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Court Upholds Military Ban On Homosexual Conduct

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal appeals court has upheld the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on Gays in the military, rejecting a discharged sailor's claim that the policy is unconstitutional.

In upholding the discharge of Navy Petty Officer Mark Philips, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals became the first appellate court to rule on the portion of the policy that requires dismissal for homosexual conduct.

The 2-1 ruling came Feb. 14.

President Clinton, who had promised to eliminate the military's ban on homosexuals, agreed in 1993 to the policy, which bars inquiry into sexual orientation but allows the discharge of those who declare their homosexuality or engage in homosexual acts.

The Navy has defended the policy as necessary to maintain unit cohesion, preserve privacy and reduce sexual tension.

Judge Pamela Rymer ruled that those reasons are not irrational or based merely on prejudice. She also cited the courts' traditional deference to military judgment.

In a dissent, Judge Betty

Fletcher said the policy of discharging homosexuals, but not heterosexuals, for private off-duty sexual conduct is discrimination based entirely on prejudice against homosexuals.

"Gay men and Lesbians are no less able and no more prone to misconduct than their heterosexual counterparts," Fletcher said. "Even in the military context, an entire class may not be singled out for disfavored treatment because of animosities towards that class."

Philips disclosed his homosexuality to an officer while serving on the USS Nimitz in November 1992.

A four-year veteran with an excellent service record, Philips later said he had had sex with men outside his base and would continue to do so. He said the policy was unconstitutional because it treats homosexuals and heterosexuals differently.

Philips was given an honorable discharge after the policy took effect in 1994. The discharge was upheld by a U.S. District Court judge.

Justice Department spokesman Joe Krovisky had no comment on the ruling.

'Army of God' Claims Responsibility for Clinic, Nightclub Bombings

By Chelsea J. Carter
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — A letter purportedly from a group called the Army of God claimed responsibility for bombings at an Atlanta abortion clinic and a gay nightclub, and threatened "total war" against the federal government.

The letter was one of two claims of responsibility for Friday's bombing at The Otherside Lounge, which injured five people.

Federal agents were examining a message left Saturday on the voice mail of the Phoenix-based Gay Community Yellow Pages that claimed that the "Sons of Confederate Klan, S.O.C.K., a new neo-Nazi KKK organization from Los Angeles" had bombed the club. The message did not mention the attacks last month on the abortion clinic.

The letter, which the FBI received Feb. 24, promised future attacks on gays and also sought to set up a system to confirm claims of responsibility after future bombings.

"We're taking it seriously. We're looking into the validity of the letter and the claims that they're making," said Pamela Swanson, spokeswoman for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

FBI spokesman Jay Spadafore would not comment on the authenticity of the letter, which was mailed to *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and the Reuters news agency on Feb. 22 and turned over to federal authorities.

The letter was handwritten in block letters on three pages of lined tablet paper, the newspaper reported, and said the Sandy Springs abortion clinic was bombed because of the "murder" of "3.5 mil-

lion children" a year.

It said a second bomb that detonated 67 minutes after the first "was aimed at agents of the so-called federal government," against which it threatened "total war." The letter said the Feb. 21 bombing "was aimed at the sodomite bar."

James McMahon, brother of nightclub owner Beverly McMahon, was a California doctor who performed about 100 abortions a year before he died of cancer a year ago. Ms. McMahon said she doesn't believe the bomb was aimed at her because of him.

In Washington, President Clinton told an audience at a fundraiser that everyone must fight hate crimes.

The recent bombing of the Gay nightclub in Atlanta reminds us that this work is not over," Clinton

See Bombings on page 33

Tennessee Lawmakers Seek to Ban Gay, Lesbian Foster Parents

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Gay men and Lesbian would be prohibited from becoming foster parents under legislation introduced by two East Tennessee Republican lawmakers.

The bill was introduced in early February by Sen. Ron Ramsey of Blountville and freshman Rep. Jason Mumpower of Bristol. House Republican Leader Steve McDaniel of Lexington drafted the bill after learning nothing in state law prohibits homosexuals from acting as foster parents.

"I want to make sure we don't place children in the state's cus-

tody into an unnatural environment," McDaniel said.

Spokeswoman Susan Boyd said the state Children's Services Department supports the intent of the bill and "discourages the placement of foster children in the homes of homosexuals."

She was not aware of any such placements.

The legislation doesn't require prospective foster parents to state their sexual orientation on application forms, but it would probably be uncovered by placement officers during background checks, Ramsey said.

Hedy Weinberg, state director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the bill doesn't take into account what is in the best interest of the child.

"There are far too few nurturing, supportive foster-care homes available for our children," she said.

And Bill Turner, co-chairman of the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice, said the legislators are working on the assumption homosexuals wouldn't make good parents, "an ideological assumption that has no basis in fact."

Mississippi Bans Gay Marriages

By Gina Holland
Associated Press Writer

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Gov. Kirk Fordice signed a law banning homosexual marriages in Mississippi, denouncing same-sex relationships as "perverse."

"For too long in this freedom-loving land, cultural subversives have engaged in trench warfare on traditional family values," Fordice said Feb. 12, as Mississippi became the 17th state in a year to outlaw such marriages.

State Rep. Jim Evans, one of three lawmakers to oppose the bill, said the governor should "be engag-

ing it a second thought before he begins to moralize right now."

Fordice is recovering from injuries suffered in a car accident 14 weeks ago while returning from lunch with an unidentified woman in Memphis. His wife Pat was out of town. The governor said he has no memory of that day.

"Hypocrites love to talk about family values, but if they search deep down and do a truth analysis, they wish their own families were different," Evans said.

Mississippi's law denies recognition of homosexual marriages performed in other states. Fordice said the law would ensure that Gay

couples do not enjoy benefits of marriage such as health insurance.

"Insurance benefits for dependents were never intended for perverse relationships such as the same-sex marriage," he said.

Mississippi lawmakers were responding in part to a case in Hawaii, which is appealing a judge's ruling that the state must grant marriage licenses to Gay couples.

The American Civil Liberties Union is considering challenging some state laws banning Gay marriage, said Mississippi ACLU executive director David Ingebretsen.

"It's just another expression of intolerance," Ingebretsen said.

2 Fordice and Fallacy

9 Catholic and Jewish Attitudes

18 Thomas Stoddard Dies

26 What About Liberace?

NEW FEATURE
Inside
Hollywood
P. 35

Kirk Fordice: The New Ghost of Mississippi

Commentary by Ira L. King

Last month Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice signed a new law in which Mississippi became the 17th state to ban same-sex marriages. The law further refuses to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. In Mr. Fordice's own words "For too long in this freedom-loving land, cultural subversives have engaged in trench warfare on traditional family values. These radical subgroups have distorted the national agenda and defiled time honored customs for their own selfish purposes."

This is the same man who on Nov. 5, 1996, national election day, was the victim of a near fatal car crash while returning home to Mississippi from Memphis. It is unclear why Mr. Fordice was in Memphis. It seems he has contracted the Ronald Reagan disease of "selective memory loss" and has no recollection of that day. Isn't that convenient. It has been suspected and even alleged that he was in town for a sexual rendezvous with another person. Feigning memory loss is a mighty convenient way to get out of owning up to secret indiscretions. Yet this man can find time to lambaste law-abiding citizens who only seek the rights guaranteed every man and woman in the Declaration of Independence.

Perhaps this is a good time to remind Mr. Fordice and the Reverend Donald Wildmon

founder of the Tupelo-based American Family Association (who of course applauded the governor's action), just how that salient document begins: "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. That among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..."

Endowed by their Creator simply means blessed by God. Scripture tells us that we are all His people and the sheep of

His pasture. When God looks down on His universe He does not just see only "straight" people. He does not see only

"married" people. He does not see only White Anglo-Saxon Protestants (WASPs). He does not see only Jews, or Arabs, or Muslims, or Baptists. If I may paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King, God sees and judges us based not on the color of our skin, but the content of our character. Likewise, I find it impossible to believe that I will be ultimately be judged according to my sexual preference. He sees His world in its entirety and doesn't make many of the distinctions that we employ to justify our individual differences.

Created equal means being free to choose. All those 50 couples whose names

appeared in *The Commercial Appeal* in the marriage license column on the same day as the Fordice story ran were free to choose their spouses. The divorces-granted column, which is usually as long as (if not longer than) the marriage column, is full of the names of people free to choose to marry. This fact is not exclusive to *The Commercial Appeal* but is mirrored in newspapers across the country on a daily basis. Not one of the divorce casualties listed being Gay as a reason for their breakup. While I don't doubt that in many instances that is the case, it can be successfully argued that many Gay and Lesbian couples are more interested in

had a traditional family value since the first Englishman set foot on virgin American soil. Was it traditional family values that stole this country's land from native Americans and then told them they would be allowed to live only on reservations, and then only under certain conditions? Was it traditional family values that led this country into years of slavery (we're still feeling the repercussions from that one)? Was it traditional family values that led thousands of men and women into the Vietnam war never to return home?

Is it traditional family values that allow wealthy Americans to buy their way into and out of the American judicial system after they

VIEWPOINT

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

keeping their relationships together than tearing them apart.

That word **unalienable** literally means **not to be separated**. That is, no one should be able to take certain rights away or deny equal rights under the law at the stroke of a pen. This applies to mayors? Judges, governors and even presidents.

Unalienable further means **not foreign**. Men and women with same-sex attractions are not foreign to our society. They were not foreign to the Greek and Roman societies upon which our system government is largely based.

It is apparent to me that Mr. Fordice, and the other 27 states (including Tennessee) which have banned same-sex marriage and its recognition, have decided to set themselves above the Creator and be judge and jury for the masses.

In his statement, Mr. Fordice referred to Gay couples as cultural subversives. He blatantly argues that Gay men and women are out to undermine or overthrow the American way of life. Nothing could be further from the truth. Being a part of the American culture has absolutely nothing to do with sexual preferences. And even if it were true, governments have been overthrown for a lot less. Governments, Mr. Fordice, are subverted and overthrown by grass-roots ideas founded on basic principles of right and wrong, not by allowing same-sex couples to enjoy the blessings of mutual companionship.

This notion of "traditional family values" is almost laughable. America hasn't

have committed crimes against defenseless women and children (witness Nicole Brown Simpson and JonBonet Ramsey) while the poor ones pay?

Is it traditional family values that keep our jails filled with supposedly heterosexual adults who are pedophiles and child abusers.

It is amazing to me that in many states a man and a woman can live together for "x" number of years and be considered common-law spouses. This without benefit of clergy. Yet, two men or two women who want to make their relationship legal in the eyes of the law are met by nothing but mean-spirited resistance.

The film *Ghost of Mississippi* relates the tragic story of the 30-year struggle the wife of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers endured to bring her husband's killer to justice. The killer, Byron De la Beckwith, possessed an attitude about blacks in Mississippi that is frighteningly similar to the attitude Mr. Fordice has about Gays. Thirty years ago when Mr. De la Beckwith was strutting the streets of Jackson, Miss., racial superiority was a way of life. And he knew it well. In 1997, when it's often hard to tell one gender from the next unless you inspect the plumbing (and that's no guarantee), Mr. Fordice cannot afford the luxury of holding himself up as a paragon of sexual preference superiority. He does himself and the state of Mississippi no favors by espousing sexual attitudes that are as antiquated and bigoted as he appears to be.



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Hawaii Senate Approves Same-Sex Marriage Ban and Benefits Bills

By Bruce Dunford
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU (AP) — The state Senate has approved its version of same-sex marriage legislation. One bill calls for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages and the other one would give

same-sex couples many of the benefits of married couples.

The two bills approved Feb. 6 differ substantially from measures approved two weeks before by the state House, meaning they will go before a House-Senate conference committee for a compromise.

House Speaker Joseph Souki

predicted difficult negotiations between the two houses where leaders have vowed to resolve the same-sex marriage controversy quickly, pointing to the public outcry when it wasn't solved last year.

The identical 15-10 Senate roll call votes on both bills followed more than a hour of floor debate, mostly focusing on the bill to put the constitutional amendment before Hawaii's voters in the 1998 general election.

Senate critics stressed that while they support a constitutional amendment, they believe the one proposed by the Senate Judiciary Committee would end up legalizing same-sex marriages.

It would give the state power to limit marriages to couples of the opposite sex as long as the state's laws dealing with marriage do not discriminate on the basis of gender.

Judiciary Committee Co-Chairman Matt Matsunaga said that qualification relates to the second bill which spells out the marriage-like benefits for which same-sex couples would be eligible.

Sen. Malama Solomon said the proposed constitutional amendment is "misguided, hasty and ill conceived" with "the potential to destroy the institution of marriage in Hawaii because...it is impossible to prove a negative."

Sen. Randall Iwase said the language of the proposed amendment represents no progress from last year when the Senate deadlocked in negotiations with the House to resolve the same-sex marriage issue.

It was generated by a surprising 1993 state Supreme Court ruling that denying same-sex couples marriage licenses without a compelling public interest violated the state Constitution's prohibition on gender discrimination. The case remains on appeal by the state following a state judge's ruling in December that the state had failed to show a compelling interest in denying same-sex couples marriage licenses.

Judiciary Committee Co-Chairman Avery Chumbley said the Senate's bill accomplishes the preservation of traditional marriages without sacrificing the rights of anyone.

The House's version of the amendment simply to ban same-sex marriages is constitutionally suspect, Chumbley said.

"It can be fairly said that some of the proposals on this issue are aimed solely at abolishing rights won in court by a minority," Chumbley said.

"We firmly believe that the motivation of this is simply to preserve traditional marriage, but if

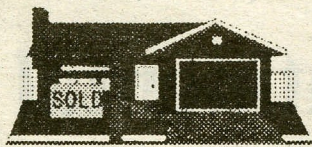
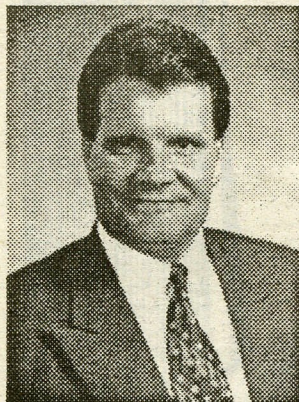
the net effect of our effort is the surgical removal of rights from a very unpopular minority group, we fear that a court could conclude that the Legislature's motive was more a result of fear and hatred than any legitimate governmental interest," he said.

Complaints about the Senate's bill also came from Souki and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Terrance Tom, who said it would mean limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples would be unconstitutional if the courts find any gender discrimination in any marriage-related law.

"The measure passed by the Senate will not reverse the ruling of the Hawaii Supreme Court," Tom said. "If anything, it will place a right to same-sex marriage in the Hawaii Constitution."

The other Senate bill goes well beyond the House's plan for extending some of the benefits of marriage to same-sex couples, including allowing them to file joint state tax returns and get spouse benefits under the state retirement system.

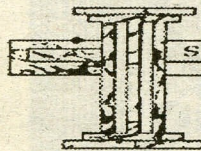
Souki and Tom later echoed concern raised by Sen. Sam Slom that no information has been provided about the costs to public and private institutions by giving "reciprocal beneficiaries" benefits to same-sex couples.



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National Gay and Lesbian Newspaper To Hit Streets in June

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The premiere issue of a national Gay and Lesbian weekly publication, *Our Times*, will hit the streets in June at the Gay pride parade in Washington, the publisher said Feb. 12..

Daniel Webster, a law school graduate, contends the independent newspaper will serve all Gays and Lesbians, not just those who have "big fancy, schmantzy lifestyles."

Webster, 32, is aware he is entering the news business at a time when newspapers are struggling to make a profit, but he sees a niche.

"There is a viable need for a national Gay and Lesbian weekly publication because there is not one out there," he said.

There are three popular Gay publications Webster called "great," but he said they were too specialized. *The Advocate* is liberal-leaning, he said, *Out* appeals to Gay men, while *Curve* targets Lesbians.

"We'll kind of be walking down the middle and grabbing everyone on both sides," he said of *Our Times*.

Webster expects to distribute about 1.5 million copies of his four color, broad sheet at the march in Washington. Subscriptions will cost about \$4.95 for three months.

Webster has a minority, anonymous investor and is negotiating with a major corporate partner, he said.

Our Times will have four regional editions, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and New York. Its five sections are news, business, living, auto and classifieds.

By the end of third year, Webster hopes to have 20 regional editions.



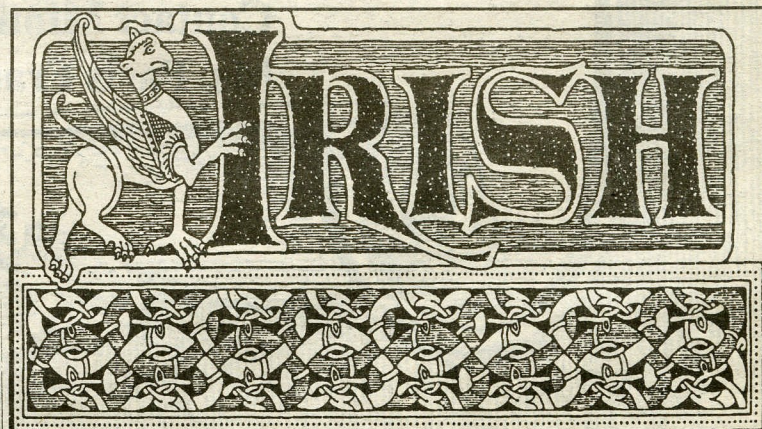
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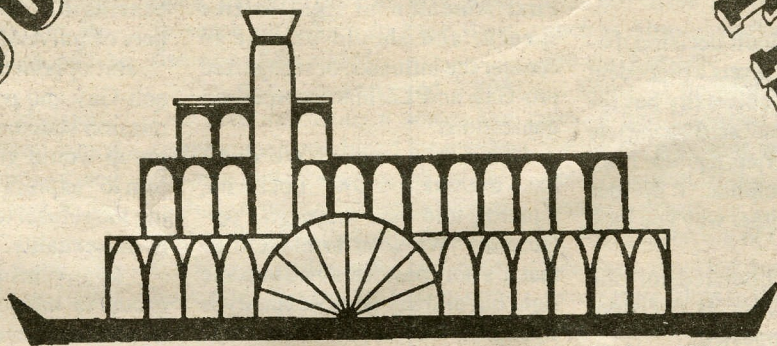
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Anti-Gay Group Denied Official Status at Penn State

By Jennifer Brown
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Pennsylvania State University student Darin Loccarini says he only wanted to create a campus group where students could “come right out and say homosexuality is wrong.”

But the Penn State student Supreme Court denied Loccarini's request for official recognition of his anti-Gay rights group, STRAIGHT, Students Reinforcing Adherence in General Heterosexual Tradition.

The group sought a charter that would have given it a slice of \$1.1 million divided annually among 400 campus groups. The group also could have used the Penn State name and requested use of campus meeting rooms.

About 75 students attended Sunday night's hearing in which

STRAIGHT members outlined the group's mission and plans and student leaders expressed concerns. Two police officers also attended the meeting.

“It was a difficult decision, because either way it sets a precedent not only for our university but for other universities,” said Associate Justice Jit Chatterjee, a junior from suburban Philadelphia. “It divides the community either way you look at it.”

The court deliberated for one hour before issuing its decision, which may be appealed.

Chatterjee will write the majority opinion detailing the reasons for the decision in the next few days, he said.

The student justices asked the group's members how it would better Penn State and the community as a whole, said acting Supreme Court Chief Justice Dawn Brown. She said the majority of the

deliberation time was spent on detailing the reasons for its unanimous decision.

Supporters say the group has a First Amendment right to free speech, and should be able to counter the influence of recognized pro-Gay and Lesbian campus organizations.

“This is America. We don't have to think it's OK,” Loccarini, a junior, told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. “We want to make it so that it's not considered bad to come right out and say homosexuality is wrong.”

Loccarini said STRAIGHT is a political organization that wants to prevent Gays and Lesbians from winning any university-sanctioned privileges.

He is critical of the university's decision to allow same-sex part-

ners of students to buy student-rate tickets to university basketball and football games. And the group would fight against granting health benefits to same-sex domestic partners of university employees.

But opponents say the group is anti-Gay and point to the group's mission statement, which says the group would give members a forum to “express their views regarding the refusal to accept or support homosexuality.”

“In my mind, allowing this group to have student organizational status, even provisionally, is opening the door to other hate groups,” Duane Gildea, political co-director of Penn State's Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Student Alliance, said.

The campus chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union

couldn't choose a side.

“We ended up arguing about it for an hour and a half, and ended up calling it quits and going home,” co-coordinator Jon Feinberg said. “On the one hand we're very much supportive of Gay and Lesbian rights. On the other hand, there is the free speech issue.”

The administration had no comment on the decision, Penn State spokeswoman Christy Rambeau said.

Until this incident, the debate on the 40,000-student campus had been waged primarily in the pages of the student newspaper. On Feb. 12, about 90 students and faculty held a candlelight vigil for tolerance outside the student union, where Sunday's meeting was held.

Hate Groups Find Others Like Them on the Web

DETROIT (AP) — As the computer bug begins to seep even further into mainstream society, it also is opening a widespread venue for hate groups.

Albion College sophomore Steven Krom didn't have much luck drumming up support for his “white pride” views around campus.

But on the Internet, the 19-year-old from Bay City has found support and understanding from white supremacists, neo-Nazis and other hate groups that have taken to the World Wide Web to spread their word.

“It's one of the good things about the Internet,” Krom told *The Detroit News*.

In the past year, the number of hate-related sites on the Web has jumped from about 50 to as many as 400, experts told the *News*, adding that the numbers have doubled in the last three months alone.

“It isn't that the information, the hate, the groups are new,” said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, an associate dean at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a human rights organization in Los Angeles that has been tracking Internet hate.

“It's that it has been taken from

the gutter into the mainstream.”

Groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, the Aryan Nations and Skinheads have Web sites that vilify racial and religious minorities and Gays.

Some sites openly deny the Holocaust, others call for race wars. Some, are open recruitment calls for their groups, the *News* said.

“It confers a degree of legitimacy to anyone,” said Donald Cohen, director of the Michigan branch of the Anti-Defamation League. “Because of the anonymity, it's a wonderful tool for haters to use.”

One of the best-known hate pages in the country is that of the Detroit-based Resistance Records Inc., a label that records the white power music of such groups as RAHOWA (Racial Holy War).

It is one of several sites — including Krom's — that are based in Michigan, the *News* said.

Resistance Records' founder — neo-Nazi George Burdi — is a Canadian who avoided his country's censors by posting his site through an American Internet provider, the *News* said. The U.S. First Amendment protections vir-

tually guarantee that it won't be shut down.

“Canada has stronger hate laws,” explains David Hoffmann, who is tracking the sites for the national Anti-Defamation League. In Canada, someone who spreads hate speech can be prosecuted.

But that doesn't mean that those who oppose such groups support similar laws in America.

Although many see the sites as more of a symptom, not a cause, of racism, some are worried about the potential impact on children.

Cohen said he recently received a call from a local woman who worried that her 13-year-old son was becoming a Nazi — on the Internet.

Even after the family moved, the child was able to use his computer to find others nearby who shared his views.

Krom said he doesn't consider his page to be a hate site — an attitude Cohen said is a common claim.

He said that Krom's page is unique because it was posted by an individual rather than a group — but added that it is typical of what it is about the Internet that appeals to people.

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It's A Girl for Melissa Etheridge and Partner Julie Cypher

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's a girl for singer Melissa Etheridge and her partner, Julie Cypher.

Bailey Jean Cypher, weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces, was born to Cypher Feb. 10, said Etheridge spokeswoman Gayle Fine.

Etheridge, the Grammy-winning singer of “Come to My Window,” and Cypher, the former wife of Lou Diamond Phillips, disclosed last year that Cypher was carrying their child. The method of fertilization and the identity of the sperm donor weren't disclosed.

Fine said only that the birth took place in the Los Angeles area.

First Large-Scale Consumer Survey on Gays and Lesbians Done

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A large-scale national consumer survey of Gay men and Lesbians says popular entertainment, sport utility vehicles, computers and financial planning scored high on their lists of interests.

The homosexual community is largely well educated and affluent, with a household income exceeding \$100,000 for 21 percent of the market, the survey said. Some 22 percent have graduate degrees, it found, and 58 percent hold management positions.

"This study confirms the affluence and spending patterns for which there previously has been only anecdotal evidence," said Rebecca McPheters, president and CEO of Simmons Market Research Bureau in New York, which conducted the survey.

Advertising agency Mulryan/Nash, a New York agency aimed at Gay consumers, commissioned the survey. The intent was to index the market.

"You can't just slap some Gay label on something and say, 'It's a

good program because it's Gay,'" said Dave Mulryan, a partner in Mulryan/Nash.

"Marketers tend to be very open, but they have to have good research on which to base their decisions," he added.

The pollsters surveyed 3,896 Gay men and women across the country, then combined the results for men and women in the totals.

Not surprisingly, nearly 90 percent of those polled said they prefer hotels, restaurants and other businesses that market to Gay con-

sumers. They also favor travel destinations seen as Gay-friendly.

The report showed Gay consumers are loyal to product brands that advertise in the Gay press, such as Absolut vodka, Tanqueray gin and Subaru.

Some 72 percent of those surveyed had attended live theater within the past year, nearly double the 37 percent of the U.S. population as a whole.

And 20 percent of Gay men and Lesbians reported seeing at least two feature films in the last month,

more than three times the 6 percent of Americans in general.

"What this tells us," Mulryan said, is "not only do they like to go to the movies, but they also have the time to go to the movies."

Heterosexuals with children "are busy driving off to soccer practice and to cheerleading practice," he said.

One unusual finding was the relatively high popularity of boating. That could be because Gay and Lesbian populations cluster in big cities located near water, Mulryan said.

Judge Who Took Child from Lesbian Mom Accused of Violating Ethics

By Bill Kaczor
Associated Press Writer

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — A judge has been accused of violating judicial ethics by commenting about a mother's Lesbianism in a custody ruling that sent a child to live with her father, a convicted killer.

Allan H. Terl, a retired Fort Lauderdale lawyer and homosexual-rights activist, claims Circuit Judge Joseph Q. Tarbuck of Pensacola violated a judicial canon against bias or prejudice based on sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, national origin, disability and socioeconomic status.

Terl said that he filed a complaint with the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission based in part on Tarbuck's statement that he believed "this child should be given the opportunity and the option to live in a non-Lesbian world."

The comment came during an August 1995 hearing at which he removed Mary Ward's daughter, Cassey, then 11, from the Pensacola woman's home.

Tarbuck sent the girl to live in nearby Milton with her father, John

Ward, who had served eight years in prison for second-degree murder in the 1974 shooting of his first wife during a custody dispute over another child.

Mary Ward had appealed Tarbuck's ruling, but she died Jan. 21, making the custody battle moot, Terl said. A cause of death has not yet been determined and additional laboratory tests are being conducted, according to the medical examiner's office. Foul play is not suspected.

Tarbuck was in court Monday and did not return messages left at his office.

In his complaint, Terl also wrote that Tarbuck said the child should not be led into a Lesbian relationship "before she has a full opportunity to know that she can live another lifestyle" and that the father had remarried "a good woman" who "appears to make a good appearance before the court."

Terl said the remarks about the new wife show gender bias while the other comments indicate prejudice against Lesbians.

The state commission's executive director, Brooke Kennerly, said she could neither confirm nor deny a complaint had been filed

because such accusations are confidential. They become public record only if the commission's nine investigative members find probable cause of a violation.

A second panel of six commissioners then would determine if a violation had occurred and, if so, recommend disciplinary action, ranging from a reprimand to removal. The Florida Supreme Court then would have the final say.

The 1st District Court of Appeal had upheld Tarbuck's custody ruling, finding his decision was based on the best interests of the child rather than her mother's sexual orientation.

A request to reconsider its decision or send the case to the state Supreme Court was pending when Mary Ward died.

Committee Endorses Ban on Condoms for HIV Prevention

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Condom distribution for HIV or AIDS prevention programs would be banned under a bill headed to the state House.

Rep. Tim Pope, author of the legislation, said the state shouldn't buy condoms for any reason. He provided members of the House Committee on Community and Family Responsibility with Health Department figures saying its condom purchases totaled \$6,468 last year and \$38,914.30 in 1995.

"The state government, the federal government, is responsible for only a few things," said Pope, R-Mustang. "It doesn't make good economic sense, it doesn't make good moral sense."

The committee endorsed House Bill 2095, which now goes to the full House for consideration.

Pope said he was not trying to isolate people with the disease.

"We still pass them on the street. HIV-infected people are everywhere," he said. "But we don't have to buy them flavored, colored condoms."

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Good Friday, March 28, Passion Play, 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday, March 30, Easter Sunrise Service, 6:00 a.m.
Community Breakfast, 9:45 a.m.
Worship Celebration, 11:00 a.m.
Singspiration, 7:00 p.m.

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Reporter Offers a Peek Into the 'Iron Closet'

By Elizabeth Weise
Associated Press Writer

Sometimes, the truest view of a place comes through a peephole that widens into a lens that lets us see an entire culture.

That's why travelers are drawn down small side streets in the hope that a garden door might be ajar or a window open, allowing them a glimpse into the real day of the people who live where we are only visiting.

No one expects those living tableaux to provide a thorough understanding of every aspect of the country. But what they miss in overview they more than make up for in human depth.

So it is with David Tuller's *Cracks in the Iron Closet: Travels in Gay and Lesbian Russia* (Faber & Faber, \$24.95).

Whether or not one is specifically interested in the Gay community, this book offers a fascinating, intensely personal view into the lives, rooms and sometimes souls of the people Tuller met during many months of travels in the former Soviet Union.

Tuller, a reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, first went to Russia in 1991 to cover a first-of-its-kind conference organized by the International Gay and Lesbian

Human Rights Commission. The grandson of Russian Jews who emigrated early in the century, he felt a connection to the country. As an openly Gay reporter who covered San Francisco's vibrant Gay community, he was also drawn to see how his brethren were faring as the Soviet Union unraveled.

What he found was not a political revolution, but the daily lives and hopes of people who had found nooks and crannies where they could live freely under a repressive regime whose notorious Article 121 had decreed hard labor for those guilty of the crime of homosexuality.

Alabama Episcopalians Debate Homosexuality

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The discussion was supposed to be about the sanctity of marriage, but Alabama's Episcopal church leaders conceded that the church was really trying to clarify its stance on homosexuality.

The platform they passed affirmed the sanctity of marriage, while deleting controversial sexual references that could have been seen as insensitive to homosexuals.

"We are in the culture wars, the moral wars being fought in this country," said the Rev. Francis X.

Walter. He said it was good to discuss the issue but warned the church risked inflicting "pain and sorrow" on homosexuals.

His writing runs from the crisp sentences of a reporter to lines that are almost poetic, as he struggles to understand how the friends he makes, so like himself in one way, are so different in other ways.

"What riches they had scavenged from the shrill and petty wasteland of their Soviet existence," he writes of the men and women who have learned to live invisibly in plain sight. There is Volodya, who shares a small apartment with his mother while keeping secret his five-year relationship with Oleg. There is Pasha Malasky, an activist in the central Russian town of Nizhnekamsk, who had

"It was a debate which reflects the lack of clarity within the church on homosexuality," said Bishop Robert O. Miller, who presided over the meeting. "There are people on both sides of the issue and they need to continue to dialogue."

After long debate, the phrase "sexual intimacy finds its fullest expression in holy matrimony" was deleted from the platform.

spent years in a Soviet Gulag for the crime of loving another man.

But most important are Sveta, Lena and Vitya, the primary residents of a dacha where Tuller found home, community and new understanding of his own presumptions of just what his Gay identity means. Despite his original fantasy of bringing enlightenment and Gay liberation to the Russians, they changed him more than he ever could change them.

It is the simple life in this small wooden house that offers a lens onto life in Russia. The quiet solitude of the country — a place where the Gay as well as others

could be themselves, far from prying eyes and government intervention — gave Sveta, Lena and their friends an anchor in the swirling seas of Soviet life. In Moscow they might live five to an apartment, or with aging parents, or even the occasional husband or wife. But in the countryside they knew freedom.

Tuller's friendship and love for the people he met and his writer's eye for detail offer a fascinating look into the lives of ordinary Russians made extraordinary by their sexuality. In the end, they turn out to be quite ordinary.

between a man and a woman."

In another resolution, the diocese voted without opposition to affirm God's love and care for people with HIV and AIDS. The measure affirmed their right to the sacraments of the church and to a Christian burial.

Miller said he was glad to see the diocese take a stance that would preclude churches from discriminating against those with AIDS.

"It doesn't matter how someone gets it," Miller said. "What matters is that once they do get it, that we minister to them."

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In a Church Wedded to Tradition, Catholic Activists Seek Change

By Beth Gardiner
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As Cardinal John O'Connor delivered his sermon inside St. Patrick's Cathedral Feb. 16, dissident Catholics gathered outside and called on the church to relax its stance on the ordination of women, celibacy for clergy and homosexuality.

Liberal Roman Catholics in New York and nationwide called on the church's leadership to catch up with its members and change the way the church is run.

"Jesus was open to dialogue with anyone, including people with whom he vehemently disagreed," said Sister Maureen Fiedler, national coordinator of the Fairfax, Va.-based We Are Church.

"If our faith community is going to be true to that kind of church that Jesus left us, we have to be open to dialogue as well," she said on the steps of the Fifth Avenue cathedral.

Members of the group fanned out in front of cathedrals around the country to solicit signatures on their referendum for change. Several people signed at St. Patrick's, but signatures were harder to come

by elsewhere.

In Denver, where former Archbishop J. Francis Stafford has banned the group from church property, many worshipers outside the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception refused to talk to the petitioners.

At Philadelphia's Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter and Paul, one older man hurried past the activists, telling them to "shut up with all your crap here."

Back in New York O'Connor told parishioners they must decide for themselves whether to sign.

"You are grown Catholics in here, I trust your judgment," he said. "I have never told you what to sign or not to sign. And it is up to your conscience whether you sign any kind of petition at all."

Members of We Are Church want the Vatican to approve the ordination of women, drop its requirement that priests remain celibate, and recognize the human rights of Gays and Lesbians.

They're also calling on the church leadership to give lay people a voice in the selection of bishops and pastors, and to allow them to exercise their own judgment on issues such as birth con-

trol.

"I don't see one thing about it that's radical," said Margaret Dubbins, of Los Angeles, who signed the petition on her way into Mass at St. Patrick's. "The majority of American Catholics are moving ahead regardless of what the pope says. ... There's a silent ma-

majority within the church that is doing this anyway."

Dubbins had particularly strong feelings about the church's prohibition on the ordination of women.

"Do these men that are cloistered in seminaries for 15 years have any concept of what it's like to raise a family in the 1990s?" she

said. "Women belong up on the pulpit. Women have a voice that hasn't been heard."

Sister Fiedler said her group hopes to get a million American Catholics to sign. Organizers in Austria and Germany have gathered about 2.3 million signatures, she said.

Detroit Bishop Says Catholic Church Should Welcome Gays

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — The Catholic church should welcome, understand and accept homosexuals for who they are in the eyes of God, says Detroit Bishop Thomas Gumbleton.

"A reason why we've failed in the church to accept Gay and Lesbian people is we have not listened to their experience," the social activist told about 700 people Feb. 13 at the University of Dayton. "We must let them share in the church what their experience of love is as they live out life as a homosexual person."

By demanding that homosexuals deny their sexual orientation, "the church is asking Gay people not to be holy, but to be warped," Gumbleton said.

In 1994, Gumbleton, the assistant bishop in the Archdiocese of Detroit, became the first high-ranking Catholic clergyman to speak out against the Vatican's teaching on homosexuals.

A first step to welcoming homosexuals to the church pews is a pastoral letter — a letter designed to clarify and interpret the church's position on issues for American Catholics — to be published sometime this year, Gumbleton said.

The letter will not address homosexual marriage, Gumbleton said. Rather, it will attempt to answer whether the homosexual act is a sin, stating it is ultimately a matter between God and the conscience of the individual.

Jewish Views On Homosexuality

SEATTLE (AP) — The four main Jewish movements differ significantly in their perspective on homosexuality.

—The nation's 400,000 Orthodox Jews consider homosexual behavior an abomination forbidden by the Torah, the Jewish bible.

—The Conservative movement, followed by about 2 million U.S. Jews, holds that people are entitled to their own sexuality. There are no openly Gay or Lesbian conservative rabbis or cantors.

—Reform Judaism, representing about 1.4 million U.S. Jews, has accepted Gay and Lesbian rabbis since 1990. Last year, its Central Conference of American Rabbis voted to support same-sex civil marriages and to oppose state government efforts to ban such unions. Many reform rabbis perform commitment ceremonies.

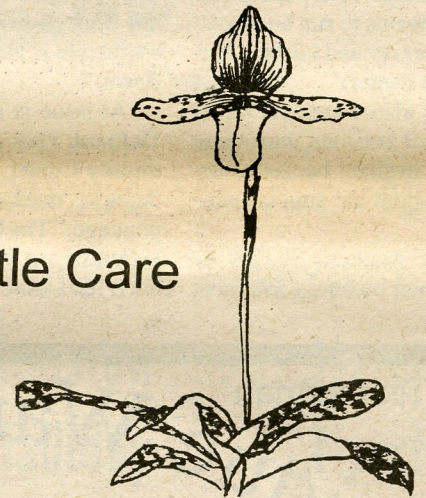
—The most liberal group, known as Reconstructionists, is also one of the smallest at 40,000. Reconstructionists don't consider homosexuality an issue, saying equality — in every aspect — is part of its main philosophy.



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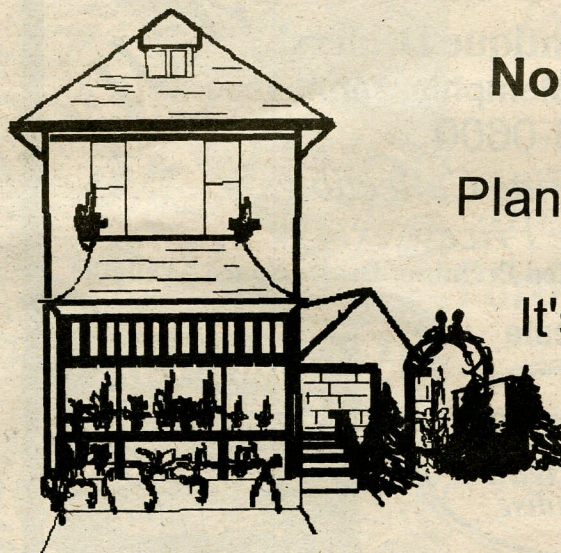
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Lambda Defends Use of Student Fees for Gay Groups

CHICAGO — Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is urging a federal appeals court to reverse an inflammatory ruling that drastically limits the use of a university's mandatory student fees for student groups deemed too "political or ideological," such as Lesbian and Gay campus organizations.

In a friend-of-the-court brief to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Lambda called for rejection of "this latest attempt to silence minority expression on college campuses."

The case concerns a federal trial court ruling that the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW) must refrain from using mandatory student fees to fund groups with "political or ideological" views disagreeable to some students.

On behalf of a Lesbian, Gay, and bisexual student group, Lambda argued that neither courts

nor students should be allowed to infringe on funding that supports a constitutionally protected "limited public forum" for free speech. The forum in this case is the system for subsidizing student-sponsored organizations that engage in First Amendment activity at the university.

UW's system of fostering diverse groups and expression at the school is replicated at the vast majority of public universities across the country, making the case, *Southworth v. Grebe*, significant for students' First Amendment rights nationwide.

Patricia M. Logue and Ruth E. Harlow are Lambda attorneys for this amicus, the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Campus Center, and filed their brief Tuesday. The defendant, UW Regents, is now appealing the decision won by three UW law students. The law students are represented by the Alliance Defense

Fund, a Christian legal advocacy group.

On Nov. 29, 1996, U.S. District Judge John Shabaz ruled that UW students may insist that their mandatory activities fees not fund student groups whose views they do not share. As an example of a group meriting de-funding, Shabaz singled out the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Campus Center, describing its function in politically charged terms by saying it is "primarily concerned with advancing the homosexual agenda and promoting pro-homosexual political activism."

In fact, the Center provides education on Lesbian, Gay and bisexual histories, cultures, health and politics, with support services and social and cultural programs. It advocates for a more pluralistic university environment and better relations among students and student groups.

Noting the judge's choice of words, Logue said, "The term 'homosexual agenda' is a rhetorical device that is often used by Gay civil rights opponents to denigrate claims to equal treatment and respect. It is unfortunate that the judge would characterize the Center's fine work in these terms."

Just prior to issuing this ruling, Judge Shabaz presided over Lambda's trial for Jamie Nabozny, the Wisconsin Gay man who received a nearly \$1 million settlement after a jury found school officials liable for the anti-gay abuse he suffered while a student. Logue, who is managing attorney for Lambda's Midwest Regional Office in Chicago, argued Nabozny's case before the Seventh Circuit Court and represented Nabozny at trial before Judge Shabaz.

Lambda itself joined the Center as an amicus because Lambda

lawyers often are invited to campuses, including UW's, to speak about civil rights for lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV/AIDS.

"Education is about exposure to different points of view. No one is served by silencing provocative speech and minority viewpoints," said Harlow, Lambda's managing attorney at its New York headquarters. She added, "Three students who do not value this aspect of their education should not be allowed to silence other voices and harm the entire university community."

A national organization with regional offices in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York, Lambda plans to open a Southern Regional Office in Atlanta later this year. Lambda is the oldest and largest legal group dedicated to the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV and AIDS.

High School Paper Appeals to Run Ad for Gay and Lesbian Support

GILROY, Calif. (AP) — The editorial staff of Gilroy High School's student newspaper, *The Free Press*, wants to run an advertisement for a Gay and Lesbian student support center.

The staff also wants the backing of school trustees, but some officials are hesitant because they know little about the support center.

"Because someone is Gay or Lesbian is their business. We have

no right to interfere with that," Trustee Kim Merrill said. "But we can't be in the business to promote any lifestyle or imply promotion of a lifestyle if that's what's coming down."

At issue is an ad for the Billy DeFrank Gay and Lesbian Community Center, which invites students to "meet and talk with others your age." The United Way agency provides support groups, social activities and other services to

teen-agers.

The item is expected to come before the board at its next meeting Feb. 25.

Ads for the San Jose center have appeared in the Live Oak High School and Prospect High School newspapers. *The Free Press* published a similar ad last year, but it drew protests from some students, parents and church leaders.

Senior Laura Gonzalez, *Free Press* editor-in-chief, said that's

one reason she and two other senior editors appealed to trustees for support to run the ad.

The editors want the backing of the trustees before they respond to the center's request to print the ad.

"We respect them, and their opinion is important to us," she said. "We want to go through the proper channels. If we have any more trouble with the public like last time, we want to be able to have them back us up so we can explain why it's important to do this."

Basil Huffman, Gilroy High's interim principal, said he supports the process the student editors are taking to win approval for the ad,

but stopped short of giving permission to run the ad.

Trustee Jane Howard said it is up to families to deal with such issues, but she vowed to look into the center.

"Right now, I'm not real fond of the idea, although I want to do my homework on this," she said.

Trustee Richard Rodriguez said he supports running the ad.

"It's something that can be helpful. I know there are a lot of teens who find themselves unsure of their sexuality and because they are unable to find help or talk to people about it, they end up committing suicide," he said. "If running the ad can save one life, it's worth it."

Larry Timmerman Bill Johns

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Cookeville Gets First AIDS Clinic

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The upper Cumberland is getting its first clinic to treat people with the HIV virus and AIDS.

The Comprehensive Care Center of Nashville opened a satellite clinic in Cookeville Feb. 27.

Until then, the nearest such clinic was in Nashville, 70 miles away.

There are approximately 200 people in the upper Cumberland with the virus or with AIDS.

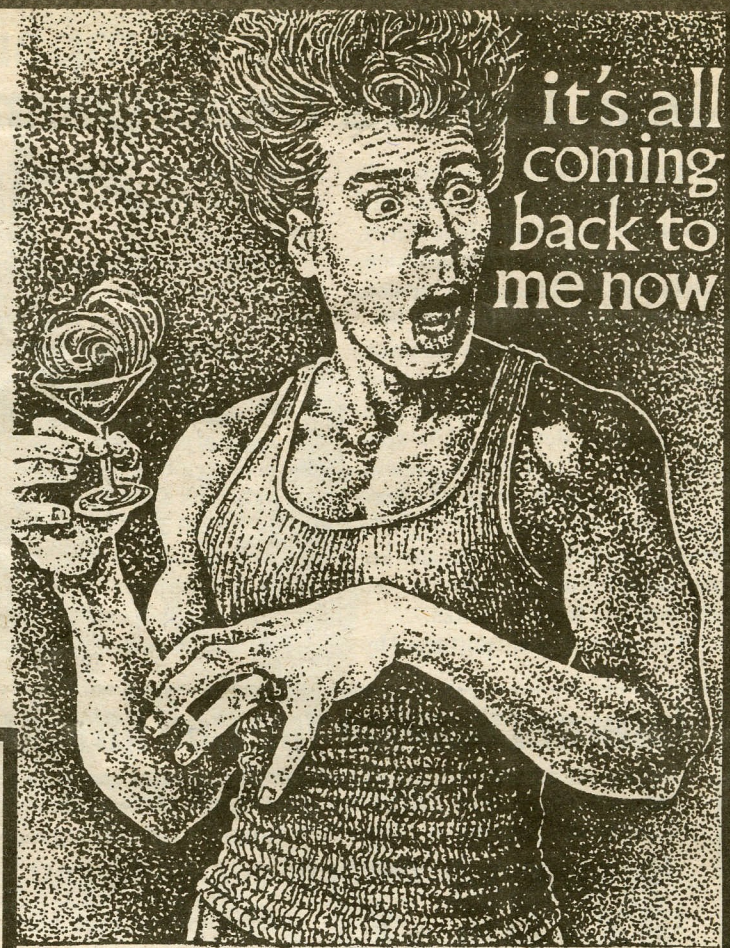
The Cookeville clinic is one of several to be established across Tennessee by the privately-owned Comprehensive Care Center in conjunction with the State Department of Health.

The location of the clinic was kept private to protect the identity of the patients.



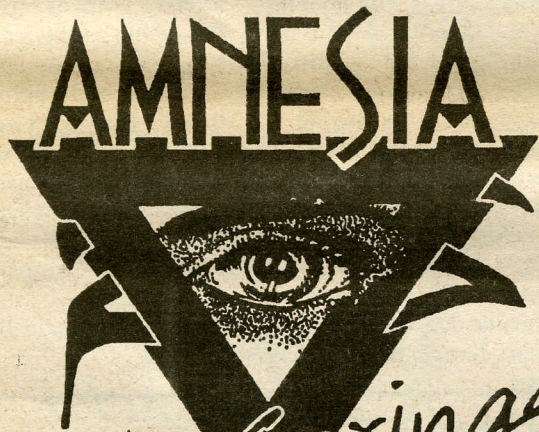
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Emerald Theatre Company Presents Jean Genet's *DeathWatch*

Emerald Theatre Company is proud to present the first drama of the classic playwright, Jean Genet, to ever be produced. *Deathwatch*, written in 1949 takes it's viewers into the dark world of prison life.

The three characters Maurice, LeFrance, and Green Eyes must deal with their punishment, fate, and personal demons while confined to their 12 x 12 cement home.

With very little time away from each other the characters begin to realize just how their cellmates are the cause for many of their mixed feelings and hidden desires.

The characters are portrayed by

Mark Mayhill, Ian Watermeier and Stuart Edwards. Den-Nickolas Smith directs.

Deathwatch plays March 13- 16 and 20-23 at TheatreWorks, 2085 Monroe Ave. Curtain is at 8 pm. Tickets are \$8. Call 722-9302 for more information.

1997-1998 season tickets are also on sale. The new season begins in September. The cost of season tickets is \$30. This includes tickets for all five shows. Order now and save more than 15 percent. All orders placed before April 2 will receive two extra tickets.

The season includes two new

works by the company's founder, Den Nickolas-Smith, one new drama by Hal Harmon and works by Harvey Fierstein (pending rights).

Survival, written by Den Nickolas-Smith— September 1997. Come see how two drag queens, one street hustler and one corporate-America man survive in a world of bad hair days, kinky sex fantasies, cockroaches and a secret bet that promises a big payoff. Written by Den Nickolas Smith

Romeo, Romeo, written by Den Nickolas Smith — November 1997. This psychological thriller takes the viewers into the lives of Dec and Cain, two men trying to come to terms with their secret lives and finding love during a serial killer's death spree. The audience will have a complex journey to travel trying to figure out who the Romeo, Romeo killer is. The ending promises to be a big surprise.

Black and White Are Neutrals, written by Hal Harmon — March 1998. A bittersweet look at the lives of a Gay interracial couple. This powerful drama focuses on the harsh reality of racial fate, drug usage, and the loss of a commitment due to the realities of self-acceptance.

Safe Sex — September 1998. Award-winning playwright, Harvey Fierstein's trilogy of shows dealing with the impact of the AIDS epidemic and a devastation of its effects on the heart and soul (pending release of rights).

Auditions Set for Next Emerald Theatre Production

Emerald Theatre Company is holding open auditions for its May production.

Divided by Zero is the third part of a trilogy dealing with the lives of five men who have seen the best and lived the worst when dealing with matters of the heart and the darkness of the mind.

Auditions are Mon., Mar. 3 from 7:30-9 pm. TheatreWorks, 2085 Monroe Ave. For more information, call 722-9302.

Needed: Five men, ages 23-40, for lead and supporting roles. Race and type are open. Auditions consist of cold readings from the script.

Show dates are May 8-11 and 15-18

Gay Marine Gets Honorable Discharge as Part of Lawsuit Settlement

By Kim Gamel
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A Marine who announced he was Gay on national television the same day President Clinton announced his "don't ask, don't tell" policy was given an honorable discharge and retirement benefits to settle his lawsuit over the rule.

"I think what we've proved is that a Marine who happens to be Gay can serve just as well as a Marine who's straight with no detriment to morale or lack of mission operation," said Sgt. Justin C. Elzie, a medical supply clerk at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville.

Elzie, who received his walking papers Feb. 20, said he got a \$30,000 check as part of his retirement benefits.

Elzie, 34, had already been accepted into an early retirement program when he declared on ABC's *World News Tonight* that he is Gay.

His announcement came on Jan. 29, 1993, the same day that President Clinton agreed to the policy on Gays in the military.

That February, the Marine Corps placed Elzie on standby reserve and tried to deny him early retirement and discharge him without benefits. He sued the military in September 1993, and a month later, a federal judge ordered him placed back on active duty.

Elzie's lawyer, Christopher Sipes, said the honorable discharge after 15 years of service is part of last month's settlement of the lawsuit.

"Everybody here is satisfied that the matter has been settled in a mutually agreeable manner that would avoid any further delay, expense or inconvenience for any of the parties involved," said 1st Lt. Charles E. Campfield, a base spokesman.

Campfield said the case was isolated.

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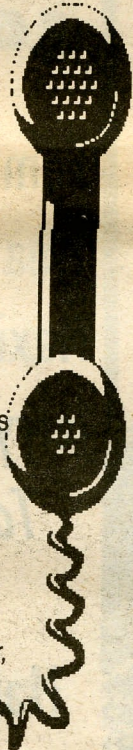
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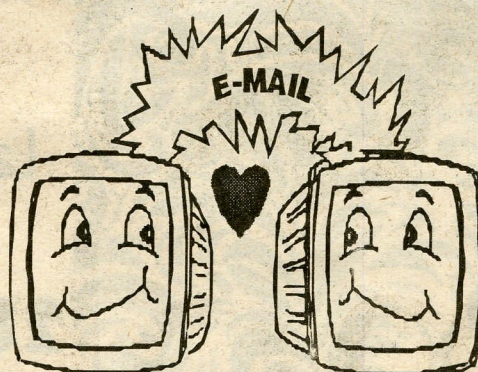
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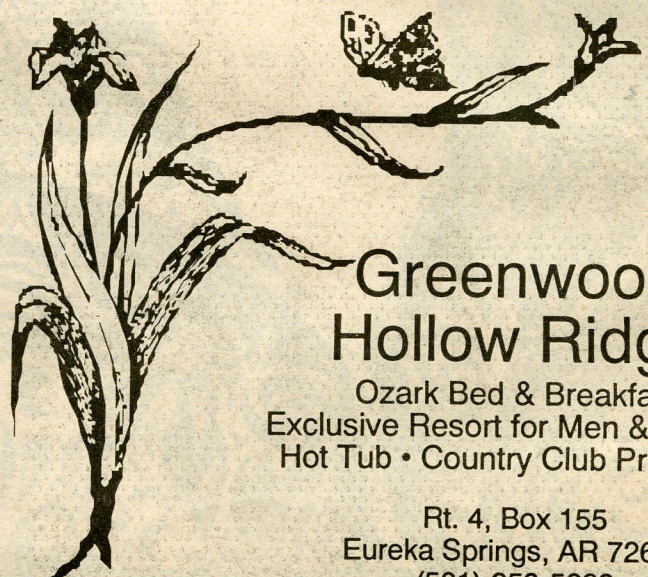
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Twinkie Museum Video Festival

MGLCC Event To Run Four Days

On Thursday through Sunday, March 27-30, the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center and the University of Memphis' BGALA will present Twinkie Museum, the first annual queer experimental video festival. The event is free to the public, and will be held at the Psychology auditorium on the University of Memphis campus, where the school's Aperture film series takes place.

Twinkie Museum takes its name from the infamous "twinkie defense" which cleared Harvey Milk's assassin, Dan White, of manslaughter. White's lawyers argued that their client was tem-

porarily insane from having consumed too much junk food. Ever since, twinkies have been thrown at various queer events, most especially Pride parades, to symbolize the ludicrous justifications of oppression against homosexuals. Minorities who face such bizarre contradictions passed as law each day develop a heightened sense of irony — some say camp. Twinkie Museum celebrates that theory and its practice, bringing stories from a diverse collection of queer voices and lives, in their own words and images. Once, doctors and politicians

told us who we were. Increasingly, we tell them, and each other.

Following is the schedule:

Thursday, Mar. 27, 8:30 p.m.: Kick-off reception at Amnesia.

Join the reception in Amnesia's Red Room for special guest Linda Simpson, *Out* magazine columnist and creator of the infamous Manhattan club Channel 69. At 9 p.m. a documentary on the club and the people who participated will be shown.

Friday, 8 p.m.: First showing of *Twinkie Museum* with roughly three hours of video

works. Come and go as you please. U of M Psychology auditorium.

Saturday, Noon: A marathon retrospective of Channel 69 footage, with underground superstars like RuPaul, the "Lady" Bunny, Mistress Formika and more. The shows were taped and aired on Manhattan Cable TV. The retro will run all day. You are welcome to come and go as you please. Some of the shows included will be *Lesbian East Village Jungle Fever*, *Sex Clown*, and *Facility Girl*. Very tongue-in-cheek. Incredible commentaries on the Bush and

Reagan years.

Saturday, 8 p.m.: Second showing of *Twinkie Museum*.

Easter Sunday, 8 p.m.: Last showing. Bring your Easter basket!

The festival is sponsored by Botanica Florists, the dental practice of Dr. William Castle, Avalawn Lawn Care, the Pipeline and other generous, anonymous supporters.

A listing of the videos included in the festival can be picked up at your favorite Midtown business. Call the Switchboard with your questions, 324-4297.

Family Album: China 2001



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Tests Confirm Three-Drug Combo Effective Against AIDS

By Paul Recer
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Deaths and infections were reduced by half among AIDS patients taking a three-drug combination that includes a new protease inhibitor drug, researchers say.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases an-

nounced Monday that a national test of drug combinations found that AIDS patients taking zidovudine, lamivudine and indinavir had half the cancers, infections and deaths of patients who were taking a two-drug combination.

Dr. Scott Hammer of Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital at Harvard Medical School in Boston, national coordinator of the study, said all

patients in the study are now being given the opportunity to switch to the three-drug combination or to other experimental regimens.

Hammer said that by last Friday letters had gone out to all of the centers and patients in the drug trials, notifying them of the findings and offering patients the chance to select a new drug combination.

He emphasized, however, that

no patients should change their medication routine until they have consulted with their doctors.

Zidovudine is also known as AZT and lamivudine is known as

3TC. They are in a class of drugs known as reverse transcriptase inhibitors. The third drug, indinavir, is one of a new class of compounds

See **Combo** on page 23

Music Reviews for the Gay Community

by Daniel Jenkins

There is plenty of great music out there lately that's geared to the Gay and Lesbian community. Here's some of the more interesting songs and albums making waves:

Rapture - Erasure (Elektra)

Erasure is back with their new single "In My Arms," but skip the main song and check out track three on single #2, a remake of the #1 early 80s hit by Blondie. Andy Bell does a decent job on the actual singing part and Vince Clarke takes a heavily British turn at the mike on the "Man from Mars" rap. What a nice twist! This is a fun synth effort... just what you'd expect from the boys. I think Ms. Harry would approve. Four out of five stars.

"When I Touch You I Know" by Jallen Rix (from the album *The Sacred And The Queer* on Triam Music label.)

Jallen Rix's popular album garnered much attention upon release last year due to its themes of spirituality intermingled with sexuality. Rix has made a video for the track "When I Touch You I Know" which is available at queer music and bookstores such as A Different Light in San Francisco. The song is a romantic ballad that may be a little light for some (Rix's songs tend to sound a lot like

Christian contemporary music, despite the openly Gay lyrics.) but quickly grows on you if you're willing to let it. His album is a must for any "traditional" Gay music collector, and has enough appeal to win over others.

"Bill" - Peggy Scott-Adams (from the album *Help Yourself* on Miss Butch Records)


Peggy Scott-Adams was one half of a popular soul duo of the late 1960s. She teamed up with Jo Jo Benson to score two top 10 R&B hits: "Lover's Holiday" and "Pickin' Wild Mountain Berries." Their album *Soulshake* peaked at #196 on the Billboard Top 200 albums chart in March 1969. Scott-Adams has hit new heights of success with her #1 blues album *Help Yourself*, largely thanks to this popular radio track. The song "Bill" owes a great deal to one of the storylines in the popular motion picture *Waiting To Exhale* about an urban black woman trying to raise her child without the help of her husband who left her because he was Gay. "Bill" is a similar story that deals with the coming out process from the perspective of the heterosexual wife. Scott-Adams croons in the popular Whitney Houston-esque style of today's R&B ballads with a non-judgmental telling of the story. (The song is pure fiction... Scott-Adams is happily married.) This

is a song where all the pieces come together perfectly and just at the right time.

Howard Crabtree's *When Pigs Fly* - Original Cast Recording (RCA Victor)

This recording from the popular Gay play *When Pigs Fly* is chock full of some of the most timely queer comedy you're likely to find these days. The torch song to "Newt" is particularly uproarious due to the recent scandals involving the house speaker. But there's much more here than silly make-believe love songs to famous homophobes. (Yes, there are also torch songs to "Storm" and "Rush.") You'll feel heartstrings tug listening to Michael West singing the "Hawaiian Wedding Song" and you'll definitely feel the pride when John Treacy Egan and Company sing the "Patriotic Finale": "You can't take the sissy out of Mississippi... He's there and he's going to stay... In the land of the free, diversity's the key... you need us to make the USA!" If comedy's your thing, this album is a treasure! Strongly recommended.

(OUTVOICE!! is a weekly e-mail newsletter dedicated to promoting music geared to the Gay, Lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight-but-not-narrow communities. For a free subscription e-mail avoice@queertory.com)



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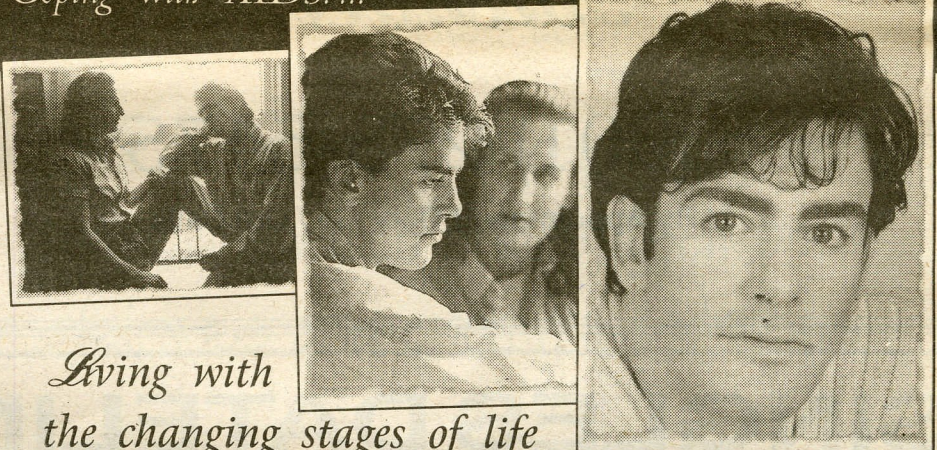
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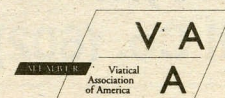

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Howard Crabtree Thumbed Nose at Counselor with *When Pigs Fly*

By Mary Campbell
AP Newsfeatures Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Howard Crabtree confided to his school guidance counselor in Excelsior Springs, Mo., that one day he wanted to put on stage shows, he was told that would happen "when pigs fly."

But it did happen. And the last show Crabtree put together, before he died of AIDS last July at age 41, he titled *When Pigs Fly*.

The show opened in August at the off-Broadway Douglas Fairbanks Theater and RCA Victor released the original cast album in January.

"People who go into show business, I think, have no choice," says Mark Waldrop, who wrote

the lyrics and directed *When Pigs Fly*. "They're called to it, like the church."

The show is a five-man revue, with funny sketches, witty songs and elaborate, over-the-top costumes. In one song, "Wear Your Vanity with Pride," the men are sitting at dressing tables. When they stand up, the tables become bustles and skirts drop from them to create 18th-century pannier dresses.

"Howard had the idea for the 'Vanity' number for years," Waldrop says. "What I had to do was think of a reason why that would ever happen and come up with a song."

The *New York Post* review called the show "a good old-fashioned revue given a newfangled

Gay twist" and said that while much Gay theater targets a Gay audience, "this show is totally inclusive and user-friendly for straights."

Waldrop thinks a large segment of the mainstream theater audience is willing to attend shows with Gay themes, such as *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Angels in America*.

But, when Gay humor "veers into the mean-spirited, you come away with a bad taste in your mouth," Waldrop says. "Anyway, I do. I don't like that."

"Howard was a genuinely sweet-natured, joyful person. He wanted to create fun. He wasn't a heavy message person. His only agenda was to create something that was very positive and

celebratory."

Waldrop did have an agenda for one song, "A Patriotic Finale," that ends Act 1. "I wanted to write a very genuine patriotic Gay anthem," he says. "It says if you love America that doesn't mean you can't love Gay people and it doesn't mean Gay people don't love America. The point is we're part of America. It's not funny; it's sincere."

Crabtree, who had a reputation as a mad-genius costume designer, made the costumes and wigs. He had studied books of Disney cartoons and called his flamboyant work "Disney on drugs."

Looking at one of the tall wigs for "Wear Your Vanity with Pride," Waldrop says, "Howard built these wigs with his own hands. If we get to the point of doing touring companies, we may find out how hard they are to duplicate."

Crabtree started his career as a dancer, with the Toronto Ballet. Then he became a dresser for Broadway shows. At *La Cage aux Folles*, he and Drew Geraci entered a cast beauty contest as Siamese girl twins, each with one braid sticking out from his head. They turned it into a cabaret act which Waldrop, also in *La Cage*, directed.

Then Crabtree, Waldrop and composer Dick Gallagher created *Whatnot*, which ran off-Broadway in 1990, and *Howard Crabtree's Whoop-Dee-Doo*, a Ziegfeld Follies spoof, which became a hit off-Broadway in 1993.

Whoop-Dee-Doo ran nine months and there have been other productions. "When it closed in 1994," Waldrop says, "Howard came to me and said, 'Let's do another one right away.' It translated into two years. I was doing a lot of industrial shows and singing on the

QE2."

About working with Crabtree, Waldrop says, "When our collaboration was really working we would plunge in and start kicking around ideas. By the time we were done, some kind of theme would rise to the top like cream. Usually it was a theme about having the guts to be yourself, unapologetic and celebratory."

When Pigs Fly, Waldrop says, "has a thread of a plot, about Howard (played by Michael West), trying to put on a show."

At the end, four cast members come out with artifacts connected with the professions of plumber, garden-supply salesman, chicken farmer and watch repairman hanging all over them.

"Howard was told watch repair would be a good field for him," Waldrop says. Becoming a plumber, garden-supply salesman or chicken farmer, which the show says were the guidance counselor's suggestions, were created for the show.

Waldrop, 42, grew up in Silver Spring, Md., and graduated, in musical theater, from the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. "My first exposure to theater, a school play, activated something in my brain," he says. "I immediately started corralling neighborhood children to put on a show in the basement."

He has two upcoming projects, one as a director, one as a lyricist. Last fall he sang songs of Mary Rodgers with Faith Prince and Jason Workman at New York City's Rainbow and Stars.

"I love to perform, but I'm not out there auditioning these days," Waldrop says. "I find when I'm writing or directing, I get to perform all the parts to create the piece."

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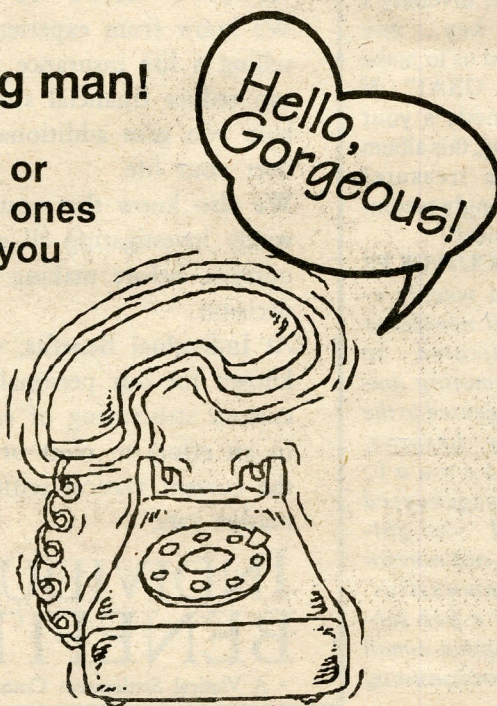
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Southern Country Throwdown Set for Mar. 14-16

Southern Country/Memphis will host the 6th annual River City Throwdown the weekend of March 14th-16th at the Holiday Inn Midtown in Memphis.

Beginning Friday evening with a cocktail party and dance, there'll be boot scootin' and partyin' all weekend as an estimated 200 cowboys and cowgirls from Atlanta to Louisville to Kansas City converge on the River City.

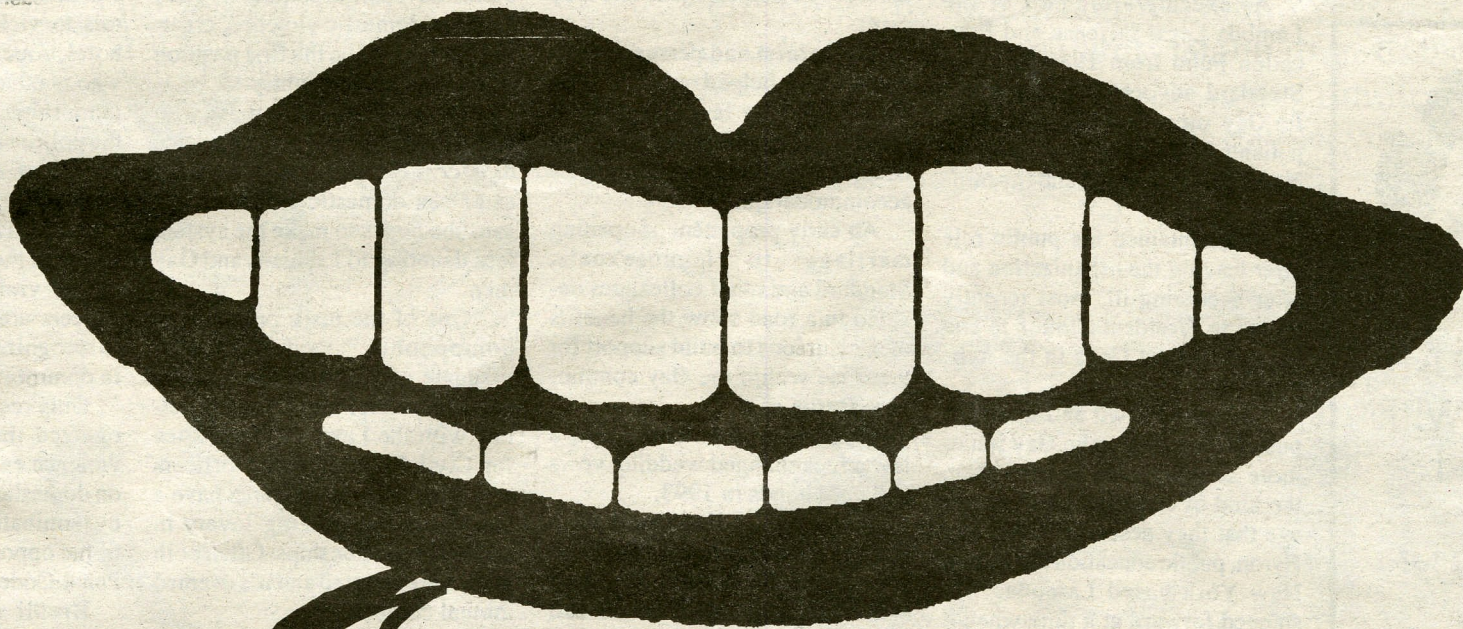
Highlight of the weekend will be the St. Patty's Throwdown Ball on Saturday night when all are asked to *creatively* wear something green.

Last year's Throwdown was the talk of the Southern Country circuit, and the club plans to outdo itself at this year's shindig. For more information call the club at 452 6019 or Email at TUGGER3540@AOL.COM

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Thomas Stoddard, Advocate for Gay Rights, Dies

NEW YORK (AP) — Thomas Stoddard, a lawyer who fought discrimination against homosexuals and people with AIDS, has died.

He was 48.

Stoddard died Feb. 12 of AIDS, according to his companion, Walter Rieman.

As executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund from 1986 to 1992, Stoddard advocated equal rights for Gay men, Lesbians and AIDS patients in employment, housing, health care, marriage and the military.

He maintained his public role after leaving the organization and after becoming ill, most recently lobbying President Clinton to end the ban against Gays in the military.

"He used his wit and smarts to push the media to take Gay issues more seriously and to give them the kind of common sense coverage that they deserved," said Peg Byron, public education director of New York-based Lambda. "He stepped forward at a time when it was rare to be so outspoken."

An adjunct professor of law at New York University, Stoddard was one of the first professors to teach a course on how laws affect the lives of homosexuals and Gay men.

The earnest and persuasive advocate also helped write a 1986 New York City law that protects Gays against discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodation.

An early proponent of opening marriage to homosexuals, Stoddard and other colleagues debated in a road show the benefits of such unions to build support for the issue within the Gay community, Byron said.

Stoddard and Rieman, also a lawyer, exchanged wedding vows and gold bands in 1993.

After being diagnosed with Kaposi's sarcoma, an AIDS-related cancer, in 1989, Stoddard said he "became the client as well as the lawyer" and gradually ended his public silence about his illness.

Stoddard wove his illness into his activism, attending U.S. and international conferences on AIDS and joining the board of the American Foundation for AIDS research.

Stoddard was born in Seattle and grew up in the Chicago suburb of Glenview, Ill. He attended Georgetown University and the New York University School of Law.

He is survived by Rieman; his mother, Meta, of Conroe, Tex.; a sister, Linda Leonard of Henderson Harbor, N.Y., and a brother, John, of Seattle.

SF Hires Advocate for Victims of Same-Sex Violence

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco has hired a full-time victim advocate to combat Gay and Lesbian domestic violence, creating what could be the first position of its kind in the country.

Crystal Weston will work with victims and help educate police and community groups about same-sex domestic violence. She said she hopes to make the system less daunting to Lesbians and Gay men.

"One of the main problems is homophobia," said Weston, a graduate of Northeastern University law school and a former fellow with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights. "Police officers and other authority figures have a hard time recognizing lovers in same-sex relationships. Often both parties are arrested and it's deemed mutual combat."

Besides being wary of police, many victims don't report domestic violence because they're afraid of their partners, don't want to be identified as Gay or fear they'll lose custody of children, Weston said.

Gay community activists in six cities compiled a survey last year that found 1,566 incidents of Gay and Lesbian domestic violence.

Community United Against Violence, a San Francisco agency, logged 347 reports of such domestic violence in 1995 from victims who phoned the group's hot line. That was more than the 324 reported incidents of anti-Gay harassment and violence.

Community leaders praised the city for hiring Weston.

"The DA's office has come a long way in a short time; the prob-

lem is often with responding police," said Greg Merrill of CUAV, which offers counseling and referrals to victims and has started a hotel voucher program for men who need to escape dangerous relationships. "More often than not the police arrest no one, arrest both people or they arrest the wrong person."

Susan Breall, managing attorney with the district attorney's domestic violence unit, said police officers are now routinely taught to recognize the primary aggressor in domestic violence cases.

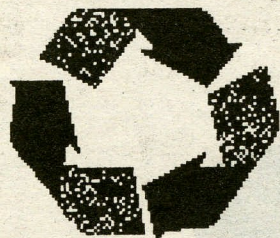
Only recently has state law recognized that same-sex domestic violence exists. In 1994, state law on domestic violence was changed by eliminating the phrase "persons of the opposite sex" from the state Penal Code.

Breall estimated her office handled about 15 same-sex domestic violence cases last year. Most were misdemeanors.

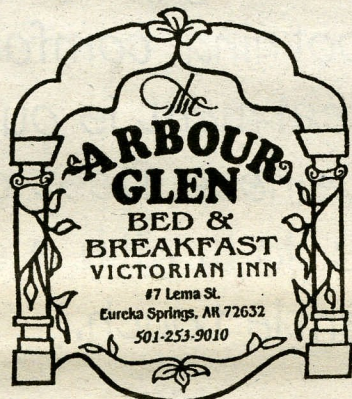
By far, most same-sex cases in the courts involve men, Weston said. However, she added, "Women are more reluctant to come forward. They're taught to accept their plight."

That included Christy Chung, who works with the Asian Women's Shelter. She helped found the Queer Asian Women's Services Project after surviving an abusive relationship.

"It didn't even occur to me to get a restraining order," she said. "It took me another year or so to even name it as domestic violence. I didn't think that's what I could call it because we were two women."



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Gay Airman Believes Ouster Violates Ask/Tell Policy

HONOLULU (AP) — A former technical sergeant says his discharge from the Air Force is a violation of the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy toward homosexuals.

Daryl Gandy, a 16-year veteran, said he did not "tell," but the Air Force "asked."

He said he believes he was a victim of a "witch hunt." Gandy disagrees with an Air Force inspector general's report that concluded that Col. Bruce Brown, commander of the 15th Air Base Wing at Hickam Air Force Base, used proper procedures to investigate allegations of homosexuality at the base last year.

Gandy was one of five Air Force members who were named by another airman as people he had sex with.

Gandy and three other airmen were honorably discharged last year. An officer who also was named faces a March 5 court martial on charges of conduct unbecoming an officer, fraternization and sodomy.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 8 P.M.

Kick-off reception in Amnesia's Red Room, with special guest Linda Simpson, OUT magazine columnist. At 9 p.m. catch a documentary of Linda's early nineties Manhattan club, Channel 69.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 8 P.M.

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University of Memphis (all subsequent viewings here)
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SATURDAY, MARCH 29, NOON

A Channel 69 retrospective. See fantastic shows from the NY club that spawned talents like Rupaul and Wigstock's The "Lady" Bunny. These shows were taped by filmmaker William Comstock and aired late nights on naughty Manhattan Cable TV. We've picked some of the best, the funniest, the most bizarre. Come and go all day as you please. Our guess is you'll want to stick around.



(above: Linda Simpson)

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 9 P.M.

For those who missed Friday night, here's a chance to view the main shows again.

EASTER SUNDAY, 8 P.M.

Bring your basket to the last showing of Twinkie Museum.

WORKS INCLUDED (Channel 69 retro not included here):

"Bashing", an examination of violence against queers; "Be My Valentine", gay men discussing what they look for in love; "Inversion", lesbian sex and classic male psychobabble; "Live to Tell: The First Gay and Lesbian Prom"; "Look Harder", Rock Hudson's infamous "dynasty" kiss; "Love Makes a Family", alternative moms and pops; "Male Escorts of San Francisco", interviews with several male prostitutes about their lives; "Mike's Film", two different Mikes talk about their queer childhoods; "Mister Sisters", lesbians mistaken for men; "Mrs. Mouth", simply cannot be described, hilarious; "Our Mom's a Dyke", three sisters discuss their mom's sexual transitions; "Out in Africa", gay men on that continent; "Pet Names", dyke couples reveal their nicknames; "Strait", a lesbian couple in a quiet face off with a straight couple; "Vacation/Peter/Dressing", a Minneapolis gal takes a vacation without leaving her couch, falls in love with a "Bear", then rolls around on the floor talking about dress codes. For more info please call the Switchboard, 324-gays.



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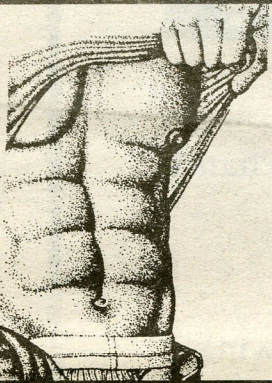
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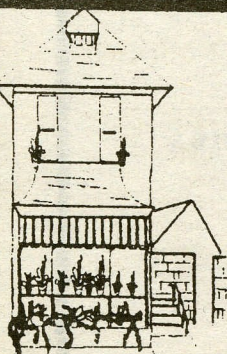
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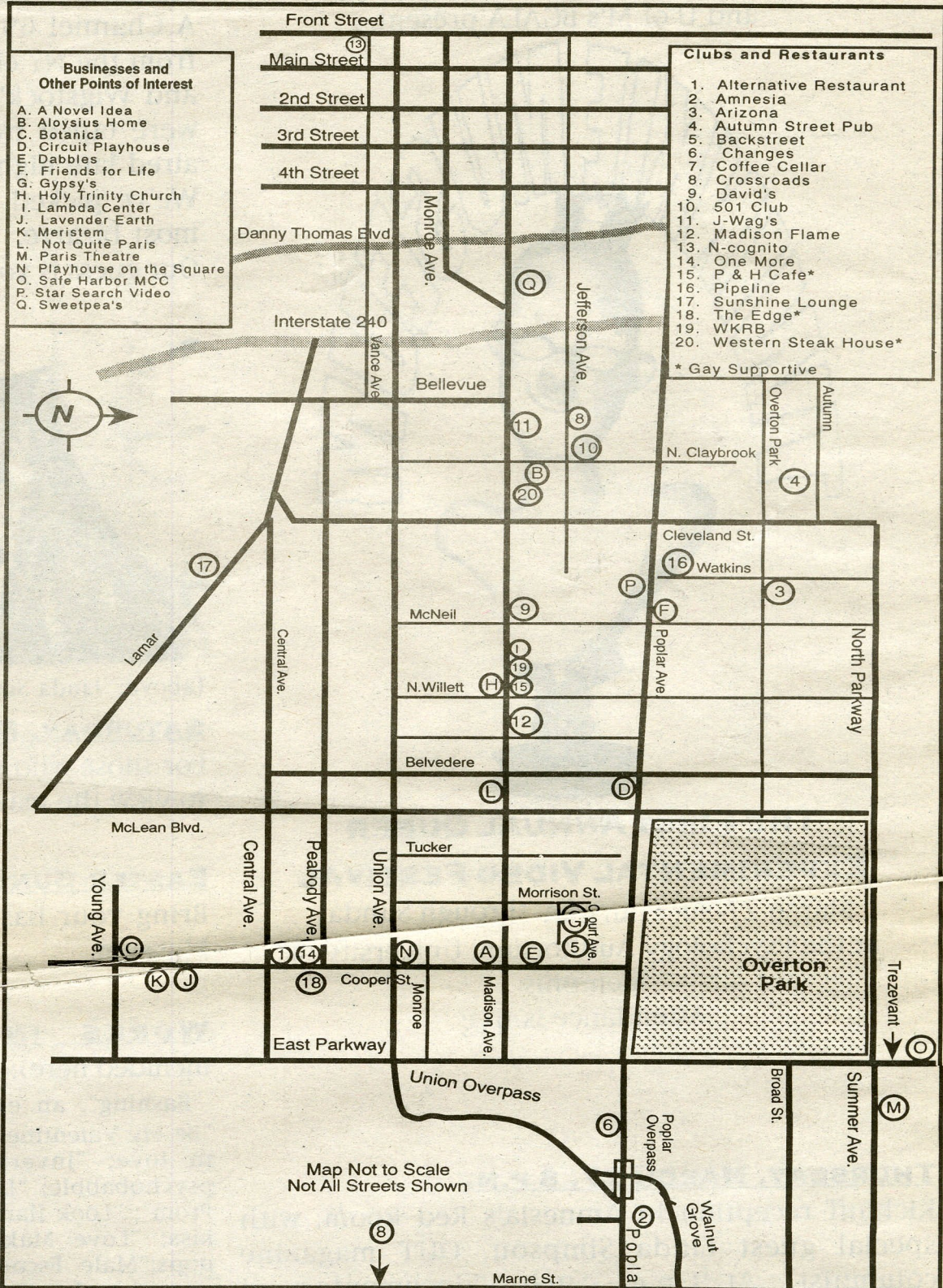
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 - 11. J-Wag's
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TJN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH Women's History Month 2 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am, 7 pm • Living Word Christian Church, Services, 10 am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, ; Worship Service 11 am, 7pm • WAC Meeting, 7pm, call 272-3638	3 • Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm, <i>Old Hash</i> Reunion • Auditions, Emerald TheatreWorks, 7:30 p.m.	4 • BCSA Volleyball, Glenwood Community Center, 6:30-9:30pm • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, WKRB, 8pm	5 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm • Tsarus Man of the Year Banquet, WKRB, 7:30pm	6 • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Booksigning, University Center, U of M, 6pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	7 • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • Mississippi NOW Conference, Oxford	8 International Women's Day • Mississippi NOW Conference, Oxford (Through Sunday)
9 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am, 7 pm • Living Word Christian Church, Services, 10 am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Worship Service 11am, 7pm • Booksigning (See Meristem Ad pg 15)	10 • Memphis Pride Meeting, 7 p.m. Holy Trinity Church	11 • BCSA Volleyball, Glenwood Community Center, 6:30-9:30pm • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, WKRB, 8pm	12 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	13 • 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 • <i>DeathWatch</i> , TheatreWorks, 8pm	14 • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • Southern Country 6th annual Throwdown • S.P.I.T. Bowling Tournament • <i>DeathWatch</i> , TheatreWorks, 8pm	15 Deadline for April '97 TJN • Southern Country 6th annual Throwdown (through Sunday) • S.P.I.T. Bowling Tournament (through Sunday) • <i>DeathWatch</i> , TheatreWorks, 8pm (through Sunday) • Maxi Houston, Amnesia
16 • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am, 7 pm • Living Word Christian Church, Services, 10 am & 6 pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Worship Service 11am, 7 pm • WAC Meeting, 7pm, call 272-3638	St. Patrick's Day 17 • Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm	18 • Integrity Eucharist & Healing Svc., 6pm; Dinner/Mtg., 6:45pm, Calvary Episcopal • BCSA Volleyball, Glenwood Community Center, 6:30-9:30pm • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	19 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	20 First Day of Spring (Vernal Equinox) • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	21 • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm	22 • Tsarus Club Night, Crossroads
Palm Sunday 23 • Church Services, see above • Women of Achievement Awards Dinner • Old School Reunion, One More • 2nd Anniversary party Crossroads	24 • Memphis Pride Meeting, 7 p.m. Holy Trinity Church	25 • Integrity Board Mtg., 6:30pm • BCSA Volleyball, Glenwood Community Center, 6:30-9:30pm • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	26 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	27 • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • National NOW Conference Planning Meeting, 7p.m. • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm • Jerry Halliday, Twinkie Museum, Amnesia	28 Good Friday April '97 TJN Due Out • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • Church Services, see ads • Twinkie Museum, U of M • Laura Pickett, WKRB • Glo-Stick Party, Backstreet	29 • Twinkie Museum, U of M (through Sunday)
Easter Sunday 30 • HTCC Sunday School, 10 am; Service, 11am, 7 pm • Living Word Christian Church, Services, 10 am & 6 pm • Safe Harbor MCC, Worship Service 11am, 7 pm • WAC Meeting, 7pm, call 272-3638	31	APRIL April Fool's Day 1 • BCSA Volleyball, Glenwood Community Center, 6:30-9:30pm • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	2 • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	3 • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm • Ladies Night Out, Amnesia	4 • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm	5



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AmFAR Pulls National Ad Campaign After Complaints

By Linda Leavell
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — An AIDS charity yanked a nationwide ad campaign after receiving complaints that messages such as "Prayer won't cure AIDS. Research will" insulted people who believe in the power of prayer.

The American Foundation for AIDS Research said objections to the campaign focused on two of three ads that ran on public buses: "Prayer won't cure AIDS. Research will" and "Sexual abstinence won't cure AIDS. Research will."

Transit agencies in both Dallas and Fort Worth already had heard objections and canceled the ads last month.

"AmFAR seeks to educate, not offend the public," said Dr.

Mathilde Krim, chairwoman of the board of directors of New York-based AmFAR, a pet charity of actress Elizabeth Taylor.

"Since the complaints over two of the ads distract from our crucial message — that only medical research can generate true solutions to AIDS — we have agreed to discontinue the campaign," she said Wednesday.

The AmFAR campaign, launched Feb. 1, was due to run through the spring.

The other ad in the campaign read: "Red ribbons won't cure AIDS. Research will."

KCBI-FM news director L.B. Lyon said a caller to the Dallas Christian radio station complained about the ads, and he followed with a news story.

That generated more protests,

he said.

Christian leaders in the Dallas-Fort Worth area stressed Feb. 19 that they didn't disapprove of research to find a cure for AIDS. They just felt that prayer and sexual abstinence shouldn't be slighted.

"That's just a swipe in the face of praying people," said David Miller, executive director of the Tarrant County chapter of the American Family Association. "It's almost as if ... they were trying to offend people. It's certainly catching people's attention. And anybody that believes in prayer is going to be offended."

The vast majority of AIDS victims are infected because of "immoral or illegal behavior," Miller said.

"Research is not going to stop the AIDS epidemic. It's

changes in behavior," he said. "That's the ad that needs to go on the side of a bus."

Misleading children into believing that abstinence or prayer won't make a difference is "irresponsible," added John J. Dwyer, editor and co-publisher of The Dallas/Fort Worth Heritage, a monthly Christian newspaper.

The in-house marketers for Kenneth Cole Productions, a shoe manufacturer, created the ad campaign. Kenneth Cole is director and chairman of the communications and marketing committee of AmFAR.

Cole, who said the first complaints were from Texans, said the ads were not meant to demean prayer, but to battle indifference to the deadly disease. He hoped the controversy would have the residual effect

of promoting the message, even though the ads are gone.

"Right now people have become dangerously complacent," he said. "We've basically all become so desensitized over time. We need to startle people, to grab their attention."

Thomas Bruner, executive director of Tarrant County's AIDS Outreach Center, said North Texas is known to be conservative, particularly when sexuality and religion are involved.

But he didn't object to pulling the ads if they offended. He just doesn't want the research message to be obscured.

"There is no substitute for this country's political will to fund basic biomedical research to find a cure for AIDS," Bruner said. "Not laughter, not hope, not compassion, not prayer, not

Legislators Demand ACLU Director Apologize over Threat to Out Them

By Jeremiah Gardner Associated
Press Writer

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — State legislators are outraged at a threat by an American Civil Liberties Union director to name lawmakers he believes are Gay if they approve a bill defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

"This group needs to be aware that we know who most of them are, and we will not hesitate to expose their rank hypocrisy if they vote to pass this law. That's not a threat. It's a promise," Keith Elston wrote in *High Plains Reader*, a weekly arts and entertainment guide published in Grand Forks.

The guest essay by Elston, executive director of the ACLU of the Dakotas, appears in the *Reader's* Feb. 13 issue.

"If he wants to make these

kind of accusations against any members, he had better be accurate," said state Senate Majority Leader Gary Nelson, a Republican. "I encourage any of my members that he slanders to sue."

Elston owes an apology to the Senate, added Republican Sen. Wayne Stenehjem.

But Elston refused and stood by his remarks.

"If anyone needs to apologize, it needs to be the Legislature to the people of North Dakota," Elston said. "They don't consider Gay people of the same caliber as non-Gay people."

The national ACLU organization is "behind me 100 percent," Elston said. Messages left at the group's New York headquarters were not returned.

The bill, passed by a Senate

committee this month, hasn't reached the floor for a vote. Elston said state law already defines marriage as a union between a male and a female, so the bill is unnecessary.

"It would sure be a shame if that kind of lobbying ever started to work," said Sen. Randy Christmann, a Republican who sponsored the bill.

Christmann said he had scanned Elston's column but had not taken it seriously. "Coming from the ACLU, I guess I wasn't surprised. It really didn't bother me," he said.

Last year, after voting against federal recognition of same-sex marriages, U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe reluctantly acknowledged he is Gay. Kolbe, R-Ariz., said that a planned story in a national Gay magazine led him to make the announcement.

Irish Gays Offer 'Olive Branch' But Expect Protest in Annual Parade

NEW YORK (AP) — The Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization has called for a harmonious St. Patrick's Day celebration this year but said a protest was likely.

"Let us focus not on our differences but focus on what we have in common: our heritage," the group said in a statement. "Let us make 1997 the year that Irish Gays and Lesbians march up Fifth Avenue without facing the humiliation of arrest and handcuffs."

However, ILGO officials acknowledged that a protest was likely, as in past years. Even the organization's telephone answering machine announced: "On Monday March 17, we will once again be protesting our exclusion from the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. We're asking you to save the day, keep it free and mark us on your calendar."

In the 1996 parade, 38 members of the group were arrested for protesting their exclusion from the march up Fifth Av-

enue, traditionally one of the city's largest parades.

Court orders have upheld the right of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a Roman Catholic fraternal order that sponsors the parade, to exclude marchers seeking to identify themselves as homosexuals.

Donald Sullivan, a former state Supreme Court judge who is vice chairman of the parade organizing committee, said participants in this year's parade were determined on applications sent to affiliated organizations.

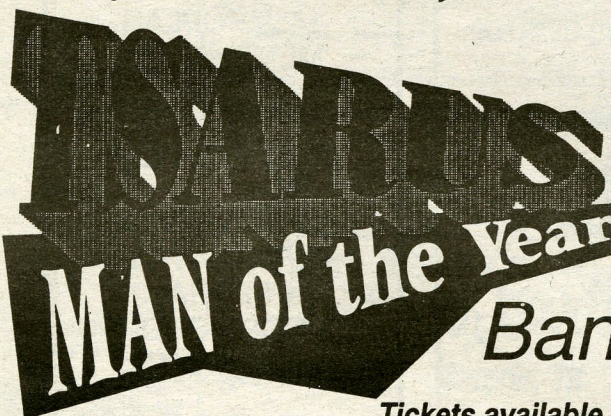
ILGO is not among those groups.

"As far as ILGO, they are not an affiliated unit. But if any members of ILGO want to march with other units that are affiliated, they have a perfect right to do so," Sullivan said.

Will a protest detract from the parade?

"We have learned to live with divergent points of view and it doesn't take away from the activity," Sullivan said.

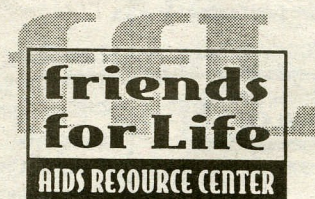
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Lawsuit: Assistant Chief Demanded Homosexual Favors

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A top administrator in the Orleans Parish Civil Sheriff's Office demanded homosexual favors in exchange for good schedules and raises, according to a suit filed by four deputies and 11 former deputies.

The sexual harassment suit filed Feb. 7 alleges that Tod Thedy, Civil Sheriff Paul Valteau's assistant chief of operations since 1987, made "countless" advances toward deputies he supervised, both at work and off the job.

In exchange, Thedy, 42, promised promotions, pay raises, favorable work schedules and lucrative after-hours security-detail assignments, the suit alleged.

"Due to the constant and pervasive nature of the sexual advances, a hostile environment was

created which affected the plaintiffs' ability to perform their duties and caused undue hardship in the workplace," the suit alleged.

Some deputies quit rather than endure further harassment, it said.

Thedy said he will not comment until he has an opportunity to discuss the suit with Valteau. He said in January that he was a target of harassment allegations, but was "confident ... I will be found not liable."

Valteau said that he would restrict Thedy to after-hours legal and computer work until an internal investigation of the allegations was complete.

The suit, filed in Civil District Court, names Thedy, Valteau and the Sheriff's Office as defendants. Valteau knew or should have known of the unwelcome sexual

advances but failed to do anything to stop Thedy, the suit alleged.

Valteau could not be reached for comment.

The suit also alleges that a doctor who performed required physicals on the deputies reported information about their anatomy to Thedy and told him "whether he believed that the deputies would engage in homosexual activity based on his examination." The doctor is not a defendant.

Thedy was already working for the department when Valteau was elected in 1982.

The deputies are represented by Robert Harvey. Attorney Joseph Raspanti said last month that he represents about eight other former and current deputies who have made similar charges.

Safe Harbor MCC to Host Bible Study Prayer Group

As part of its community outreach, Safe Harbor MCC of Memphis will host a twice-a-month bible study and prayer group at Human Beings Care in Jackson, Tenn. This group will be a time of prayer and fellowship for all persons infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Metropolitan Community Church was founded in 1968 by Rev. Troy Perry after being dismissed from the Church of God of Prophecy because of his sexual orientation. MCC is a Christian church which spreads the message of God's all encompassing love and welcomes people regardless of their sexual orientation, race, gender, gender identification, age, health status or any other characteristic used by many other mainstream denominations to exclude people. MCC also holds the distinction of being the world's largest predominately Gay and Lesbian organization and provider of direct services to those that are HIV/AIDS infected and affected.

MCC maintains that HIV/AIDS is not a punishment or judgment from God; it is a human tragedy. It does, however, present people of faith with the opportunity to be faithful witnesses to God's love and healing grace, even in the face of suffering and grief.

The bible study prayer group meets for the first time on Sun., Mar. 9 at 5:30 p.m. The group will be led by Margaret Henkle, the Lay Minister of Families, with 10 years of experience in MCC.

Contact Human Beings Care at (800) 562-3383 or Safe Harbor at (901) 458-0501 for more information.

Combo

Continued from page 15

called protease inhibitors. The two classes of drugs attack HIV, the AIDS virus, in different ways.

The drug trials, said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, "confirm the importance of including protease inhibitors in treatment strategies for patients with

advanced HIV disease."

"Significantly, the current study provides additional evidence that combination approaches using protease inhibitors can reduce the risk of death," said Fauci, director of the NIAID, the agency that supported the drug trial.

Hammer said officials directing the national study moved swiftly after an independent data and safety

panel monitoring the trials recommended ending the tests because it was clear patients on the three-drug combination were getting significant benefit.

Among patients on the triple drug combination, there were 33 instances of disease progression while there were 66 instances among patients taking only AZT, 3TC and a placebo. Eight patients on the triple drug com-

bination died, while 18 among the other group died.

For patients with a CD4 T-cell count of fewer than 50 per cubic millimeter, a very low level, "the benefit was statistically significant," the agency said. CD4 T-cells, the white blood cells that are a key element of the body's immune system, are the primary targets of HIV. Healthy levels are 800 to 1,200 per

cubic millimeter of blood.

The Treatment Action Group said the results of the triple combination drug trial "could help to revolutionize treatment for most people with AIDS. This study is helping us to rethink the way we use anti-HIV drugs," said Spencer Cox, a director at TAG. "For now, the era of one-drug treatments with modestly potent anti-virals is over."

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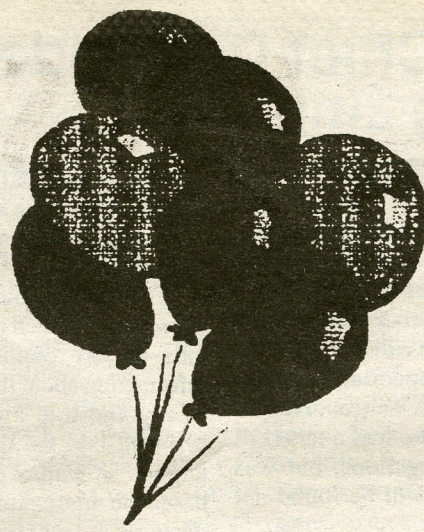
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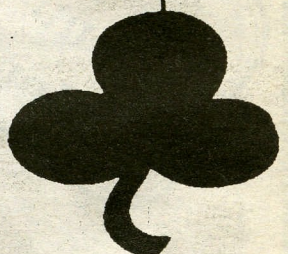
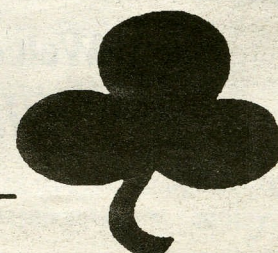
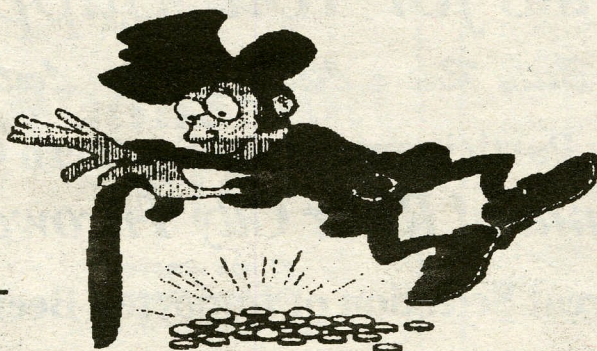
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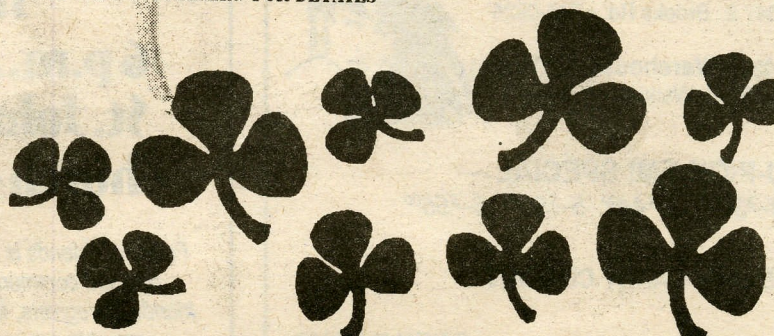
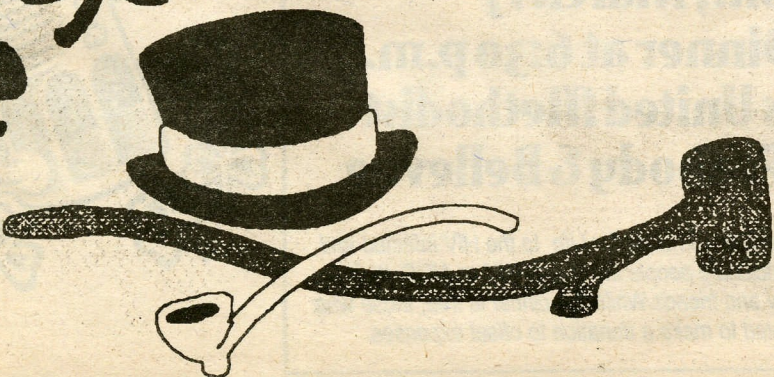
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Headline From the Past :

"Palimony" Lawsuit Against Liberace Thrown Out - March 1, 1984

What were Liberace's legal victories?

Undoubtedly the most flamboyant entertainer of the century, Wladziu Valentino Liberace was also one of the most fiercely closeted. On three separate occasions, the showman hired lawyers to help keep his homosexuality secret, each time defeating those who alleged that he was Gay. The entertainer who absolutely reveled in Gay stereotypes - from poodles to pink sequins - insisted on a heterosexual facade until the day he died of AIDS just over 10 years ago.

Liberace first went to court to swear to his status as a red-blooded American male in 1956, when a columnist for the *London Daily Mirror* called him, among other things, a "fruit-flavored, mincing, ice-covered heap of mother love." Liberace sued for damages, and in the trial testified that his bachelor status was only temporary. "I am always looking around for a pretty girl to marry," he said under oath. "I have 12 proposals a month, and on Valentine's Day I got 27,000 Valentines."

This testimony came after more than a decade of sexual liaisons between Liberace and other men. But when Liberace was asked in court about his feelings towards homosexuality, he replied, "My feelings are the same as anyone else, sir. I am against this practice because it offends convention and it offends society."

William Connor, the columnist whose mockery of Liberace had

occasioned the lawsuit, defended himself by denying that the column implied that Liberace was Gay, even arguing that the words "fruit" and "fairy" only have Gay connotations in America, but not in Britain. The jury did not believe him and his publication was forced to pay more than \$20,000 in damages. Liberace later wrote that he felt his manhood had been vindicated by the verdict.

A year later, the American scandal-mongering publication *Confidential* ran a cover story entitled "Why Liberace's Theme Song Should be 'Mad About the Boy.'" Liberace sued, and the parties settled out of court, this time enriching the entertainer and his attorneys by \$40,000.

Thirty years later, Liberace once again found himself in court defending himself against an accusation of homosexuality, this time in a "palimony" suit by his former chauffeur and lover, Scott Thorson. Thorson had met Liberace in 1977 when the younger man was 18 and the entertainer was more than three times his age. Liberace had invited a series of good looking, blond young men into his many bedrooms in his many homes, but his relationship with Thorson was longer and by all accounts more devoted.

During their five-year relationship, Liberace showered Thorson with hundreds of gifts, investigated the possibility of legally adopting him, and paid for plastic surgery so the younger man could look more like his patron. Thorson's memoir describes Liberace as

sexually ravenous, with a fondness for poppers, porno tapes and multiple sex partners. Toward the end of their relationship, Thorson became increasingly dependent on cocaine, while Liberace increasingly had his eye on other young men.

In March 1982, Thorson was evicted from one of Liberace's

was prostitution, which even in Nevada did not entitle Thorson to a permanent share of Liberace's income. Thorson's lawyers refused to drop the matter, though, and in 1986, Liberace agreed to a final payment of \$95,000 to end the legal maneuvers.

By that time, Liberace's health had begun to waver from AIDS.

PAST OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

apartments and given \$75,000 in exchange for waiving future claims. But he soon argued that he had agreed under duress and was entitled to \$113 million in damages because Liberace had promised to take care of all Thorson's financial needs in exchange for companionship and sex. Two years later, a Nevada judge threw Thorson's lawsuit out of court by holding that a "money for sex" arrangement

Despite an increasingly gaunt appearance, the entertainer played to sold-out crowds in Radio City Music Hall, where he made a grand entrance by flying above the audience on cables. When questioned about Liberace's weight loss, his manager told the press that Liberace was on a "watermelon diet" and was in generally good health. Not until Liberace's coroner held a nationally televised

press conference was AIDS revealed as the cause of death, and to this day, some of the devoted elderly women who conduct tours at the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas insist that Liberace's so-called homosexuality and AIDS are nothing but cruel rumors about a talented bachelor.

Liberace's life was replete with contradictions about his sexuality. His autobiography states that he lost his virginity to a female singer in Milwaukee - yet he gives her the classically drag name of "Miss Bea Haven." He would introduce his lover to his audiences as his companion - yet he told the press that Gays were trying to "assassinate" him with Thorson's lawsuit. With his extravagant costumes and flamboyant style, his life can be seen as a befuddled attempt to argue that you don't have to be Gay to be campy.

David Bianco, MA, teaches Gay and Lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. 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.

More Than 200 Gay Couples Exchange Vows in 'Love Celebration'

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) - More than 200 Gay couples exchanged wedding vows Valentine's weekend in a mass "love celebration" ceremony.

While the "marriages" from the Saturday night ceremony were not legally binding, they still are meaningful for the participants, said Carol Lamoureux, of Fort Lauderdale, who exchanged vows with Pam Gallagher, her partner of nine years.

While the two women exchanged vows eight years ago, they said the mass ceremony at the Metropolitan Community Church was a recommitment of their love.

"I'd like to make it the real thing instead of doing it this way," said Lamoureux, 50.

"Hopefully, our marriage will at some point be recognized as legal and then we will have the rights and benefits heterosexual married couples have," said Gallagher, 53.

For 13 years, Dr. Caesar Casas has been hoping to exchange wedding vows with his lover. Casas finally was given that chance in the ceremony.

Casas and his lover, Dale Foss, joined the other couples who crammed into the church for the standing-room-only ceremony to celebrate their love for each other.

"I want the world to know we have the same rights as everyone else," said Casas, 40, an infectious disease specialist who runs AIDS clinics in Palm Beach County.

Rain forced the celebration to

be moved from Esplanade Park in Fort Lauderdale to the church, but it didn't stop the overflow crowds, including hundreds of friends and family members, from attending the ceremony.

The couples exchanged vows, received a blessing and were serenaded by musical groups that included the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida.

Some couples came in stretch limousines, dressed in tuxedos. Others wore blue jeans and T-shirts.

In a crowded back room, more than 100 people watched the festivities on a video screen while others posed for wedding pictures.



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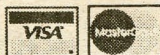
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Feast for Friends

Mon., March 3

Mon., March 17

6 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
St. John's United Methodist
Church - Peabody & Bellevue

Feast for Friends is a service of Friends for Life to the HIV infected and affected community including people living with HIV or AIDS, their friends, caregivers, family and friends. While the dinner is free, those who are able are requested to make a donation to offset expenses.



Easter: Many Ways to Observe the Season

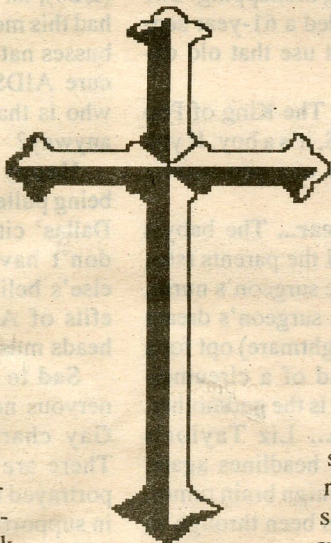
by Ira L. King

Mardi Gras with all of its reveling, rowdiness and riotous amusements, is behind us. Since Feb. 11, the religious world has been focusing on the season of Lent. For the 40 days preceding Easter (Lent), Christians the world over will at least symbolically give up some indulgent habit, material possessions, or routine practice. For 40 days Lent is observed synonymous with the forty days Jesus wandered in the wilderness and the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness before reaching the Promised Land. The season begins on Ash Wednesday. Typically, a mark made with the ashes of burnt palm leaves is placed on the forehead of the observer. This alerts the rest of the world that the observer is in a state of self-denial.

This season of self-denial is observed by most of the Christian denominations and churches. And yes, it is observed by Gay/Lesbian churches. Holy Trinity Community

Church (HTCC) in Memphis held an Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 12. It should be noted that the placing of the ash symbol on the forehead is not necessary for one to observe the season.

Another integral part of the Easter season is the Seder supper. Commonly known as the Last Supper,



which many of us have seen depicted in the famous Michaelangelo painting, the Seder is served on the Thursday preceding Good Friday. The Seder is a meal served in courses. Each course has a specific meaning and specific foods that relate to the passion of Christ. This supper has been a tradition at HTCC for the last two years. This year it will be served on Thurs., Mar. 27 at 7 p.m. The Seder has become very popular in the Gay/Lesbian Community and thus has grown significantly in attendance. Because of the expense of putting on the supper, a suggested donation of \$3 per person is requested.

For many years in Memphis the Lenten Luncheons at Calvary Episcopal Church have been popular with the working community in the downtown area. HTCC is hosting a similar event call Lenten Soup Suppers. These suppers will be held each Wednesday night in March preceding Easter Sunday. Speakers for the various suppers include Len Piechowski, senior manager, Leadership Institute, Federal Express; Rev. Rod Bussey Spencer, Presbyterian pastoral counselor; and Dixie Fletcher, therapist/healer. These meetings will be educational, and give you food for your mind and your body. These suppers are sponsored by various individuals and a suggested donation of \$3 is asked.

On Good Friday, Mar. 28, HTCC players will perform the Passion Play, *It Is Finished*, at 7 p.m. This is perhaps one of the most moving accounts of the crucifixion and resurrection you will ever experience.

And then there's that biggest day on the Christian church calendar, Easter Sunday, Mar. 30. Here's where we celebrate the reason our churches exist. While the events listed above are all at Holy Trinity, the other Gay/Lesbian churches in town, Living Word and Safe Harbor MCC, will also have Easter observances. Attend the church of your choice.

Tsarus "Man of the Year" Set for Wed., March 5

by Vincent Astor
Tsarus Associate

This year's Tsarus Man of the Year banquet is scheduled for Wed., Mar. 5, at WKR/Carla's Place.

This club has been honoring individuals and organizations for their contributions and service to the Memphis Gay and Lesbian community since 1985.

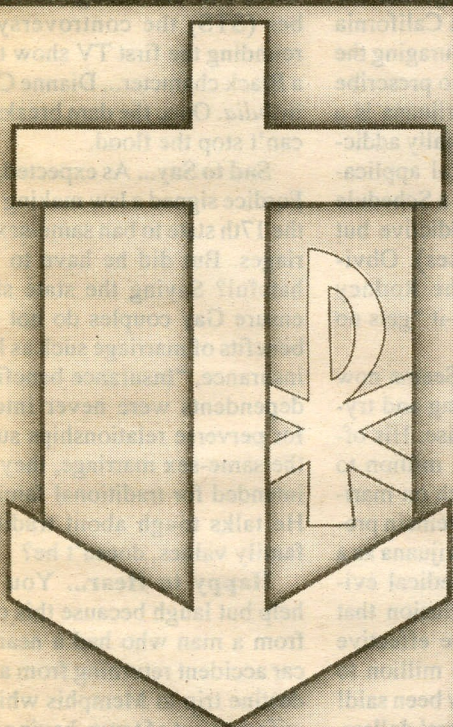
The event is, and always has been, open to the entire community and is an enjoyable evening both honoring (and sometimes slightly roasting) a notable member of the community. A meal is part of the festivities.

Tsarus members and members of the community nominate individuals or organizations who merit recognition for their efforts. The recipient is selected by secret ballot. The club members arrange for speakers, print and sell tickets, and furnish and serve a four-course meal. All proceeds from tickets sales are donated to the charity of the recipient's choice. The recipient is not disclosed until the night of the banquet and is always a carefully guarded secret.

Previous recipients have been: Allen Cook and John Stilwell for *Gaze* newspaper (1985); the Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite for their blood donor program (1986); Tommy Stewart, president of ATEAC (now Friends For Life) (1987); Bettye Griffin, president of Human Response Council (1988); Heart Strings volunteers (1989); Vincent Astor, columnist and historian (1990); the Waggettes (Jim Easter, Harold "Granny" Weaver, Mattie Sanchez and Jerry Attaway) for fund-raising (1991); the Pipettes (Jim McCain, Jere Douglas, Mike Ferguson and the late Sandy Hutchins and Dwayne Branham) for fund-raising (1992); Rev. Ethan Pruett and Rev. Ed Hammett from Holy Trinity Community Church (1993); the late Dennis Kijowski, activist and fund-raiser (1994); Sharon Wray, Lesbian pioneer and fund-raiser (1995), and Bill Andrews and Matt Presley, fund-raising and community service (1996).

Tickets are available through members and at WKR/Carla's Place.

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Sad to Say, Happy to Hear

By Butch Valentine



Happy to Hear... The King and Queen of Hearts, a benefit for Friends for Life that was organized by Jimmy Gray out of the kindness of his big heart, was held at WKRB/Carla's Place and raised a big \$6212!!! Congratulations to Jimmy Gray, and a big Thank-You to him, the volunteers, the entertainers, the donors and the people who bid so wildly for the items.

Sad to Say... Many people who support AIDS issues think it's the money that matters. Of course it matters, but your time counts also. People With AIDS and those who are concerned about the issues don't realize they

can do so much more than just make donations.

Happy to Hear... They can be a part of a program that makes decisions how money is being spent on the HIV/AIDS effort, have something to say about it and be heard. All this for a minimum of one hour and 15 minutes per month. I am talking about the Ryan White AIDS Consortia. The Ryan White Care Act has been given credit for stabilizing and slowing the death rate of AIDS patients. One of its purposes is to make meds more available. Locally, 8 agencies receive funds from the Shelby County/Memphis Ryan White Consortium, funding such

diverse programs as medical care, day care, counseling, transportation, meals, and so much more. You are needed and you are wanted. Call me at Friends for Life for info.

Sad to Say... It's San Francisco against the business world. Three months ago the Board of Supervisors passed a bill requiring corporations doing business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees.

Happy to Hear... So far, it's San Francisco - 1; business world - 0. United Airlines wanted to expand its facilities in the city, and the city said "no" until the benefits were offered. Citing costs, the airline said "no." After being shown figures proving only a small percentage of employees would take advantage of the added benefits, the airlines relented. Now domestic partners will have the same choices as married partners.

Sad to Say... In an expose titled "The Business of Porn" that was featured in *U.S. News and World Report* (Feb. 10): "Last year Americans spent more than \$8 billion on hard-core videos, peep shows, live-sex acts, adult cable programming, sexual devices, computer porn, and sex magazines—an amount much larger than Hollywood's domestic box office receipts and larger than all the revenues generated by rock and country music recordings." WOW!!

Happy to Hear... With all the activity associated with the porn industry, it is surprising the AIDS epidemic has yet to hit the porn community. Though some have been infected, "performers are now required to undergo monthly HIV testing, and their test results serves as a passport to work." External cum shots, the use of condoms, and constant monitoring are certainly contributing factors.

Sad to Say... Whatever happened to ex-Village People "cop" and lead singer Victor Ellis? Well, you're not gonna like what you hear. Ellis, now 45, was arrested February 15th in Reno, Nev., on robbery and drug charges. A woman reported a man struck her and robbed her of money and her bracelet. When police went to his room at the Flamingo Hilton, they found the goods AND 45 grams of rock cocaine (sounds like a lot to me). The ex-singer, who lists his occupation as a writer, was still in jail, unable to post the \$16,5000 bail. He's not such a "Macho Man" if he's beating up people to support his habit.

Happy to Hear... The Assisi Foundation awarded a \$35,000 grant to Hope House, which provides day care and short-term respite care for children living with HIV/AIDS. The grant will be used to expand development and fundraising efforts. Congratulations to the executive director Christie Goldsmith, and to the staff and the wonderful kids at Hope House.

Sad to Say... Ex-FBI agent Eu-

gene Bennett tried to convince a jury that his wife's Lesbian love affair with crime novelist Patricia Cornwell drove him crazy. So crazy, he claimed, that he tried to kill her. The prosecutor said he just wanted to collect the \$1 million in insurance and gain custody of the two children.

Happy to Hear... He didn't even get away with attempted murder, as the jury found him guilty, guilty, guilty. Seven charges altogether, including kidnapping. The jury recommended a 61-year sentence. You can't use that old excuse anymore.

Sad to Say... The King of Pop is a pop, and STS, it's a boy. If you can't molest the one you want... have your own.

Happy to Hear... The baby's healthy. But will the parents (she, Jackson's plastic surgeon's nurse, and he, a plastic surgeon's dream and our worst nightmare) opt for a nose bob instead of a circumcision? Liz Taylor is the godmother.

Sad to Say... Liz Taylor's health made the headlines again, this time for a benign brain tumor. The poor girl has been through so much in her lifetime, having been near death about a million times and having had a zillion surgeries.

Happy to Hear... She is doing well after the 3-hour surgery to remove a tumor the size of a golfball. During the recent interview with Barbara Walters, she confirmed the AIDS issue is now more important than her career. Thankfully, she has used the success of her career and her fame to co-found and raise money for AMFAR.

Sad to Say... State law says "yes," but the fed laws still say "no"—what to do? President I Didn't Inhale's drug czar, Gen. Barry McCaffry, has been the loudest in the fight against the medicinal use of pot in California and Arizona, even encouraging the arrest of physicians who prescribe the drug. You see, marijuana is a Schedule I drug (potentially addictive and has no medical applications), while cocaine is a Schedule II drug (potentially addictive but with some medical uses). Obviously, marijuana is the Rodney Dangerfield of drugs—it "gets no respect."

Happy to Hear... Seems now he's waving a white flag and trying to find a compromise. His office plans to spend \$1 million to review existing research on marijuana, adding that "we remain prepared to reschedule marijuana as a Schedule II drug if medical evidence supports a conclusion that the drug does not have effective therapeutic uses." One million to review what has already been said! What a waste of taxpayers' dollars. Meanwhile, the NIH (National Institute of Health) has announced a two year medical research to examine the benefits of medicinal marijuana. The days of the "evil weed" are over.

Sad to Say... Keith Elston, head of the ACLU in North Dakota,

threatened to expose Gay state lawmakers who vote to ban same-sex marriage. That is SO rude.

Happy to Hear... "Not" says national ACLU Director Ira Glasser, saying "the ACLU doesn't out Gays." We appreciate Elston's passion for the cause and despise closeted hypocrites, but cooler heads must prevail. Thank You Mr. Glasser.

Sad to Say... Speaking of rude... As reported in *USA Today* (2/20), an unnamed AIDS charity had this message on bill boards and busses nationwide: "Prayer won't cure AIDS. Research will." Just who is that message intended for anyway?

Happy to Hear... The ads are being pulled. Said Mary Herring of Dallas' city transit agency, "You don't have to belittle someone else's beliefs to play up the benefits of AIDS research." Cooler heads must prevail.


Sad to Say... TV networks are nervous nellys when it comes to Gay characters on the shows. There are several already being portrayed in comedies and dramas in supporting roles, so why all the nail-biting over a "main" character coming out of the closet?

Happy to Hear... It's going to happen sooner or later, and it may be sooner than you think. On Wed. Apr.30, during the sweeps rating period, the TV sitcom *Ellen* will be an hour episode. According to *TV Guide*, if ABC and its owner, Disney, sign off on the idea, Laura Dern will play Ellen's love interest, and Oprah could end up playing Ellen's therapist. If it happens, it won't be because it reflects real life, but to boost the show's sagging ratings. And when it does happen, it will be the first of more to come, for sure. How do I know? Well, I'm old enough to remember (STS) the controversy surrounding the first TV show to star a Black character... Dianne Carroll in *Julia*. Once the dam breaks, you can't stop the flood.

Sad to Say... As expected, Gov. Fordice signed a law making Miss. the 17th state to ban same-sex marriages. But did he have to be so hateful? Saying the state should ensure Gay couples do not enjoy benefits of marriage such as health insurance, "Insurance benefits for dependents were never intended for perverse relationships such as the same-sex marriage, they were intended for traditional families." He talks tough about traditional family values, doesn't he?

Happy to Hear... You can't help but laugh because this comes from a man who had a near-fatal car accident returning from a clandestine trip to Memphis while his wife was out of town, having a luncheon rendezvous with a woman he defiantly refuses to identify. Is this the "traditional family value" he is so intent to protect? Governors who live in glass mansions shouldn't throw stones. God'll getcha for that.

See *Happy to Hear* on page 29



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QUEER SCIENCE

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

If there ever was a stereotype about queers, it was this: Gay boys couldn't throw a ball straight if their life depended on it. At school, we were the butter-fingered klutzes who got picked last for every team. If by some mischance the ball came our way, we'd lob it with an ineffectual flailing motion in totally the wrong direction, to the fury of our teammates. But Lesbians — why, your average Lesbian can nail home plate from the right-field fence, while nonchalantly tossing a wad of chewing tobacco from one cheek-pouch to the other.

A couple of years ago, two psychologists at the University of Western Ontario, Jeff Hall and Doreen Kimura, set out to test whether there was any truth to the stereotype. They advertised on campus to find Gay and straight women and men willing to be tested in return for cash. Having

collected 78 guinea-pigs, they brought them into the test arena, which was set up like a fairground booth: you stood behind a line and threw a Velcro-covered ball towards a target on a wall that was covered with carpeting. The wall had a target marked on it, and the researchers measured the distance between the target and the spot where the ball stuck itself to the carpeting. (They could have used darts, of course, but what if the Gay guys ended up nailing their feet to the ground?)

Well, the results were as expected. First, the straight men did way better than the straight women. That just confirmed a sex difference that has been reported in previous studies. But the Gay men did about as badly as the straight women, and the Lesbians did about as well as the straight men. In other words, being queer

seems to make you "sex-atypical" in throwing ability.

The results were clear enough, but the interpretation — that's another matter. Some people would argue that all these differences are the result of socialization. Fathers take their sons to the ballpark and work on their throwing skills, while mothers engage their daughters in "arm's-length" activities like baking cakes. And queer kids are socialized to be gender rebels, so it's the opposite for them.

Kimura and Hall don't believe that. For one thing, if the differences resulted from training and experience, they should be experience-specific. In other words, the differences should be most marked when the subjects threw the ball in the manner to which they were accustomed, and least marked when they were made to throw in some unusual manner. But that wasn't so — the differences were just as great when the subjects were made to throw with their "wrong" hand, or to throw underhand rather than overhand. Also, the researchers took detailed histories of the subjects' engagement in sports activities. When they applied statistical techniques to allow for differences in sports experience, the differ-

ences in throwing skills persisted.

Of course, the ideal experiment would be to test the throwing skills of Gays and Lesbians while they are very young children, before they get socialized. The problem is, you don't know who's going to be Gay till years later, and no one has the patience for that kind of long-term study. Still, the basic sex difference has been confirmed in young children: boys throw more accurately than girls pretty much from the first moment they can heft a ball into the air. It seems that accurate throwing is part of the cognitive "package" that comes with being male. Perhaps it's a relic from our hunter/gatherer days, when men were the hunters, women the gatherers.

So maybe the Gay/straight difference is inborn, too. That's what Hall and Kimura think. They propose that both throwing skill and sexual orientation are governed by parts of the brain whose development is under the influence of sex

hormones. So if genes or hormones or other biological factors drive the development of one system in the "male-typical" direction, it will likely drive the other system in that direction too. And vice versa.

That doesn't mean that Gay men have female brains, or that Lesbians have male brains. There are other traits that distinguish men from women, where Gays and Lesbians score the same as straight people of the same sex. It's as if Gay people are a gender-blended mosaic. And I for one am perfectly happy with that.

Simon LeVay, PhD, is well-known for his research on the "Gay brain." He is the author of Queer Science (MIT Press, 1996) and the forthcoming Gay technothriller, Albrick's Gold (Richard Kasak/Masquerade Books). He is also the co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached care of this publication or at SLeVay@aol.com.

Happy to Hear...

Continued from page 28

Sad to Say... Another Mardi Gras has come and gone.

Happy to Hear... From the press service... "It's the only chance you have to drink beer for breakfast and live out a few fantasies," said Pat Clinton of Atlanta. She wore a short skirt, bulging top, and a feather boa—and so did her husband. "There are a lot of six-foot tall women around town today," he said. "It's the day for boys to be girls." THE day? Really!

Sad to Say... "Dr. Death," Jack Kervorkian practices an activist approach to doctor assisted suicide in a manner that turns many people off, including many potential supporters like myself. I mean, leaving a body in a car at the hospital's emergency room is akin to Freddie Kruger delivering pizza. Scarey!

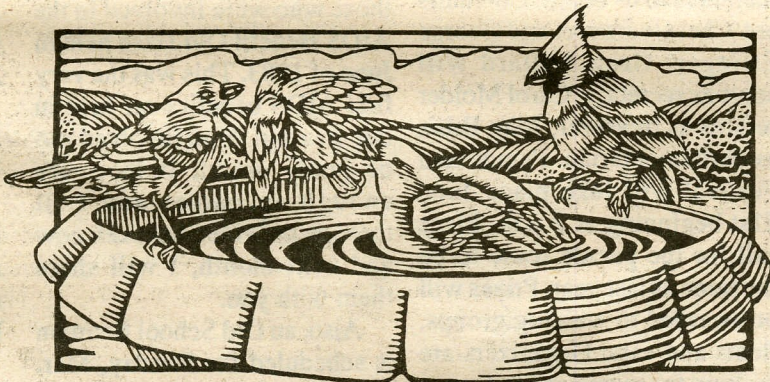
Happy to Hear... As reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 7% - 9% of American doctors have helped patients die, but the figure jumps to 53% of the 118 San Francisco doctors working with AIDS patients, due in part because of the bond between the AIDS patient and the doctor. This is something that has been discussed between the two. The upside is this: if so many physicians feel impelled to break a law on their patients' behalf, the euthanasia laws probably need retooling.

Sad to Say... Boys aren't supposed to play with dolls.

Happy to Hear... But if they want to, they can forget about the very closeted Ken doll, because

there is now (drum roll please), Billy, the first openly Gay doll. Rippling muscles, furry crew cut, Macho outfits, and a secret weapon: he's anatomically correct. "Very anatomically correct." De-

signed by Totem International in London, it sells for \$ 49.95. Hell, for that price, he should be life size. You can play with real people for less than that.



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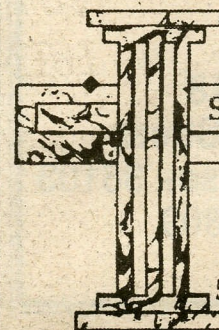
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Banquets, Bowling, Boot-Scootin' & Benefits

by Vincent Astor

Dear Fredric Koepfel:
It's a wolf, not a coyote. Otherwise you are correct.

Benefit Recap

China 2001, the benefit for MGLCC/Switchboard, was one of those unique events that make going out fun. The New Daisy has its own particular style of grunge all by itself. This was diffused by some simple yet effective use of strung lights, Chinese lanterns, Asian slide images and go go dancers in silhouette behind Japanese screens. The floor did not fill with dancers until just before the entertainment, but it was an exciting atmosphere full of anticipation.

The small entertainment fit the generalized Asian theme with use of costumes both of Chinese and Japanese Kabuki ancestry. It is a production-type number which is not often seen nowadays with a cast of seven and a lot of attention to detail. It included some fancy work with flags (as in drill team) and several onstage costume changes. I hope they will do this number again some time in a smaller space with better lighting, it was just too well-rehearsed and too intricate never to be seen again. Proceeds went as deposit money for this year's

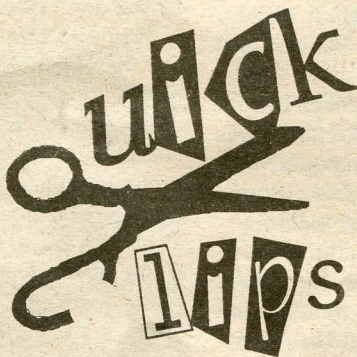
River Ride which is scheduled for Friday, June 20.

The 6th annual King and Queen of Hearts benefit held at WKRB/Carla's Place turned out to be an elegant evening and a successful fund raiser. According to organizer Jimmy Gray, this year's benefit was very different. Over \$6,200 was raised and was earmarked for Friends For Life in memory of Lester Phillips (Lady Peaches) and Grant Montgomery.

By contrast to earlier years, there were no sponsored couples from other locations. To enter the contest, a couple is sponsored or pledges to raise money for the benefit. Each contribution counts as one vote and the couple with the most votes is crowned. Votes were sold at the benefit itself and Dianne Starr and Angie Barker became this year's royalty. Volunteers of the year included the Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite, Debbie Zschocke and Steve Swanson. Favorite female was Carol Stockton of Aphrodite, favorite male was organizer Jimmy Gray.

Warm Fuzzy Department

Aphrodite was very prominent both in performing and helping to set up and decorate putting in a solid day's work during setup, breakdown and helping to staff King and Queen of Hearts. Aphrodite had also performed at the Raccoon Queen



pageant and at the benefit earlier this year for Dianne Starr after her bar Changes was burned. They were the foundation for that show and responded to the call of Betty Rae, an honorary member, who organized it. All of this only goes to show that the long tradition of Aphrodite as a fund-raising club is still central to their purpose. I also am proud to be an honorary member of Aphrodite; it is one of the longest-lasting institutions in the Memphis Gay/Lesbian community and is still going strong. They will travel to Jackson, TN, later this month to do a fund-raiser at The Other Side.

Pride Corner

Memphis Pride, Inc. met during February and elected new members to its board. Co-chairs are Chet Overstreet and George Ettinger. Greg Bullard will serve as secretary, Carol Molder returns as treasurer, John Billis as parliamentarian. Parade and Festival will take place June 21st beginning at 2 p.m. Plans call for the parade route to be the same as last year. Prizes will be awarded to walking groups, floats and cars. Organizers are looking for musicians to form a marching band and a contingent of Nice Lesbians on Motorized Two-Wheel Vehicles (Dykes on Bykes).

And in March....

First on the calendar is the 13th annual Tsarus Man of the Year Banquet, to be held at

WKRB/Carla's Place on Wednesday, Mar. 5. A tasty meal, a fine commendation for some lucky individual or organization and perhaps a little tender roast is the order of the evening. It is open to the public and tickets may be had from a Tsarus member, or call WKRB or the Pipeline for information. Tsarus will also hold a club night at Crossroads in March.

Second is a double whammy. Not only is St. Patrick's day weekend celebrated by Irish and Irish wannabes all over but Southern Country and the local bowlers will take the weekend for their own. This is the weekend for both the 6th annual Southern Country River City Throwdown and the St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament (S.P.I.T.) organized by the bowlers of the Brothers and Sisters Bowling League. There is so much going on and the opportunity for so much new meat...er...faces that I am going to let you find out the details for yourselves. A full calendar of events is planned by both organizations with plenty of free time for socializing.

By the way, Southern Country (the country-western dance club, in case you didn't know) is relocating its home base to Madison Flame as of March 6.

Reunions Times Two

As I mentioned last month, a reunion is planned at Feast For Friends on Monday, Mar. 3, of those who were involved in the AIDS Benefit Old Hash held in June of 1983. This was the very first AIDS benefit ever held in our area and those involved can be justly proud. If there are enough anecdotes and I sit through the video between now and next month, I will share them with you.

Also, an Old School Reunion is scheduled for Sunday, Mar. 23, at One More (thank God it isn't on St. Patrick's Day weekend). These "old school" chums will be those of us fossils who attended a list of now-gone bars which appear in One More's ad. Many of these chums are Lesbian but there are a lot of men who went to the Psych-Out and P W Bumps among others. It

will probably be loud. Stumpy and Vern have a list of folks they are trying to reach and y'all's contributions to the list are welcome.

Blast from the Past

from Lady A. (*who else?*)
While in attendance at a well-performed little play at the Little Theatre, we observed a series of Mardi Gras-esque masks and some very elaborate costume renderings hanging in the lobby of said theatre. They reminded us of something and the labels bore this out. We were perusing the renderings from the last Queen's Men's Ball, Phantom of the Opera, which was held, oh gee, years ago. It did our heart good to see these beautiful mementoes, none of which were for sale, but commissions were being taken on new masks. Perhaps someday one or two will find their way into a local archive and be seen a little more often than twice. Heaven knows what became of the costumes themselves (we actually performed in that ball and remember it well). It's good to know that all of that glitter and memory is not irreclaimably lost.

The artist is Wayne "Phyllis" Newsome, and we did enjoy seeing these beautiful pieces so nicely displayed.

More Stuff

The MGLCC's Twinkie Museum film festival, co-sponsored by B-GALA at University of Memphis will be held March 27-30.

Congratulations to the new Miss Crossroads—Simply Vonna Valentino.

I didn't plan to completely ignore the Raccoon Queen winner—Racine. That annual fundraiser benefited Memphis Lambda Center

Emerald Theatre Company has a complete listing of their next two productions and plans for the coming season in a conveniently provided article elsewhere.

Ever tasted buffalo? Ever had what would appear to be rattlesnake wonton? Then, there's that artichoke. I'm not going to tell you where this is, you should be able to guess. Hint: they don't serve mouth watering crockpot roast, that's the other restaurant. Guess away!

Final Round

If you see your name in the paper, well, good faeries grant wishes. That's what we're for.

Ta, ta.
V. A.

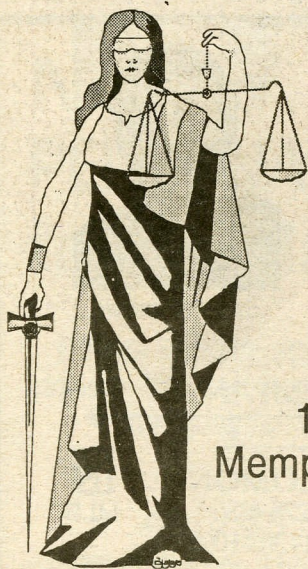
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Home HIV Tests: Positively the Right Thing To Do

Commentary by Ira L. King

How many of us have put off getting tested for HIV because we were afraid of being seen at the doctor's office or the Public Health Department? How many have put it off because you didn't want to take the time off work or from your daily routine to have the test done? Well, no more excuses. Since last year a home test has been on the market. This test virtually guarantees privacy and convenience. The minuscule cost of around \$40 is a small price to pay for *peace of mind*.

Medical professionals are debating the effectiveness of such tests. Social service agencies are fearful that test results might discourage participants from seeking support once they find out they are positive. While these are legitimate concerns, they are after the fact issues. They must take a back seat to the peace that come with *knowing* that you are or are not infected.

When home pregnancy tests were first introduced they met many of the same criticisms the home HIV tests are encountering. There were worries about false positives and false negatives. There was a fear that women might not seek professional maternity treatment right away. With the passing of time, the improvement of the kits and the proper instruction, these fears proved to be groundless.

It can be argued that you shouldn't compare a home pregnancy test to an HIV test. After all, pregnancy is not a catastrophically devastating condition that may ultimately lead to death in most cases. The same cannot be said of the home HIV test. The results are a life-

and-death issue. And, in each instance (whether the result is positive or negative) the participant has the right to know. It should not matter if that knowledge is gained by a product approved by the FDA or by visiting a doctor's office.

There are currently two home HIV test kits on the market: Home Access and Confide. These kits may be ordered by mail and are available at regional pharmacies.

When I think of the hundreds of thousands of high school kids who use drugs, have sex and engage in other activities that create opportunity of the spread of HIV, I applaud the new tests. Many, if not most of these teens are afraid to go to their parents, guidance counselors, or family physicians to ask for an HIV test. While they may not be afraid of participating in socially risky activities, they are terrified that they will be ostracized by family and friends if it were known that they felt the need to be tested.

Adults share the same fears. While we are more likely to go to the Health Department or our physician for testing, our initial reaction to the very idea of being tested is often a negative one.

To the naysayers and skeptics I say, don't worry about whether or not I will seek your agency's help if I need it. Don't worry that I will be reckless once I learn the test results. Don't worry that the state may not be notified of my condition, should I test positive. It's my right as a human being to be tested using whatever means I choose. Just be glad that modern medicine has come a long way since the HIV/AIDS virus

was discovered in the mid-1980s. Remember when we couldn't even identify the virus, let alone look to a cure. Well, we haven't found the cure yet, but we are so much further along in identifying and controlling the disease. Let's not fight over whether or not home HIV tests should be marketed. Instead, let's embrace the home HIV test and the *peace of mind* it can bring, and *look forward to the CURE*.

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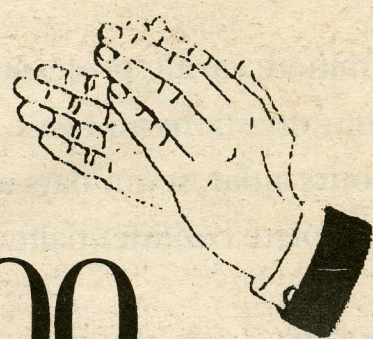
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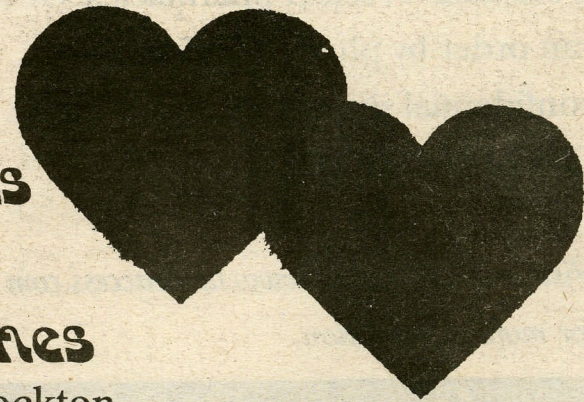
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National Gay & Lesbian Info Hotline to Debut March 1

The Gay Information Network proudly announces the kick-off of its nationwide, toll free Gay Information Hotline.

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Business owners ... to become a part of this nationwide service, please call 1-888-429-4630 and ask for the Subscription Department.

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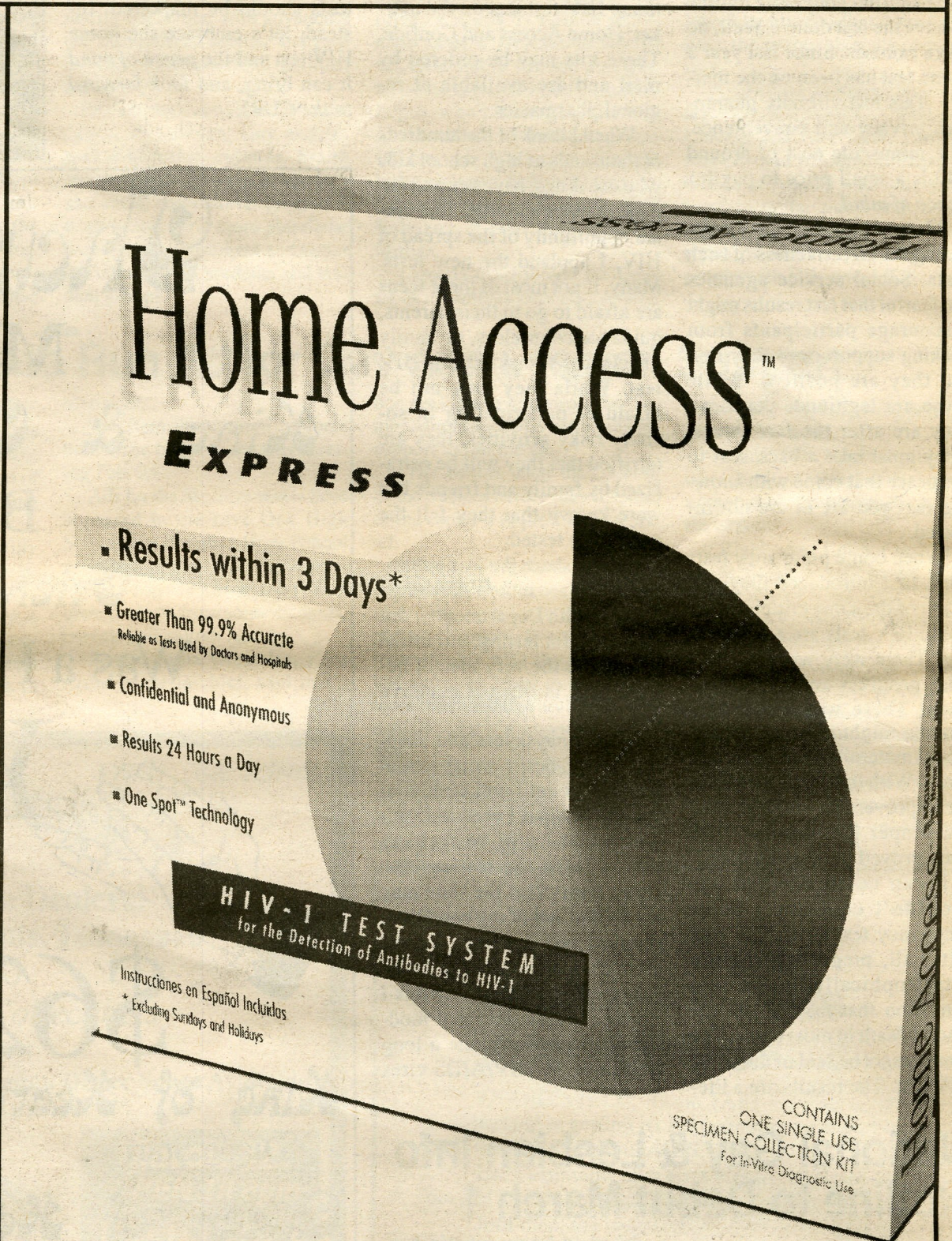
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Army of God Has Links to Bombers Since the 1980s

By Tara Meyer
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The Army of God is apparently not an organized group but a how-to handbook on terrorizing abortion clinics that abortion foes have used as a guise to claim responsibility since the 1980s.

The name surfaced again Feb. 24 in a letter claiming responsibility for both the Feb 21 bombing of a Gay and Lesbian nightclub and twin explosions at an abortion clinic in January.

The 70-page underground manual written for anti-abortion radicals became widely known in 1993, when authorities found a copy buried in the backyard of Shelley Shannon, an Oregon homemaker imprisoned for shooting a Kansas abortion doctor and setting fire to several abortion clinics.

The spiral-bound book shows a young girl on the cover cuddling

doll. The title says, "When Life Hurts, We Can Help ..." An introduction calls it a "how-to manual of means to disrupt and ultimately destroy Satan's power to kill our children, God's children."

It contains detailed accounts on how to make bombs, use timing devices, bypass alarms and avoid leaving fingerprints on guns. It calls abortion clinics "abortuaries" and described the battle over abortion as "a war."

But the name Army of God had been circulating since the 1980s.

It began in May 29, 1982 with fires set at two Florida abortion clinics. On June 6 of that year, an explosion ripped through a Falls Church, Va., clinic. On Aug. 12, Dr. Hector Zevallos, who performed abortions, and his wife were kidnapped from their Edwardsville, Ill., home.

The Army of God claimed responsibility in each case, and Don Benny Anderson, a Oxford, Wis., father of seven who was convicted

of all the crimes, called himself the group's leader.

Several others anti-abortion activists have been linked to the group and its manual:

— Jennifer P. Sperle, of Wichita, Kan., was indicted in March for conspiring to set fires at abortion clinics in Newport News and Norfolk, Va. The indictment said she showed copies of the book.

— Rae Powell, an anti-abortion activist in Newport News was freed in March after she told a grand jury Sperle gave her the manual. She had been jailed for almost a month after refusing to answer the jury looking into anti-abortion activities in the state.

— John A. Brockhoeft, a former mail handler who firebombed two Cincinnati abortion clinics and was convicted of trying to blow up a third in Florida, described himself as a member of the Army of God for the unborn. He was released from federal prison in February 1995.

Bombings

Continued from page 1

said. "We have to stand against those things."

Authorities are investigating possible links among the nightclub bombing, the Jan. 16 abortion clinic attacks and the bombing at the Centennial Olympic Park last summer.

There were nails in some of the bombs in all three incidents," said Bobby Browning, spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The abortion clinic bombings injured seven people; the Olympic Park bombing killed one person and injured more than 100 others.

The name Army of God, associated with an underground how-to manual on terrorizing abortion clinics, surfaced in 1982 with claims of responsibility for fires set at two Florida clinics.

The 70-page underground manual became widely known in 1993, when authorities found a copy buried in the back yard of Shelley Shannon, an Oregon homemaker imprisoned for shooting a Kansas abortion doctor and setting fire to several abortion clinics.

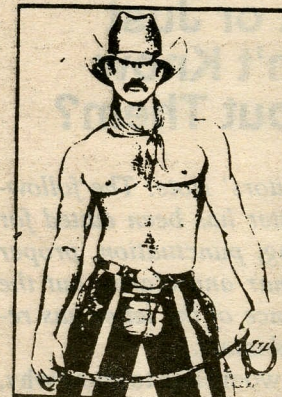
The people believed to have written the manual's five versions have all served prison sentences for violence against abortion clinics, said Morris Dees, a civil rights

lawyer with the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala.

Mary Ann Mauney of the Center for Democratic Renewal, which tracks hate groups, said she was leery of blaming the Army of God for the Atlanta attacks.

"I would want to see more evidence before I would give this credence," she said.

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# LETTERS

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

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

## Lax or Just Don't Know About Them?

*(Editors' Note: The following letter has been edited for spelling, punctuation, proper grammar and clarity but the substance of the letter has remained intact.)*

We would like to know why, in three years that this group has been in operation helping AIDS patients, that your publication will not even acknowledge nor support this group.

We have had numerous contacts with this group and have had nothing but excellent results. If it was not for this group, I would possibly be dead. This group came to my aid when the others just "patted me on the head" and did not help me with anything.

The director of the group, Tracy Clark, arranged for my social security, had my medical treatment improved by talking with the doctors and allowing a more aggressive treatment program.

If it had not been for Tracy and his staff, and the change of treatment for my last case of PCP, I would not be here. The help they have given me can never be re-paid.

My family would not and could not handle the problems. They [the group] arranged counseling, brought food, when no one else would, and have been nothing but a Godsend to myself and my family.

So this is why we would like to know why this group called, "Accept AIDS," is not getting the recognition that it deserves. They continue to provide a service when others stop.

I have been out of the hospital for four months now and I am doing great.

They still do follow-ups and make certain I keep my appointments and give me help obtaining my new drugs when needed.

I have sent numerous others to them and they are never turned away and they are avail-

able 24-hours a day. These folks are great! So I thought that you should know. Maybe you have been lax or maybe you just don't know about them, and I thought you should.

Thanks,

Vincent Johnson  
Memphis, TN

*Editors' Note: We received the following press release on Accept AIDS letterhead in February 1996:*

This is to inform you that the original organization that was known as H.O.O.P. [Helping Our Own People] that was started in January 1995, has been dissolved and that ... Accept AIDS has taken over and has continued to operate.

To the comment of Vincent Astor, since the bar Mad Dogs closed down, was so that we could continue to work with AIDS patients. This has continued since that location was closed down and is still operating at this time.

To better serve the patients and to stop the in-fighting over control of the organization, we had to remove one of the founders and regain control of the organization and allow it to function properly and to get treatment for the clients.

As for the advocacy end of this project, we still will and continue to be listed with social security as an advocacy group for PWAs. We still also are in the process of getting legislation changed at this time to institute laws to protect the rights of PWAs. This is at the current state and federal levels.

For anyone interested in more information on this group, you may contact anyone at the following numbers or fax your inquiries: Accept AIDS (AIDS Advocacy and Treatment Group), P.O. Box 40062, Memphis, TN, (901) 323-5154, (901) 323-8013 Data.

T.F. Clark  
Founder  
Accept AIDS

*For several reasons, we*

*chose not to print this.*

1. For an organization formed in January, 1995 (H.O.O.P.), we've never officially heard anything about the organization, services provided, fund-raisers, grants applied for/received, etc.

2. The new organization, Accept AIDS, was formed by ousting a founder (who might this be?) of the original organization and changing the name of the organization. This suggests that there is at least one other idea of how this organization should be run, what services should be provided, etc. and we personally don't have enough faith or confidence in Tracy Clark to believe that his ideas are necessarily the right ones.

3. Anyone can say their organization is a non-profit organization but we would like to see the IRS paperwork that recognizes this organization as a not-for-profit organization.

4. It has been our personal experience that Tracy appears to be well-intentioned, and talk is that he is very skilled, but he appears to start a lot of things and does not follow them through. We will not repeat rumors, but we can for fact say that on at least three different occasions (for as many companies or enterprises, including Mad Dog Mary's) Tracy has left us to write-off advertising debt. We personally, do not trust him.

Mr. Johnson, as for your personal experience:

We are familiar with other organizations in town which provide services to people with HIV/AIDS, such as Friends for Life, and many of the churches offer outreach. Because of the grants and funding that they have applied for and received, there are certain guidelines these groups must follow to determine who qualifies for assistance, what kind of assistance they qualify for, etc. If they have "patted you on the head," and sent you on your way, there must be something unusual about your case that you are not sharing with us. We know about

too many individuals who have been helped by these organizations and if Accept AIDS can provide you with services that these other organizations cannot or will not, it immediately raises my suspicions.

In the past year, we have heard nothing about fund-raisers, activities, outreach, case work or anything that indicates that this group is doing anything in the Memphis Gay and Lesbian community. We've heard nothing about their advocacy or their efforts to influence legislation. According to Tracy's press release, they are doing all these things but we have only his word to go on.

Mr. Clark was featured in a Memphis Flyer article as an individual who was obtaining and dispensing AIDS medications. First of all, we question the legality of his obtaining these drugs. Secondly, we question the legality of his dispensing of

## Time to Change Arkansas Law

It is time to change the law in Arkansas. The Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force (AGLTF), along with the ACLU, GLAAD, the Women's Project, Mainstream, the Coalition for Choice, and PFLAG, is part of a coalition group known as the Arkansas Non-Discrimination Alliance (ANDA) that is lobbying during this legislative session in Arkansas for the Gay community. We have received commitments from legislators who will support an amendment which will provide job protection for Gays and Lesbians. We realize we do not have the support of voters for same-sex marriage yet, but a recent poll conducted in Arkansas shows that voters do support job protection for Gays and Lesbians.

We invite you to join the coalition and to show your support for this legislation. Each of the ANDA member organizations are being actively represented and support this cause through their volunteer efforts and financial contributions.

One huge way that you can help is to constantly encourage and remind your members and guests to call his or her state senator and state representative. You will want to tell your legislator that you want them to vote yes on the amendment to House Bill 1004, and Senate

these drugs. And finally, we question Tracy's qualifications to prescribe drugs and recommend treatment programs. We know he has experience as a contractor, a general construction worker, a landscaper and a bar owner but to the best of our knowledge, he has no medical training.

You have obviously had a positive experience with this group but we would urge you to proceed cautiously. Since we really know nothing about this group or its predecessor, we cannot in clear conscience endorse it or its activities. But since people with HIV/AIDS need to and should investigate any viable options, we would recommend that you investigate this group on your own, make your own decision based on your own findings, but err on the side of caution.

The Editors

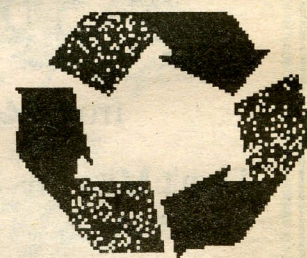
Bill 5 that will provide job protection for Gays and Lesbians in Arkansas. If a person does not know who their legislators are, they can find out by calling 682-5070. Time is of the essence. The time to act is now!

Please call or email with your questions and response. Phone: 562-3220 email: ERACTIVIST@aol.com

If you wish to make a financial contribution, make check to: ANDA, P.O. Box 55851 Little Rock, AR 72215

Thank you for all you do to create a better life for each of us.

Debra Bailey  
Development Coordinator



## Recycle Us!

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# The State Of Gay Entertainment

What is happening with Gay-owned entertainment companies? From the very top of Hollywood's dizzy heights to the smallest of the start-ups, it seems like no one can get a break these days. It was not so many years ago that Gay billionaire David Geffen announced the launch of his partnership with hetero friends Steven Spielberg and Jeffrey Katzenberg. Now Dreamworks SKG is bleeding money. Feature production is nearly non-existent, and the television division just launched its latest troubled sitcom with Arsenio Hall (reportedly VERY difficult on the set of his last show) and Viveca Fox (whose unfriendly use of expletives on the set is nearing epic proportions).

On the print and video front, Alluvial Entertainment has spent the last few weeks on quite a rollercoaster ride. Their Greenwood/Cooper line, a successful alternative to hard core videos, has been highly profitable. Their specialty nude magazine, *Provocateur*, has succeeded in attracting both a loyal following and high-profile national advertisers including two major liquor companies. Despite this, the company has been experiencing serious growing pains after trying to grasp too far beyond its reach. Too-quick expansion (coupled with some less than exciting videos released last year) are to blame for the company's current return to "core businesses." A round of layoffs at Alluvial a few weeks ago were said to be part of the company's refocus. Despite rumors ranging from drug abuse to mental illness (all reportedly unfounded), Alluvial is still a functioning organization, though still trying to strike a delicate balance.

Things have been stumbling along in the cable industry as well. Though there have been several attempts over the last few years to launch a national Lesbian and Gay cable network, all such attempts have, thus far, made little progress. With major companies such as Time Warner and Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. fighting for channels, it is no wonder that smaller community-based stations are nearly impossible to get off the ground. There was a glimmer of hope late last year, though, in the form of Los Angeles-based CommuniTV. Through weeks of grassroots efforts, the upstart cable project was able to do a temporary national satellite hook-up for their World AIDS Day program on December 1st. The program featured a list of names of people who have died of AIDS.

With the prestigious new Simmons Marketing Study profil-

ing Gay and Lesbian buying habits now available to advertisers, the queer market is more attractive than ever. Statistics from the survey indicate that Lesbian and Gay consumers are not only a prime market, they prefer to buy from companies that are either Gay-owned or Gay-friendly. This is essential information that should increase the amount of ad pages

tough choices when they discover that their unborn child is carrying a Gay gene. The film also stars Jennifer Beals as his wife, Faye Dunaway and Garry Marshall as her parents, Brendan Fraser as her Gay brother, and openly Gay director John Shlesinger as the doctor. "What is really great about [Twilight] is that all of the different sides of the issue are repre-

sented. The picture has a point of view, but it really lays out the questions. It is more than just the homosexual issue. It's also about the ethics involved. It's about abortion, it's about genetic testing, it's about homosexuality, it's about a lot of different issues." The film wowed audiences at the Chicago

Film Festival and provoked serious discussion at Sundance. Look for *Twilight of the Golds* to air on Showtime in March, and later in limited theatrical distribution around the country.

## Deep Inside HOLLYWOOD

By Miss Paige Turner

sold and Gay-themed entertainment produced, but the key to success for these companies is to have the right combination of vision and leadership to make it well into the 21st century.

### Talking Twilight With Jon Tenney

So far, study actor Jon Tenney has been best known as the real-life husband of popular TV star Teri Hatcher, but all of that is about to change. With a good role in Matthew Perry's new film *Fools Rush In* and Showtime's production of the controversial play *Twilight of the Golds*, Tenney is ready to make it big. While he only shares a brief quasi-Gay embrace with Matthew Perry at the beginning of *Fools*, Gay fans will want to see him light up the small screen in *Twilight*. I spoke with Tenney recently about his role in both films, and he was most excited about *Twilight* because of the interesting subject matter. "It's a provocative piece," he told me; describing the controversial storyline of a couple who face

### Ethan Hawke: Barely Legal

There is more to see in the new film *Gattaca* than the fresh faces of stars Ethan Hawke (*Reality Bites*) and Loren Dean (*Mrs. Winterbourne*). A sci-fi drama, *Gattaca* is set in a time of genetically engineered people. Sex Hawke plays a "naturally born" who hides his past to join an elite team in space, but whose career is undone after he becomes a suspect in a murder. The film also stars Uma Thurman (as the object of his desire) and emerging hunk star Loren Dean (as the investigator trying to capture him). Part of the filming involved a nude beach romp between Hawke and Dean (co-star Thurman is noticeably absent from the scene). Hawke had no trouble parading around naked on the set, but the Santa Monica

Police felt otherwise when they stopped production on the public beach the film was shooting on. The killjoy authorities allowed the film to resume once Hawke and Dean were more modestly attired. Word from the set indicated that Dean was relieved that the public nudity was halted, and his semi-clothed performance is noticeably more lively. The film also stars

noted Gay author and actor Gore Vidal, who is thankfully not naked in any of his scenes.

Miss Paige Turner's next celebrity interview will be with comedian Kate Clinton on March 10 on PlanetOut on America Online (Keyword: PNO Events). For questions or comments, please contact Paige through this publication or by E-mail at [PNOPaige@aol.com](mailto:PNOPaige@aol.com).

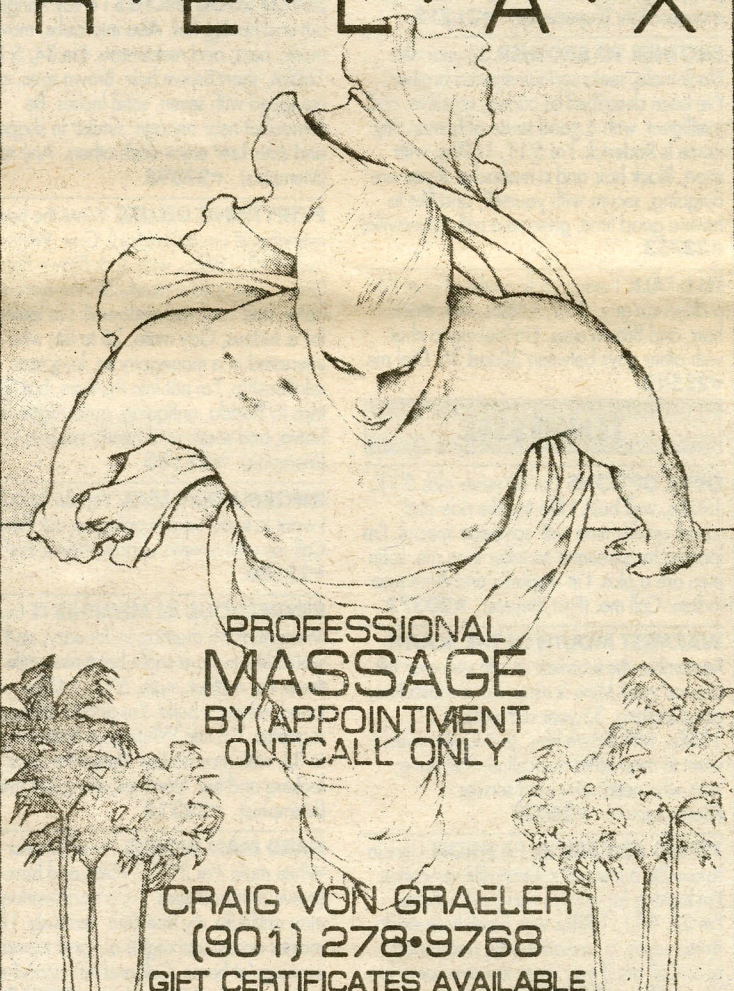
## Showtime Set to Produce More Tales of the City

According to *The Advocate*, the Showtime cable network has given a go-ahead to Armistead Maupin's *More Tales of the City*. Alan Poul, who produced the hit PBS version or the original *Tales of the City*, said, "This is the product of a three-year struggle. Although the mini-series was a major hit for PBS, the network backed off on producing a sequel because of some concern from funders and donors."

Poul is reported to be unconcerned about censorship issues at Showtime. "*More Tales of the City* is pretty tame stuff for Showtime," Poul said.

Production may begin as early as June.

R · E · L · A · X



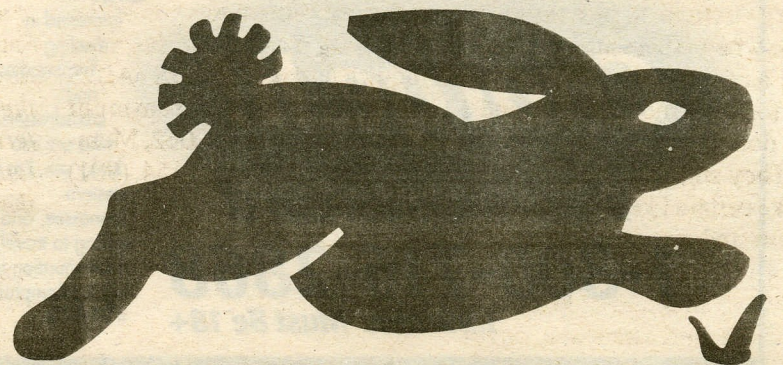
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- Unitarian Church of the River - 526-8631
- Unity Church (Kirby Road) - 753-0831

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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#### PERSONALS

Butch Valentine—I saw you on the corner of Poplar and Cleveland yesterday surrounded by people on their hands and knees. I assumed that the public was finally paying you the homage you so richly deserve. Then I realized that a drug store delivery truck had overturned and they were all just stuffing their pockets with pills. Oh well, so much for greatness, Huh? Love the column—Mule.

HIV-positive, healthy, GWM, 37, 5'9", 150# seeks friendship that could turn

into relationship. I am stable, employed, country boy at heart. Love to cook, techno music, good books and quiet times in the woods or on the bench. If interested, please call Stevie at (901) 384-6660. No fats, fems, druggies, or cross-dressers, please. Habla Espanol. Professional GWF, 44 interested in meeting GWF, 40s, who is interested in jazz, classical music, ballet, movies and eating out. Call Chris—726-7173, evenings. No country music, please. SGWM seeks to meet someone special for friendship/possible relationship, between ages 25-46, employed, stable, no queens, bar flies, drugs. Me—6'1", 190#, 44 yo, MBA & MMA, well-endowed top—Available for dinner, dancing, travel, etc. Contact: Michael—278-5475. Serious Reply Only! WANTED: GWF who shares some similar interests of mine, seeks companionship, and is relationship-oriented. REWARD: 29 yo, GWF whose interests include reading, movies and music. Please call Beth—(901) 371-0789.

#### ROOMMATE

GWM, 40, good-looking, seeking a roommate by April 1. Neat, clean, professional, works. Seeking GWM/SWM. My straight roommate is getting married. Prefer to move in with you. Call to discuss: 360-9502.

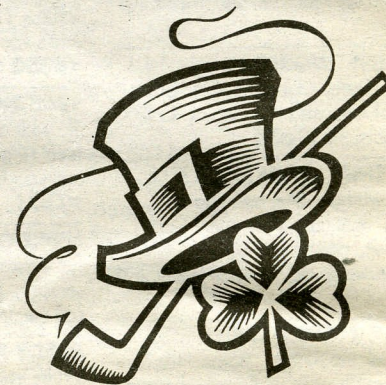
GWM seeks responsible roommate. New home—Bartlett. In-ground pool/

whirlpool, split floor plan—separate bath, laundry facilities, utilities included, \$200 deposit, \$550/month, Patrick—388-6056.

Tunica—GWM, 40, casino employee ISO roommate to live near casinos. Will rent from already established resident or go in half to get new place. 527-5927.

#### SERVICES

BUD BEAR ART: Commercial, lettering, portraiture, costume or leather design, fantasy and nudes. Hrs.: 5 p.m. - 10 p.m., 732-5212. Gayvon: If you've seen it in Atlanta or Dallas, odds are we have it right here in Memphis! Call for private appointment to shop in peace, or just call. If we have it, we will get it to you somehow! Satisfaction unconditionally guaranteed, New summer merchandise arriving daily! Gayvon@aol.com or (901) 388-9986.



**Buy a Subscription to the Mid-South's Gay and Lesbian Community Newspaper. For Yourself or for a friend.**

**12 Issues for \$15 mailed First Class, discreetly, so you don't have to wait for the news.**

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Triangle Journal News  
P.O. Box 11485  
Memphis, TN 38111-0485

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

#### Phoenix (Alcoholics Anonymous) All Meetings Open

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

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

#### Into The Light (Alcoholics Anonymous - Women)

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

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

#### Seriously Sober (Alcoholics Anonymous)

|        |         |                               |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Friday | 8:00 pm | Discussion (Open, Smoke Free) |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------|

#### 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) |
|----------|---------|-------------------|

#### ACOA (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

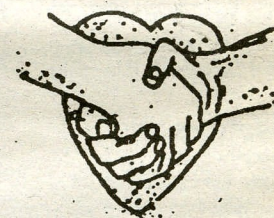
|        |         |                   |
|--------|---------|-------------------|
| Sunday | 6:30 pm | Discussion (Open) |
|--------|---------|-------------------|

#### OA (Overeaters Anonymous)

|        |         |                         |
|--------|---------|-------------------------|
| Monday | 6:00 pm | Discussion (Open)       |
| Friday | 6:00 pm | Feelings Meeting (Open) |

\*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.



# BACKSTREET

2018 Court Ave. • 901-276-5522

**HAPPY HOUR**  
2 for 1 Drinks  
8 - 11 p.m. Daily  
*No Cover*

## GLO-STICK PARTY

**Friday, March 28**  
**Lights Out at Midnight!**  
*"You never know what  
you'll find in the dark!"*

**KARAOKE**  
**Every Monday**  
*"Come be a star!"*

**DANCE FLOOR**  
Open till 6 a.m.  
**Weekends**

## Coming March 14...

**An All-New Look at  
Memphis' #1 Dance Club  
with the Reopening of the  
Other Side Featuring**

- \* A New Bar with Over 40 Imports!
- \* A Very Unique Atmosphere!
- \* Digital Surround Sound!
- \* 2 Big Screens!
- \* Entertainment Nightly!

**BEST LIGHTS!  
BEST DJ!  
MOST MEN!**

*Come Play  
With Us!*