



Volume 7, Number 11

AUGUST 1997

Out Front: Cunanan Left Trail Of Lies, Deception

By Amanda Covarrubias
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — One April night, at the Cafe San Marcos in San Francisco's Castro district, Andrew Phillip Cunanan held court.

With friends and acquaintances squeezing past, Cunanan threw air kisses and shouted boisterous greetings. A bevy of good-looking young men seemed enthralled with his jokes and laughter.

Sean O'Hearn, however, had been trying to ignore Cunanan all night, feeling as he always did when the 27-year-old San Diegan was around that the guy was loud, obnoxious and a little shady.

Suddenly, Cunanan grabbed O'Hearn's face and pulled him within inches of his own. O'Hearn put his open hand on Cunanan's face and shoved him away.

"For a brief second, I got a little nervous," said O'Hearn, who met Cunanan five years ago in San Diego. "It was my last interaction with the guy, and if he is a psycho-killer, I saw a glimpse of it that night."

The next day, Cunanan returned to his hometown, where he held his now well-known "goodbye dinner" at California Cuisine, telling friends he was going to Minnesota to take care of some business with friend Jeffrey Trail before moving to San Francisco.

His "business" may have escalated into a four-state killing spree. The last known victim: fashion designer Gianni Versace, shot twice in the back of the head on the sun-splashed steps of his South Beach mansion.

Other victims connected to the

fugitive are David Madson, 33, a Minneapolis architect and ex-lover; Trail, 28, a former Navy officer whom Cunanan considered one of his best friends; Lee Miglin, 72, a millionaire Chicago developer; and William Reese, 45, caretaker of a federal Civil War cemetery in Pennsville, N.J.

The homicides have been widely characterized as "Gay murders," although only three of his five alleged victims were known to be homosexual — Madson, Trail and Versace.

Cunanan's elusiveness was foreshadowed by elaborately fabricated tales he told to all who would listen. To friends in San Diego and San Francisco, his last name was DeSilva, he had a wife and child in the Bay Area and he came from a wealthy, Jewish family that owned a national parking lot company.

In reality, he was the youngest of four children raised in San Diego by parents who split up nine years ago when his father, Modesto, a former stockbroker, fled to his native Philippines to escape allegations he had embezzled thousands of dollars. His mother rents an apartment in suburban National City.

Young Cunanan lived off the largesse of wealthy, older Gay men. His most recent benefactor was Norman Blachford, a semi-retired businessman in his late 60s with a lavish Venetian-style home overlooking the Pacific Ocean in La Jolla. He gave Cunanan a \$2,500 monthly allowance, use of his credit cards and a dark green Infiniti J30, which Cunanan sold after he and Blachford split up.

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Woman Claimed Firing Over Refusal to Counsel Lesbian Unfair

TUPELO, Miss. (AP) — The couple's relationship was on shaky ground. So they sought counseling through an employee assistance program maintained by North Mississippi Medical Center.

But counselor Sandra M. Bruff refused to see the couple. The reason? They are both women.

Mrs. Bruff was fired Oct. 23, 1996. She is now suing North Mississippi Health Services Inc., the parent company of North Mississippi Medical Center, for unspecified damages.

Mrs. Bruff, of Marietta, contends she was fired from her job as medical services counselor because she cited her religious beliefs as the reason for refusing to see the homosexual couple.

She is asking in the lawsuit to be reinstated with full benefits and seniority.

Her lawyer, Grant Fox of Tu-

pelo, said at issue in the suit is whether she can be fired because of her religious views.

Fox said Mrs. Bruff worked in the employee assistance program, in which outside employers pay the medical center to provide counseling for their workers.

"Mrs. Bruff had been counseling this woman, this patient for some time, when she asked for help in working out problems with her Lesbian lover. When Mrs. Bruff said she could not, the individual was not happy with that ..." Fox said.

Fox said Mrs. Bruff told the patient that she could continue counseling her on other issues "not contrary to Mrs. Bruff's Christian faith."

Fox said Mrs. Bruff also explained her position to the hospital in writing, adding that her beliefs also would prevent her from

counseling someone about adultery. He said the hospital responded that "that was not acceptable ... (she) should be terminated."

Len Grice, director of marketing services for NMHS, said hospital officials had not seen the lawsuit.

"Of course, we have no comment. This is a personnel matter," Grice said July 22nd.

However, the hospital had been through at least two proceedings involving Mrs. Bruff.

Mrs. Bruff filed a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which ruled in May that it could not find any violation of law, and the Mississippi Employment Security Commission, where a hearing officer ruled she was eligible for unemployment benefits.

Police Told Caretaker Took Food to Housboat

By Amanda Covarrubias
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Investigators worked to rule out Andrew Cunanan as a suspect in three unsolved murders as officials looked into whether the caretaker who led them to his body had secretly helped him.

Detectives in San Diego said they would compare Cunanan's fingerprints and DNA with evidence in three unsolved murders, including the 1992 slaying of Gay comic book publisher Todd Loren and another Gay man.

Loren, 32, was found bludgeoned and stabbed in his apartment. His

parents said he may have been romantically involved with Cunanan, who lived in San Diego's Gay Hillcrest neighborhood.

Cunanan killed himself inside a Miami Beach, Florida, houseboat. He was suspected of killing five men, including fashion designer Gianni Versace, in four states.

San Diego homicide Lt. Jim Collins would not provide details about the two other unsolved murders, except to say one was in 1993 and the other 18 months ago in the Hillcrest district, close to Cunanan's last address.

"We're doing it for elimination purposes," Collins said. "We don't think he's responsible for the mur-

ders."

Meanwhile, authorities questioned a report from a woman who said the caretaker who discovered Cunanan on the houseboat had provided food to the alleged killer.

Lola Dudley told police she saw Fernando Carreira going into the houseboat carrying food two days before Cunanan killed himself.

Two law enforcement sources said police doubt her claim.

The houseboat's reported owner, Torsten Reineck, told FBI agents he sold it two months ago and said he is headed back to his native Germany to fight tax charges.

Army Discharges Gay Officer, 20-Year Veteran

DALLAS (AP) — The Army has discharged a Gay lieutenant colonel one week before he would have qualified for a full retirement, concluding the decorated officer had engaged in unbecoming conduct.

Steve Loomis, 50, of Texas learned of his "other than honorable" discharge last month. An Army board of inquiry concluded that the 20-year veteran engaged in "conduct unbecoming an officer" — homosexual acts and use of "force, coercion or intimidation."

Loomis said Army officials were being vindictive because he is Gay.

"In my case, it was private relations with another soldier, off-post, off-duty, not in my chain of com-

mand, and they say conduct unbecoming — read that 'sodomy,'" Loomis said. "But how many single soldiers or ... married soldiers do exactly the same thing? And how many of them have it held against them?"

Cecil Green, an Army spokesman at Fort Hood, said Loomis was not court-martialed because his case was not a criminal matter.

"He had due process of law," Green told *The Dallas Morning News*. "All of his appeals were made and the decision was made."

Loomis, who enlisted as a volunteer in 1967 at the height of the Vietnam War, received two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart and other hon-

ors. He stayed in the reserve and returned to active duty in the 1980s.

His attorney, David Sheldon, said evidence used to establish Loomis' sexual orientation was improperly obtained after an arsonist torched the officer's home. A videotape confiscated by civilian authorities at the home and turned over to the Army showed Loomis participating in homosexual acts, Sheldon said.

The arsonist, a young enlisted soldier who was discharged after pleading guilty to setting the fire, had posed for nude photographs for Loomis. The Army said he broke into the home because he was obsessed with the photos.

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Man to Man: Sexual Harassment Among Our Own

by Ira L. King

The headline from *USA Today* read: "Sexual Harassment's new twist: Should civil rights law protect a man from harassment by another man?" Courts are struggling with the question, which the Supreme Court may answer early next year.

A Houston waiter alleges that two male co-workers tried to pull down his pants in the liquor room. An oil rig worker claims that two men rubbed their naked bodies against him in the shower and threatened to sodomize him. It is estimated that there have been at least 50 federal court decisions on the same-sex harassment claims in the last five years. Experts predict that this is a result of changing attitudes about male behavior. Today there is less

stigma attached to a man complaining of sexual harassment.

So the question: Should the laws relating to sexual harassment in this country be applied equally to heterosexual as well as same-sex incidents? The answer is an unqualified YES! The fact that we live in a society that places different gender roles on the sexes does not give anyone carte blanche to harass a member of his or her own gender without fear of legal repercussions.

Supposedly the criminal laws in our country, regardless of the crime, are not gender based and apply equally to all. A woman who robs a bank or commits murder does

not get leniency in court because she is a woman. In fact, outside of levels of participation in the armed forces, I can't think of a single crime or situation where policy is based on perceived differences in the sexes.

According to *USA Today*, some judges have ruled that the federal law that protects against sex discrimination applies to men and women sexually harassed by members of the same sex. But in a male-on-male case, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans said that there is no such thing as same-gender sex harassment. Apparently the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has been living under a heterosexual rock. This court should

realize that any sexual contact (whether actual, perceived or implied) that is uninvited is blatantly wrong. Gender should be of

absolutely no concern.

Not too many years ago, men who complained of same-sex harassment were laughed at and mostly ignored. They were treated as whining sissies, silly faggots who knew that they really liked that kind of attention. No one "likes" that kind of attention.

Kenneth Billups is suing former employer, Ninfa's Inc. (a Houston chain of Mexican restaurants), for sexual discrimination. Billups is Gay. While a waiter at the restaurant he says he was harassed by male co-workers. According to Billups, "The cashier would follow me when I went into

the bathroom and would try to come into the stall. Two other guys were always grabbing and trying to pull me in the liquor room to take my pants off.

Billups complained to his supervisors, but they did nothing. They said the co-workers' behavior did not constitute sexual harassment or discrimination.

Billups filed a complaint with the EEOC, then quit his job. Since Texas is a part of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, Billups' suit is in limbo until the Supreme Court rules

The company says the incidents were heterosexual horseplay, and a federal judge threw Oncale's case out of court.

"There isn't anything in the law that provides that any conduct that occurs between people of the same sex should be judged any differently than the conduct of people of different sexes," says Beatrice Dohrn of the Lambda Defense Fund.

The truth is, sexual harassment is very similar to stalking. Both are uninvited and unwanted attention paid to a person for the purpose of gaining that person's favor. The deaths of several people, including a Holly-

VIEWPOINT

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

in a similar matter early next year. The court will decide whether civil rights law protects a man who is sexually harassed by another man at work. The ruling is expected to apply to all cases of same-gender sex harassment.

The case they will be deciding is that of Joseph Oncale. Mr. Oncale filed an employment discrimination suit against Sundowner Offshore Services. He alleges he was forced to quit his job on an oil-drilling platform in Louisiana in 1991 because of repeated harassment. He alleges two co-workers rubbed their penises against him and that co-workers even threatened him with anal intercourse in the shower.

wood actress, had to happen before we enacted laws criminalizing stalking. I hope we don't have to witness the same before something is done to legally deal with those who find no harm in same-sex harassment.

It is hoped that in 1998 the Supreme Court will be smarter and wiser when it renders its verdict. Surely the court must realize that the days of "boys will be boys" are over. The Court's wisdom has been seen in such instances as cadet hazing and sexual integration of military academies. They are smart enough to know that when it comes to punishment for sexual harassment nothing and no one is above the law.



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Love! Valor! Compassion!

Once again I feel compelled to write to protest the actions of the decision-makers in the Memphis theater industry making decisions which prevents Memphians from seeing a major Gay movie. The movie Memphians are being deprived of seeing is *Love! Valor! Compassion!* Once again the Memphis Gay community has to go to New York, Washington, St. Louis or New Orleans to see a movie which has been reviewed in the *New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Glamour Magazine*, *People Magazine*, *The New Yorker* and *The New Republic* to name just a few.

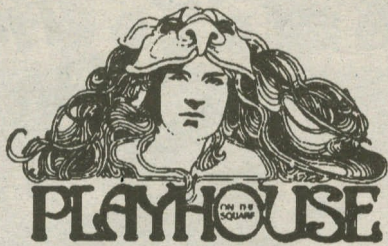
I am fortunate having just returned from New York where I saw the movie. While I don't like seeing movies when I go to New York, I told my friends that I had better see this movie while I was in New York, because it didn't look like it would be shown in Memphis. I had seen the play the year before while I was in New York. The play won the Tony award for best play in 1995. For those who haven't heard, one of the stars of the movie is Jason Alexander of *Seinfeld* fame. And who else has seen the movie? The AP reported that for the weekend of June 9,

1997 *Love! Valor! Compassion!* although shown in only 81 theaters was ranked number 19 in gross receipts at North American theaters.

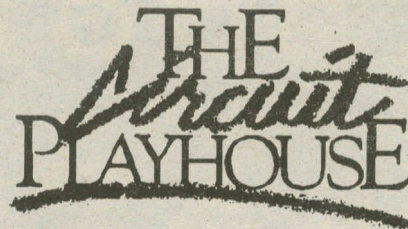
The question is who do we hold accountable? I believe the only theater that we can hold accountable is, Cinema Showcase 12, the one theater in Memphis that even arguably caters to the Gay community. I believe that the Gay community spends its money at this theater because of the closeness of Cinema Showcase 12 to where large numbers of the Gay community live and the fact that they show some Gay movies. Because we spend a lot of money at this theater, we have, I believe, a right to expect that our interests will be respected. I believe we should make our displeasure clear to the ownership when there is reason to believe that major Gay movies are not being shown. I go between boycotting Cinema Showcase 12 because of their failure to show *The Priest* and now *Love! Valor! Compassion!* and supporting Cinema Showcase 12 as often as I can because they show such movies as *The Wedding Banquet*, *Chasing Amy*, *Jeffrey* and *The Celluloid Closet*.

The owners of Cinema Showcase 12 should be reminded that if a theater opens up
See Letters on page 32

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adapted from the book by Sir James M. Barrie; music by Mark Chapman; lyrics by Carolyn Leigh
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November 21 - January 4 *by Ed Howard, Joe Sears & Jaston Williams*
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January 16 - February 15 *by Agatha Christie*
Dr. Cristow is at the center of the trouble, though any man who attends a houseparty with his wife, his mistress and his ex-mistress probably deserves whatever he gets. A topnotch whodunit.

To Kill A Mockingbird

February 27 - April 5 *adapted from Harper Lee's book by Christopher Segel*
This classic tale takes us deep into the hearts of its unforgettable characters. Plumbing the depths of legal and moral justice, this beloved drama gives us a stirring definition of courage and conscience.

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Inspecting Carol

November 14 - December 21 *by Daniel Sullivan & Seattle Repertory Theatre*
A rollicking comedy about a wannabe actor who's mistaken for a government informer for the NEA. He's given a role in *A Christmas Carol*, and the series of calamities just gets funnier and funnier.

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A little boy overcomes his prejudice against dragons when he meets one who would rather write poetry than breathe fire. This adventurous story will leave the audience laughing.

Private Lives

May 22 - June 21 *by Noel Coward*
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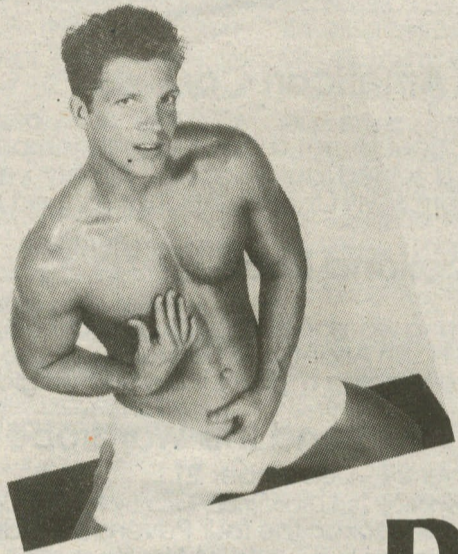
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With Violence, Sex And Drag, Cunanan Case Piqued Gay Stereotypes

By Michelle Boorstein
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sexual promiscuity. Lavish parties. Violence, cross-dressing and a suggestion of AIDS. The story of Andrew Cunanan was loaded with all the stereotypes of Gay men, old and new.

With its bathhouses and bar-rooms, the accused killer's story has unearthed some deep-rooted, if unsightly, images of homosexuals. The problem, members of the Gay community say, is that Cunanan represents a narrow slice of Gay life, not the norm.

"It's like, here we go again, de-

scribing Gay bars as dark and seedy, like we're some sort of Masonic group plotting and planning and doing weird rituals," said Eugene Patron, who writes a column about Gay issues for *The Miami Herald*.

"I think that's the problem — are we ever going to be perceived as productive members of society or are we going to be seen as a liability?"

On the Internet and in coffee shops, among filmmakers and at bookstores, Gay men said public interest in the case seemed oddly focused on Cunanan's sexuality though only three of his five alleged victims were Gay. Sketchy

reports that Cunanan may have had the virus that causes AIDS or was hiding out in drag were believed — without scrutiny — because they perpetuate the stereotype, they said.

"It triggered all those images that a straight killer wouldn't," said John Orcutt, manager of A Different Light, a Gay bookstore in New York. "That Gay people's lives revolve around sexuality, or that they have AIDS, that they can disguise themselves as drag queens, that they float from place to place."

Some said the media were to blame for perpetuating the seedier side of Gay culture.

"That's all that the public gets

to see, they don't see the norm," said John Balasa, a 35-year-old computer designer having a cup of coffee at Cafe Zev in Minneapolis. "Everyone wants to see the bizarre. They don't want to see what they see at home."

Some Gay men called it outrageous to link the killings to the possibility that Cunanan had recently tested positive for the AIDS virus, or to frustration over his sexuality. Others said it wasn't impossible for such things to prompt rage in a murderous person.

"In fact every stereotype has an element of truth, and there have been a number of cases of men who had problems with their sexuality who took their frustration out in negative ways," said Robert Rosenberg, maker of the Emmy Award-winning documentary *Before Stonewall*.

Patron said there is also some

truth to the hedonistic stereotype — particularly in South Beach, where Cunanan is believed to have killed Gay fashion designer Gianni Versace. But straight people who come to that area are equally pleasure-seeking, he said.

"It is a legitimate stereotype, as it's a real component of the Gay community, but there's a difference between hedonism that isn't destructive and illegal, versus this," he said of Cunanan.

Frank Buttino, a Gay retired FBI agent from San Diego, where Cunanan lived before the killing spree, said he hoped people would look beyond this case for images of Gay men.

"Cunanan was involved in sub-groups of our culture that have been given a lot of exposure" — the bars, the sleazy pick-ups, he said. "I just hope people don't view the Gay world as Gay, white males in their 20s."

L.A. City Attorney's Office Charged with Cover-Up of LAPD Harassment of Gay Men

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles City Attorney's Office is helping the Police Department continue its discriminatory use of lewd-conduct laws against Gay men, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund said July 25.

"The LAPD wants to hide the fact that it applies different standards to Gay men than to heterosexuals in the course of hunting for Gay men to arrest for supposed lewd conduct," said Jon W. Davidson, of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's Los Angeles office.

Lambda criticized the City Attorney's Office for evading a possible court order to release LAPD records that could reveal a pattern of unequal enforcement of the law, after the City Attorney's Office dropped a lewd-conduct case it had pursued against a Los Angeles man for the past 18 months.

In support of one defendant, Donald Chapman, Lambda and the L.A.-based Center for Law in the Public Interest (CLPI) submitted friend-of-the-court papers to the California Supreme Court in May of this year. On June 18, the state's highest court ordered a lower appellate court to hear Chapman's case, a move expected to open the door to the LAPD's arrest records.

Lambda Staff Attorney Myron Dean Quon, assisting Davidson in the case, noted, "Just as the City Attorney's Office was facing a court deadline for proceeding with the case, it dropped the charges. It clearly is trying to make the prior proceedings moot to evade hearings and a trial that could have embarrassed the police."

"Lambda calls upon the Los Angeles Police Commission and the L.A. City Council to investigate vice squad records and to see to it that the LAPD no longer uses these laws in unequal and prohibited ways."

Chapman was arrested in Janu-

ary of 1996 by a Los Angeles police officer, the lone witness present, who claimed he saw Chapman masturbating in front of a urinal in a public men's room in North Hollywood, a charge Chapman absolutely denies.

"I sought the release of these documents because I wanted the public to be able to see that the LAPD blatantly targets Gay men with these laws, even when those arrested have done nothing wrong," said Chapman, a 46-year-old Gay man who is a registered nurse and will be attending law school in the fall.

Chapman's lawyer, Thomas Hunter Russell, said, "The police don't bother non-Gay couples along Mulholland Drive — and that's fine — but they routinely scour the bushes to arrest Gay men and even send young male officers to parks and rest rooms to solicit Gay men and then arrest them. The LAPD's harassment of the Gay community has got to stop."

Lewd conduct is defined as

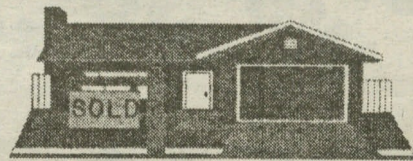
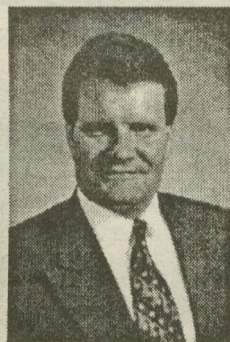
"touching of the genitals, buttocks, or female breast for the purpose of sexual arousal, annoyance, or offense, if the actor knows or should know of the presence of persons who may be offended by his conduct."

At the trial court level of his prosecution, Chapman sought LAPD arrest records, training materials, and internal memos concerning the enforcement of lewd-conduct laws so that he could demonstrate that the police intentionally target Gay men for arrest. Los Angeles Municipal Court Judge Michelle Rosenblatt originally granted most of Chapman's request but largely reversed her ruling when the City Attorney's Office fought for reconsideration.

Chapman appealed, joined by Lambda and CLPI, but the Court of Appeals refused to hear the case, prompting Chapman to go to the California Supreme Court.

Commenting on the LAPD's

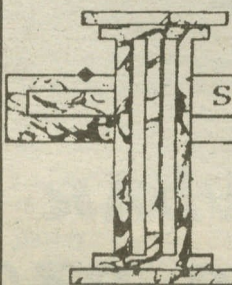
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Texas Educators Want To Open Private High School For Gays, Lesbians

DALLAS (AP) — Three educators believe it's high time for a Texas high school that caters to Gay and Lesbian teen-agers.

Becky Thompson, Pamela Stone and Wally Linebarger are starting such a school themselves.

The trio have leased a 4,000-square-foot ramshackle brick building in a strip mall near Dallas Love Field and plan to open the Walt Whitman Community School on Sept. 2.

Although it's being set up for Gays and Lesbian youth, the school will accept any student, regardless of sexual orientation, said Ms. Thompson who will serve as director. No students have signed up yet.

"We want to be all-inclusive," she said. "We want to be a school that people are saying, 'Oh, gee, I want to go to that school because it is tolerant.' They might not even be Gay."

The purpose of the school, named after the 19th-century Gay poet, "is to create an atmosphere of tolerance, an acceptance of sexuality confusion and opportunities for personal growth so that each individual student can become a fully functioning and healthy member of society," according to its mission statement.

"These are still the kids on the outs, the ones that are being picked on at school," said Ms. Thompson, a former teacher and counselor at the Walden Preparatory School in the north Dallas suburb of Addison.

She cited a 1984 New York study that found that 28 percent of Gay and Lesbian students drop out of high school because of harassment.

Ms. Thompson brainstormed the idea in May with Pamela Stone,

a Grapevine native who was director of Walden. Both resigned in May to pursue new options.

"This population is a population that was underserved in terms of education," Ms. Stone said. "There wasn't anything special happening for these kids."

Starting with Ms. Thompson, Ms. Stone and fine arts head Wally Linebarger, the three hope to hire three more teachers to help with math and science classes as enrollment grows. The school will seek accreditation later, Ms. Thompson said.

Course offerings will include language arts, math, natural science, social studies and electives in either fine arts or human development.

Attending the school won't be cheap. Annual tuition will be \$7,000. The founders hope for sufficient community support to offer scholarships for those who can't afford the fees.

"I most definitely want us to be a high school like any other, with a few differences," said Ms. Thompson, a 45-year-old Indiana native who came to Texas in 1982.

Other schools for Gay and Lesbian students operate in New York, Toronto and Los Angeles as partnerships between private groups and local school districts. The San Francisco public schools offer programs in all middle and high schools geared toward Gay, Lesbian and bisexual teens.

Ms. Stone said none of the three educators was interested in trying to persuade Dallas school officials to help with the project.

"Public schools realize that they cannot provide the best possible situation for every single kid," she said.

MGLCC Elects Officers

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center elected new board members in July. President Brian Pera and Treasurer Chet Overstreet will remain another year. Other new officers are Mark Jones, vice-President; Ron Akanowicz, secretary; and Melissa Blankenship member-at-large.

Goals are to increase events and awareness of the Center; maintain, develop and increase staff for the Switchboard; and continue to build the resources and collection of the Center and preserve Gay/Lesbian history locally.

The library and portions of the Mid-South Archives have been moved to new quarters at Holy Trinity Community Church. Many new donations to the library and Archive Center are being catalogued. The Mid-South Archives

has received two large memorabilia donations and those have been carefully stored awaiting display. It is actively seeking personal memorabilia to add to the library's collections of local periodicals and historical records in order to preserve the Gay and Lesbian history of the area. Oral history tapes and videotapes of special events reside in the collection and more will be donated in the near future.

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center is a nonprofit organization involved in outreach and education to the Memphis Gay and Lesbian community, our supporters and beyond. The MGLCC's focus is to create events and institutions which preserve our histories and awareness that carries them forward.

White House Amends Reaction To 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Ruling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trying to smooth over a wrinkle in its relations with the Gay community, the White House on July 21 clarified its statement on a federal judge's ruling on the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy for homosexuals in the military.

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said that, after hearing "legitimate concerns" raised by Gay activists, his reaction to the ruling should have included that a review under way at the Pentagon analyzing how the law is being implemented.

"In retrospect, I would have pointed that out if I had looked into the issue more," McCurry told reporters. "I had a typically McCurry off-the-cuff reaction."

In July in New York, U.S. District Judge Eugene Nickerson ruled that the policy violates free-speech rights of Gay service members and subjects them to separate, discriminatory regulations.

Gay activists told the White House that more homosexual service members have been discharged since the policy was adopted by the Clinton administration in 1993.

Last year, 850 Gays were discharged from all branches of the armed forces except the Coast Guard, according to Pentagon data compiled by the Service Members Legal Defense Network, an independent legal advocacy group. In 1994, there were 597 discharges.

The Justice Department is appealing Nickerson's decision, and the issue is expected to ultimately be decided by the Supreme Court. There are several cases nationwide challenging the 1993 policy, adopted by the administration as a compromise.

The policy bars commanders from asking service members what their sexual orientations are. It allows Gay troops to serve as long as they refrain from homosexual acts and don't reveal their orientation.

When Nickerson issued his ruling, McCurry said "we continue to believe the policy is a good one"

and was being implemented satisfactorily.

McCurry said he had neglected to mention that Defense Secretary William Cohen "has expressed some concern about the implementation of the law" and had ordered a review group to study it.

"The bottom line is, the law is still the law," McCurry said. "We must continue the work of effectively administering the law and

making sure we do so with the kind of sensitivity that Secretary Cohen has said should apply."

"The good news here is that Mike McCurry, in thinking a little bit longer about his comments, recognized that ... there are some problems with enforcement of this policy," said Winnie Stachelberg, legislative director of the Human Rights Campaign, the country's largest Gay political organization.

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Queer Science



by Dr. Simon LeVay
See page 27

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Purported Victim of Anti-Gay 'Hit' Charged with Faking Crime

By Martha Mendoza
Associated Press Writer

PORTALES, N.M. (AP) — At first, Miranda Prather told police two men wearing masks grabbed her in her house and wrapped a rope around her neck.

Then she said she was attacked by an acquaintance, a woman who looked a lot like herself.

Now police say Prather, 23, whose name was at the head of an anti-Gay "hit list" distributed around town, faked the attack and was herself the source of fliers that urged people to "kill a queer."

"It really doesn't surprise me significantly. In many cases I begin to suspect the victim," police Capt. Lonnie Berry said July 23rd after Prather's arrest.

Prather, a graduate student at Eastern New Mexico University, reported that she was attacked on July 21, the same day police found 13 copies of an anti-Gay flier in a laundromat. It listed eight people identified as homosexuals — starting with Prather. The author threatened to "begin executing one queer a week."

Other posters urged people to "beat up a queer," "harass a queer" and "kill a queer."

A video surveillance camera recorded a woman placing the fliers in the laundromat. According to the affidavit for her arrest, the tape showed Prather.

Berry said a police composite sketch drawn from Prather's description of the female attacker looked "just like the victim."

Prather described a woman who was "the same size as her, the same build as her, looks like her, dresses like her. The only difference is the way she brushes her hair," Berry said.

A 3-inch cut was visible on Prather's cheek as she was led, handcuffed, into the county jail. Authorities earlier said her wounds, including a cut on one leg, were superficial.

"I know the main suspect. I got

coerced into doing some things I shouldn't have done," she shouted to reporters.

Berry said Prather showed no sign of mental illness.

Prather was held on charges including making a false report and seven counts of harassment — one for each other person on the "hit list." She could face up to eight years in prison if convicted.

The people on the list were professors or graduate students in the

English department at Eastern New Mexico University. Berry said none need be concerned.

Stephen Duncan, a professor of music history whose name was listed, described Prather as creative and shy.

"I don't know her real well but this is nothing I would have expected of her," Duncan said. "I wouldn't have expected this from anyone."

One Year After, Survey Indicates Good, Bad for Boulder County's Gays

By Margaret Katz
Associated Press Writer

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — More than a year after a statewide anti-Gay rights law was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, at least one Gay and Lesbian community still cites expanded civil rights protection as a major concern, according to a new survey.

"For all the supposed political/civil protections, I think Boulder is a lonely place to be queer," wrote one survey respondent. Responses were anonymous.

The survey represents the opinions of about 500 Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgendered respondents in Boulder County. It was conducted by the Open Door Fund, a group that received a matching grant to conduct a needs assessment survey of the Gay and Lesbian community and award grants.

Other areas of concern for Boulder's Gay and Lesbian community include family issues, which include both coming out to families and creating same-sex families, services for Gay youths, communication and media advocacy, establishing a sense of community and discrimination in the workplace.

About one-third of the respondents reported having problems at work or school because of being Gay or Lesbian. Those problems include feeling like they have to hide their sexual orientation from peers or, once they are out, being denied promotions or reasonable treatment because of being Gay.

"While my employer has a non-discrimination policy, the practice is much different," wrote one respondent.

Another wrote: "There is not enough room here (on the questionnaire) to describe the year of torture with a homophobic boss."

In all, however, the Gay and Les-

bian community in Boulder reported fewer problems — with discrimination, hate crimes, isolation and poverty — than similar communities nationwide.

"The good news is that we are in the enviable position of having a community in which most forms of homophobia have been tamed to some degree," said psychologist Glenda Russell, who worked on the survey along with coordinator Susan Marine.

"That puts us in the position of being able to move beyond having to fight for day-to-day survival and being victims," she said.

Demographically, the respondents nearly matched the general population of Boulder County. They were, on average, 38 years old, 64 percent live in the city of Boulder, 10 percent are people of color, and 42 percent have lived in the county between three and five years. About 55 percent of respondents have more than a college education.

Respondents also showed considerable support for the creation of a central meeting place or community center at which to gather or meet.

The survey was required as part of a \$100,000 matching grant received by the Open Door Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County. The grant, which The Community Foundation applied for and won in April 1996, requires a local match of \$50,000. About \$30,000 has been raised so far through local efforts.

The money will be used to award grants based on the results of the needs assessment survey. The grants will go to organizations serving the county's Gay community.

The survey results, Russell said, "mean we can ask, 'What can we as a community create and take on and do that takes us in a truly forward direction?'"

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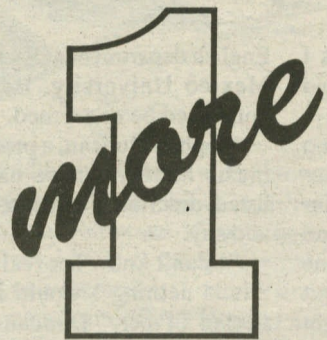
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HRC Launches Pro-Disney Campaign to Help Families with Sick Children

WASHINGTON — With stuffed animals in hand, staff members of the Human Rights Campaign kicked off a nationwide effort July 26 encouraging HRC members and other fair-minded Americans to counter the Southern Baptist Convention's anti-Gay boycott of the Walt Disney Company by purchasing Disney gift certificates and donating them to children in hospitals throughout the country.

"This is an effort to turn something negative into something positive by countering the Disney boycott with the spirit of family, caring, compassion and community," said David M. Smith, HRC's senior strategist.

"Our members wanted to be truly family-friendly by helping children in need while supporting Disney's commitment to fairness." HRC staffers launched the campaign by donating \$5,000 worth of Disney stuffed animals to children in Washington-area hospitals. HRC has called on its more than 200,000 members, and other

Americans who don't want to see Disney punished for its equitable policies, to buy gift certificates for Disney retail stores, theme parks and movies and donate them to children in hospitals nationwide.

HRC is making organizing suggestions available to anyone who wants to participate in the project. These materials can be obtained by calling the Human Rights Campaign at (202) 628-4160 or visiting its online action center at <http://www.hrc.org>.

At the request of HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch, HRC supporter and financial writer Andrew Tobias made a \$5,000 contribution to kick off the effort.

"The Southern Baptists have a right to their opinion," said Tobias, "but somehow I find it hard to believe that if Jesus were alive today, he would condemn Disney for providing health care to sick people, or condemn Ellen DeGeneres for being her loving, funny, honest self."

On June 18 at its annual meeting in Dallas, the Southern Baptist

Convention called for a nationwide anti-Gay boycott of Disney and all its subsidiaries. Among the factors contributing to that decision were Disney's willingness to allow Gay people to visit its theme parks, its policy of extending equal benefits to the domestic partners of its Gay and Lesbian employees, and its decision to allow the star of its ABC sitcom *Ellen* to become the first lead character on network television to honestly acknowledge being Gay.

"We hope HRC's effort will do some good while demonstrating that — unlike the Southern Baptist Convention — most Americans recognize that faith, family and fairness go together," said Donna Red Wing, HRC's National Field Director.

A recent *Newsweek* poll suggests that most Americans disagree with the Southern Baptists' decision, with fewer than one in five people saying that their families would go along with the boycott. The telephone poll of 753 adults was conducted June 19-20 by

Princeton Research Associates and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

Smith also pointed to other recent polls showing that 70 percent of Christians believe Gay and Lesbian people should be protected from discrimination in the workplace, compared to 23 percent who don't. Sixty percent of evangelicals

share this belief, while 34 percent do not. Those polling results come from a national survey of 1,007 voters conducted Nov. 5-8, 1996, for the Human Rights Campaign by Greenberg Research Inc. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 percent.

Lambda Challenges IRS Anti-Gay Letter to North Carolina Youth Group

NEW YORK—Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund demanded July 8 that the Internal Revenue Service withdraw its anti-Gay response to a request for non-profit tax status by the Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Support System (GLASS) in Greensboro, N.C. Lambda also asked the IRS to promptly grant GLASS federal tax-exemption.

"GLASS is a well-run, grassroots support group that helps young people besieged by anti-Gay bigotry. The IRS response to this pillar of the Greensboro community is shockingly discriminatory," said Lambda Staff Attorney David Buckel, who made Lambda's demand in a letter to the tax agency.

After GLASS asked for tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code's section 501(c)(3), the IRS sent the group a letter last fall that hinged approval on the following: "Please describe in detail the procedures and safeguards in place to assure that counsellors (sic) and participants do not encourage or facilitate homosexual practices or encourage the development of homosexual attitudes and propensities by minor individuals attending your programs."

Buckel said, "GLASS's very purpose is to raise the self-esteem of youth who face harassment and violence because they are Gay, bisexual, or perceived to be so. As a non-profit, charitable, and educational organization that helps secure the future for youth, GLASS is entitled to tax exemption." He continued, "The IRS should be as worried about 'homosexual attitudes' as about 'heterosexual atti-

tudes,' namely not at all."

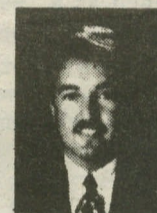
Lambda Managing Attorney Ruth Harlow said, "The IRS also needs to guarantee an application process free of discriminatory requests for information. This powerful federal agency is supposed to enforce the tax code, not police people's attitudes or sexual orientation. The IRS had better refocus on its proper role and ensure that it gives fair treatment to all applicants, including Lesbian and Gay organizations."

GLASS was formed to meet the needs of young people facing anti-Gay bigotry and abuse by providing support groups, educational materials and counseling referrals. It is staffed entirely by volunteers and has served about 120 youth between the ages of 15 and 21 since it started in 1994.

In Atlanta, Jane Morrison, managing attorney for Lambda's new Southern Regional Office, said, "The IRS seems to be hindering development of important, grassroots Lesbian and Gay organizations that parents as well as young Gay people desperately want. Even as support for Lesbians and Gay people grows in this part of the country, there still is great need for organizations like GLASS." Morrison added, "One North Carolina mother has driven her son 40 miles to this group, and even a social services agency in Greensboro's neighboring Rockingham County has called on GLASS for help."

Lambda is the nation's oldest and largest legal organization defending the rights of Lesbians, Gay

men, and people with HIV and AIDS. With its 25th anniversary in 1998, Lambda is headquartered in New York, with a Midwest Regional Office in Chicago and a Western Regional Office in Los Angeles, as well as a Southern Regional Office in Atlanta.



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Brothers and Sisters Plans Move, Registration, and League Play

Submitted by Brothers and Sisters Bowling League

"It's a long way from the basement of a shopping center to one of the most modern bowling houses in the city." Such were the comments of Bobby Rolland, president of the Brothers and Sisters Bowling League which is preparing to begin its 12th season of bowling in just a few weeks.

The Brothers and Sisters, Memphis' only Gay-oriented bowling league, will begin its 1997-98 activities August 22 as it moves into the Brunswick Winchester Lanes at 3703 South Mendenhall near Winchester and Mendenhall. The league is preparing for 18 four-person teams to fill its 29-week schedule which will culminate with an awards' banquet at the end of the season when nearly \$5,500 in cash and prizes will be awarded.

The league begins play in the modern facilities of Brunswick Winchester after a journey that began with a vision of some half dozen people at the old French Connection on Marshall Street in 1985. "Some of us were sitting around and began discussing ideas of things to do to have an alternative to the bar scene," Rolland, a founding member of the league, stated. "We had a couple of people

who had been involved in bowling in the past and we decided to give it a try. That first season we had six four-person teams and bowled at Big Daddy's, a now defunct bowling house in the basement of Poplar Plaza. We really just had a bunch of people getting together to have a good time as we were not even sanctioned as a true league."

The following year Brothers and Sisters affiliated itself with the American Bowling Congress (ABC) and the Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC) and began to really generate an interest in the Gay and Lesbian community of Memphis and the surrounding vicinity.

The members of the league now come from a wide diversity of all areas of the community and not just Memphis, but places such as Colt, Ark., Horn Lake, Miss., and Stanton, Tenn. It also attracts bowlers who are in the early 20s all the way to the late 60s. And, it's certainly not a professional type organization as averages in the league range from 95 to 180 plus.

Some six years ago the league

became affiliated with the International Gay Bowling Organization which represents bowling leagues from across the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the Netherlands. The league created the Saint Patrick's Invitational Tournament Committee in 1993 and sponsored the first local IGBO

tournament during Saint Patrick's Day weekend of 1994.

(See additional story concerning SPIT on p. 13).

Following its stint at Big Daddy's, the league moved to Park Lanes for several years and has spent the past two seasons at Cherokee Bowling Center on Lamar.

Commenting on another change of locations for the league, Rolland said, "This is the first time our league has had an option of where to bowl. We actually had two nice centers soliciting our business, and after putting forth the pros and cons of both places, the league voted to move to the Brunswick Winchester location, a modern facility which offers a full bar, great food and a well-stocked pro shop. A contract has already been signed and after the night of festivities for registration, we will begin our actual season on Sept. 5.

Practice for the league nights will begin at 6:45 and bowling will begin at 7 p.m.."

Registration night is being billed as a "house party," according to the league president. "We felt that since we are moving into a new house we would invite all our bowling friends to visit and have a night of fun." In conjunction with the staff and management of the bowling center, registration will take place from 7-9 p.m. with a night of "Cosmic" bowling, fun, food and fellowship to begin at 9. Pat Papke, bowling center manager, has donated the lanes for the cosmic bowling and will also be providing pizza and soft drinks for the activities. The league has decided to have raffle prizes, strike pots and other activities to be used as a fund-raiser for the Saint Patrick's tournament which will be held in March. A \$5 entry fee will also be charged for the bowling with a portion designated as a contribution to Hope House. There will also be prizes for the top male and female bowlers.

Brothers and Sisters has continually shown an increase in interest since its inception. The league sanctioned more than 100 bowlers this past year at Cherokee Lanes. "We feel that we have totally come out of the 'closet' and become a vital part of the Gay and

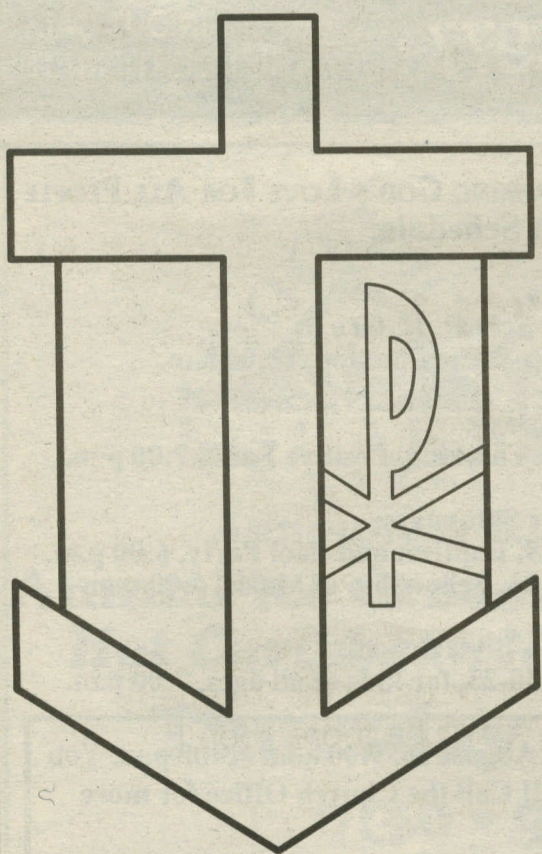
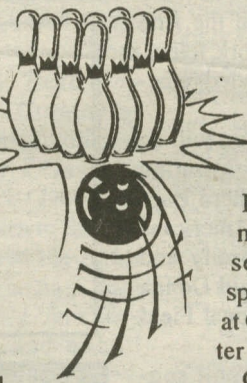
Lesbian community," Rolland said. "We have also attracted the attention of the business community as seen by the approach of more than one house to solicit our bowlers' business. We are thankful to everyone who has been a part of the league and to our Gay owned and operated businesses that have supported us in the past and who we hope will continue to support us."

Others serving with Rolland as officers of the league include Vice President Richard Andrews, Treasurer Chrystie Hogan, Sergeant-at-Arms Marsha Miller and Public Relations Director Susan Baldwin. The Secretary's position, vacant because of the resignation of long-time secretary Linda Etherton, will be filled in a special election during the registration events.

"We want all our former bowlers as well as anyone interested in becoming a part of the league to join us on Aug. 22 for the food, fun and fellowship," Rolland said.

Registration fee for the league will be \$16 which affiliates each bowler with ABC and IGBO. Bowling fees each week will be \$11.

Further information concerning the registration events or the league may be obtained by contacting Rolland at 870-238-5447, Andrews at 465-4371 or Baldwin at 375-1530.



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SPIT Officers Elected

Submitted by SPIT

Officers for the 1997-98 Saint Patrick's Invitational Bowling Tournament committee were recently elected at a meeting held at Cherokee Bowling Center.

Following a year's "vacation" Andy Cain was once again elected director of the tournament which is held Saint Patrick's Day weekend and attracts bowling participants from across the country for a weekend of fun, fellowship and bowling.

"This will be our fifth annual

tournament and we are certainly hopeful it will be the biggest and best yet," Cain said as he announced plans to begin negotiating for the tournament's bowling center, host hotels and bars and hopefully a corporate sponsor to aid in the festivities which culminate with an awards' banquet at which time more than \$10,000 in money and prizes are awarded.

The tournament is a sanctioned American Bowling Congress event affiliated with the International Gay Bowling Organization. It is sponsored locally by the Brothers

and Sisters Bowling League. Brothers and Sisters joined IGBO in 1993, Cain stated, "and we held our first tournament in 1994. It was and still is a big event in the Memphis Gay and Lesbian community and, although a great deal of time and hard work must go into it, it is always a fun-filled weekend."

SPIT, as the tournament is known across the country, is one of some 75 events held in conjunction with IGBO during the year. IGBO is represented by bowling leagues and individual bowlers from across the country as well as in Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the Netherlands. The organization is one of the largest in the

world for Gay-oriented activities.

Joining Cain as officers for the upcoming year will be Co-Directors Bobby Rolland and Ronald Johnson, Secretary Richard Andrews and Treasurer Don Morgan. Chairmen for various committees will be named at a later date.

The committee has already begun work on fund raising activities and ideas for the tournament to make it bigger and better. Fund-raising activities will be scheduled during the upcoming Brothers and Sisters League bowling season and the group also hopes to have some type of activities at local bars or other Gay-owned and operated establishments.

"We have always had good support from our bars and other businesses," Cain said. "And we hope this year will be no exception. We will be making ourselves known in the local community so that when our friends from across the country come to Memphis they can enjoy the city as well as the many Gay-friendly establishments."

Further information concerning the tournament or to volunteer to aid in the activities and the tournament itself can be obtained by contacting Cain at 901-393-7500 or Andrews at 465-4371.

MTGLA to Sponsor Gay Camp '97

Middle Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (MTGLA) of Cookeville is proud to announce its annual Gay Camp will be held at Fall Creek Falls State Park Oct. 17-19. All are welcomed to come and enjoy the peak of the fall colors and other activities scheduled for the weekend.

Participants can arrive anytime during Friday after 10 am for a weekend of fun.

Entertainment is scheduled for Friday and Saturday nights. The activities will be topped off with a massive Halloween Party on Saturday night with prizes awarded for the best costume.

Daily activities include hiking, canoeing, volleyball, and seeing the biggest waterfall east of the Mississippi River.

Randy Dowdy will DJ for the weekend festivities.

Participants may choose to stay either in a cabin or tent for the whole weekend. Cabins are summer type of a rustic nature that sleep four to six people. There are three groups of cabins with a bath-

house centrally located in each area. Showers have curtains and are semi-private.

Pets are to be kept on a leash or kept in a cabin or tent at all times.

Prices for the event are as follows:

Cabins: Couple \$40
Single \$25

Group Rates for a Cabin:

4 people- \$70
6 people- \$100
Tents: \$15

Those that choose not to camp or stay overnight but attend daily activities or the Halloween Party will be charged \$5. Reservations can be made by mailing a check or money order made out to: MTGLA

Reservations can be made until Sept. 30. Send to 240 East 13th St. Apt. 1, Cookeville, TN 38501. Call 615-372-8073 for more information after 4 p.m.

Campers are responsible for their own food, but there will be concessions sold. A portion of the proceeds will go to the local AIDS support group called Circle of Friends.

Safe Harbor to Hold September Revival

Safe Harbor Metropolitan Community Church will hold a weekend of Revival and Healing Sept. 19-21.

This will be a special time of spiritual hope and healing for the Memphis area.

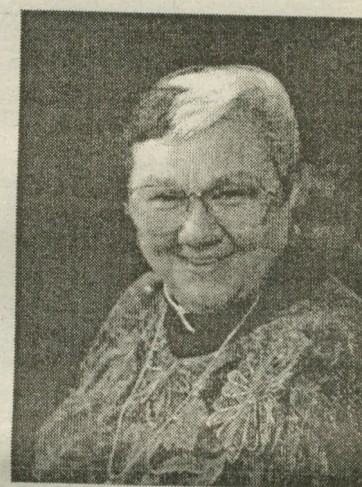
Safe Harbor invites all people to this time that will be exciting and uplifting. The evangelist will be Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey.

Rev. Elder Harvey has been in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) since 1971 pastoring in Oklahoma City, Houston, Texas, and was the first woman to pastor the "Mother Church" of UFMCC in Los Angeles (MCC-LA) from 1978 to 1986 when she left to go into fulltime evangelism. She has lived in LA since that time, traveling as many as 40 weeks out of the year. She

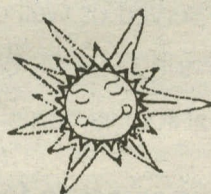
travels primarily in the United States but also in Canada and the European District. In 1998 she will begin a new ministry by traveling from church to church in her new motor home: the Patsy Cline.

Rev. Harvey has an incredible healing ministry and hers is a highlight service of the General Conferences of UFMCC. She uses lots of humor in her preaching and always carries a picture of the Laughing Christ who she feels inspires her sermons.

Rev. Harvey is Native American and Scotch-Irish. She was born in Oklahoma and graduated from Oklahoma University.



Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey



Mr. Gay America Set for November

Submitted by Mr. Gay America Pageant

Billed as the most prestigious male pageant in the country, Mr. Gay America is about to stage its 10th contest.

Produced under the careful direction of Mr. Bill Parker, this event will feature dozens of the hottest and most talented Gay men in America.

This year's landmark competition will be a fund-raiser to benefit PWAs.

Expected to draw hundreds, the show will keep tradition and sport a full cast of entertainers that will perform between segments of the program.

Since 1977 this pageant has featured many memorable names and faces. A few to mention from the past are Charlie Brown, Rick

Camp, Lady Baronessa, Wayne Nidiffer, Miss "P" and Billy Boots.

Although sure to offer a healthy supply of toned and trim bodies, this is more than just a beefcake pageant. Contestants will be judged on the basis of formal wear, swimwear and personal interview segments.

In addition, a "Do Your Own Thing" talent contest is bound to

yield some head-turning performances. This is a treat you will not want to miss!

The 10th Official Mr. Gay America Pageant will be presented on Nov. 9. This year's host hotel is the Adam's Mark Hotel located directly on the boardwalk in Daytona Beach, Fla. Be sure to check advertisements in local and national publications for further details or call (404) 875-1927.

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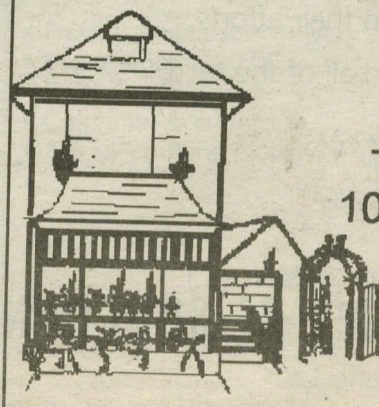
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A LITTLE BACKGROUND

Brothers & Sisters Bowling League started in a run-down basement.

Now, after twelve years' hard work and dedication, we've grown to over 100 regular and substitute members. And, we're sought after by two bowling establishments who wish to host our league.

After some thoughtful consideration, the League membership voted to move from Cherokee Lanes on Lamar to a state-of-the-art, modern house with more amenities.

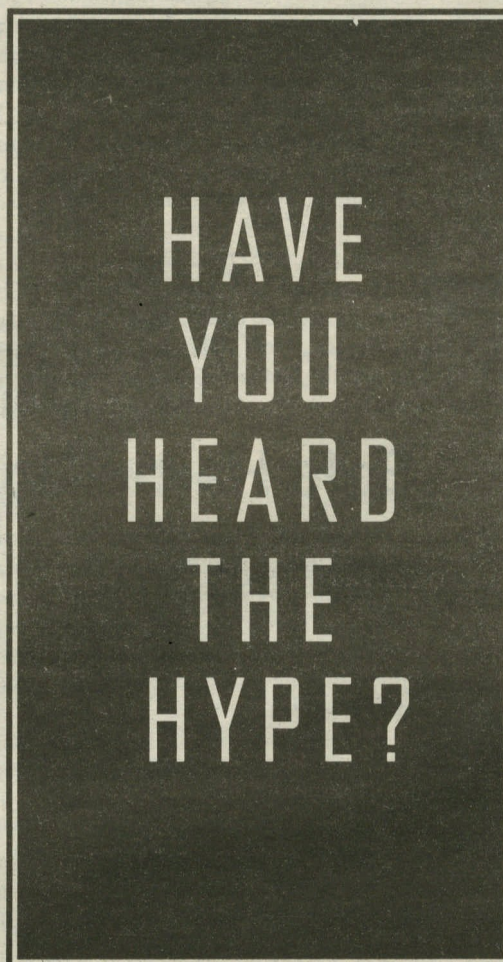
This is a definite improvement.

And, a smart move for the league, which is interested in growth and continued success.

As in any democracy, majority rules. Although some bowlers didn't want to move, they agreed to do so, for the benefit of the league.

DISSIDENTS & DECEIT

A small group of former Brothers & Sisters members have gathered against this move, and wish to split the league into two, separate, competing leagues. In their efforts they haven't disclosed all of the facts to their prospects.



SEEK THE TRUTH

- **At Brunswick Winchester, our hosts are very accommodating,** and have served us well during the 1996 and 1997 St. Patrick's Invitational Tournaments.
- **We'll have access to full facilities,** including the usual refreshment center and pro shop, in addition to a cocktail lounge, and a day-care facility.



- **Brunswick Winchester's newer equipment** will save time — with less equipment malfunctions — not to mention an estimated 20 minutes per night saved by the newer ball returns alone.
- **We will be secure.** The management assures us that the security staff are off-duty Sheriff's deputies, who won't be sleeping in a vehicle while one of our brothers is robbed at gunpoint.
- **Further, we will begin bowling at 7:00 p.m.,** as we have for the last twelve years.

DON'T BE FOOLED

Bowling is fun. Fun is why Brothers & Sisters was formed. We'd like you to join us for these upcoming events at Brunswick Winchester Lanes:

Cosmic Bowling "Get Acquainted" Party and League Registration

St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament and Brothers and Sisters League will host this evening's events, August 22. League registration: 7-9 p.m.; Cosmic Bowling begins at 9:30, featuring black lights, music, free pizza, soft drinks, and special raffles. \$5 admission. (\$1 will be donated to local AIDS organization.)

IT'S OFFICIAL

First official night of League Bowling September 5, 7 p.m.

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PFLAG Receives Biennial Human Rights Award at International Gay Spirituality Conference

WEST HOLLYWOOD — Parents, Families and Friends of Gays and Lesbians (PFLAG) has been named the recipient of the 1997 Human Rights Award presented by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC). The announcement was made by the Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder and moderator of UFMCC.

The international award was presented on July 20 in Sydney, Australia, during opening ceremonies for UFMCC's General Conference XVIII. UFMCC's Human Rights Award is presented biennially to organizations and individuals who have furthered the cause of social and political justice. Previous recipients of UFMCC's Human Rights Award have included Amnesty International and the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

Nancy McDonald, president of the board of directors of PFLAG, accepted the award in Sydney. A mother and grandmother, McDonald is a long-time community activist and educator who envisions "a time in which all children are treated equally, and all people can respect each other's differences."

UFMCC also presented an award to salute the pioneering work of PFLAG Australia. Heather Horntvedt, vice president of PFLAG Australia, accepted the award on behalf of the Australian organization. Horntvedt was instrumental in lobbying the West Australian Parliament to enact Gay-rights provisions into its laws.

"We recognize the invaluable contributions of PFLAG in strengthening the cause of human rights for Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, said the

Rev. Troy D. Perry, UFMCC moderator. "We are pleased to salute PFLAG's ongoing, three-fold commitment to support families, educate the public and advocate on behalf of equal rights. PFLAG has combined the work of social justice with a spirit of love and compassion that is helping to transform our world one family at a time," Perry added.

This year's UFMCC General Conference XVIII featured a public rally at Sydney's historic town hall, keynote addresses by internationally recognized human rights activists and theologians, business and planning sessions, and an extensive list of social and sightseeing options. Workshops

and seminars explored Gay sexuality, spirituality, activism, Gay parenting, outreach to the g/l/b/t/ communities, addressing the faith concerns of the Gay community, AIDS ministry in a new era, and the use of technology on behalf of Gay spirituality.

The international theme of UFMCC's General Conference XVIII was taken from the words of Christ, "You are the light of the world."

UFMCC was founded by the Rev. Troy D. Perry, who serves as moderator of the fast-growing denomination. A frequent international speaker at churches, universities, and conferences, Perry has appeared on *60 Minutes*,

Phil Donahue, Tomorrow with Tom Snyder and The Mike Douglas Show. UFMCC's story has appeared in virtually every international news magazine. Perry is the recipient of awards from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign and the Gay Press Association.

UFMCC is composed of more than 300 local congregations in 19 countries. With a combined budget in excess of \$10 million, the UFMCC churches comprise the largest predominantly Gay organization in the world. Safe Harbor MCC, of Memphis, is a member congregation of UFMCC, and has experienced rapid growth in ministry.

Prosecutors Proceed with Marijuana Charge Against PWA

By Justin Hyde
Associated Press Writer

ROMULUS, Mich. (AP) — Peter McWilliams says the seven marijuana cigarettes he was allegedly caught with at Detroit Metro Airport last December were part of his treatment for cancer and AIDS.

Prosecutors in Wayne County were thinking of giving the Los Angeles man a break, believing he wasn't aware of Michigan's laws on marijuana, and that he was using it under his doctor's care.

But on July 18, they decided to try McWilliams on one count of marijuana possession. The reason: A previous conviction for marijuana possession, from when he was a teen-ager in 1968.

"I'd said we review it, but when I found out (his record) ... that changed things," said Richard Padzieski, of the Wayne County prosecutor's office. "It's not like the doctor gave him this stuff and he went to a state where he didn't know the law."

McWilliams convinced a judge to postpone the trial until Sept. 19, but said he was willing to go to jail

to make a point about using marijuana to treat illnesses.

McWilliams was stopped by airport security Dec. 12 as he was leaving Detroit. After being severely ill with AIDS and non-Hodgkins lymphoma, he had recovered enough to travel and visit relatives "to prove I was still alive," he said.

A guard asked McWilliams if he had any contraband, and McWilliams showed him the seven marijuana cigarettes in a gold and silver case.

"While I was getting chemotherapy, it made life worth living," McWilliams said. "Now I take it because the AIDS drugs I take causes nausea. A few puffs of marijuana, and my nausea isn't there and I can go about my business."

Earlier this year, Assistant Prosecutor Marie Petito asked McWilliams to provide proof he was using marijuana for medical reasons. California law allows doctors to recommend marijuana, but not prescribe it. Michigan law allowed marijuana for medical purposes from 1979 to 1987.

In the letter, McWilliams' doc-

tor says the drug is "medically appropriate" to help the nausea. That wasn't enough for Wayne County officials, who told McWilliams they would not drop the charges.

"While your doctor thinks that the use of marijuana may alleviate some of your symptoms, he does not indicate that the marijuana is being prescribed as medicine in your condition," Petito wrote to McWilliams last month.

McWilliams argued the difference was a semantic one, and asked for more time. A few days later, the prosecutor's office told him to get ready for trial.

McWilliams' previous arrest came in 1968, when he was 18. He said his father caught him with marijuana in the basement of their home, and called a friend who happened to be a policeman. McWilliams said his father just wanted to scare him, but the policeman's partner arrested him.

McWilliams was convicted and sentenced to two years on probation. He said the arrest tore his family apart.

"It was just because police — they're used to dealing with real criminals, people with guns and knives," McWilliams said. "The only choice they have is to put people in jail."

That's a possibility with the current misdemeanor charge, which carries up to a year in jail with a conviction. And while his cancer is in remission and new AIDS drugs keep the HIV virus at bay, McWilliams worries about what could happen if he's in prison and the diseases come back.

But McWilliams said he thinks a jury will see his side and agree.

"I think the legislators and the enforcers of law are way behind the will of the people," he said. "I've no desire to be famous from this. This is something to make a point."

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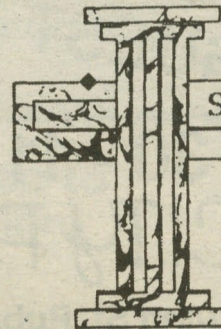
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Three Couples Seek To Overturn Gay Marriage Ban in Vermont

By Ross Sneyd
Associated Press Writer

COLCHESTER, Vt. (AP) — For 25 years, Lois Farnham and Holly Puterbaugh have built a life together, committed in every way except one: legally.

On July 22, they and two other couples sought to fix that. They sued the state and their hometown of Milton, asking a Chittenden Superior Court judge to declare legal marriages between couples of the same gender.

Stan Baker and Peter Harrigan of Shelburne and Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles of South Burlington joined the lawsuit, which thrusts Vermont into the center of a national debate over whether society should recognize unions between Gays and Lesbians.

"Twenty-five years ago when we met and fell in love marriage was not something any of us that were same-gender couples thought about," Puterbaugh said. "It just was not in the conversation, it was not in the thinking."

She and Farnham, who describe themselves as being in their "early 50s," thought about but never ended up having a commitment ceremony in honor of their 20th anniversary. Then two years ago, they attended a conference devoted to the notion of a civil marriage between couples of the same gen-

der. "We walked out of that conference, looked at ourselves and said, 'That's what we want,'" Puterbaugh said.

But the Milton town clerk, relying on a 22-year-old opinion from the attorney general's office, refused to issue them a marriage license when they applied on April 25.

Baker and Harrigan applied in Shelburne on June 13 and Jolles and Beck applied in South Burlington six days after that. All were denied and lawyers decided they had a case.

"Finding a partner, finding a mate and getting married is a basic human right," said Middlebury lawyer Susan Murray. "The state of Vermont should not be allowed to step in and tell two consenting adults that they cannot marry one another."

Attorney General William Sorrell, who was asked but declined to overturn the 1975 opinion, said the issue should be decided in the Legislature, not the courts. Lawmakers already have extended civil rights protections to Gays and Lesbians and included them among the classes protected in a hate crimes statute, he said.

If the Legislature had intended to include marriage among those rights, it would have said so, he argued.

"The Legislature has done nothing that we can find that affirmatively extends the right to same-gender marriage in Vermont," Sorrell said. "The Legislature for 22 years has had the opportunity to change that law. It has not done that."

Gov. Howard Dean said he believed the Legislature should avoid the issue for the time being. "I would prefer this not be addressed in the Legislature until it's resolved in the courts," he said. "I think it's a very personal matter. This is a very difficult issue and I think the courts are the place to resolve it."

Murray and the other lawyers said no change in the law was necessary. Denying Gays and Lesbians marriage licenses violates not only state marriage statutes but also Chapter 1, Articles 1 and 7, of the Vermont Constitution, the couples claim in their lawsuit. The first article states people are born equally free and independent; the seventh says the government exists for the common benefit, and not for any particular set of people.

"We are challenging the notion that a couple in love can't marry each other simply because they made the mistake of falling in love with someone of the 'wrong' gender," said Mary Bonauto of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, a New England-wide Gay rights group.

Vermont statutes describe marriage as a union between a "bride and groom," but say nothing any more explicit about whether that couple has to be of opposite genders. Sorrell said the plain dictionary meaning of the phrase proved lawmakers intended marriages to be between men and women.

The lawsuit asks only for the legalization of civil marriages and does not ask churches opposed to same-sex unions to recognize them or perform ceremonies. "It's not going to affect any religious organization at all," Murray said.

It would, however, offer them a wide range of civil benefits. "Married couples receive over 150 supports and protections under Vermont law, which are not available to Gay and Lesbian couples, no matter how long they have been together, no matter how committed their relationship is, and no matter how much they need those

legal protections," Bonauto said. Among the benefits she listed were family leave, bereavement leave, retirement and pension benefits, health insurance, inheritance, and the right to make medical decisions on behalf of a same-sex partner.

No state in the nation currently recognizes Gay and Lesbian marriages, although Hawaii courts have said they are guaranteed by the state Constitution. An appeal of that ruling is pending before the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Congress has weighed in on the issue, also, approving a law last year defining a marriage as the union between a man and a woman and giving states authority to not recognize same-gender marriages performed in another state.

A proposal also is still alive in the Vermont House Judiciary Committee that would outlaw same-gender marriages.

Researcher to Help Young Mississippians Learn More about HIV

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) — A University of Southern Mississippi researcher has been awarded a \$9,000 American Nurses Association grant to help young Mississippians learn more about HIV disease.

Sharyn Janes, associate professor of nursing at the university, received the ANA funding to provide training workshops for school nurses and counselors in Mississippi schools.

Janes said the grant also will fund research to develop a standardized patient profile of at-risk teens and young adults, as well as those in that age group with HIV disease.

"Nationally, teens and young adults are in the fastest-growing demographic group as far as diagnosis of HIV disease is concerned," Janes said. "What we want to do with this grant is train school nurses and counselors both

in how to deal with students who are HIV-positive and in how to deal with sexually-active students who are at-risk for developing HIV disease."

The workshops, tentatively scheduled to begin in spring 1998, will provide training participants can take back and pass on to other nurses and counselors who work with teens and young adults in the school systems and community, Janes said.

Research Confirms HIV Spurs Own Reproduction

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists have proved a long-expected trait of the AIDS virus: It produces a protein that stimulates cells to enhance its deadly reproduction.

The protein is called Tat, and researchers from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute reported July 22 that it essentially provides a wake-up call that renders slumbering immune cells susceptible to HIV infection.

HIV works best in active immune cells, not quiescent ones. So for HIV to sustain its killer viral levels, it must continually replenish the active cells it kills, Dana-Farber research Chiang Li writes in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Tat secreted from infected cells enters resting neighbor cells and "activates" them, Li discovered in a series of test-tube studies.

Li proved an HIV pathway that scientists were so confident existed that they already had hunted drugs to attack Tat, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, an AIDS expert with the National Institutes of Health.

So far, that research "didn't work, to the point that at least one company has abandoned its endeavors for a Tat inhibitor," Fauci said. But "that doesn't mean that somebody won't now, with this more confirmatory evidence, try another approach to blocking Tat."

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Parents Upset Over Poster About Homosexuality in Indiana Classroom

CHESTERTON, Ind. (AP) — A committee reviewing whether it is appropriate to hang a poster promoting tolerance for Gays and Lesbians in an English classroom will not be swayed by ideology, a member said.

The Duneland School Corp. committee will probably make a decision on the poster's fate after an Aug. 7 meeting, said John Corso, a member of the curriculum committee.

"Our committee is not here to talk about ideology, but whether this poster has merit to be in the

school," he said.

The poster hanging in Bonney Leckie's classroom includes photographs of Errol Flynn, Michelangelo, Eleanor Roosevelt and other historical figures. The text reads, "Sexual orientation does not determine a person's ability to make a mark in the world, let alone history."

The poster was commercially produced for a Gay and Lesbian group, Corso said. He could not identify the group.

The Materials Reconsideration Committee agreed to review the

poster after a parent complained. About 50 people showed up at a meeting, but only the teacher and parent were allowed to speak.

"I just don't think it's proper material that belongs in an English class," said Cathy Podguski, who objected to the poster after reviewing the school's English curriculum with her husband, Walter.

But Leckie said she put the poster up in 1991 to encourage tolerance, not promote Gay or Lesbian lifestyles. Children can be unkind and even cruel toward people who are different, she said.

"I think it's more about being kind to people and evaluating them on legitimate qualities," Leckie said. "And I think that is incredibly important."

Cathy Podguski said their objection is not directed against the Gay community or the teacher, just the poster's educational relevance.

"I'm just asking where it meets the objectives of the curriculum and where it fits in," she said.

Leckie countered that teaching goes beyond verbs and adjectives, and the school is supposed to prepare students for life. The reality

of life is that homosexuals contribute to society, she said.

"Education is about teaching young kids to live in the world," she said.

In 1995, a parent objected to the use of *Wizard in the Tree* in the elementary school because the book contained the words "slut" and "damn," Corso said. The committee voted to keep the book, and the school board upheld that decision, he said.

Leader of Airline's Gay Group Asks Board Not to Join Boycott

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A boycott of United Airlines over its refusal to offer domestic partner benefits has found an unexpected foe: the founder of United's Gay employees group.

"United Airlines, by no means, has a stellar past when it comes to human rights issues.... Yet in spite of all this, we are concerned about the far-reaching effects a boycott might have on all employees at United Airlines, especially Gay and Lesbian employees," said David Tomb, who heads United at United.

Tomb is asking the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to kill legislation that would prohibit city employees from flying United on official business, unless no other viable alternative was available.

"The boycott will have a negative impact on those you are actually trying to help," Tomb told the

board on July 7.

United and the board are at odds over a requirement that companies doing business with San Francisco must offer benefits to the registered domestic partners of its employees — Gay or straight.

The Gay boycott, led by the Harvey Milk Democratic Club, stems from United's participation in an industry lawsuit to overturn the city ordinance. The Air Transport Association, which filed the lawsuit on behalf of 25 major airlines in May, contends that cities do not have the right to force regulations on airlines, which are federally regulated.

Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Leslie Katz — both sponsors of the domestic partners law — downplayed Tomb's comments.

"It's not just about those employees, unfortunately. It's about the city's right to expect certain

standards from firms it does business with," Ammiano said.

Katz added, "We don't want to hurt employees. The goal of our legislation is to help employees."

But, she said, United had failed to negotiate in "good faith" with the city. United, she said, made the

decision to file a lawsuit even after the city had offered to waive domestic partner requirements for two years.

Meanwhile, United spokesman John Kiker acknowledged that the airline had hired Window Corp. to market United to the Gay and Les-

bian community. The public relations firm is headed up by nationally known Gay activists William Waybourne and David Mixner.

Kiker said the outreach effort was not in response to the boycott.

Clergyman Behind Disney Boycott Takes Action at Disneyland

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — A clergyman who spearheaded the Southern Baptists boycott of Walt Disney Co. went to Disneyland July 12 to ask visitors to abstain from buying any Disney products.

The Rev. Wiley Drake said he talked to several hundred people as they entered Disneyland. About six others helped him hand out boycott fliers.

"I felt that after we began our

boycott we should do something at the heart of the whole issue, i.e. Disneyland. Walt (Disney) used to walk the property and his whole persona was here," Drake said by telephone.

The pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park contends Disney has changed its family-oriented image since its

founder passed away.

The boycott, spurred this summer by Drake, was triggered because Disney, like most Hollywood studios, offers benefits for same-sex couples. Drake also objects to the content of some Disney entertainment.

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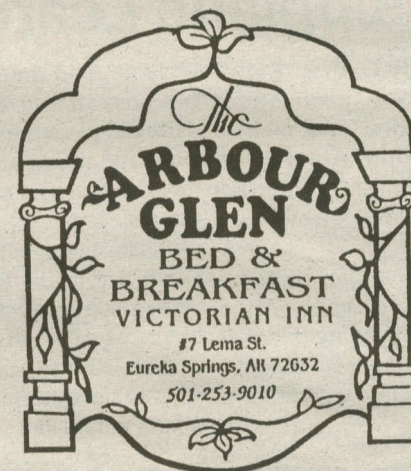
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San Francisco Hosts Second Annual Gay Youth Conference

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Ketzia Walsh's mother did not take it well when her daughter told her she was Gay just before last year's National Coming Out Day.

"She freaked out," said Walsh, 18, who describes herself as a lipstick lesbian. "It was really tense at first. It took her a few months to get adjusted.

"Now my mom says she loves me for who I am, but says she still can't accept that I like girls," Walsh said. "She said my coming out shattered her dream of me getting married and having kids."

Walsh, of Novato, was among 500 people from across the United States and other countries participating in a weekend conference for Gay, Lesbian and bisexual youths under age 25.

She said the conference allows them to share strategies on coming out and handling negative reactions.

"Youth need to support other youth," Walsh said.

The focus of this year's convention was community activism. The second annual "Young, Loud and Proud" conference offered 70 workshops and discussion groups on topics such as gender roles, fighting homophobia and safe sex.

Workshop titles included "Starting a Gay-straight student alliance," "Gender as Play-Doh"

and "Queers in Cyberspace." Gay and Lesbian literature also was available, with titles including *Fifty Ways to Tell Your Mother, Coming Out* and *The Last Closet*.

Project coordinator Joseph Rios said the conference drew youths as young as 13 from the San Francisco Bay area, Seattle, Los Angeles and Boston. Some came from as far as England and Ireland.

Volunteer Dax Valdes said organizers hoped to provide a safe place for youths to educate and learn from one another.

"It's important for young people to know they have the ability to make positive social change," Valdes said. "Hopefully, the conference will allow youth to develop skills needed for roles as activists, advocates and educators."

One of the youths who attended the conference was BJ Hamilton, who endured harassment from classmates when he announced his homosexuality two years ago.

A year later, after transferring high schools, Hamilton formed the first Gay and Lesbian youth group in his hometown of Aloha, Ore., about 20 miles west of Portland.

"I came to learn to fight harassment and to help start community centers in other areas," said Hamilton, 18.

Britain Will Concede Court Battle on Gay Age of Consent

By Audrey Woods
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Reversing Britain's policy, Prime Minister Tony Blair's government said July 14 it will not contest a European Court case that claims Britain's higher age of consent for homosexuals is discriminatory.

Blair will allow his Labor Party legislators in Parliament to vote with their conscience on legislation that would make 16 the age of consent for homosexuals — as it already is for heterosexuals.

The homosexual age of consent now is 18.

In 1994, Blair — then an opposition legislator — was among those who voted to lower the homosexual age of consent from 21 to 16, but lost to those who favored 18 instead.

Briton Euan Sutherland was 17 in May 1996 when he put his case to the European Court of Human Rights, arguing that Britain's higher age of consent for homosexuals violated his right to privacy and was discriminatory.

"There can be no justification for criminalizing the lives of 16 and 17-year-old Gay men," said Peter Tatchell of the Gay rights group Outrage! "That isn't protection. It's persecution."

Blair's office said that lawyers

advised the government it was going to lose the case and suggested there was no point in pursuing it.

If the European Court had ruled in Sutherland's favor, Britain would have been obliged to change the law. The decision to settle the case out of court appeared to indicate the new government did not feel strongly enough about the principal to fight it.

The government said it would not push the case for a change in British law, but would remain neutral if an individual lawmaker introduced the legislation, a spokesman for Blair said on traditional condition of anonymity.

No date has been set for introduction of legislation, but it would be unlikely before the fall. Labor's huge majority in the House of Commons and its past voting patterns suggest it's likely that 16 will become the age of consent for all.

"We were always very hopeful that a new Labor government would concede the principle of equality and it looks as if this is going to happen," said Angela Mason, spokeswoman for the Gay activist group Stonewall.

Meanwhile, Gay activists accused the Church of England's hierarchy of hypocrisy as the church itself began a debate on homosexual priests.

The Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement published a survey indicating about half the church's 44 diocesan bishops have knowingly employed, licensed or ordained actively Gay priests.

"This is contrary to the formal policy of the church," said the Rev. Richard Kirker, the Gay movement's general secretary. "It is hypocrisy and double standards.

"It's obvious that the church now has no option but to drop the damaging and dishonest pretense that it is not ordaining practicing homosexuals in considerable numbers," Kirker said.

The church accepts Gay priests who are celibate.

At a meeting in York, the governing General Synod of the Church of England debated the 1991 Bishops Report on Human Sexuality, which argues that lay Christians can be homosexually active but the clergy cannot.

Last year, the former Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, who was spiritual head of the church for 11 years, said he had ordained homosexuals — but not if they told him about it.

Runcie said church policy was "ludicrous" in allowing Gay relationships among lay people but ruling that practicing homosexuals may not become priests.



Mon., August 4
Mon., August 18
6 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
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10. J-Wag's
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12. N-cognito
13. One More
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TJN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

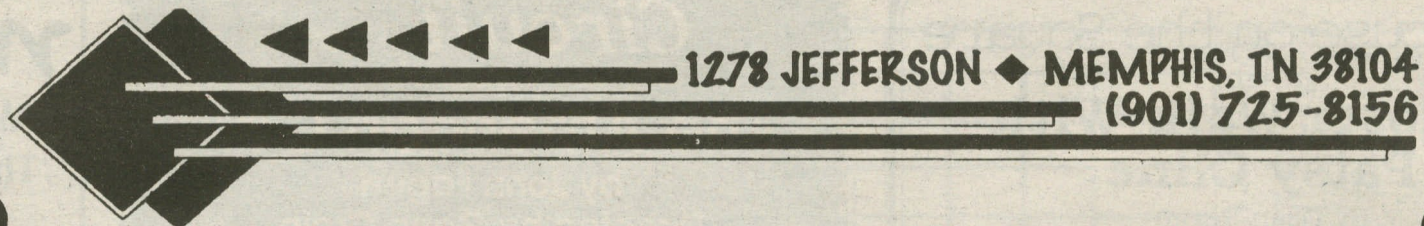
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST 3 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am • Living Word Christian Church, Services 10am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Worship Service 11am, 7pm • Softball, Tobey Park, Hollywood & Central, 4:45pm • Cook-out, One More, 3-8pm • Hawaiian Luau, Crossroads, 6-9pm • WAC Meeting, 7pm, call 272-3638 • Tina Chandler Amnesia	4 • Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm Sponsored by Scared Heart Southern Missionsland Chris Sinnock	5 • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	6 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	7 • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	8 • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm	9 • HTCC Baptism & Pool Party, 6pm • Blue Max Club Night Pipeline
10 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am • Living Word Christian Church, Services 10am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Worship Service 11am, 7pm • Softball, Tobey Park, Hollywood & Central, 4:45pm	11	12 • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	13 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	14 • NOW Meeting, YWCA, 766 So. Highland, 7pm • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Skatenight, Skateland, 8pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	15 Deadline for September '97 TJN • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • AIDS Mastery Workshop (See Ad, Pg. 26)	16 • Integrity Pool Party, Jim Ramsey's home • AIDS Mastery Workshop (See Ad, Pg. 26) • Alliance Club Night Pipeline
17 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am • Living Word Christian Church, Services 10am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Worship Service 11am, 7pm • Softball, Tobey Park, Hollywood & Central, 4:45pm • WAC Meeting, 7pm, call 272-3638 • AIDS Mastery Workshop (See Ad, Pg. 26)	18 • Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm Sponsored by The Pipeline	19 • AIDS Consortium Mtg., United Way Bldg. on Union, 3pm • Integrity Eucharist & Healing Svc., 6pm; Dinner/Mtg., 6:45pm, Calvary Episcopal • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	20 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	21 • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	22 • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • Cosmic Bowling, Winchester Lanes, Registration 7pm, Bowling 9pm • Portfolio Men Amnesia	23 • HTCC Fellowship of Music, 6pm
24 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am • Living Word Christian Church, Services 10am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Worship Service 11am, 7pm • Softball, Tobey Park, Hollywood & Central, 4:45pm • Dream Family, One More, 5pm	25	26 • Integrity Board Mtg., 6:30pm • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	27 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	28 • Cotton Pickin' Squares' Annual Ice Cream Social, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	29 September '97 TJN Due Out • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm	30 • Miss River City Pageant, J-Wags, 11pm
31 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am • Living Word Christian Church, Services 10am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Worship Service 11am, 7pm • Softball, Tobey Park, Hollywood & Central, 4:45pm	SEPTEMBER LABOR DAY 1	2 • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	3 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	4 • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	5 • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm	6

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Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

What is the history of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival?

The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival has become a part of the calendar's rhythm for thousands of Lesbians and other women who gather each August at a secluded campsite outside Grand Rapids. The festival has achieved mythic status in Lesbian communities both for its empowering and liberating affect on its participants — and for the controversies that have arisen year after year over its rules and boundaries.

In recent years, "Michigan" (as many of its attendees lovingly refer to it) has drawn between 6-8,000 women to a 650-acre forest campground in which the action on the various sound stages — by many of the biggest names in women's music — is just one of a whirlwind of activities. Dozens of workshops — from drumming to signing to spirituality — coincide

with a crafts bazaar and an international film festival. The festival models itself as a prototype of a nurturing community — how the world would be if women got to design it. As such, a complex geography of care has developed. "The Womb" attends to festival-goers' physical needs (sunburns, especially) while "The Oasis" attend to their emotional needs. There is a camp for girls on-site, and sons of participants who are under 10 can attend Brother Sun Boys' Camp. More than a dozen sign language interpreters provide a connection to the music and workshops for hearing impaired women, and three vegetarian meals are provided daily.

And even in 1997, no woman pays more than \$300 to stay for up to six days.

From its beginnings on a 20-acre site rented for \$400 in the summer of 1976, Michigan has been a communitarian venture. All

participants sign up for two four-hour work shifts — from helping with childcare to maintenance to cooking.

The mid-70s, when Michigan

decks is forbidden on the festival grounds.

In its second year, the festival moved to a larger, rented site in Oceana County, Mich., where the

PAST/OUT BY DAVID BIANCO

was founded, was a period of explosive growth in women's music. The women who started the festival had attended other similar events in 1975 and wanted to start their own in Michigan. They chose the spelling "womyn" to make it clear that their venture would rely not at all on men — and that approach has been adhered to strictly for two decades. Even listening to "male music" on radios or tape

women braved a near tornado. In the early years, threatened invasions by hostile local men were a recurrent problem, although no actual violence occurred. Several of the organizers felt a permanent, owned site was essential, and in 1982 the current parcel was purchased. Because the current site is surrounded by a quarter million acres of the Manistee National Forest, many festival-goers attest

they have never felt safer or freer. Indeed, clothing is optional throughout the festival.

The first of the many Michigan controversies centered over whether participants could bring their sons. Despite official rules against it, in the first years, some women brought boys as old as 14, some of whom felt so disoriented by the female-privilege society that they picked on some of the younger girls. The current strict policy of no boys over three on the main festival grounds, and no boys over 10 at the festival at all, developed as a compromise, although it left some mothers unhappy.

Another point of controversy has been sadomasochism. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, a subset of the Lesbian community began openly embracing leather-dyke identities, to the horror of women who identified violence with maleness. For the 1980 Festival, public sex and open displays of sadomasochism were banned, creating a furor among women who felt nobody's sexuality should be restricted. Eventually, a compromise was reached where a separate "Twilight Zone" was set up for the leather set.

The most recent — and perhaps the most wrenching — major debate has been over the participation of post-operative male-to-female transsexuals at the event. One such transsexual, Nancy Burkholder, participated clandestinely at the 1990 festival. But the next year, when she began to share her history with other participants, security guards escorted her from the premises — despite her offer to "drop her drawers."

By 1993, the "womyn-born-womyn-only" policy was a source of significant controversy. A "Camp Trans" was set up outside the gates of the Festival to protest the exclusion of "men-born womyn," and several opponents of the policy wore "Friend of Nancy" buttons. But the Festival organizers, and many participants, insist that by excluding anyone born as a male they are creating a uniquely safe and affirming space for the thousands of women who participate. Or, as one woman put it, "it's the dick in their heads I don't want here."

Although the controversies have provided for hours of debate for women both during Michigan and the other 51 weeks of the year, many festival-goers have grown tired of each new issue and simply want to enjoy the festival for its scenery, its sense of community, and, of course, its music.

David Bianco, M.A., is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

Softball Tournament Scores a HOME RUN !!!

By Chuck Saylor

The first Battle on the Bluff softball tournament was a huge success. A total of 22 teams from Norfolk to Atlanta, Memphis and cities in between converged July 4th weekend for non-stop action on the softball fields. The weather being most cooperative the entire weekend added to the success. Plenty of local spectators flocked to the field to watch the action both on and off the field.

Play began on Friday afternoon with each team playing two games that day and continued on Saturday morning after each team was 'seeded' according to the team's play the previous day. Four women's teams were in the tournament as they began their round of "pool play" games on Saturday also. The 18 open teams by the end of Saturday's play would be divided into three separate divisions, those being Competitive Division, C, and C Recreation. Each division in theory, should have approximately the same level of talent along with other teams in the division, so no one team could domi-

nate the other. This format was a first and well-received by the teams attending.

Sunday's games were serious business with all teams still in the hunt for some trophies to take back to their sponsors and some bragging rights. After all the dust had settled and the last fly ball was caught, the final results are as follows:

Overall Division Competitive

- 1st - Autumn St. Haze - Memphis
- 2nd - Atlanta Cocks - Atlanta
- 3rd - Music City Sounds - Nashville
- 4th - Vieux Carré Saints - Huntsville

C Division

- 1st - Quest Cubs - Birmingham
- 2nd - Heretic Saints - Atlanta
- 3rd - Atlanta Thunder - Atlanta

C Recreation Division

- 1st - Wildcats - Nashville
- 2nd - Music City Chuters - Nashville
- 3rd - Cole Haysten Clippers - Memphis

Womens Division

- 1st - Lil' Devils - Birmingham
- 2nd - Backstreet Blaze - Atlanta
- 3rd - Avengers - Birmingham

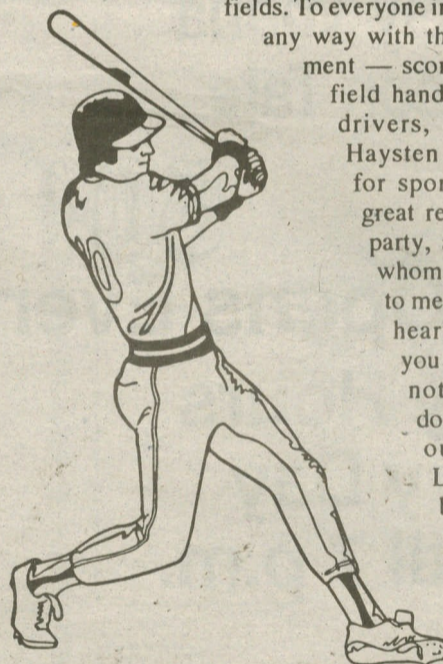
Other teams from Memphis which made a good showing in the tournament and were fighting till the end were: J-Wag's Jaguars, 4th place in C Division - Amnesia 5th place C Division - Mid-South Vision Center Peepers, 4th place C Recreation Division.

A special thanks to our tournament sponsor Miller Lite for helping to make this a great weekend. James Williamson, tourna-

ment director, put forth a lot of work and effort into making this a reality for Memphis and the many sleepless nights have paid off by teams saying they plan on making a return trip next year.

The special events committee also did a great job in planning and organizing activities off the softball fields. To everyone involved in any way with the tournament — scorekeepers, field hands, shuttle drivers, Cole Haysten Clippers for sponsoring a great registration party, and those whom we forgot to mention — a hearty thank-you We could not have done it without you!

Look for bigger and better things next year.



Softball League Standings

Thru Sunday, July 27

Team	Won/Loss
Autumn St. Haze	12-0
J-Wags Jaguars	7-4
Cole-Haysten Clippers	7-5
Mid-South Vision Peepers	6-6
Amnesia	4-7
Arizona Coyotes	3-9
Dabbles Hair Dabblers	2-10

Watch the Teams Play
Sunday Afternoons
Tobey Park
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4:45 p.m.

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Gays & Straights Seek to Humbly with Your God

by Ira L. King

On Sat., July 12, 1997 approximately 150 men and women met at Calvary Episcopal Church in downtown Memphis. These men and women were Gay and straight, black and white, blue collar and white collar, and of varied backgrounds, socio-economic status and religious affiliations.

With ethereal music playing in a haunting rhythm in the background, Len Piechowski unfolded to this group the enrapturing story of a parallel universe where all the normal people were homosexual and all the straight people were viewed as an abomination to all that was right and holy. We were swept into a land where "breeders" were outcasts and had to form their own clubs and churches, where Gays and Lesbians controlled the government, the schools, the social environment, and yes, even the churches. In the words of the Wicked Witch of the West: "What a world, what a world."

This symposium was put together by the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Religious Affairs, whose founder is Len Piechowski.

The Coalition was born in December 1996 as a result of Len Piechowski's recognition of an alienation between clergy and homosexuals. The Coalition is a "grassroots" effort of both homosexual and heterosexual citizens. It is not a part of any one religious group and it is non-political.

In the words of Timothy Meadows, Senior Pastor of Holy Trinity Community Church, "the Gay churches across America are filled with walking wounded." For those of us who have an earnest desire to be true to our God, true to the Christ who loves us, and true to ourselves regarding our God-given sexuality, this meeting was a sincere exercise in understanding.

From the opening words by Rev. Doug Bailey of Calvary Episcopal Church, a conciliatory theme of understanding was set and adhered to. In Rev. Bailey's words, we were gathered to "seek the truth."

Perhaps one of the more amusing yet important aspects of the symposium was the moderating. Rev. David Fykes, in drill sergeant-like fashion, kept us on time and help us to stay within the parameters of the topic at hand. He was assertive when necessary and always kind. He made us all feel right at home in Calvary Episcopal's beautiful and cavernous sanctuary. He reminded us of that portion of the prayer of St. Francis which admonishes us to "seek not so much to be understood as to understand," and that we should for the duration of the symposium, strive to respect the dignity of every human being.

The keynote speakers, Len

Piechowski, Dr. Brooks Ramsey (a former Southern Baptist minister) and John Smid (executive director of Love In Action), shared with us their life's journeys and the circumstances that brought them to where they are today in the quest to reconcile their spirituality and their sexuality. The audience was literally mesmerized by the events that molded these men into the spiritual and sexual personalities they are today.

Tales of Catholic school up-bringsings, unidentifiable teenage feelings and cravings, denials as young adults, marrying to escape reality and conform to the image the religious community in America was painted for us, dating members of the opposite sex just to appear "normal" to friends and co-workers, the witnessing of Gay bashing by Memphis City policemen in Overton Park. These are but some of the circumstances the audience found itself identifying with.

As I listened attentively, I couldn't help but think "this place should be packed with both Gay and straight people." There is not a citizen in Memphis who doesn't need to hear the anguish and heartache that comes with the reality of being a homosexual. Indeed, every person in America needs to know that according to a report published by the Bush administration, 30 percent of all completed teenage suicides in America are Gay related. People need to know that prayer and fasting are not a cure for homosexuality. They need to know that homosexuality is not a disease, but a desire and an innate part of human sexuality. They need to know that being Gay is not something that happens "only in the bedroom." As Piechowski pointed out so poignantly, "Even when I'm not having genital relations, I am still a homosexual."

Along with the keynote speakers there were panelists who provided sketches of their spiritual and sexual journeys and addressed questions and concerns from the

audience. These panelist included Vincent Astor (community leader, activist and entertainer, and founding board member of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center and Memphis Pride, Inc.), Dr. Joel W. Chapman (clinical psychologist), Rev. Cheryl Cornish (senior pastor of First Congregational Church UCC), Scott Howell (director of Congregational Life at First Congregational Church UCC), Rev. William Randall Johnson (director of Adult Ministries at Central Church), Dr. Regional Mebane (adjunct faculty member at the University of Memphis) and Rev. Timothy Meadows (senior pastor at Holy Trinity Community Church).

Perhaps this is a fitting place to give a special thanks to Rev. William Randall Johnson. Rev. Johnson was literally jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire by attending this symposium. As many of us know, Central Church has a ministry called Restoration. According to Rev. Johnson the purpose of this ministry is to help people who are struggling or unhappy with their homosexuality. He claims the ministry is not a deprogramming effort. When I asked him point blank what right did Central Church or any church for that matter, have to try to take away from me a gift that was given by God, he answered as honestly and sincerely as he knew how. He did not skirt the issue, but he did not address it forthrightly either. He was, however, genuine and kind. He maintained that kindness for the duration of the symposium and really appeared to be trying to understand.

Some of the salient truths to come out of the symposium were voiced by Dr. Brooks Ramsey. Those truths are: (1) Not all homosexual/heterosexual acts are sinful. (2) Not all homosexual/heterosexual acts are blessed of God. (3) God does not come down on us the way the church comes down on us.

Some thoughts to take with you. Sometimes, the church does not

teaches us, and when it wounds us we should be very vocal about it. We need to call the church on the carpet for abusing us. The church was not given to us as the ultimate authority. The ultimate authority always has been and always will be Jesus Christ. The church's role is to act as Christ is agent for spiritual maintenance, growth and maturity. This it must do regardless of the sexual orientation of its members.

I leave you with this truth from the old testament: Micah 6:8 - He has told you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.

teaches us, and when it wounds us we should be very vocal about it. We need to call the church on the carpet for abusing us. The church was not given to us as the ultimate authority. The ultimate authority always has been and always will be Jesus Christ. The church's role is to act as Christ is agent for spiritual maintenance, growth and maturity. This it must do regardless of the sexual orientation of its members.



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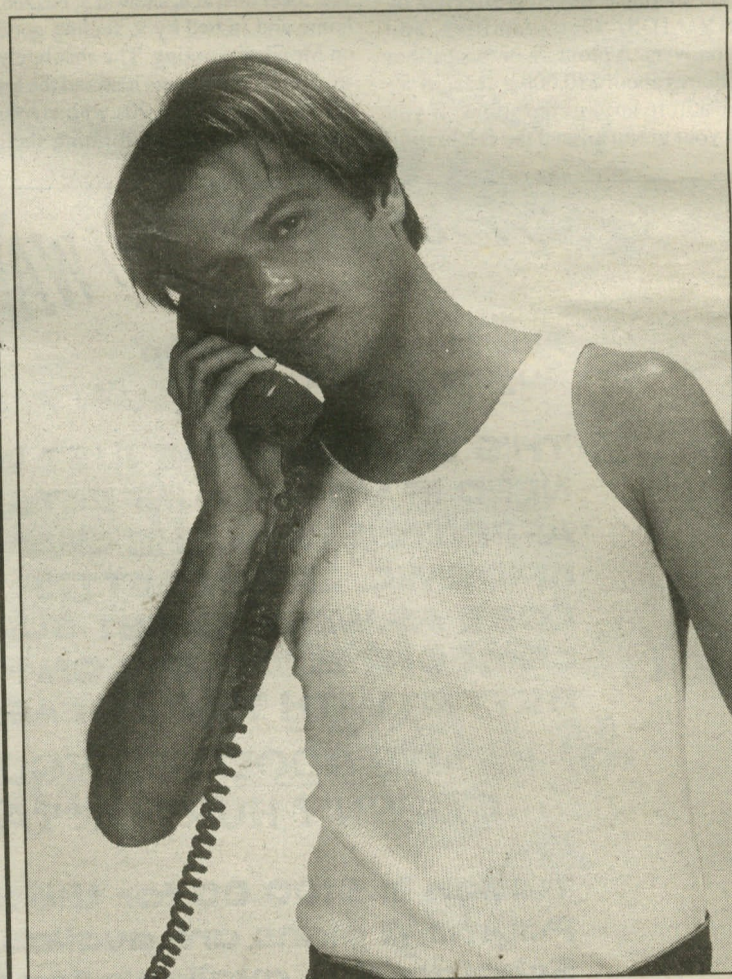
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Sad to Say, Happy to Hear

By Butch Valentine



Sad to say... The Centers for Disease Control estimates there are anywhere from 600,000 to 900,000 people in the U.S. who are infected with HIV.

Happy to hear... The number of AIDS deaths in the US declined by 19 percent in the first nine months of 1996 compared to the same time period in 1995, and the trend is expected to continue! The death rate dropped to 30,700 from 37,900 in those time frames. The new drugs and greater access to medical care are credited with the overall decline.

Sad to say... A side effect of all the good news we've been hearing is that HIV/AIDS agencies across the country are reporting a decrease in donations. The sense of urgency has diminished among the public, but people fail to realize that with longer life expectancies, those infected/affected by the virus need services longer. And new cases continue to add to the already overburdened agencies. The need is as real, as large, and as important as ever.

Happy to hear... Our Fifth Anniversary Dinner for Feast For Friends was very successful. We received \$7,350 in pledges, overwhelmingly beating our goal of \$6,000! This will go a long way in continuing to provide nutritious, restaurant-caliber food to those infected/affected by HIV/AIDS, their families and caregivers. A program of this caliber requires about \$10,000 a year, so we are still in need of donations. If you or your group missed the celebration

but are interested in making a donation out of the goodness of your heart, please contact me at Friends for Life (272-0855).

Happy to hear... July 19-20 was a weekend of FUNd-raising for Friends for Life, with a good time had by all while raising some serious money for the agency. Saturday night featured a special 11:30 performance of the Playhouse on the Square's *Rocky Horror Show* that netted about \$3,800. This very gifted cast donated its time and talent for this special showing that followed the regular energetic performance, but they got re-energized and really got down and dirty. The enthusiasm of the almost sold-out audience provided the incentive for the cast to provide hilarious improvisations, delicious mayhem, and deliveries and movements not seen by other audiences. On Sunday afternoon, *The One Night Only Girls*, organized by Sandy Kozik, brought back the happy-go-lucky good times of the old *George's on Madison* with a genuine Tea Dance and show from 4-7. *Amnesia* was packed by those of us who had so much fun during those times and have fond memories of the old shows, and by many who never had the opportunity to experience what a really good time can be had on a Sunday afternoon. Ahh yes...beer bust at 4, show at 5, buzzed, home and in bed by 9, feeling good on Monday morning. The absolutely wonderful performers honored the local drag stars of the 70s who are no longer with us by performing their

signature numbers, and raised a whopping \$4,200! Somebody needs to bring back real afternoon Tea Dances!!

Sad to say... As reported to you in the May issue, I gave birth to a kidney stone in April, a side effect of Crixivan. I wasn't on Crixivan long enough to have a viral load test done, so we don't know how well I was doing otherwise. After a long time on Saquinivir, my viral load crept up from clinically undetectable to 18,800. FYI: the marker to reconsider drug therapy is 5,000.

Happy to hear... Talk about perfect timing...I was one of the first in Tennessee to receive Viracept, the latest protease inhibitor. It's easier to take than Crixivan in terms of the time schedule and meals. But...

Sad to say... It is very hard to swallow as it is very chalky. The side effects are minimal, but watch out for the intestinal action, especially the morning after a few cocktails. Others I have talked with who are on this new drug agree when I say you can say goodbye to good old fashioned farts. They definitely can lead to bigger things.

Happy to hear... The test results are in, and they are good. My viral load is down to 550, and the ole T-Cells are up to 411! Yeah folks...I'm still kickin' and grinnin'.

Sad to say... It's old news now that the Southern Baptists are targeting Disney and its subsidiaries, and you would think any organization with 16.5 million members would have a major impact.

Happy to hear... Their efforts will fail! SB's at all levels, from President Clinton to clergymen to laypersons, have indicated they would not follow the boycott. Even Bellevue Baptist Church's Dr. Adrian Rogers, who voted for the action, will ignore the boycott when it's an in-

convenience to him. Broadcasts of Bellevue's weekly sermon will continue to run on WPTY-24, an affiliate of the Disney-owned ABC network. His reasoning? WPTY is owned by Clear Channel Communications, not ABC or Disney. Plus they get a good deal for the air time. As the Church Lady would say, "How con-VEEN-yunt."

Sad to say... As we all know, many religious groups enjoy using the Bible against Gays, justifying banning same-sex marriages and the ordination of Gays. Nothing like Gay-bashing to rally the Bible-thumping Religious Righteous Wonders around the pulpit.

Happy to hear... As I have said repeatedly, until homosexuality makes the Top Ten...the Ten Commandments (supposedly God's words to Moses, and he didn't mention "Thou shalt not commit homosexuality")...the Religious Righteous Wonders need to leave us alone and spend their energy fighting the real evils, i.e. adultery. An article in *Newsweek* (July 28) titled "Sex, Morality and the Protestant Minister," reports that the divorce rate is rising among the clergy, as well as adultery. In a 1988 survey by *Leadership* magazine, 12 percent of nearly 1,000 Protestant clergy admitted committing adultery... ADMITTED is the key word here, folks. In 1993, the *Journal of Pastoral Care* reported a survey of Southern Baptist pastors where 14 percent acknowledged they had engaged in "sexual behavior inappropriate" to a monster....OOPS...I meant minister. Get the broom out...glass houses can be very messy.

Sad to say... On top of all the publicity with the boycott, we had a crazy queer killing people all over the place. Andrew Cunanan, noted in his yearbook as "Most Likely To Be Remembered," killed five people in four states, including two men he had been involved with, and skillfully eluded authorities. Authorities believe the very cunning Cunanan may have contracted AIDS, and was on a mission to "take out" as many as possible. We may never know all the answers as he took the easy way out by killing himself.

Happy to hear... Says his mom, "He's a high-class male prostitute." A son a mother can be proud of.

Sad to say... The Supreme Court recently ruled that the Constitution does not guarantee Americans the right to commit suicide with the help of a physician. This affects a doctor's participation or active role in bringing about a patient's death by lethal injection or other means.

Happy to hear... The ruling has no affect on existing laws regarding a patient's right to refuse extreme measures, such as artificial feeding, etc. It also allows states to decide the

issue individually, such as Oregon's first in the nation and newly enacted assisted suicide law. In an important concurrent ruling, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor left open the possibility the Court could "someday find that certain individuals who are particularly suffering could have an individual right to assisted suicide."

Sad to say... As reported here in earlier columns, the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy has resulted in a higher discharge rate for Gays. Military Gays serve their country well, with many receiving decorations and special recognition. But if they utter those three little words... "I am Gay"...they are history.

Happy to hear... Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye...While the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech had minimal effect on the policy in the courts, a federal judge ruled the policy violates Gays' equal rights to equal participation in the military. The policy infringes on the Fifth Amendment's due process clause by subjecting Gays to a separate, discriminatory set of regulations. This makes perfectly good sense to sensible people, but U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, of all people, says the administration will appeal. For what reason, I don't know. Go figure.

Sad to say... It has been debated for years whether HIV can be passed from one to another through deep kissing. Now it's finally been documented, and the headlines have set off a wave of hysteria. A closer look into the circumstances are necessary. A woman who had gum disease and poor oral hygiene became infected from a deep kiss with a man who had bleeding gums and canker sores. Yuck! Who would want to kiss a mouth like that anyway?

Happy to hear... The method of transmission was blood, not saliva. There are no reported cases of people becoming infected through saliva. So don't panic. It's alright to swap spit, but don't deep kiss anyone if either has had recent dental work or has sores in the mouth.

Sad to say... Did you see the picture of Evander Holyfield's ear that was bitten by Mike Tyson during their recent heavyweight title boxing match? A big ole chunk of it was bitten off and found on the floor of the ring. The dismembered part was transported to the hospital, but alas, it was too late for it to be reattached. Ear today, gone tomorrow.

Happy to hear... Beside the big bucks, why do boxers do what they do? Well, as my friend "Big" Ben Wilkinson explains, there are several good reasons: they get to dance around the inside of a ring, they get to wear gloves and silk shorts, they fight for a belt, and the winner takes home a purse. They box for the accessories.

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QUEER Science

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

In connection with the manhunt for alleged Gay serial killer Andrew Cunanan, a reporter called me to ask whether there was any evidence linking male homosexuality and violence. This struck me as one of the more fatuous questions I have been asked over the years, but I politely mentioned a couple of studies that have looked at the issue. These studies found that, au contraire, Gay men are less disposed to violence than are heterosexual men. The reporter seemed disappointed; probably he had wanted some scientific evidence to back up his notion that your average homo is a budding ax-murderer.

One of the two studies was conducted by sociologist Lee Ellis and his colleagues at Minot State University in North Dakota. A large number of men and women were asked about their sexual attractions, their history of criminality and violence, and their propensity to react violently to a number of hypothetical situations. The Gay men reported significantly fewer lifetime episodes of violent or criminal behavior than did the heterosexual men (except in the category of drug offenses, in which they reported more episodes).

The other study, by psychologists Brian Gladue (of North Dakota State University at Fargo) and Michael Bailey (of Northwestern University), looked not just at actual physical aggression but also at verbal aggressiveness and competitiveness. With physical aggression, Gladue and Bailey replicated Ellis' findings: Gay men were less aggressive. But with the other forms of aggression, Gay men were the equal of their heterosexual peers. These findings undermine the notion that Gay men are more inspired with brotherly love than straight men: they may just be more scared of getting beaten up. That could be a hold-over from childhood, for a reluctance to get involved in play-fighting is one of the strongest indicators that a boy will grow up Gay, according to several retrospective studies.

With respect to women, the two studies are in disagreement. In Ellis's study, the bisexual or Lesbian women reported having engaged in more incidents of violence or criminality than the heterosexual women, but Gladue and Bailey found no differences in any of their categories. Given the prominence of Lesbians in some sports, one might imagine that there is a sub-group of Lesbians who are more competitive than most heterosexual women, but if so, that doesn't translate into a safe

generalization about the "average" Lesbian. As with so many other traits, Lesbians seem more diverse and harder to categorize than Gay men.

The lower physical aggressiveness of Gay men is another example of a sex-atypical trait associated with homosexuality, for hundreds of studies, across many cultures, have documented that men are generally more aggressive and more criminal than women. In my view, it fits well with the notion that sexual orientation, in men especially, is part of a package of traits that are influenced by sex-atypical biological processes. This supposition is bolstered by animal experiments: both decreased aggressiveness and same-sex partner preference can be induced in male animals of several species by treatments that influence the prenatal sexual differentiation of the brain. But others may see the connection as a consequence of complex social interactions during childhood and later.

As to whether the lower aggressiveness of Gay men is a "good thing" or a "bad thing," that depends very much on circumstances. If it promotes peacable living and cooperation, fine. If it causes us to let our rights be trampled on, not so fine. The debate surrounding these issues in the Gay male community replicates a debate that has occupied feminists for decades. But in the Gay male community, there's an added wrinkle, because becoming stereotypically masculine is often seen as a means of attracting other Gay men. Aggressiveness, in our community, is something we both love and hate.

There is one kind of violence where there may be a real connection to male homosexuality, and that is sexual homicide — killing a person during or immediately after sex. According to one study

conducted in the 1970s, this very rare crime involves two men about as often as it does a man and a woman — more often, in other words, than the overall prevalence of homosexuality would predict.

One could speculate that the perpetrators of such crimes are men who are in extraordinary conflict about their same-sex urges. One incident that I experienced, many decades ago, bolstered that belief for me: a man I had picked

up threatened me with a knife immediately after we had sex, while declaring over and over again that he wasn't Gay. A quick 911 call sent him running, but the incident helped teach me the advantages of monogamy. Gay sexual homicide should teach us all the importance of overcoming homophobia, including the homophobia lurking within some Gay people.

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-

known for his research on the "Gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nonas), and *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996), and the *biomedical thriller* *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak Books, 1997). He is also a co-founder of the *Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education* in West Hollywood. He may be reached care of this publication, or at SLeVay@aol.com.

HIV-Infected Man With Bleeding Gums Infects Woman Through Deep Kiss

By Tara Meyer
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Government scientists reiterated their warning that HIV-infected people should avoid deep kissing after a report that a man with bleeding gums apparently transmitted the virus to a woman through a kiss.

It was the first reported case of HIV transmission through a kiss, but the CDC emphasized that the virus was transmitted via the man's blood, not his saliva. There are no reported cases of people becoming infected with the AIDS virus through saliva.

The CDC said the case is the very reason why, beginning in 1986, they started cautioning couples against deep kissing if one of them has the AIDS virus. Scientists are mostly concerned because of the possibility of bleeding gums — not saliva. "It's not likely, but we believe it can happen and that is the importance of this case," said Dr. Scott Holmberg, a CDC medical epidemiologist.

The man and woman had gum disease and poor oral hygiene. He had bad breath and hairlike growths on his tongue, a symptom that sometimes plagues people with the AIDS virus, the CDC said. Her gum disease had weakened and thinned her gums, making it easier for the virus to get into her blood.

The man's gums often bled when he brushed his teeth. The couple usually had sex and kissed at night after he brushed, the CDC said.

The couple said they always used a condom during sex. They said it tore once, but that was before the

period the CDC believes she was infected. The couple also had oral sex but denied having contact with blood or semen.

"We think it's highly unlikely that's how it was transmitted, but we cannot rule it out," Holmberg said. Researchers have found a protein

in saliva that keeps the virus from infecting white blood cells.

Dr. Jerome Groopman said he encourages patients to restrict themselves to hugging and cheek-kissing.

"Deep kissing is problematic," Groopman said. "Given this report, there should be some real caution."



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Cooper at Young

Back in the Saddle Again,

by Vincent Astor

Thanks to all our well-wishers; it is very moving to know how much people care.

Congratulations

Shari from the Other Side bar in Jackson, TN, has become a grandmother. Her granddaughter's name is Rian and both of them like to see their names in print. So, good faeries grant wishes, that's what we're for.

Over \$3,800 was raised by the cast of *The Rocky Horror Show* at the benefit performance on July 19. The money went to Friends For Life, and it was just about the best evening of the entire run. Thanks go to everyone involved and especially Bill Andrews, Mark Chambers and the management of Playhouse on the Square.

The next day, the combination Anniversary Tea Dance and One Night Only show raised \$4,200, also for Friends For Life.

Passages

Veronica York (Charles Bland King) died in July. Veronica, a former Miss Gay Memphis, had held a number of titles besides. Her career was long and went from George's on Marshall St. all the way to guest appearances at Am-

nesia, Memphis. During her sexual reassignment surgery she was featured in a special aired on Channel 10 called *What Sex Am I?* which was the story of her experiences as a transgender. It also featured the late Renée Williams as her roommate (which she actually was) and who had already had her surgery. She was one of the ultimate impersonators who could pass as female even before her long road to a female body.

Others who died in July: Larry Weaver, former member and royalty of the Queen's Men and brother to Harold "Granny" Weaver; Richard "Tricky Ricky" Husband, well known to bargoers for many years; Red Ford, active in Memphis' first MCC and in the Black Gay community; and Al Reed, also known as Anita Blackman, who appeared in many fundraisers for the Memphis Lambda Center. And so, farewell.

Miff of the Month a la Lady A.

It was entirely too kind of Madame President of GHOUN (Germantown Housewives of Uniform Naugahyde) to send us a blow by blow...er...play by play...no, that doesn't sound right either...um...detailed account of their run, Vespa Vapours 10. Finally, after

ignoring the event altogether for years, we received a letter informing us that we were to pick up our complimentary tickets to a week in San Francisco (first class, no less) on June 8. The letter was postmarked

June 9. We do realize that the best of intentions aft gang aglay but we were not born yesterday, nor the day before. That subject, including how many decades before us Madame President (whatever the bitch's name is) was born, will be the subject of a future column.

The run consisted primarily of Martini tastings, Martini olive tastings, neck craning, futile attempts to pick up a trick, and the few minutes almost every day it took to dash off all of those wonderful postcards and greeting cards (all of which, come to think of it, were on the sale table when Encore Cards and Gifts went out of business years ago). We were regaled

with accounts of the fun and games, but were we fooled? Horrors, no!

It came to our attention that Madame President came down with a combination neck spasm (from too much craning) and an acute case of gout (due to her advanced years) and spent the run flat on her back (alone, mind you). Room service finally cut her off about 9 a.m. (daily) which forced her club sister (yes, that was singular) to break her busy schedule of shopping the chain discount stores and yard sales in all the wrong neighborhoods to bring her a chili cheese burrito (with onion) twice a day and *then* telling her all about life in the outside world, much to her chagrin. The low bitch was fit to be tied and no one could be coerced with threats or cash to even do that. Room service came close to gagging her but the excitement only caused her to spasm more, and they thought better of it.

We understand that she is actually so allergic to olives that when she viewed the famous jar of olives from the *Titanic* she developed a severe rash even with thick plexiglass between her and the 85-year-old olives. Maybe she felt some affinity. She even has to send her evil spinster sister-in-law to the pickle aisle for kosher gherkins.

We imagine that she has returned to Bna'i B'rith by now and cannot wait to see her again. Especially after this account comes out.

Oh, by the way, thanks for the thought, deah.

Oh, Yes. News!

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center's library has been removed to new quarters at

Holy Trinity Community Church. It is still in the process of being set up and many new donations catalogued. The Mid-South Archives has received two large memorabilia donations and those have been carefully stored awaiting display.

MGLCC elected a new board in July. President Brian Pera and Treasurer Chet Overstreet will remain another year with other new officers Mark Jones, vice-President; Ron Akanowicz, secretary; and Melissa Blankenship member-at-Large. Goals are to increase events and awareness of the Center, maintain and staff the Switchboard, and continue to build the resources and collection of the Center and preserve Gay/Lesbian history locally.

Bill Kendall, who has been honored as a pioneer in art cinema and a pioneer in the Gay and drag communities, has embarked on a project to transfer three 16mm films of drag pageants from the very early 70s to videotape to preserve them and make them available for collecting and viewing. A previous (rather lengthy) video of his years at the Guild Art Theatre (now Circuit Playhouse) included a segment on the Gay-themed films shown during the early-to-mid 70s. I will be happy to pass on information about this project to all interested parties and I am in hope that the original film footage will someday pass into the hands of the Mid-South Archives. It is far too easy for an accident or illness to make such memorabilia vanish forever. I hope to see a showing of the films themselves as a fundraiser to raise the money for the transfer to videotape.

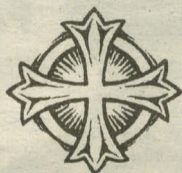
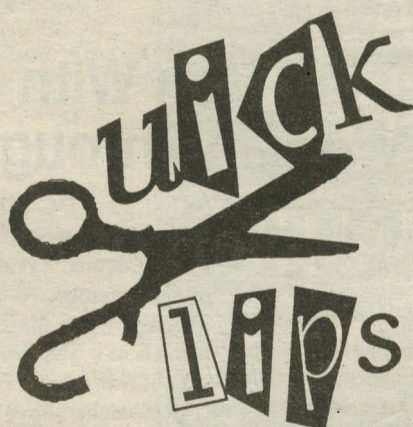
Three club nights will be held at the Pipeline in August. All are on Saturday evenings, Tsarus on the 2nd, Blue Max on the 9th and Alliance on the 16th. Miss River City will be held at J-Wag's on Sat., Aug. 30.

Those who would like to be involved with Memphis Pride should watch for the September meeting date at which new board members will be elected. It is heartening to note that there are a lot of new faces and enthusiasm showing up both for Pride and the MGLCC. Events for National Coming Out Day in October are also in the works.

Final Round

I promise, no matter what the Associated Press style book says and no matter what common denominator is generally used, in these writings there will be as many Lesbian references as Gay ones, mostly linked together. It may be more than a mouthful but the end result is worth the trouble. If you want Lesbian support, call them by their name.

Ta, ta.
V.A.



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Media Watch: GLAAD Alert

McDonald's Decides to Value Families

On July 15, Valuable Families, a Northampton, Mass. organization for Lesbian and Gay parents and their children, finally held a fundraising dinner at their local McDonald's.

GLAADLines reported that McDonald's had banned Valuable Families from participating in a national fund-raising partnership initiative because their group was "too controversial."

At a press conference held on July 10 outside the McDonald's, Valuable Families announced their victory, having regained the fundraising dinner from which 25 percent of the proceeds will be donated to the group.

In addition, Kim Hennig, regional marketing manager for McDonald's Corporation, stated that McDonald's has a "zero-tolerance policy towards discrimination based on sexual orientation."

Tear Gas Bomb Hits D.C. Gay Bar

On July 12, a tear gas bomb was thrown into Remington's, a Gay bar in Washington, D.C., and though no one was seriously injured, some patrons reported that paramedics and police on the scene did little to investigate and administer emergency care.

Several Marines, possibly from a nearby base, were seen outside the bar, but no arrests have been made.

GLOV (Gay Men and Lesbians Opposed to Violence) scheduled a meeting on July 21 to gather eyewitness testimony and provide counseling to victims for post-traumatic stress.

"It is our understanding from community members that police did not respond appropriately to this incident, either by collecting evidence or interviewing witnesses," said GLOV Chair Darryl Cooper.

"GLOV will scrutinize police conduct very closely to ensure that they institute an effective and thorough investigation."

Whitewater Counsel Starr Questioned For "Implicit Bigotry"

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) has called for an end to the Whitewater investigation after openly Gay former White House liaison for the Interior Department Bob Hattoy reported that independent counsel Kenneth Starr repeatedly asked him if he tried to place Gay people in high-ranking jobs with the Clinton administration.

"Were these investigators so laggard in their understanding of American politics that they thought that demonstrating—or perhaps threatening to demonstrate—that the president had hired openly Gay and Lesbian employees would somehow give you leverage over him?" Frank asked Starr in a letter.

Frank said "The implicit bigotry which this displays is one more reason why it is clear that the time has come for Mr. Starr to wrap up his unsuccessful investigation," accusing Starr of "insensitivity and incompetence."

Outfest '97 Spotlights Gay Directors

On July 16, GLAAD and Hollywood Supports co-sponsored "Sense and Sensibility: The Challenge for Gay and Lesbian Directors," as part of OUTFEST '97, the 15th Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay film festival, which ran through July 20.

Featuring eight major directors who are also Gay and Lesbian, panelists discussed the roles and responsibilities of openly Gay directors in fostering diverse images of Gay men and Lesbians. Panelists included Paris Barclay (*Don't Be a Menace to South Central...*), Clive Barker (*Hellraiser*), Nicole Conn (*Claire of the Moon*), Marita Giovanni (*Bar Girls*) and Randal Kleiser (*It's My Party*), among others.

GLAAD Commends *Set It Off* Winners in Black Film Awards

At honorsceremonies held during the first annual Black Film Awards, 1997 GLAAD Media Award nominee *Set It Off* garnered three awards. Queen Latifah won Best Actress for her performance as a bank robbing Lesbian, while F. Gary Gray won Best Director.

The film also received the Best Soundtrack award. "It is wonderful to see such a Lesbian-inclusive film being recognized by the Black Film Awards," said GLAAD Entertainment Media Director Chastity Bono.

"GLAAD congratulates Queen Latifah and F. Gary Gray on receiving this recognition for this significant, engaging and provocative movie."

Texas Lesbian Co-Parent Can Seek Visitation Rights

According to a June 3 decision

by a Texas appeal court, same-sex co-parents of children have the right to seek visitation rights.

The Third Court of Appeals found that Lisa Ann Fowler had the right to seek visitation of her son, regardless of her biological status with the child, based on a state law saying visitation can be legally sought by a person "who has had actual care, control and possession of the child for not less than six months preceding the filing of the petition."

"From our perspective, it's nationally significant that a Texas appellate court would not get caught up in the issue of sexual orientation but in fact would look at the reality of the relationship between Lisa Fowler and her son," said Kate Kendall, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR).

"The most important fact is that she, with her partner, raised a child. The child viewed both of them equally as parents."

CDA Ruling Raises New Internet Questions

As the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) joins civil liberties and free speech organizations in applauding the Supreme Court's decision that found the vaguely-worded Communications Decency Act (CDA) unconstitutional, Internet filtering software and rating systems are now posing a

greater challenge for the Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

In an effort to regulate the Internet, filtering software has become a standard feature on technology platforms.

As new companies form to meet the need of regulation, anti-gay filtering is starting to crop up. Recently, GLAAD found that the new Sega Saturn game console uses an anti-Gay content filter through its PlanetWeb browser.

At the same time, Internet rating systems are also being created in an effort for consistent regulation. "GLAAD is here to work with companies to educate on the importance of keeping Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender educational and support resources open and available," said Loren Javier, interactive media director for GLAAD.

Studies Show Advances And Challenges To Gay Civil Rights

Two studies released by People for the American Way (PFAW) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) reveal that while much progress has been made during the 1990s towards government protection against anti-Gay discrimination, hostility against Lesbians and Gay men has also increased, in large part due to orchestrated campaigns by radical religious organizations.

On July 8, PFAW released "Hostile Climate," a state-by-state

report of anti-Gay activity. It concludes a significant proportion of discrimination "results from planned activity by far-right groups claiming to act in the name of religion."

PFAW President Carole Shields said, "On a daily basis, Religious Right leaders go on television and radio and hammer Gay men and Lesbians...[saying] outrageous things in the name of God Almighty. It's offensive to my Baptist upbringing and to millions of Americans who think it's wrong to use faith as a tool to divide our society."

Still, civil rights gains are being made in the face of increased bigotry. "All Politics Is Local: An Analysis of Local Gay Rights Legislation," a study by University of Florida professors released through the NGLTF Policy Institute states anti-discrimination laws have advanced dramatically in the 1990s and those local laws make a profound impact in the lives of Lesbians and Gay men.

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Inside

HOLLYWOOD

by Miss Paige Turner

My Best Gay Friend's Wedding?

Critics and audiences just can't seem to stop talking about Rupert Everett's star-making performance in *My Best Friend's Wedding*. The movie has already turned out to be a huge hit for beleaguered studio Columbia-TriStar, whose last Julia Roberts movie *Mary Reilly* died with few mourners. Everett's chemistry with Roberts is credited with helping make the film a hit.

Already there is talk at the studio of reteaming Everett and Roberts in a sequel that Roberts herself has referred to as *My Best Gay Friend's Wedding*. Columbia-TriStar has also expressed interest in Everett alone for a Gay 007 spoof film entitled *P.S. I Love You*. Everett pitched the idea to the studio, which has secured the rights to the story. Those who have seen *Wedding* may notice a similarity between the spoof and one of Everett's last lines: "I'm Bond.

Jane Bond." Even with all of this activity at Columbia-TriStar, it seems that Disney may beat them to theaters with another Roberts-Everett film. Everett has sold a screenplay to Disney, with the intention of starring in it opposite Roberts. Of course, it can't hurt that Roberts' own production company Shoelace Productions also has a production deal with Disney. *Martha and Arthur* is the story of a macho actor (Everett) who is secretly Gay and married to a woman (Roberts) to keep his fans from discovering the truth. Disney has been very secretive about the *Martha and Arthur* deal but it seems likely that Everett will work on the script while Roberts' company produces the film.

Out Or Outed?

Danny Pintauro recently made news by coming out in the pages of the *National Enquirer*. Trumpeting that "a major TV star comes out" in their pages, readers of the *Enquirer* discovered that the 21-year-old *Who's The Boss* star came out to his parents last Christmas. According to the story, both his real family and his TV family (Judith Light and Tony Danza) have all been extremely supportive. Actress Judith Light, who is noted for her heavy involvement with the Gay and Lesbian community reportedly called Pintauro herself when she heard the news through the Hollywood grapevine earlier this year. I have heard reports that, while Pintauro was certainly not in the closet before the article appeared nationally, the *Enquirer* piece was not his idea. Pintauro has said little about the origin of the report but friends of

his told me that there may have been more to the story. Rumor has it that the *Enquirer* may have asked for Pintauro's cooperation but planned to run the story whether he participated or not. Last year, a peer of Pintauro's (actor Chad Allen of *Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman*) was the subject of a similar but unauthorized tabloid story, which caused much trouble for the young star. Pintauro, who is not currently working as an actor, recently left a Gay-youth project he was working on in San Francisco to return to his studies at Stanford.

Gay Movie Season!

Hollywood turned out for the opening night of OutFest, Los Angeles's Gay and Lesbian film and video festival. The festivities were held in downtown L.A. at the historic Los Angeles Theatre. Built in 1931, it is arguably the most beautiful theatre in the state, a detail which was not overlooked by the majority of men in attendance (many of whom took personal tours of the lavish ladies room). While protesters outside yelled about controversial festival sponsor Coors, inside movie fans and celebrities alike crowded into the packed, 2,000-seat auditorium to start the 10-day festival.

Openly Gay director John Schlesinger (*Midnight Cowboy*, *Cold Comfort Farm*) was honored with the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award. The award's presenter, director Bryan Singer (*The Usual Suspects*), won the crowd's enthusiastic support when he admitted dyslexia after a heckler demanded that he speak more clearly. However, it was Schlesinger himself who stole the evening moments later during his speech when he spoke about how far Gay cinema has come since his Oscar-nominated 1971 film *Sunday Bloody Sunday*. He said, however, that we still have a long way to go before Universal Studios makes *Love! Valour! Compassion!... The Ride*.

The opening night selection *I Think I Do* was well-received by the enthusiastic crowd which included festival founder Larry Horne, *Man Of The Year's* Dirk

Shafer, gossip columnists Janet Charlton and Ted Casablanca (AKA Harvey Fierstein's ex), comedians Ant and Jason Stuart, writer Bruce Vilanch, and the film's star Alexis Arquette. *I Think I Do* is a charming but slight romantic comedy about a Gay man who returns to Washington, D.C. for a friend's wedding and becomes reacquainted with his college roommate — who was the object of a senior-year unrequited crush at George Washington University.

I asked director Brian Sloan if the film would be coming soon to a theatre near you, but he didn't seem to know himself. Sloan said representatives of both Paramount and October Films were at the Outfest gala, "but I have told the producers not to tell me what is happening. I just said to them, 'Call me when you need me to sign something.'" Sloan, whose first short film, *Pool Days* was included in Strand Releasing's independent hit *Boys Life*, is currently contemplating his next project. "I have a couple of screenplays that I have written to choose from," he said. "Now I just need to figure out which one is good."

Even if *I Think I Do* has trouble finding a distributor, other films from the festival are likely to be coming soon, including *Kiss Me Guido*, which has already been picked up for distribution this fall by Paramount Pictures and the drag musical *Franchesca Page* starring New York stage sensation Varla Jean Merman and Pedro Almadovar favorite Rossy de Palma.

Also in the festival's lineup: films that flopped at other festivals, including the Lesbian love story *Entwined* and *Leather Jacket Love Story*, the L.A.-based comedy-drama which apparently lacks in both categories. Audiences hissed at both films when they appeared at the San Francisco Frameline festival, but fortunately for the filmmakers, L.A. audiences are more civilized.

Miss Paige Turner can be reached through this publication or by e-mail at: paige@planetout.com.

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Rupert Everett: The Leading Man Du Jour Talks About Being Gay

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rupert Everett gives his entree a puzzled look, before using a fork to poke the heap of vegetables obscuring his salmon.

"Excuse me, I'm really sorry," he finally says to the waitress in his clipped British accent. "Do you happen to have this without the stuff on top of it?"

Flustered, the waitress can only stare at the 38-year-old actor with the matinee-idol looks whose 6-foot-plus (more than 1.8 meters tall), gym-sculpted body is crammed into the chic eatery's window seat.

Everett is in no mood for camouflage this afternoon. The Scottish-born actor is doing one of the things he enjoys least of all, which is talking about being Gay in Hollywood.

"Even talking about it, I'm putting more nails into my coffin," he says, sighing. "The more I talk about it, the more an issue it becomes and it grows and grows."

Yes, but so does his acting reputation. Critics have gone hoarse cheering Everett's performance as Julia Roberts' dapper and spiritual soul mate, George, in *My Best Friend's Wedding*.

Everett's film-stealing portrayal of a multidimensional Gay man is lively, spontaneous, brilliantly timed stuff. After his 20-minute, midpicture spin, he's gone until the end, and his sudden absence depletes the movie of its juice.

With his brooding, gigolo good looks and refined, European air, Everett has been dubbed the new Grant — part Cary, part Hugh. But is Hollywood ready for its next chick-smooching romantic lead to be Gay?

"You go see a film star not just because of what you hear about their performance, but because you're buying into their lifestyle," Everett says. "Everything's about lifestyles now. So we're all forced to put our cards on the table."

Everett tossed his own cards face-up after coming out in 1989. Happily, there was no shock over here. He is, after all, British. And that's odd enough.

"Look how everyone was absolutely certain that Hugh Grant was with a transsexual and not with a woman," he says, laughing. "They were really disappointed when he wasn't. Americans think we're all queer."

All kidding aside, Everett would rather keep his personal life private. Yeah, right.

"I must say, it's kind of fateful for any actor to have any type of sexuality. The sexuality of an actor should be absolutely what the audience wants it to be," he says. "And in an ideal world, no actor would be divulging their sexuality because the audience should be able to make of it what they want."

"But we live in a world that's political and actors are looked up to to set a proper example," he adds, his voice deepening. "It's just another one of the really sick things about the world."

A shadow falls over Everett's already pouty, chiseled features.

"So my test is going to be, are people going to find me appealing as a homosexual man? Will there be a problem when they see me making out with a girl?" he asks. "Who knows? I don't know. Maybe.

Maybe not. It depends."

Ah, the predicament. Or, as his wonderfully drawn George would say: "The misery! The exquisite tragedy! The Susan Hayward of it all!"

But even if Everett is pigeonholed with Gay roles, he won't complain.

"If I have to just play Gay, I'm not unhappy about that either," he says. "I don't have a problem playing a range of Gay characters, if that's what I have to do. I don't find that insulting. I don't find that limiting. You have to accept what people feel."

The plump pillow of Everett's lower lip curls into a smile. "Surprise, middle America! Not all Gay people are the same."

Hollywood's already calling. Hot on the successful heels of *My Best Friend's Wedding*, Everett and Roberts will be reunited in the planned comedy *Martha and Arthur*, playing movie stars stuck in a marriage of convenience after Everett's character privately reveals he's Gay.

Meanwhile, TriStar Pictures snapped up Everett's pitch to become moviedom's first openly homosexual British intelligence agent, in the action picture titled, *P.S. I Love You*, a kind of Gay 007.

"I think I've got quite a good window of opportunity," he says of his back-to-back deals. "It depends what I do with it."

As Everett knows well, that window closes quickly. Shortly after making a stunning debut in 1984's *Another Country*, the actor leaped across the ocean only to discover that bubblegum, all-American fare like *St. Elmo's Fire* and *The Breakfast Club* ruled the box offices.

"It was the period when films were very clean," he recalls. "There were no import possibilities for a tall European like me."

Frustrated with Margaret Thatcher's Britain and hounded by a "pitiless" English press which sniffed a new, bad-boy target, Everett wandered through Europe, making small independent films and practicing his stagecraft.

"English actors are like immigrants — they're a gypsy race. They go where the work is and there's never been much work in England. They're treated very badly," he says.

Back home, the gossip columns declared him rude, arrogant, spoiled. Rumors swirled that Everett had drifted into prostitution. One tabloid headline screamed: "Rupert is Gay Junkie Shock."

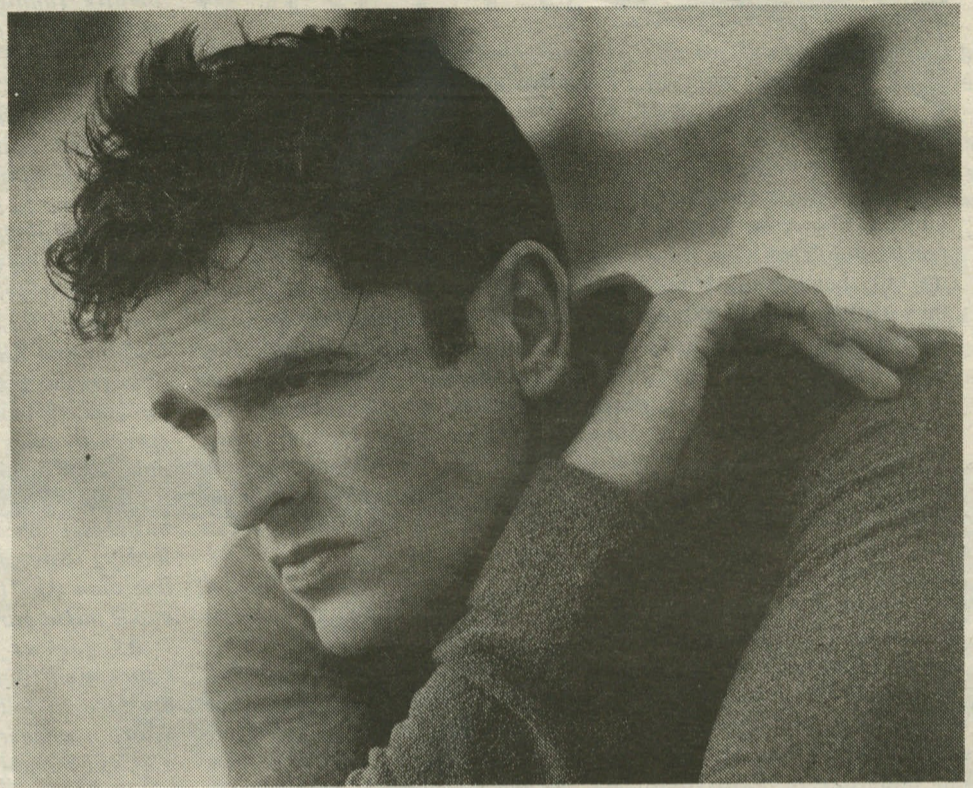
"You're a joke as soon as you're ripe," he says ruefully. "I was fairly brattish. But not that brattish. It turned my head about being a star."

Some of that frustration made its way into the first of Everett's two novels, *Hello Darling, Are You Working?* — the semi-autobiographical story of a male hustler who becomes famous in an American soap opera, only to emerge as a celebrity prostitute when his show is canceled.

(*The London Sunday Times*, true to form, described the 1992 book as "mucus between covers.")

Everett denies his book was critical of Hollywood: "It drew a parallel between an actor and a prostitute — both jobs which people find attractive. We are all prostitutes in the end. But people don't like having a mirror held up to themselves."

Then, as the 1990s progressed, something wonderful happened: Merchant-Ivory films scored at the box office. Jane Austen costume dramas became hip. The Brits were hot.



Reinvigorated, Everett tackled a collage of character roles — portraying the chinless Lord Rutledge opposite a chimp in *Dustin Checks In*, the languid prince of Wales in *The Madness of George III* and a loutish son in *Ready to Wear*, where he forged a friendship with Julia Roberts.

Although the initial role of George in *Wedding* was much smaller, Roberts prod-ded director P.J. Hogan to increase Everett's screen time, adding scenes to showcase his

comic timing.

"I think the whole secret of any role is just a lightness-of-touch. That's a very difficult thing to do if, say, this was your first film. It's hard if you haven't got the knack of it."

And with that, Everett strides out into the sun-splashed afternoon and toward a waiting black limo — star treatment for a star-in-waiting.

"I can do this effortlessly," he laughs.

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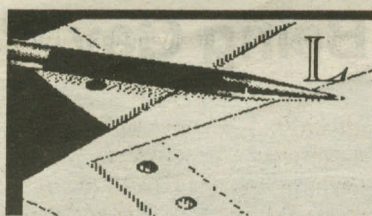
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LETTERS

in midtown or if the new downtown theater decides to show Gay films, Cinema Showcase 12 will be in real trouble. They have, it seems to me, only themselves to blame since they made it difficult to build any kind of loyalty with their selective failure to show major Gay films.

A couple years ago Cinema Showcase 12 decided that Memphians would not be allowed to see *Priest*. As best as I can determine the reason why we were not allowed to view *Priest* was because the religious right, which I feel certain never supports Cinema Showcase 12, and apparently this time the Catholic Church objected to the movie being shown in Memphis. I don't understand why *Love! Valor! Compassion!* which is considered mainstream in Washington, New York and the national media is not available in Memphis. I admit that there are parts that some homophobic persons may find objectionable, but the audience that saw the film in New York at the time I viewed it appeared to be majority straight (i.e. male and female couples), although there was a strong Gay minority. I heard and saw no one

that appeared to give any indication that they found it offensive either during the show or as I left the movie.

I believe we should make it clear to Cinema Showcase 12 that if they want our business they have to respect our interests. Any Gay film that is reviewed by the national media should be obligatory viewing at this theater I would also suggest that this theatre owner be urged to advertise in this newspaper at least when major Gay films are to be shown. The Gay community has to know about a film, before it can support the movie.

A Loyal Reader
(name withheld by request)

We also deplore the fact that Love! Valor! Compassion! is not being shown in Memphis. However, we question the attack specifically on the Cinema 12. After all, we would have thought the Malco chain, with so many more screens, could have devoted at least one. The Cinema 12 has long supported the Gay community and has helped it by providing benefit performances of some of its Gay films, notably Jeffrey for Aloysius Home. If anything, theatres collectively should be taken to task. I seriously doubt that there is any theatre

loyalty in the Gay community; any theatre running a Gay-themed movie is likely to get the audience for it.

We suspect that the failure to book this and similar films may fall under the "Better Part of Valor" business heading. You seem to think the Cinema 12 should book a film just for the public relations value it may have in the Gay community. In fact, I suspect the Cinema 12 may have lost a lot of money booking Gay-themed films in the past. If this were the case, who would argue for booking more in the future—especially ones like Priest which have other controversies attached to them? Theatre owners are businesspeople and, as such, are looking more often at the bottom line than the "type" of people a movie might attract.

As far as advertising is concerned, we would never presume to tell the Cinema 12 where or when it should advertise. TJN is a monthly publication and generally is not considered a good advertising buy for movies which, more often than not, move in and out of theatres on a weekly basis. But thanks for thinking of us.

Finally, you seem to make the assumption that if it doesn't appear in TJN, the Gay community won't know of it. We have a higher regard for our readers and hope that we are not the only material they read.
—The Eds.

A View from the Streets

Like many people these days I don't seem to get out as much as in days past. Well, three events in the last month have convinced me that the fun is still there and that our community is stronger than ever.

The first and foremost was the Pride Parade and the festivities that followed and, even though enough has probably been written about it, let me just say if you weren't there you missed it.

The second event was a block party that came as a total and complete surprise. Some friends came by on a Sunday afternoon and whisked me off to a section of Young Avenue near the University of Memphis that I never knew existed. The fact that a group of people can get together and organize a party with their neighbors both Gay and Straight is a huge accomplishment. They deserve a round of applause. Not only was the party a great success, but it introduced a lot of people to a pair of Memphis musicians that really rock.

The third event took place at that friendly little neighborhood bar called One More. Tom and Trent, the owners of this friendly establishment, deserve a lot of credit for trying hard to provide a great place to party. The Sunday

after the block party was proof without a doubt.

The aforementioned pair of Memphis musicians call themselves The Dream Family. If you haven't heard them yet, something tells me that you will sometime soon. Chador and Bernie are two of the hardest working people I have met in a long time. Not only are they writing and performing all original music that has some of this city's most prominent musicians listening with interest, it is without doubt some of the most openly Gay music around. Now I am the first to admit that not all music is for everyone, but the two times I saw this band perform, no one in the crowd was bored, to say the least.

Memphis has always been proud of its music and it has always helped hold the whole city together. Through music makers like The Dream Family and events like the Pride Parade, we become an even more important part of the city as a whole.

David Jeffers
Memphis

To Whom it May Concern:

There is so much hard work being done in Memphis Tennessee to promote Gay pride and enhance Gay well-being. I don't know where so few people can find so

See Letters on page 33

Work Hard and Struggle for Fame? Why Bother? Get a Gun!

By Mike Morgan

Tuesday morning, July 15th, 9:30 a.m. I was sitting at work with one of my rare opportunities to let my mind wander a few minutes. I kept thinking of all the things I need to get done that I never think of when I'm at home where I can do them.

As often happens when you channel surf on satellite dishes, every now and then you stumble across a newsfeed where late breaking stories are being transmitted for use in newscasts all over the nation

My eye happens to catch some footage of what appears to be a crime scene. Looks tropical like LA. At a glance I thought it was the Bundy crime scene. It was so familiar—the blood on the sidewalk, palm trees, yellow police tape stretched here and there, a female police officer with dreadlocks shooting photos for evidence. Seen it a hundred times.

Yet there is something different going on here. Something more immediate. The building in the background is a superbly elegant mansion. The camera shot never changes. It's not the Bundy scene at all. Wonder what's going on?

What a beautiful mansion! Must be an embassy or something. Someone important must have been attacked by a terrorist. I'm drawn in, captivated by the sneak-

ing feeling that once again, like the Bronco chase and many other events I've seen, I'm witnessing live, breaking news. History unfolds before my very eyes. Live on television!

Finally they cut to a helicopter shot and then eventually find some police and witnesses to talk to the camera. They're saying it's the mansion of Gianni Versace and that the victim may have been Gianni himself. They're waiting for a positive ID on the body.

I must admit I barely qualify for my license as a homosexual and there are many Gay icons of which I know little or nothing. My first thought was, "Oh yeah, the clothing designer. Bet there'll be some rich women boohooing tonight"

I'd only heard Gianni's name mentioned a few times by various actresses and Hollywood types when asked what they were wearing. They usually seemed quite proud but almost embarrassed at the same time when whispering his name. I always assumed that the embarrassment was because they realized this one item cost more than most people's entire wardrobe.

I had no idea how prevalent and influential the man was until I saw all the biographies and retrospectives of his work that were aired over the next few days. After seeing quite a few of these, I became aware that I'd been seeing

his work or its influence almost daily for years in TV, movies and print. The man was pure sexy genius. It's no wonder Hollywood and the rest of the world flocked to him.

And in one stroke of cowardly violence, his genius was terminated.

That Cunanan bastard! I could kill him with my bare hands if he wasn't already dead! He does not deserve fame or historical significance for his acts.

This had all the elements of a colorful and gripping news story. There was sex; there was gruesome violence; there were rich and famous people involved. The media like society itself finds such stories compelling and sexy, and as a result the killer gets glory and legendary status. If you want a place in history, just go out and kill a few people. You don't have to struggle for years to gain a name and reputation.

I think we all know in our hearts that had Versace been killed by the AIDS virus, he would have been a mere footnote for barely more than a day in the news.

As for Cunanan's HIV status, I could care less, and my personal feeling is that it had little to do with this odd assortment of killings. I think he simply coveted everything in the world that everyone else had

their looks, their names, their money. He probably struggled at times like we all do, but he became bitter at those whom he thought had it made.

I think he thought he was entitled to live as those he flocked to and envied. At some point I think he had a fit of jealous rage or spurned love, killed his first vic-

Commentary

tim and the first person to get too close to knowing what he'd done. Then amid a swirl of publicity discovered the addictive nature of killing. He likely felt very powerful when he saw the news reports and saw how easy it was to elude law enforcement agents who were a bit uneasy about how to deal with gay men and quite reluctant to go into their world looking for him.

A day or two after the Versace killing I combed the city looking for wanted posters. I went to the Memphis police, no posters. I went to the federal building downtown, U.S. Marshall's office, no posters. Finally I made it down to the local FBI office in a big new shiny building way out east by Catholic High. They were very hesitant and took some persuasion to release a rather generic poster of Cunanan with two photographs on it.

A local bartender did tell me that an FBI agent and Minneapolis police investigator did come into his establishment about a month prior to the Versace killing. The officers had a pretty good idea that he'd been in this area. To their credit they did leave him a flyer with some pictures of Cunanan and a phone number to call should he be spotted.

I'm afraid if he'd made it this far in his flight from Miami, we'd have been on our own. Our local FBI after all has trouble keeping up with their own toys.

Something bothered me about that wanted poster. It said Cunanan "allegedly has ties to the Gay community" as if we're all a bunch of treacherous miscreants that would hide any thug or vicious killer that came down the block.

Even though many reporters have conjectured time and again that his motives had to do with being Gay and possibly having HIV, two of his five victims may not have been Gay at all.

His exlover David Madson, a 33-year-old architect who lived in Minneapolis, and Jeff Trail a 28-year-old former officer in the Navy whom Cunanan considered one of his best friends, were his first two victims.

His second two, Lee Miglin, a 72-year-old real estate developer from Chicago and William Reese,

See Get a Gun on page 35

Letters

Continued from page 33

much energy. The Gay Pride Parade went so well from start to finish. The riverboat cruise was a very nice respite from a busy week. What a shame that so few people showed up for the ride on the "mighty Mississippi" on a beautiful summer evening under a full moon. How romantic can you get? (The media was very careful to interview and tape only willing persons and there was plenty of Memphis's finest (policemen) on shore to be sure no one was hassled trying to board the Memphis Queen.

The Pride Committee did a fantastic job planning and implementing a fantastic Pride Festival and weekend for all of us. Speaking for all of us: Where were you?

If you had been on the sidewalk watching the parade, you could have been affirmed by seeing so many Gay and Gay-friendly people marching with such dignity. You could brag to your friends about the wonderful organizational skills of the Gay Pride Committee and their friends. Of course it goes without saying, Gay people would naturally have the most beautiful parade of all.

The festival at Holy Trinity was wall to wall hot bodies but no second-hand smoke to blur your vision of all the beautiful people. Yes, it was hot temperature-wise too; but there was plenty of beverages available to cool you off. The information booths really pointed out just how much diversity there is in our community. How exciting to see an organization for Gay teenagers. Where were they 30 years ago? Also represented were religious, social, and political organizations. P-Flag (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and the Lambda Legal Defense Fund were there too. Of course I loved shopping at booth after booth of vendors catering to "GAY" customers. It was so great to see so many triangles, rainbows, T-shirts with Gay themes, jewelry, belts, bracelets, etc., etc., etc. Items were placed in discrete white bags, so those nosy neighbors (who would never suspect you are Gay) would have any idea you had just attended a Gay Pride Festival. Where were you?

Another group of hard working dedicated people put on a symposium for Gay and Lesbian Christians to dialogue with representatives of "main-line" churches. The meeting at Calvary Episcopal Church on July 12th was so well

done. You say you gave up on the church long ago, well you missed your chance to explain why to people who were willing to listen. The conference was so well planned and thought out. Again the "media" were allowed to tape and interview only willing persons in a separate room from the actual meeting. Did you see the articles in *The Commercial Appeal* on Friday, Saturday and Sunday?

What I really want to say is thank you to all those people who work so hard and are so visible for the Gay Community of Memphis and surrounding area. They really need our visible support; I'm sure your financial support would be greatly appreciated, too. You don't have to be "out of the closet" to write a check! Believe me, giving financial support is one way of opening that closet door a little bit. Maybe you could serve on a committee for one aspect of next year's festival. Plan a picnic for you and several friends to be in place on the parade route next year.

Don't complain. There isn't time to listen. Go to a Gay softball game on Sunday afternoon. Come to an Integrity meeting at Calvary Episcopal Church (you don't have to be a member of a church to participate) Take square dancing lessons on Thursday night or go bowling on Friday night. Help serve and/or clean up at the Feast for Friends dinner at St. John's Methodist Church on the 1st and 3rd Monday nights. Just because you "don't go to the BARS" doesn't mean you can't be an active participant in the Gay Community. It is a great way of getting you out of the house and helping support the work of the "movers and shakers" who work so hard for us.

Aaron Foster
Memphis

I Sure Hate It

There is a large amount of straights that don't support or approve of the Gay and Lesbian community! But now even our own community won't support each other. I am speaking about the ad [sic] that ran last month in the *TJN*. [We believe the writer is referring to Ira King's account of the Gay Pride River Ride in the July *TJN*.] About the Dream Family (Bernie and Chador), two wonderful and talented ladies. Sure everyone is different and has his or her own taste in music, but don't dog them by saying (the only sour note was of the noise the band called music). The Dream Family played at One More the 13th of July and

packed the house! Everyone loved the music and had a great time!

So please go see the Dream Family and give them a chance.

Tom Rowe
Memphis

Angry & Hurt

I'm writing because I'm angry, hurt and humiliated.

I've allowed myself to be made to feel ashamed for the last time in this life! And especially in this town—

I'm a 40-year-old white male. I'm in good physical condition and still reasonably attractive. Most people think I'm much younger. I'm fortunate that men still hit on me often.

In the 70s I was a drunk! In the 80s I was a drug addict! As fate would have it, in the 90s I learned I was HIV positive!

For 20 years I was an entertainer in the club scene in this community. It seems scandal and adversity has followed me ever since I came out.

I literally grew up on stage in front of this community.

Today I attended a benefit at

Amnesia. The turn-out was pretty good and the entertainers touched my heart. Some of the music really brought back some strong memories of dear friends I've lost to HIV. At one point, I was in tears listening to "Say Good-bye to Hollywood." God, how I loved Renee. I felt a real closeness in the room.

Shortly after, the reality slapped me in the face and I decided tonight—no more! I'm going to speak my mind!

I don't understand why Gay people do not stand together and support each other. Some people have brown eyes, some have blue. Some of us are HIV positive, some are not. Those of us who have been down the positive road have feelings just like those of you who "by the Grace of God" are not.

It's been my experience more often than not when I meet a guy that I like, before things get going good there's always some hateful gossiping, back-stabbing bitch of a queen running his nelly mouth about my health status. And the all of a sudden, I'm not worthy any longer. What's with these people? Do they not think we've not had enough to

deal with without having to deal with that kind of bull in our own town?

Guys, it's 1997 and there is hope due to the new drug therapy! I've been testing negative for the past eight months. My T-cell count has soared to 1125. You know, I just might beat this damn disease. I've managed to survive everything else in my life.

I'm hear to tell you guys what goes around, comes around. Before you judge me and others that you know or even think you know are in this situation, think first: How would I feel if I were in their shoes. There was a time when I would have bent someone's ass for being so evil toward me. But now I finally get the big picture. Life is so precious and real friends are so dear.

Some of you fools in this community just don't get it, do you?

Until we learn to treat each other with respect, dignity and compassion, we will not go forward.

Try walking in my shoes, boys. I can teach you a thing or two about life. The man you walk away from could have been you!

Toni Chambers
Memphis



August '97 Specials

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**Wed. - \$5. Draft Beer Bust & Coke Bust
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Disco Practice Nights 8th & 22nd (5 - 3)**

Saturday - PARTY & SHOWS 7 pm - 3 am

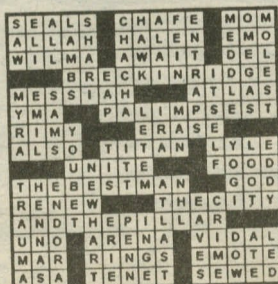
Congratulations to:
J.K. the Honorary Miss Other Side 1997
 and to:
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Shari was just elected VP of Human Beings Care
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**Solution to
Gay/Lesbian
Crossword
Puzzle on
page 40**



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Cunanan

Continued from page 1

On the advice of the FBI, Blachford declined to talk with The Associated Press about his relationship with Cunanan.

When not supported by someone else, friends said, Cunanan earned extra cash by selling drugs, mostly mood-altering prescription pills.

Cunanan flew to Minneapolis on April 25, using a one-way ticket he'd bought only after begging his credit card company to allow one more purchase on his card, which was maxed-out at \$20,000. He stayed at Trail's home that weekend.

Sunday evening, April 27, Cunanan left a message on Trail's answering machine asking him to come over to Madson's loft. Neighbors reported hearing shouts and loud thuds from Apartment 404 just after 9:30. Trail had planned to meet friends at 10 but never showed.

His body was discovered two days later, rolled up in a rug inside Madson's apartment, his skull crushed with a claw hammer. His smashed watch had stopped at 9:50 p.m.

One of Trail's older sisters said Cunanan considered her brother one of his best friends and had a mild obsession with him, although the two never connected romantically. "Andrew was jealous of Jeff having other friends," she said.

"Andrew wanted to be like Jeff," the sister continued. "If Jeff got a haircut, he got the same haircut. If Jeff grew a goatee and mustache, he grew a goatee and mustache. If Jeff bought a hat, he bought a hat."

Four days after Trail's body was found, two fishermen discovered Madson's body lying in grass at the edge of a lake 50 miles north of Minneapolis. He had been shot three times with a .40-caliber pistol. Police theorized Cunanan murdered Madson to "eliminate a witness" to Trail's killing. At Madson's apartment, police had found a nylon gym bag bearing Cunanan's name and containing a partly empty box of .40-caliber Golden Saber bullets. Madson's red Jeep Cherokee was missing.

At that point, the murders seemed a local matter for only the Minneapolis police. That changed within days. On May 4, Chicago police discovered Miglin's body in his townhome garage. The developer had been stabbed, slashed and wrapped in brown paper. He'd been stabbed in the chest dozens of times with pruning shears. His throat had been cut with a garden saw.

Miglin's head was bound in masking tape with two holes for the nostrils. Later, friends recalled that Cunanan had fantasized about latex face masks with openings only for nostrils.

Miglin's killer had spent the night in the plush apartment, leav-

ing a half-eaten ham sandwich in the kitchen and shaven beard stubble in the bathroom. Missing were \$2,000 in cash, some expensive suits and Miglin's green 1994 Lexus.

Two days later, police ran a check on a vehicle with Minnesota plates illegally parked on the street outside Miglin's townhome for several days. It was Madson's Cherokee.

Five days after the grisly discovery in Chicago, Cunanan apparently pulled into Fort Mott State Park in Pennsville, N.J., an isolated spot on the east bank of the Delaware River 35 miles southwest of Philadelphia.

Guide Carrie McIntosh said she was "positive" the man she spoke with was Cunanan. "I saw his picture and he was here," she said. "I was close to him."

Cunanan asked about the adjacent Finn's Point National Cemetery, a burial ground for Union veterans and Confederate prisoners of the Civil War. He declined to watch a 13-minute movie on cultural heritage but did peruse the visitor center displays, McIntosh said.

He wanted to buy a Fort Mott T-shirt in navy and white, size large. Thinking he looked heftier than that, McIntosh asked, "Are you sure you don't want an extra-large?"

Cunanan left empty-handed when McIntosh could not supply a large navy.

That evening, police responding to a wife's worried phone call found the body of William Reese, caretaker at Finn's Point, in the cemetery office's basement. Officers said Reese had been shot in the head several hours earlier.

Miglin's Lexus was parked outside. Reese's red Chevrolet pickup

was gone.

The trail went cold after May 9. Sightings were reported up and down the Eastern seaboard, but nothing checked out. License tags were stolen May 10 in Florence, S.C. They turned up in Miami — on the red truck stolen in New Jersey.

A month and a day after Cunanan allegedly killed Reese, the cemetery worker's pickup pulled into a parking garage in Miami Beach; the driver paid the attendant \$4 and parked on the third floor.

Thirty-five days later, Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace was shot dead by a man in shorts and a T-shirt. Within hours, police confirmed their only suspect was Cunanan. Shell casings showed Versace was killed by .40-caliber bullets, and blurry videotape from a security camera showed a man in shorts and T-shirt running down an alley.

The truck had been in the garage almost five weeks. Inside, detectives found Cunanan's passport and a blank Bank of America check imprinted with his name. On Friday, the Chicago Tribune reported that sources said Miglin's eyeglasses, some of his clothing and his expensive wallet were also found in the truck. Miami authorities declined to confirm or deny the report.

Acquaintances recalled Cunanan's gift for remembering names and important details about people's lives. O'Hearn, once student body president at the University of San Diego, remembered his surprise when Cunanan asked if he was still running for office.

"He was good at turning attention on other people," O'Hearn said. "It was flattering, but it was also unnerving."

Harassment

Continued from page 5

history of discriminatory treatment of Gay people, Davidson pointed to the landmark 1992 Christopher Commission report, which said that the LAPD is "far more aggressive in enforcing minor infractions against suspected homosexuals than against presumed heterosexuals." This finding echoed the California Supreme Court's observation 18 years ago that studies had found that, in enforcing lewd-conduct laws, the LAPD selected enforcement techniques and locations designed to arrest Gay

men for conduct that did not result in arrest when engaged in by non-Gay people.

Davidson added, "Unfortunately, little has changed. An internal LAPD study released just this April confirmed that the LAPD continues to target Gay men and areas they frequent for unwarranted, discriminatory, and harassing law enforcement activity. It's long past time that an end was put to this violation of the Constitution's command that our laws be applied equally to everyone."

Get a Gun

Continued from page 32

a Civil War cemetery caretaker from Pennsville N.J. may not have been Gay at all. They may simply have been people whom Cunanan had managed to get alone with so that he could steal their cars and money.

They and Versace are the ones

I'd wishfully like to see most remembered in all this.

Cunanan did us all two big favors by killing himself. He saved the taxpayers a hell of a lot of money, and we won't have to be held hostage by hearing about the trial for another nine months to a year.

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SAILING TAKES ME AWAY I've only recently sailed into the area and want to make friends to have adventurous times with. I'm a good looking, 47 year old, Gay, White male, 5'8, 165lbs. I like discreet fun with hot men, maybe groups. Let's spend a day at the lake or in the bedroom. (Memphis) ☎8510

MATURE IN MEMPHIS This down to earth, young, Black male likes having fun with other serious minded people. Apply at my box. (Memphis) ☎30544

MORE IN MEMPHIS I'm looking for a companion. This Gay, White male, 24, 5'10, 145lbs, with light Brown hair and Blue eyes, wants to hook up with White males, between 18 and 30, who are interested in beginning as friends and discovering what happens. (Memphis) ☎30068

SWING BLADE I want to meet other Gay, White males, 18 to 30, for friendship and, maybe, a relationship. I'm a good looking, 22 year old, Gay, White male, 6'6, 190lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes. I like swimming, biking, rollerblading, and romantic evenings out on the town. (Memphis) ☎29578

I'M READY I'm ready for a relationship with another Gay, White male. I'm 30 years old, 5'10, 150lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and a mustache. You should be between 18 and 40 and ready for something special. (Memphis) ☎29532

AMBITION A PLUS This professional, well educated, 29 year old, White male, seeks another, between 25 and 45, for companionship and, perhaps, more. I'm 5'8, 160lbs, with Blond hair and Blue eyes. I'm looking for something special. (Memphis) ☎29430

MANHUNT IN MEMPHIS This athletic, 24 year old, Gay, White male, 5'8, 185lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, is looking for a Blond, Blue eyed, smooth male, between 18 and 24, to hang out with. I'm inexperienced and prefer the same. I like camping, fishing, mountain biking, and staying home together on a rainy day. Please be laid back, healthy, masculine like me. (Memphis) ☎29552

MEMPHIS SMOOTH I'm a 26 year old, professional with a smooth body. I'm 6ft, 170lbs. I enjoy music, sports, travel, and computers. If you're a masculine guy whose interests are similar, let's talk. (Memphis) ☎29292

MODEL IN MEMPHIS I'm interested in finding someone to have a relationship with. I'm a very attractive male trying to break into the modeling business. I'm 6'1, 165lbs, and in excellent condition. Talk to me. (Memphis) ☎28750

A FEW THINGS I'm so new at this that I don't have any experience at all. I'm a nice looking, 23 year old, White male, 5'8, 140lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. I want to meet a nice guy, between 18 and 23, who can teach me a few things. (Memphis) ☎27987

FINGER LICKIN' GOOD This sexy male likes to be licked from head to toe and do the same for you. Is your mouth watering. (Memphis) ☎14026

ART PARTNER I want a special mate to enjoy life with. I'm a financially secure, 55 year old, professional, White male, 5'6, 145lbs. I'm home oriented and don't smoke or do drugs. I like movies, estate sales, plays, art exhibits, travel, and more. Age is not important. (Memphis) ☎13293

HANDY MAN ON THE LAND I've seen the unicorns climb the mountains of excess and dance with life. I'm looking for a unique individual who is proud of who he is, not just what he is. I'm financially secure and want to share eternity with a strong, intelligent male who would like to live with me in the country. Let's enjoy the land and grow our food on it. I'm in it for the long haul. What about you? (Memphis) ☎28204

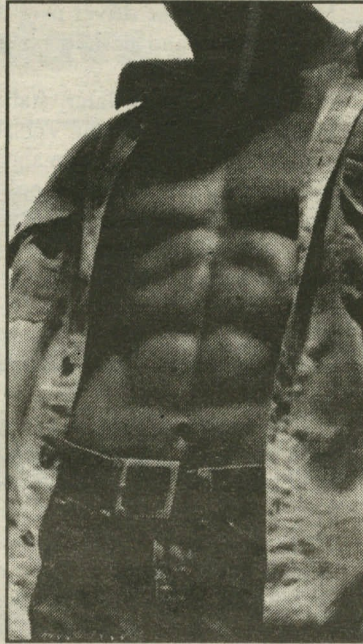
COUNTRY LIFE FOR ME We can have a lot of fun in the country. I'm a 53 year old, Gay, White male, 6ft, 160lbs, with Salt and Pepper hair, and a mustache. I want to meet attractive, Gay, White males, between 45 and 55, who want to have good, quality times together. I'm a bottom and I'm interested in honest guys who are drug free. (Memphis) ☎28193

TIME FOR MORE PROBING This good looking, bottom with a bubble butt, is on the lookout for tops with large endowments. (Memphis) ☎28245

PERFECT GAME I'm looking for a guy to have fun with, who doesn't mind hanging out with a smoker. I'm an easy going, 22 year old, Gay, White male, 5'11, 190lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. I like to bowl, play pool, swim, take long walks, and many other things. You should be honest, and earnest about making friends. (Memphis) ☎23213

THE WELL IS DEEP I'm want to meet other Black men, who have serious minds, and deep psyches. I'm a very sincere Black male, 28, 6'2, 165lbs, with good looks, and a quiet, sensitive demeanor. If you're masculine, and in earnest, give me a holler. (Memphis) ☎27927

WITH THE SKIN ON If you're an uncut guy, between 45 and 65, and would like to meet another uncut guy, I'm your man. I'm 52, 5'8, 145lbs, clean, and well groomed. I'm a fun-loving, normal guy, and I like other uncut guys who enjoy their skin. Let's meet and roll it back. (Memphis) ☎27010



TAKE THE REINS Dominate me. I'm a Single, Black male, 23, who needs to be controlled by aggressive White males. I'm sexy, fun, and exciting. (Memphis) ☎1646

EXECUTIVE DADDY WANTED I'm a very attractive, clean cut, executive, Single, White male, 27, 5'11, 169lbs. I need to meet an executive daddy, between 35 and 45, with a strong, firm hand. Please be trim and fit. Unfortunately, I'm not into bears or bald guys. (Memphis) ☎25969

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER Don't ask me what took so long, but I'm just getting started in the Gay lifestyle. I'm 53, 145lbs, and financially secure. I don't smoke or drink. I'd like to meet another Gay, White male, between 30 and 60, who shares my interest in travel, the arts, and politics. Please be interested in monogamy, and live in western or middle Tennessee. (Memphis) ☎25739

I NEED A TUNE UP We're not getting anywhere! I'm in a relationship, but I think we're out of gas. I need to rev up my engine with someone new. Maybe we'll get better mileage together. (Memphis) ☎25072

SIT ON TOP OF YOUR WORLD I'm an attractive, Gay, White, professional male. I am young looking, 35 years old, 6ft, 155lbs. I'm seeking well-endowed tops who are discrete and straight-acting. Drug-free, please. Give me a call, would love to get together. (Memphis) ☎24442

SEVEN SOLID INCHES I enjoy hanging out and having fun. Also into clubs, movies, music, bars, and restaurants. I'm 34, 5'11, 160lbs, short Brown hair, Brown eyes, and equipped with seven, solid inches. Be somewhat near my age, similar in shape and size. Let's enjoy each others. Any race. (Memphis) ☎23895

INFORMATION LEAK You do the talking. I want to know what's going on out there. Call me with a news update. (Memphis) ☎23100

EVERYTHING DELUXE Want the best of everything? I'm a Divorced, Gay, White male, 6'2, 188lbs, with dark Brown hair, Green eyes, and a mustache. I'm extremely hairy, and very well endowed. I'm looking for a serious, Gay male, 25 to 46, who is interested in a monogamous, long term relationship. I'm not into the bars, but I love trips to Florida, antiques, quiet nights at home, and sessions of hearty passion. (Memphis) ☎23185

RENDEZVOUS IN MEMPHIS I'll be in Memphis for a meeting in January, and would like to have some hot times while I'm there. I'm a Black male, 5'11, 145lbs, with a toned, runner's build. I'm good looking, with a goatee. I'm into White guys, between 21 to 35, with nice bodies. Please be good looking and hot. We'll get along just fine. (Memphis) ☎23218

CROSSDRESSING KINK I'm interested in meeting Transvestites, and crossdressers, who are into kinky sex. I'm in western Tennessee, and willing to travel, if the situation is right. (Memphis) ☎21673

TENNESSEE WALTZ I'm looking to meet people in the West Tennessee area. Give me a call and let's get acquainted. (Memphis) ☎20895

TOTAL TESTOSTERONE I'm looking for masculine men who are Bi or Bi-curious. I'm an attractive Bi, Black male. I enjoy the art scene, dance, camping, traveling, and working out. I am extremely turned on by Italian, Hispanic, and Irish guys. Let's wrestle. (Memphis) ☎18398

DON'T TAKE IT OFF! I'm a single, White male, looking for a pre-op Transsexual. You should have breasts, and be able to pass as an attractive woman, but not have had the final surgery, if you know what I mean. Please be healthy, kind, and considerate. Be discreet as well, as I would like to keep this just between us. (Memphis) ☎20726

ORDER GIVER I'm a tall, thin, Gay male, 48 years old. I'm looking for a boy toy who is into being obedient and understands that he will be punished if he isn't. Need to be kept in line? (Memphis) ☎20981

LET'S SWAP JOCKIES My underwear fetish gets me hot. Sexy, 34 year old, White male seeks other guys, 21 to 28, who wanna swap underwear and jocks. Get 'em all sweaty and trade with me. (Nashville) ☎3730

IT'S MY SERVE Eager, hungry, White male, seeks well endowed, muscular guys who get off on being orally served. (Nashville) ☎3832

HEAT SEEKER I want to hang out, and have fun, with other well built, good looking, guys, around my age, of any race. I'm a good looking, 22 year old, college student, 6ft, 185lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, and a clean cut look. I like just about anything and I'm usually a top. Let's make some heat. (Nashville) ☎3602

ESCORT FANTASY This good looking, youthful, White male, in my early 40's, seeks younger guys with model/escort fantasies. Let's party and play. (Nashville) ☎3548

MEDIAVAL ARTS Very masculine, 27 year old, Gay, White male, 6ft, 168lbs, seeks guys, 18 to 25, who are into photography, the outdoors, and the medieval arts. Make sure you're young and straight acting. (Nashville) ☎3699

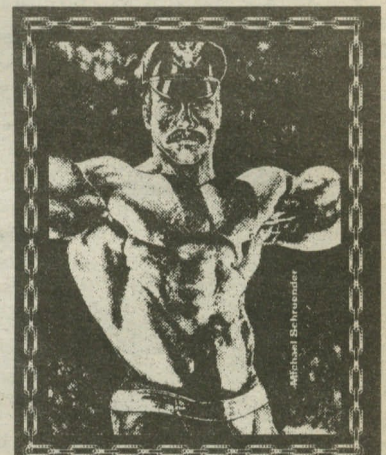
HEALTHY AND HORNY Horny, White male, 44, 5'10, 165lbs, seeks other horny, White males, 25 to 45, for discreet fun. Be healthy, masculine, and in shape, as I am. (Nashville) ☎3259

USE MY BACK DOOR I'm a backdoor man interested in meeting a guy who is not looking for love. I'm a good looking, 42 year old, White male, bottom, seeking a partner for regular, casual, encounters. I'm 5'11, 190lbs. You should be well endowed, 21 to 55, and of any race. Black men are especially welcome. I don't want to exchange rings, just to have fun. (Nashville) ☎34512

KARATE AND CURIOSITY I'm very inexperienced and interested in getting to know some guys. I'm a 27 year old, writer and martial arts enthusiast. Let's start with talking. Please be discreet. (Nashville) ☎31442

OFF AT A FAST TROT I'm 19 years old and I love men. I weigh 170 lbs, and have Black hair and Hazel eyes. I enjoy all outdoor activities, especially horseback riding, and long walks. Put on your spurs and lets go for a gallop. (Nashville) ☎29634

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PERSONALS

Butch Valentine—So, who are you banging this Week? I hear that you wear them out so badly that they just can't last for too long. Tough break! You might think about loaning your peter-pump to Lady A... After AIDA she probably could use it. By the way, Maybe if you two went in together you could get a good discount on hairspray. Love and kisses—Mule.

I am a Black male, 34, 126#, 8". I am looking for a white male who has the same. I am very clean and good-looking. I am a bottom looking for a top. No drug-heads, no fat-farm, no HIV positive. I like ages 25 to 50. Call me at 901-475-4964. Dwight... leave a message.

GWM, 33, 170#, 5'11", good-looking, masculine, healthy, HIV-positive physician from Indianapolis, IN, br/br, mustache. Love pro sports. ISO masculine GBM, 25-50, top, also HIV-positive, healthy wanting LTR. 317-387-1315. Joe.

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Sick of bars? Me Too. GWM, 5'9", 150#, 37-yo, slim, smooth, great bottom, seeks fun-loving MEN for fun and games, friendship, bedroom buddy. I like to cook, read, good music, camping, outdoors. No fats, fems, druggies, chronically unemployed, please! Call J.B. 901-384-6660. Habla Espanol.

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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, Smoke Free)

(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	6:00 pm	Discussion (Open)
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*Memphis Lambda Center, Inc. is a private organization formed for the promulgation and enhancement of Twelve-Step meetings with a special outreach to the Gay and Lesbian community. Business meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Space donated as a public service by the Triangle Journal News



You were chosen by God to be who you are - gay, lesbian or heterosexual.

The expression of your sexuality is a gift from God in making and building of relationships.

Integrity is a family of Gays, Lesbians and their friends within the Episcopal Church.

Integrity is a place to find community and support.

Integrity offers opportunities for growth, prayer, friendship and understanding.

Integrity meets every third Tuesday of the month at Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis.

For more information, call Calvary Episcopal Church at 525-6602.

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**2117 Peabody
Memphis, TN
901-278-8015**

Call Us for Pick-Up Orders

**Check Out Our
Kitchen Specials
Hours 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.**

Daily

Reg Menu Also Everyday

Monday -	BLT or Grilled Cheese w/Fries	\$2²⁵
Tuesday -	Chicken Fingers w/Stuffed Jalapenos	\$4²⁵
Wednesday -	Fish Sandwich w/Fries	\$2⁷⁵
Thursday -	10" Pizza, 3 to Choose From	\$5⁰⁰
Friday -	Breaded Shrimp w/Fries	\$4⁰⁰

Different In-House Specials Daily!

**It's Back!
Italian
Sausage
Sandwich
Smothered in
Onions &
Peppers on a
Hoagie
w/Fries
\$4²⁵**

Saturday & Sunday - Pork Steak, Tator Tots or Fries & Salad - \$5⁵⁰

Theme: "Gore-geous Guy"

ACROSS

- 1 Puts in one's caulk
- 6 Not use enough lube, perhaps
- 11 PFLAG member, perhaps
- 14 God of the Koran
- 15 Rocker Eddie Van
- 16 Screwball comedian Philips
- 17 Fred's cartoon wife
- 18 Be in store for
- 19 Monte Foods
- 20 See 23-Down
- 23 1954 novel by 61-Across
- 26 Rand McNally offering
- 27 Five-octave-ranged Sumac
- 28 1995 autobiography by 61-Across
- 32 Covered with white, granular ice
- 34 Do a classroom chore
- 35 Too
- 36 One of four brutes in a 1997 Disney film
- 38 One of the Menendez brothers
- 42 Come together
- 44 Groceries, mostly
- 45 1960 play by 61-Across which was made into a movie drama
- 50 Thor or Amor
- 51 Get Out Again
- 52 With 55-Across, novel by 61-Across about homosexual life in the United States
- 55 See 52-Across
- 59 Numero
- 60 Civic center
- 61 Gay novelist Gore
- 65 Disfigure

- 66 Freedom (Gay accessories)
- 67 Emulate Harvey Fierstein
- 68 Queer three-dollar bill
- 69 Doctrine
- 70 Used a shuttle

DOWN

- 1 Viewed
- 2 Whitney or Wallach
- 3 Completely
- 4 *The Silence of the*
- 5 Puppeteer Lewis
- 6 Mambo's cousin
- 7 Chicken (Gay cradle-robber)
- 8 Jai
- 9 Sinn (Irish political organization)
- 10 Catches cruisers unethically
- 11 Be nosy
- 12 Greek alphabet enders
- 13 Do like Michael Jackson, supposedly
- 21 *"The Raven"* author's monogram
- 22 "...we have to fear is fear"
- 23 With 20-Across, popular novel by 61-Across featuring a transsexual
- 24 Actor Jannings or pianist Gilels
- 25 Snead and Spade
- 29 *Eat Cake* (Gershwin musical)
- 30 Tax-free savings plan, briefly
- 31 Paul Monette's *Becoming a*
- 33 "Sure thing!"
- 36 "Deck the Halls" contraction

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- 37 *The Addams Family* funny cousin
- 39 Baseballer Berra
- 40 Booty
- 41 "Electric Avenue" singer Grant
- 43 CBS sitcom, 1982-90
- 45 *ER* depiction
- 46 Reddish-orange hair dyes
- 47 Agnes Moorehead's role on *Bewitched*
- 48 Finally
- 49 Stanley Cup org.
- 53 Icicle sites
- 54 Sodomy, in some states
- 56 One Great Lake
- 57 *Dead Man Walking* star
- 58 *Come Back, Little Sheba* playwright William
- 62 Jones's stock-market partner
- 63 Enjoyed 44-Across
- 64 Served as Grand Marshal for a pride parade, e.g.

Solution on page 33