental.

"We are." Neil leaned toward the mirror and widened his eyes to get his corner lashes. "And to land in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the first gay dancing partners to win couple of the year in a straight two-step club."

"Right." Deland raised his eyebrows.

Neil ignored him.

The plan to join the Memphis Two-Steppers had indeed emerged because of Douglas Winters, the president of Western Stars, a popular gay country western dance club. Neil had met Douglas shortly after moving to Memphis from Baltimore when he'd been offered a position to join an old schoolmate's real estate firm. Neil was waiting on the porch of a little bungalow he was scheduled to show Douglas when his client pulled up in a gold pickup, and sauntered toward him in hat and boots. The look pushed all the right buttons, and the quiet confidence he discovered in Douglas kept them all pushed. Neil guided Douglas through the house, flitting nervously from room to room, chattering about copper plumbing, interesting molding, an unusual amount of closet space and a new roof—while Douglas absorbed it all, responding only in single syllables, but obviously smitten by his agent. They made dinner plans and wound up under the sheets in Neil's loft apartment overlooking the Mississippi.

It didn't take Douglas long to recruit Neil for Western Stars. Although Neil had felt nothing but disdain for "country twang," as he called it, the folk quality of the dances came remarkably easy for two reasons. He'd grown up in a Polish family where learning the polka came before potty training, and the structured steps appealed to his anally retentive nature. Besides, the whole club admired Douglas for his exquisite two-step. His stocky body glided across the floor with remarkable smoothness, his follow inevitably matching his steps. No fellow turned better than

when he turned under Douglas' hand. Neil loved looking good. He also loved to press against the solidity of Douglas' chest.

Douglas was a well-known physician who treated many AIDS patients and directed a local AIDS support group. He had even been interviewed by a local news station. He'd proudly shown Neil the video of it: Seated behind his desk in a lab coat, shelves of thick Medical digests looming behind him, he



exuded dignity and ease in speaking about the subject. At times he would lean forward to stress the urgency of his work, but his voice remained steady. He was more than passable as straight, Neil reflected as he watched the video. The deliberate gestures. The masculine features. The thick mustache and receding hairline. No one would ever know. But then he ruined it all by proclaiming his own sexuality—even when the tactful woman interviewing him had phrased a question so that he could have inconspicuously dodged a self-revelation.

"Why did you do that?" Neil had asked.

"What? Admitted I was Gay? All Memphis already knows that. What's the big deal?"

Disarmed by a reply that would never have sounded in his previous circle of friends (very discreet Inner-Harbor executives), Neil said nothing at first. Later that evening, wrapped in the arms of the sleeping Douglas, when he'd played every possible objection through his mind and come up with no argument that could change an ideologue, he made his own decision. At exactly 2:30 according to his glowing digital clock, he resolved to distance himself from the public Douglas.

The next night he declined Douglas' offer of barbecued ribs at the Rendezvous, where even the help knew Douglas was Gay. Then he canceled a date to hear Tanya Tucker at the Pyramid downtown,

and then said no to a party at the hospital. So even though Neil hung on Douglas like a hustler the next week at Stallion's, the bar where Western Stars danced, and offered to play his favorite sex games that night on the sofa after they hooted through a late showing of *The Birds* on TV, Douglas was on to him. When he clicked off the tube and confronted him, Neil admitted the truth but shrugged it off as a different way of seeing things.

Douglas disagreed, gave Neil an ultimatum, put on his shoes and left.

Neil screamed, "Fuck you" after him, and for several days, waiting for the phone to ring, tried to pretend it was no skin off his ass. The next dance night, he showed up at Stallion's in his starched Wrangler shirt and new snakeskin boots. But he couldn't bring himself to enter and watch Douglas dance with someone else.

He was determined not to deprive himself, however. In the turns of the two step and the unison kicks of the line dances, his usual self-consciousness melted. He had discovered in the cowboy cha-cha a surprising spontaneity. He had learned not only could his body enter into the western laments and ballads, but it could gyrate with a heretofore unknown sleaze.

The idea flashed through his mind at a drag show the next night. Deland was game, too. Neil paid a drag queen to go shopping for an outfit. Two weeks later Deland and "Chloe" showed up at the Lariat Club near a shopping mall in an East Memphis suburb.

The place was a madeover disco club from the seventies. In fact, for the nostalgic, it still devoted one night a week to the thump thump of Donna Summer, et al. But Western dancing had become the rage

in Memphis and the club converted quickly to exploit the fad. The place drew a large crowd several nights a week, when it offered dance lessons. Advertisements on a local country radio station promised newcomers individual attention from instructors they described as handsome bucks and fillies. Deland and Neil crossed a large parking lot toward a striped awning. Neon lariats glowed in the windows flanking the front doors. Boots thudded on concrete as couples filed out of cars. Men tucked their shirts into their jeans. Women straightened fringed skirts.

"I wonder if these people are rednecks or middle managers." Deland adjusted his bolo tie.

"Both. Don't you know that country music is the great leveler?" Neil's voice sounded thin and nervous. Under the lamplight of the parking lot his breath was visible in the February air. "Men and women. Working class and professionals. Gay and straight."

"Cross dressers and non-cross dressers. All one under the ample shadows of Dolly Parton."

Neil stopped. A cold gust of air shot up his skirt. "Deland, let's go home."

"Now, listen, Chloe." Deland planted his hands on his hips, oblivious to couples passing by. "If you think I'm going to spend an afternoon teasing that rat's nest, painting your face, and learning to swing you around without mashing your tits..."

"Shhh." Neil noticed a man in a downfilled vest staring at them.

"Well, I mean it. Once you get inside, you'll be your normal buoyant self in minutes." Deland feigned a begrudging tone, as though he'd be left on the sidelines. "So just stop this."

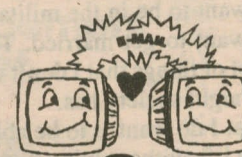
"Do I really look convincing?"

"You look a hell of a lot better than k.d. lang."

Neil smirked. "Thanks for the reassurance." He took Deland's arm and the two of them entered the Lariat.

To be concluded next month.

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Too Queer: Essays from a Radical Life

by Harriet L. Schwartz

If Victoria A. Brownworth were a musician, she would probably be one of the first Lesbian trash metal rockers. She's angry, she's aggressive, and she operates in high gear.

Instead, she is a hard-hitting, intense author, whose most recent work *Too Queer: Essays from a Radical Life* will grab you by the neck or get caught in your throat.

And she is a writer on a deadline.

Brownworth, who has been struggling with chronic illness for years, is a deep thinker and a definitive writer. In *Too Queer*, Brownworth turns her critical eye on her country, her community, and herself.

Brownworth is clear and strong in her anger with straight America. For example, she notes the question that straight people (even well-meaning ones) sometimes ask Gay folks — "Why do you have to flaunt it?" After quickly noting how straight sexuality permeates all aspects of the culture from TV shows to magazine ads, Brownworth releases her resentment.

"How dare they say to us, why do you have to flaunt it," she says sternly, speaking on the telephone from her home in Philadelphia. "I should not have to lie about who I am to make you comfortable.

And if that sounds filled with rage, well it is. I don't pretend that I am not totally filled with rage at straight society, furious with all straight people. Not just the Lou Sheltons, but all straight people in America because if they are not trying to fix it, then they are tacit collaborators with people who are oppressing me.

It's not just political jargon, it's my life. I think that what makes this book different from a lot of the other books that are out there and talking about political issues in the Gay and Lesbian community, is that I'm not pretending I'm not pissed off with straight people, I'm not pretending that I want to be part of all the little straight things. . . I don't want to be in the military, I don't want to get married. There are a lot of things that I don't want that straight society has.

What I do want is to be able to live my life without lying, live my life without being afraid, live my life comfortably. I can't do those things because of straight people, there's no other reason. How dare they make me risk my life just to tell the truth."

In addition, Brownworth believes that Americans, Gay and straight alike, fail miserably to pass the history test. *Too Queer* reveals Brownworth to be a student of history. While she is clearly commit-

ted to the Gay and Lesbian movement, she is well-versed in other civil rights movements, as well as current events, ranging from ethnic cleansing in Bosnia to female genital mutilation in the backstreets of America's towns and cities.

"I think about how anti-historical Americans are," she says. "They're both anti-historical and a-historical. It's as if the term 'born yesterday' was created for Americans because they don't remember anything past five minutes earlier. "In no other country in the world could Richard Nixon have become an elder statesman. In every other country, he would have been in jail. . . I really rail against that whole lack of perspective. We don't think about what came before in our history."

With equal vigor, Brownworth takes on the Gay and Lesbian rights movement, claiming that Gays and Lesbians also forget history. She believes that the current movement is too narrow and missing the mark.

"This is also what's wrong with the Gay and Lesbian main streaming movement," Brownworth says. "We have forgotten where we came from and how different we are. I don't think our difference is a bad thing. I think our difference is a wonderful thing.

"I don't think we should try to be straight. . . we have our own culture and that's perfectly good. I think you can gain civil rights in a larger society without giving up who you are. That's part of what the whole military-marriage link is about, it's about showing that we're just like everybody else. I know some of it's about rights, but it's much more about straight approval.

"Our being able to get married isn't going to stop us being beaten up on the street. I think we're looking at it from the wrong way around. Our focus should be on getting a Federal civil rights act. We have to get effective hate crimes bills in all

the states. And I think that we should be focusing on domestic partnership benefits. Those benefit all of us, not everyone wants to get married."

Finally, Brownworth looks deeply inward in *Too Queer* and with an interesting turn of a phrase familiar to the Gay and Lesbian community, she takes "passing" out of the sexual orientation context and takes a hard look at class issues. In "Life in the Passing Lane: Exposing the Class Closet," Brownworth considers the messages that her parents gave her about class and appearance and then tries to distance herself as much as possible, while tying it back to sexual orientation issues.

In the process of deconstructing and decoding my own class story, I have learned that society rewards passing, she writes. "And passing is viable because it perpetuates social separations — between different classes, races, religions and sexual orientations."

Brownworth is an emotional writer. Most often she takes readers on a rollercoaster, accelerating up over heaps of brutally frank information and then plunging into hard-hitting commentary.

She also shares much of her own experience, giving readers stories and perspective, some of which is the lore and commonality of our community. Brownworth is particularly moving in *Too Queer's* final chapter discussing an early photograph of her and her sister.

"This photograph captures me in a place with which I am familiar but to which I don't belong," she writes. "And that is the most resounding metaphor of my life, the definition of the activism, the queerness, the radicalism of my life — that I am thrust, perpetually, into surroundings that are familiar but to which I cannot lay claim."

Sad/Happy

Continued from page 30

Happy to hear... The Honorable Steve Cohen spoke eloquently at the recent Gay Pride Festival, but Harold, Jr. declined the invitation. Cohen later appeared at a Friends for Life fund raiser at WKRB and participated in a rousing rendition of Lee Greenwood's *God Bless the U.S.A.*, complete with the Gay American flag. Goosebump City!

Happy to hear... The FDA has

approved the new viral load test to predict the progression of AIDS. Viral load tell you how much of the virus is in the system and the lower the number, the better.

Sad to say... But the FDA did not approve the test for disease management, although it eventually will. This means some insurance companies may not cover the cost (\$125-\$200 per test) for the repeated testing needed to gauge the success or failure of drugs against the virus. For example...

Travelogue of the Hart

by Robin A. Marvel

What? Your life's a mess? You cheat on your girlfriend, abuse drugs, and apparently spend the greater part of your waking hours trying to ruin your life beyond repair? Welcome to *Not So Much The Fall* by former Memphian Kerry Hart.

This novel is not your typical Lesbian novel. In your typical Lesbian novel, Jerri meets Blair at a small but earnest winery in the scenic Mammary Mountains; they fall in love but are stayed from happiness (but fortunately not sex) by Blair's jealous ex-girlfriend Hutch, who eventually falls for the UPS delivery woman, and when last we see both happy couples, they're packing the U-Haul and flea-dipping the cats.

That book is available for \$10.95 at your local feminist bookstore. That book is a safe and usually satisfying read.

This story is a warts-and-all

look at a painful and dangerous period in one woman's life. At an odyssey marked by love, betrayal, self-destruction, and the possibility of redemption somewhere along the highways stretching between Memphis and Portland, Oregon. The local settings will add interest for Memphis readers, but *Not So Much The Fall* is really a travelogue of the heart and the dark roads down which it sometimes leads us.

Not So Much The Fall by Kerry Hart, Third Side Press, 1996, \$12.95



Marc Martinez Dies at 41

Marc Martinez, veteran Memphis actor, director and founder of the Show of Hands theatre for the deaf, died June 20 in Nyack, N.Y. of complications of AIDS. He was 41.

Memphians will remember Martinez' stage performances as the lead in *Dracula*, as Judas in *Godspell*, and as a member of the Hernandez family in *El Grande de Coca-Cola*.

His directing credits included *The Wiz*, *Wings* and *Bent*.

Martinez moved to New York in 1984 and continued to use theatre in his social service endeavors. He received a \$100,000 state grant for an AIDS prevention program at the Harlem YMCA where he was membership director. He ran the program for eight years.

His AIDS prevention program involved role playing and short skits instead of the usual lectures.

Both Show of Hands in Memphis and his AIDS prevention program in New York are still in operation.



According to Bruce Cunningham, who worked with him on the AIDS prevention project in New York, Martinez had lived with AIDS since the early 1980s.

Martinez retired to Piedmont, N.Y. after resigning his position at the Y in 1994.

A memorial service is scheduled for 3 p.m. July 7 at St. Charles AME Zion Church in Sparkskill, N.Y. where he was a member.

Donations may be sent to youth programs at the Harlem YMCA, 180 W. 135th Street, New York, N.Y. 10030

Happy to hear... after four weeks on the combination drug therapy of saquinavir, 3TC (epivir) and AZT, my viral load went from 50,000 (on saquinavir alone), a rather high number, down to less than 200 (clinically undetectable). The T-Cells went from 160 to 261. The proof is in the pudding, so to speak. Next viral lead test is in 12 weeks — keep you posted.

Happy to hear... A Filipino expert on "feng shui," the ancient Chinese beliefs that prescribe the

positioning of things in a house, knows the secret to great sex. The bathroom door must not open toward the bed and the TV set must not directly face the bed. "Radiation from the TV set can disturb the energy field of the best." Y'all start rearranging your furniture!



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Memphis

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME I'm 28 years old, 6'1, 175lbs, versatile, and I have many interests. (Memphis) **17988**

LETS MEET I am 5'10, 155lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. I'm interested in meeting men in my area. If you would like to meet a new friend call me. (Memphis) **16237**

EBONY AND IVORY I'm a Gay Black male, 30 years old, 6'1, 130lbs. Half nature boy, half city boy. I'm passive and gentle. I seek a Gay White male 20 to 50 who is also caring and gentle. Call me. (Memphis) **15782**

THIS DADDY IS A PLEASER I'm 41 years old, very hairy, 5'9, 150lbs. I'm looking for a very submissive or very feminine male. If you are interested in meeting a daddy who knows how to please, call me. (Memphis) **14024**

LIVING PROOF I'm a Bi Black male with HIV seeking the same. If you are interested please call me. (Memphis) **14316**

LOVE IS REAL NOT FADE AWAY I'm 43 years old, 6'1, dark hair, Green eyes, mustache, well endowed. I'm seeking someone 25 to 43 for a one on one monogamous relationship. No drugs, bar flies, or queens. Let me love and take care of you. (Memphis) **14329**

LET US BE LOVERS I'm 20 years old. I like bowling, tennis, walking, movies, etc. I'm looking for someone 18 to 24 who would be interested in a relationship. (Memphis) **14339**

LETS GET HOT AND SWEATY I'm a hot 50 year old man, 5'11, 195lbs. I like all kinds of hot fun. You must be discreet. (Memphis) **7619**

WHERES MY SUGAR DADDY? I'm an attractive Gay White male, tall, 30 years old. I'm looking for a Sugar Daddy in the Tri State area. (Memphis) **9373**

TIRED OF BEING SINGLE? I'm a 31 year old single White male. I'm looking for other single White men in my area for fun and friendship. (Memphis) **11797**

I'LL MAKE THE RESERVATIONS I'm a 24 year old Black male, 6ft, nice, honest, attractive, and intelligent. I like movies, good conversation, and dining out. I'm seeking a male 18 to 35 to spend time with. (Memphis) **12481**

BI THE WAY I'm a Bi White man in my early 30's. I'm looking for other Bi men in my area. (Memphis) **12756**

ELVIS IS DEAD, I'M NOT GWM, 40, seeks friends for dinner and other entertainment. Please leave a message. (Memphis) **13021**

BLACK MALE ME GBM, 24, seeks GM's, 20-35, for friendship and relationship. Discreteness a must! Please leave a message. (Memphis) **11690**

WEST TENNESSEE TRYSTS GWM, 5'9", 175, 32, 'stache and hairy, seeks other masculine GWM's, 25-39, who have blonde hair, for fun times and romantic relationship. Hairy and stocky a plus. (Memphis area) **11594**

Tennessee

LET ME APPRECIATE YOU Generous artist seeks model to be my David, Apollo, Adonis. Attractive and in shape 29 year old artists seeks a male 18 to 27 to pose for private sketches, drawings, and paintings. I'm educated, cultured, and sane. (Chattanooga) **17522**

TIRED OF BAR SCENE GWM, 24, professional, mature, non smoker, brown hair, blue eyes, 6'2", 200, varied interests, seeks other GWM's, 20-30, mature and smoke free, for friendship and more. Call me! (Chattanooga) **14815**

COMING IN FOR A LANDING GWM, 6', 175, brown hair and eyes, top, seeks a very experienced bottom for good times. Leave a message. (Chattanooga) **12711**

COUNTRY, RHYTHM, AND BLUES! Roger, 41, divorced, love to meet any woman, 20+ race not important, like all types of outdoors, like country and jazz, waiting to hear from you- (Chattanooga) **9708**

SEEKING MASCULINE FRIENDS GWM, 25, 5'7", 140, blonde hair, blue eyes, clean shaven, straight appearing/acting, varied interests, sportsminded, seeks others with same qualities. (Eastern Tennessee) **15579**

LITTLE BRO SEKS BIG BRO GWM, black hair, brown eyes, freckle faced, 135, 36, seeks other men, pretty close to my age, for pleasure and serious relationship. Please leave me a message. Must be HIV- and Drug Free! (Hendersonville) **15175**

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? I'm 33 years old, 5'11, Black hair, Brown eyes. I would like to meet someone who is honest, sincere, and not into mind games. (Knoxville) **18660**

FRESH FRUIT I'm new here and I'm bored out of my mind. There has to be some good looking Gay men around here. Race is unimportant to me. Please call me. (Knoxville) **18411**

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE GWM, 5'11", 165, 23, brown hair and eyes, typical college student, seeks others for fun and pleasure. Please leave a message. (Knoxville) **14876**

GOOD OLE' BOY GWM, 6'1", 210, 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, into camping, sporting events and other things, seeks a red neck buddy for adventure and pleasure. Please leave a message soon. (Knoxville) **12961**

LATIN LOVER I'm a 39 year old Gay White male with a variety of interests. I'm looking for Hispanic men to have fun with. If you are looking for a good time call me. (Madison) **10868**

BIG BOY GWM, 21, 5'11", 230, seeks GWM, 18-27, interested in music, computers and living life to the fullest possibilities. Please leave a message. (Murfreesboro) **11408**

JACK RABBIT I'm in my 30's, 5'11, 180lbs, Blonde hair, Blue eyes, hairy chest and legs. I want to meet men for good hot times. Call me. Lets talk. (Nashville) **18952**

NASHVILLE GUY LINE I'm 45 years old, 6'1, 190lbs, light Brown hair, sexy, and new to this. I would like to meet men in the Nashville area. Call me. (Nashville) **18501**

WORKIN IT I'm 34 years old, 5'8, well built. I'm looking to meet guys around my age or older. Call me. (Nashville) **16761**

BIRDS OF A FEATHER I'm an attractive, masculine, young looking, 40 year old professional into body building, varied interests, and light partying. I'm seeking to date others like myself. (Nashville) **16899**

PERSONAL BOY TOY WANTED I'm looking for my own personal boy toy. Someone who is masculine like myself. I'm a 30 year old Bi male into bondage looking for an obedient boy who knows who's in charge. Call me. (Nashville) **16979**

THE POWER OF THREE We are a young Gay couple interested in finding a third 18 to 30 who can be in our relationship with us. We love to travel. If you are playful, outgoing, gentle, creative, and interested please call us. (Nashville) **17148**

SUMMER HEAT WAVE I'm a Bi White male, 42 years old, 166lbs, hairy body. I like dining, dancing, and romancing all night long. Call me. Lets heat up the summer. (Nashville) **17294**

WILD IMAGINATION I'm a dominant Bi male seeking a fit masculine male who knows where his place is. Let me dominate you. I'm clean and safe. I'm looking for someone to play with on a regular basis. (Nashville) **17010**

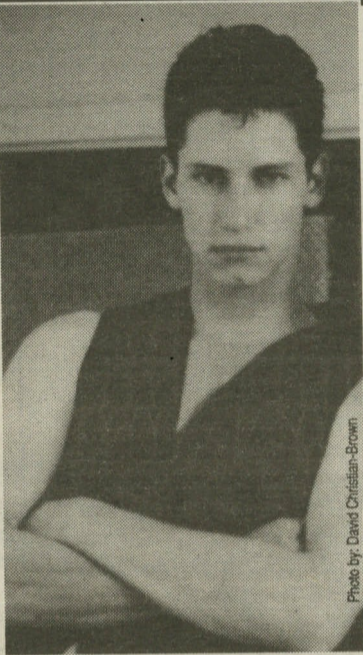


Photo by: David Christian-Brown

CAN WE TALK? 27 year old Black male looking for someone to talk to. Call me. (Nashville) **13242**

TAKE ME DOWN I'm interested in erotic wrestling. If you like guys who are built like wrestlers please call me. (Nashville) **13618**

NO ATTITUDE HERE I'm a Gay White male, 24 years old. I'm seeking hot men with dark hair. If you are well travelled and well educated please call me. No snobs or attitude please. I'm 5'9, 165lbs, Black hair, Brown eyes, boyish looks. Call me. (Nashville) **14671**

LET ME TREAT YOU LIKE A KING I'm a 23 year old college student. 5'10, 160lbs, Brown hair, Green eyes, athletic body. If you are sincere, honest, and easy going please call me. (Nashville) **14697**

LEARNING AND YEARNING I'm 24 years old and I live outside of Atlanta. I'm 5'10, 160lbs, good shape. I love the outdoors. I'm looking for a man not a boy. Someone to show me the ropes. I need to get out and cut loose. Call me. (Nashville) **14721**

WE CAN WORK OUT TOGETHER Gay White-male, 36 years old. I'm into working out. I'm seeking friendship with anyone 25 to 45. Call me. (Nashville) **15278**

TOP THIS FRESH CREAM I'm a 21 year old Gay White male, 5'11, 165lbs, Blonde hair, and blue eyes. I enjoy movies, swimming, and other summer adventures. I'm seeking top men to have fun with. (Nashville) **12962**

READY FOR A STEADY I'm 32 years old, 5'8, 135lbs. I'm interested in a long term relationship with someone who is honest and sincere. If you are 25 to 40 and ready for a friends first relationship call me. (Nashville) **8061**

HAD A PEACE LATELY? I'm seeking a White male 20 to 30 who likes to have a good time. I'm 5'9, 27 years old, very up to date, and very good looking. No drugs please. (Nashville) **9566**

NO WANNABEES Are you tired of trashy men who want nothing but sex and money? Me too. I'm looking for a warm hearted guy. I'm 27 years old, 6ft, clean cut. I'm looking for a relationship mined Gay White male. Call me. (Nashville) **9632**

HELP I'm a 52 year old Gay White professional male. I'm in search of an affectionately aggressive, very good looking, extremely muscular, young White male. Call me. Lets negotiate. (Nashville) **10383**

BEARDED LOVER WANTED I'm 32 years old, 5'8, 135lbs. I'm looking for a man with a hairy chest and a neat beard. I want a long term relationship with a man 25 to 40. (Nashville) **10758**

LOOKING FOR MR GOODBAR I'm a mature White male, 5'11, 150lbs, HIV negative, average body. I'm looking for some real hot guys to have discreet fun with. Call me now. (Nashville) **10992**

GOOD TIMES I'm 26 years old, 6'2, 185lbs. I like to swim, hike, travel, and more. I'm looking for men 25 to 45 to have a good time with. If you are interested please call and leave me a message. (Nashville) **11079**

THE BUDDY SYSTEM I'm 31 years old, 5'7, 155lbs, Brown hair, and Blue eyes. I'm looking for someone 26 to 36 with a medium build for summer fun. (Nashville) **11775**

GOOD SPORTS IN NASHVILLE Randy, 31, very outgoing person, like to have a lot of fun, sports, going to professional/college sports, type of person that likes to go out and meet someone; if you're my type, that's great, if you're not it's OK, too. (Nashville) **5933**

THIS BOY IS BACK IN TOWN I'm a 22 years old Gay White male with Brown hair and Green eyes. I have varied interests and I'm looking for new friends. If you would like to meet me or know more about me please call. (Nashville) **7508**

NASHVILLE PROFESSIONAL I'm a 25 year old White male, 6'2, 185lbs. I'm a professional man and I'm seeking other men in my area to get together with. If you are interested please call today. (Nashville) **8328**

WHAT A TOWN! I'm a lonely ex New Yorker looking for new friends. If you'd like to be on the greeting band wagon give me a call. (Nashville) **7951**

ALL AMERICAN GWM, 20, blonde hair, blue eyes, 6'4", good looking, seeks same under 25, masculine and attractive, for fun and adventure. No fats/fems/drugs/smoke. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **5604**

DISCRETELY YOURS Bi BM, 25, 170, 5'9", attractive, seeks discrete Bi BM/W/M, 25-30, into working out and physical fitness. Discreteness a MUST! (Nashville) **14291**

GOOD OLE BOY GWM, 28, 205, 6'1", nice looking, blondish/brown hair, and lonely by choice, seeks other professional males, 27-32, for a relationship based on love and honesty. Please leave me a message. (Nashville) **14729**

COCKED AND LOADED GWM, 31, 6', 175, very good looking with a nice physique, seeks others for fun. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **14849**

LOCALS ONLY GBM, 26, 6'1", 210, seeks local GWM's, 20-30, for special friendship and possibly more. Please leave me a message. (Nashville) **14926**

ARE YOU MR. RIGHT? GHM, 22, brown hair and eyes, 6'2", seeks other males for friends and more. If you're the one, please leave a message. (Nashville) **15058**

STUDENT NEEDS TEACHER GM, student at Nashville Tech student, 5'8", 190, 35, seeks GWM, 35-45, tall and well built, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **15338**

FRIEND SEEKER GWM, 45, varied interests, HIV+, seeks friends. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **15493**

NERVOUS IN NASHVILLE GWM, new to area, 170, 5'11", brown hair, blue eyes, 45, well built, bearded and attractive, varied interests, seeks others into country music and leather. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **11692**

TRAVELLING MAN GWM, 6', 175, brown hair, olive skin, smooth and well built, seeks other GM's or Bi M's for excitement and more. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **37397**

MASCULINE MEATING GWM, 35, very masculine, good looking, seeks other GWM's into sports, outdoor activities, and general fun. No bar flies please. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **13188**

GROUP GROPE GWM, 36, masculine and attractive, seeks masculine and discrete GWM's, couples or groups a plus, for entertainment and excitement. I can travel or entertain. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **13260**

BLACK IS BACK GBM, 21, college student, clean cut and shaven, 5'9", 185, seeks other GM's, 18-24, for pleasure. No drugs or alcohol. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **13310**

BOY TOY WANTED GWM, very dominant and aggressive, seeks a masculine and muscular boy for a serious relationship. Attitude is everything and limits respected. Must be serious and extremely passive. Leave a message. (Nashville) **37008**

LOVELY IN TENNESSEE GWM, 5'10", 160, seeks friends and relationship. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **13477**

NO STRINGS WM seeks others for non-committal excitement with no strings attached fun. (Nashville) **9951**

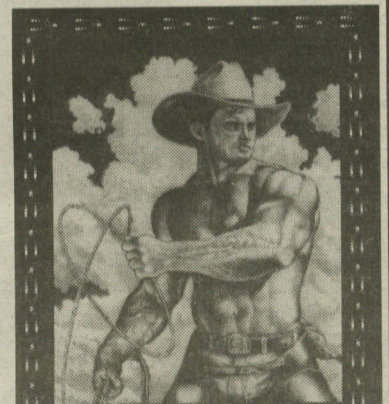
THE FEELING'S MUTUAL GWM, 6'5", 23, brown hair and eyes, seeks other GWM, 20-28, for good times and mutual pleasure. Please call me and leave a message. (Nashville) **11456**

COCKED AND LOADED GWM, 38, 6', 190, brown hair, blue eyes, dominant and masculine, seeks submissive GWM, under 25, who are slender and boyish looking. Leave your stats in my box! (Nashville) **11986**

GOOD TASTE GWM, 27, 5'10", 170, new to area, seeks other educated males for friendship and conversation. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **12568**

HEAT STROKE GWM, 31, 5'10", 150, seeks GWM's, 21-33, masculine and attractive, for friendship and possible relationship. Please leave a message. (Nashville) **12686**

LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU GWM, 5'9, 155, 25, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks other GM's, 25-40, for pleasure and entertainment. Please leave a message. (Selmer) **14847**



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!! TJN announcements and classifieds will not automatically be re-run. Announcements and classifieds must be re-submitted each month, in writing, by the 15th of the month.

BED & BREAKFAST

Ozark Bed & Breakfast-5 wooded acres of privacy in a fun vacation area. Exclusive resort for men & women. Hot tub. Country club privileges. Greenwood Hollow Ridge, Rt 4, Box 155, Eureka Springs, AR 72632, (501) 253-5283.

The Arbour Glen Bed & Breakfast-Circa 1896. Located on Eureka Springs Historic District loop close to downtown shops & restaurants. Completely renovated for comfort but still maintaining its old world charm, elegance & romance. Picturesque tree-

covered hollow. The Arbour Glen, #7 Lema, Eureka Springs, AR 72632, (501) 253-9010.

MASSAGE SERVICES

Party Rates—Full-body, nude massages—singles & couples welcome. Bi-sexual, clean, HIV-negative. Bobby: 491-6553.

Sometimes you feel like a Nutt. Call Bobby: 491-6553. Full-body massages, male & females.

YOU DESERVE THE BEST

California trained, certified bodyworker offering therapeutic and sports massage. 1 1/2 hours, by appointment, outcall only. Personalized gift certificates available. **Craig 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. (901) 278-9768.**

MODELS

Cigar Smoking Biker and my nationwide buddies get down-n-dirty from coast to coast. From TLC to raunch, all callers 18+ are welcome. 1-818-837-1859 24 hrs.

M&M Escorts—Young attractive guys at your command. Different guys to choose from. 24-hr service available. Call 901-541-5431. Leave message for Brandon.

PERSONALS

Butch Valentine—Did you miss me? I heard a vicious rumor that you have three testicles instead of two! No wonder you write such a ballsy column! See you in the men's room at St. John's! Love and kisses—Mule.

Exchanged glances at Goldsmith's, Fri., May 17. Too shy to meet you. I bought a mattress. Page me at 1-800-759-8888 Pin #7271120.

GAM, 24, attractive, HIV negative, graduate seeks GWM, professional, 24-32 for relationship/commitment. Write to M.C., 1241 Pallwood Road, Memphis, TN 38122.

Friendly GWM, 5'9", 150#, Br,Gr, slim, smooth, 35, in-shape, great bottom seeks fun-loving, in-shape men for fun and games. No strings attached. Married, Bi, race, day-time, all okay. No fats, fems or druggies, please. Go ahead and call. There's nothing to lose and you just might like me. J.B. 901-384-6660.

Riddle: What do David Love, Leland Denson, Widow McCain, and Lady Astor all have in common? Besides dirty underwear and sick kinky anal fixations? Possibly bad hair and severe psychosis. This insulting little ad requires too much thought.—Signed, Mule.

SGWM, divorced, 43, seeks a very special man to share my life with. Interests are music, beaches, traveling, outdoors, etc. I am a professional with MBA & MMA. Prefer some good-looking, hot, macho stud. Me: 6'1", 195#, Br Hr/Greyes, good build, well-endowed, all hands-on massage therapist. Serious inquiries only. Mike: 278-5475 or 373-2700.

ROOM FOR RENT

Room for rent: two bedroom, two full baths, house w/extras. Inside 240 loop. Local phone, utilities, cable included. \$300/month. 682-6858.

SERVICES

Gayvon by Dos Amigos. No time to shop for that perfect card or gift? Call us... we can help. In home convenience from the bargain basement of pride merchandise. 901-388-9986.

**Meetings at
Memphis Lambda Center, Inc.*
1488 Madison Avenue
Memphis, TN 38104
(901) 276-7379**

Phoenix (Alcoholics Anonymous) All Meetings Open

Sunday	8:00 pm	Discussion
Monday	8:00 pm	Discussion (Smoke Free)
Tuesday	8:00 pm	Twelve Step Study
Wednesday	8:00 pm	Big Book Study
Friday	10:00 pm	Discussion
Saturday	8:00 pm	Discussion

(Last Sunday of month is birthday night with speaker.)

Into The Light (Alcoholics Anonymous - Women)

Thursday	7:00 pm	Discussion (Open, Smoke Free)
Sunday	12 Noon	Discussion (Open)

(Business meeting 3rd Sunday of month, Birthdays last Thursday)

Seriously Sober (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Friday	8:00 pm	Discussion (Open, Smoke Free)
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Open Heart (Al-Anon)

Tuesday	6:00 pm	Discussion (Open)
Thursday	5:30 pm	Discussion (Open)

(Business meeting 3rd Tuesday of the month, Birthdays last Tuesday)

Freely Speaking (All 12-Step Programs)

Thursday	9:00 pm	Discussion (Open)
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ACOA (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Sunday	6:30 pm	Discussion (Open)
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*Memphis Lambda Center, Inc. is a private organization formed for the promulgation and enhancement of Twelve-Step meetings with a special outreach to the Gay and Lesbian community. Business meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Space donated as a public service by the Triangle Journal News

THURSDAY, JULY 11 • 8-11 PM

SKATE

SKATE

SKATE

SKATELAND ON SUMMER • \$5