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MAY 1997

## Hawaiian Lawmakers Move to Thwart Same-Sex Marriages

By Bruce Dunford  
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU (AP) — Negotiators for the Hawaiian state House and Senate agreed to let voters bar the legalization of Gay marriages, reaching a compromise plan that also would give same-sex couples some of the rights and benefits available to married couples.

The compromise approved by conferees late Apr. 16 is expected to gain easy approval by the House and Senate. It is intended to reverse the Hawaii Supreme Court's 1993 ruling that found a ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional.

A proposed state constitutional amendment letting the Legislature restrict marriage to couples of the opposite sex would be put on a statewide ballot next year. Polls leave little doubt it would pass.

But lawmakers also agreed to let Gay and Lesbian couples sign up as "reciprocal beneficiaries," giving them inheritance rights, the right to sue for wrongful death, spousal benefits for insurance and state pensions, and similar rights. The proposal also would offer such rights to other pairs living together who could not marry, such as a widowed mother and her unmarried son.

Hawaii's legal case on same-sex marriages took center stage in legislatures across the country because the U.S. Constitution says marriages performed in one state must be recognized in all.

In response, Congress passed

the Defense of Marriage Act to deny federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allowing states not to recognize same-sex unions licensed in other states. President Clinton signed it in September.

To date, 18 states have acted not to recognize same-sex unions.

The state Supreme Court ruled in 1993 that denying three Gay couples marriage licenses amounted to gender discrimination under the Hawaii Constitution's equal protection clause, unless the state could show a compelling reason to do so.

After a trial in September, a judge ruled that the state had failed to show a compelling reason.

Gay and Lesbian activists denounced the Hawaii compromise, saying it fell short of the equal rights they would receive if the state Supreme Court ruling prevails.

"I can't tell you how upset I am," said Tracey Bennett, a leader of Marriage Project Hawaii. "We had hoped the Senate would have adhered to its desire to extend civil rights to all people, and the Senate caved."

Lawmakers spoke proudly of the compromise. Rep. Terrance Tom, chairman of the House conferees, said it would address the needs of Gay couples while still giving Hawaiian voters "the opportunity to reconfirm their belief that marriage, the fundamental unit of our society, is the union of one man and one woman."

## First Memphis Gay Softball Tournament Slated For July 4 to 6

submitted by BCSA

The Bluff City Sports Association softball league is holding its first tournament July 4th weekend. With teams from Memphis traveling to tournaments throughout the south and mid west the last several years, we were asked by many when we would be having our own tournament. After consideration and planning, we have complied and are about to set out accomplishing a first for Memphis.

The tournament format will be for "C" division teams, di-

vided up into competitive and recreational fields and a women's division. Tournament play will begin the evening of July 4 and continue throughout the weekend, with the championship games being held on Sun., July 6. All games will be played at Rodney Baber softball complex, located just off the I-240 Hollywood St. exit.

Already there are teams committed from Atlanta, Huntsville, Birmingham, Nashville and Roanoke, VA, with more to come. Expectations are to have at least 20 teams here that week-

end playing softball and visiting Memphis, many for the first time ever. Let's make them feel welcome and show our Southern hospitality to the participants.

Registration events will begin July 3, at the Ornamental Metal Musuem outside party area and continue Friday afternoon. Our goal is to make sure this will be a tournament that people want to come back to each year and tell others who haven't been here before.

Be sure to mark your calendars for this event and be part of a first in Memphis.

## HRC Questions ABC's Advertising Stands After Commercial Rejection

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign has called for a clarification of ABC-TV's advertising standards after the network refused to sell time during the *Ellen* coming out episode to a Lesbian cruise line. In March, the network declined an HRC commercial, saying it violated ABC's policy against "controversial issue advertising."

HRC learned that ABC has told Olivia Cruise Lines of Oakland, Calif., that "It is our position that discussion about same-sex lifestyles is more appropriate in programming."

"This rationale calls into serious question the reason ABC gave the Human Rights Campaign for rejecting our commercial," said David M. Smith, HRC's communications director and senior strategist. "We had thought our ad was being treated like all other issue advertising. Now we have reason to believe otherwise."

"ABC needs to explain to the television viewing public what it means by that statement to Olivia, which, on its face, sounds blatantly discriminatory."

Both HRC and Olivia sought to buy national network advertising time during the April 30 episode of *Ellen*. On that pro-

gram, the lead character, played by Ellen DeGeneres, is slated to reveal her Lesbianism. HRC's ad is aimed at raising awareness that job discrimination based on sexual orientation is legal in 41 states.

When the ABC network declined HRC's commercial, HRC sought to place it on ABC affiliates across the country — a much more expensive undertaking than buying one national 30-second slot.

With 65 ABC affiliates willing to air the spot, HRC currently plans to place it in 33 markets across the country.

News conferences in most of the markets in which the ad has been placed, as well as in most of those declining to run it, are set to publicly unveil the commercial one week before its air date.

Currently, HRC is planning to air the ad in the following markets: Albany, N.Y.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Anchorage, Alaska; Atlanta; Austin, Texas; Bismarck, N.D.; Boston; Cleveland; Columbia, S.C.; Dallas; Denver; Erie, Pa.; Fargo, N.D.; Fort Smith, Ark.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Honolulu; Jackson, Miss.; Los Angeles; Madison, Wis.; Manchester, N.H.; Minneapolis; New Orleans; Oklahoma City; Phoenix; Portland,

Maine; Portland, Ore.; Raleigh, N.C.; St. Louis; San Antonio; San Francisco; Seattle; Traverse City, Mich.; and Washington. (Note: This list is subject to change.)

The spot was declined by the network's affiliates in Memphis, Tenn.; Nashville, Tenn.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Chicago; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Eugene, Ore.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Houston; New York; Philadelphia; and Wichita, Kan.

In conjunction with the airing of the job discrimination ad and the coming out episode, HRC members and supporters will hold *Ellen* house parties across the nation on the night of the broadcast. The gatherings will serve as an opportunity to mark the historic occasion, as well as to increase visibility for and involvement in HRC's work to protect Americans from job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

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

2 A  
Word From  
Our Sponsor

5 Emotionally  
Healthy  
Children

13 Lesbian  
Sues  
Cemetery

15 Tsarus  
Turns  
Twenty

plus  
Reviews  
Local News  
and more

# And Now, a Word from Our Sponsors: Oops, What Sponsors?

By Ira L. King

Just a day or two after this publication goes to press Ellen will be "out" of the closet, the leading topic of every conversation from Bangor, Me. to San Diego, Calif. While much ado has been and will be made about the American Broadcasting Company's (ABC) decision to bring Ellen out in the open with her Lesbian orientation, of even more significant note will be the commercial sponsors of this controversial episode.

The March 25th edition of *USA Today* revealed that three companies, General Motors, Chrysler, and Johnson and Johnson decided to pull their support long before the decision to air the "homosexual" episode was made. These companies were later

joined by Wendy's, which decided to pull its ads from the show as well. (If you believe that, I've got some swamp land in the Sahara Desert that I will be glad to sell you.)

The American Family Association's (AFA) Tim Wildmon says, "It's good news for America's families that corporations are choosing to stay away from a celebration of homosexuality and Lesbianism being pushed by Disney and ABC."

No, Mr. Wildmon, what's good news for America is that ABC and Disney have the collective guts and integrity to air the show in spite of some corporate wimps inability to face life in these United States as it really is.

Televising Gays and Lesbians as part of

mainstream America is not really very daring. It's simply the right thing to do, because it is honest and true. From the poor house to the White House, from young to old, all across the color spectrum, at every socioeconomic level, there are Gay and Lesbian Americans significantly contributing to the fabric of our society. With the money we earn, we buy automobiles produced by General Motors and Chrysler, many of the products produced by Johnson and Johnson, as well as meals at Wendy's. Why these companies choose to treat us like second-class citizens is beyond me.

Quoting from *USA Today*: "We're not making a social statement" about sexual orientation says Chrysler spokeswoman Megan Giles. "But it's not sound

business for us to be involved with an episode that's in such a highly polarized and emotional environment."

Just who the hell does Ms. Giles think she is? I wonder if Ms. Giles realizes how many Gays and Lesbians there are in the Chrysler Corporation. Yes, Ms. Giles, Gays and Lesbians work the assembly lines; Gays and Lesbians are a part of every level of management; they have partners, brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers who are Gay. If Gays and Lesbians in American decided not to buy any more Chrysler products or walked off the Chrysler assembly line, you, Ms. Giles, would be out of a job. And I would be very happy for you.

This whole stinking situation reminds me of the upheaval a few years ago when it was discovered that the Cracker Barrel restaurant chain had a policy against hiring Gays and Lesbians to work in its company. It was OK for us to eat and spend our money there. But, there was no way we were going to be allowed to earn an honest living by working there.

Take our money, let us decorate your homes, let us style your hair and make glorious floral arrangements. But under no cir-

for the classroom by buying a \$3.25 box of Krispy Creme donuts. I told the co-worker that I do not eat donuts, but that I would fork over the \$3.25. After all, a computer in the classroom is a wonderful investment for a child's future. I could have chosen not to sponsor the computer purchase and kept my \$3.25. I had to go beyond my personal likes and dislikes and consider the big picture. That's what corporate America needs to do, consider the big picture. Sometimes there are much greater causes in life than our own

## VIEWPOINT

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

stances is corporate America to recognize our existence by supporting TV shows that paint us in a positive light.

So do we boycott companies that refuse to lend corporate sponsorship to television programs that have Gay and Lesbian themes. The answer is NO! The Gay community will do itself no favors by boycotting companies where many of its members work and earn a living. If you want to influence corporate America's sponsorship of media events affecting Gays and Lesbians then put together phone committees and call their corporate headquarters at all hours of the day and night, seven days a week. Send lots of letters and postcards demanding an about face on issues that affect our community. Remind corporate America that many of them have skeletons in their corporate closets that have nothing to do with homosexuality, but if exposed would cause significant pain in their pocketbooks.

Today I was asked by a co-worker if I would help a child's school buy a computer

personal prejudices. The same is true for the corporate American image.

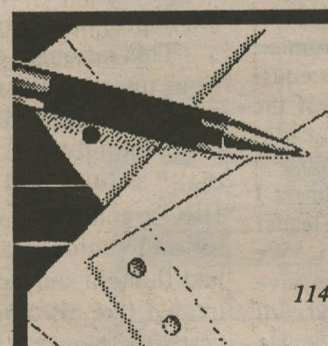
Potential sponsors who are concerned about their image should remember that an image is a reflection of the attitudes, personalities and even sexuality of the people working for any given company. Some are Gay and Lesbian, some are straight, many fall somewhere in-between. All are potential customers and have a right to ask corporations to sponsor television that will honestly and realistically present and interpret all lifestyles, regardless of the sexual content. Shows like *Ellen* hurt no one. The show is tasteful, honest, non-pornographic, and in many ways educational. Had *Ellen* been shown on public television, there would have been none of the controversy that accompanied the major network airing.

With all the controversy over program ratings, violence and profanity on television, I would think most sponsors would welcome a healthy dose of reality. *Ellen* offers just such medicine.

## 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.



## Baby Benefit Raises \$500

Everyday in the news, we hear of all the tragedy and heartbreak that goes on. This time, we'd like to add a positive light after one such tragedy.

Earlier this year, Shawn Ellis, an infant in West Memphis, lost his life in a house fire.

On Sat., Apr. 12, Lee Kent put together a benefit for the Eagles Men and Women Auxiliary. To those participating: FiFi Larve (co-owner of Crossroads), Ms. Simply Vonna Valentino (1997 Ms. Crossroads), Tennisha Cassidine (1997 Ms. 501), Melba Moore, Darlene Trump, Jackée, Misty McEntire, Bonnie ("Miss Bitch"), Lee Kent, Jesse James, Nadine Westheimer Houston, Pam Frye, Joe

Freedom and birthday girl Candace Kane as well as the remaining staff of Crossroads and 501, I would like to say thanks for coming together and reaching out to those who really need the help and support, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

A special thanks goes to Lee Kent who is a bartender at Crossroads for helping us raise \$500 for the family of little Shawn.

Thank you and God Bless.

Gary Bodell  
Memphis

Editor's Note:  
See picture on page 12



Box 11485, Memphis, Tennessee 38111-0485  
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# Army Halts Efforts to Collect Cost of Education from Gay Ex-Soldier

DALLAS (AP) — The U.S. Army says it will end its efforts to recoup the \$175,000 cost of a West Point education from a Dallas man who said he was forced from the military because he's gay.

William Coleman, general counsel for the Army, declined Apr. 14 to state the reason for the action, saying it might violate at-

orney-client privilege. But the broader implications of the Army's decision remain unclear, Coleman said.

"How this might work out in future cases is something you might want to look at," he said.

Clayce Rodamer, 32, says elimination of the disputed debt, after seven years of struggle,

means he may be able to repair his credit and buy a house.

"A weight on my shoulders is gone," he said late Monday, adding that he still wants to recover attorneys' fees and other costs of his long fight.

David Przeracki, a lawyer who represented Rodamer, said his client's victory may signal that the military is ready to drop reimbursement claims against other Gays and Lesbians discharged before the "don't ask, don't tell" policy was implemented in 1993.

After the case drew widespread publicity last month, Sara E. Lister, the Army's assistant secretary for personnel, recommended to the

Pentagon's top lawyer that collection efforts against Rodamer be dropped.

"They are not in the best interests of the Army," she wrote in a brief memorandum.

Since appearing on national television in March, Rodamer said he has received more than 200 letters and e-mail messages from former service people being dunned by the military.

Under "don't ask, don't tell," commanders are no longer supposed to ask soldiers about their sexual orientation; Gays and Lesbians, meanwhile, aren't supposed to volunteer such information. Those who acknowledge homo-

sexuality may be discharged but aren't supposed to face reimbursement claims.

The Army had said Rodamer should pay for his free 1980s service academy training because he didn't serve his required five-year stint. He said he intended to fulfill that obligation and resigned from the Army rather than face a court martial.

Rodamer said he realized he was gay in 1988 while serving at Fort Bliss in El Paso. He said he told his commander in an effort to uphold the military tradition of honesty and integrity.

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## Supporters Bussed to Gay Bar as Opponents Hold Vigil Outside

BOSWELL, Pa. (AP) — Bible-toting opponents of an openly gay night club in rural Somerset County vowed to continue protesting each weekend until the tavern closes for good.

The latest face-off came when about 20 gay activists arrived by bus from Pittsburgh to show support for the Casa Nova restaurant and bar.

"We're here, we're queer, we're fabulous, get used to it," the visitors chanted as they entered the building through a side door.

Three dozen men, women and children gathered across the street in a cold drizzle, clutching candles and Bibles and praying. Some carried signs denouncing homosexuality, and others sat in folding chairs nursing containers of coffee.

Ron McRae, bishop at the Bible Anabaptist Church in Jerome, Somerset County, has

led regular demonstrations against the bar.

"They're ashamed of themselves because they snuck in the back door," he said. "They had every right to walk in the front door but ran in the back."

State police Sgt. Robert Weaver said some 20 officers patrolling nearby prevented a confrontation between the two groups.

Supporters of the bar made the 40-mile bus ride to Boswell to dine and dance at an event organizers called "Burn in Hell Night." The party was named in a mocking reference to protesters' signs and comments from street preachers who oppose the club.

Despite a shooting at the bar's front door and a petition from neighbors, the owner of the Casa Nova has said she plans to keep it open. Two club patrons were hurt in the March 9 shooting.

"All we're trying to say is that anyone who wants to patronize a business should be able to," said

Billy Hileman, a spokesman for "Cry Out! ACT UP" — a gay and lesbian activist group that sponsored the bus trip. "You can not shut down a business just because its patrons are gay or lesbian."

Hileman said he had expected as many as 50 activists to make the bus trip.

"It's kind of hard to get people to come to a place that's been shot at," he said.

Patty Shaffer, who lives one mile from the club, joined in the prayer vigil and picket.

"They say we shouldn't be preaching to them because we're not perfect, but for some things you've got to take a stand," she said.

McRae said the protests will continue each weekend. Opponents showed up again when the bar offered a free Sunday buffet.

Many observers had expected a clash between the two sides. Police said they had been particularly concerned about the safety of those picketing the night club.

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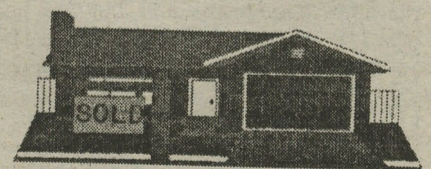
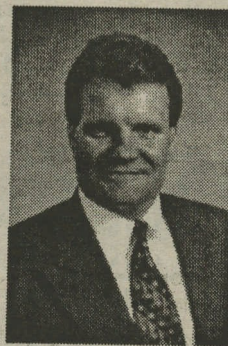


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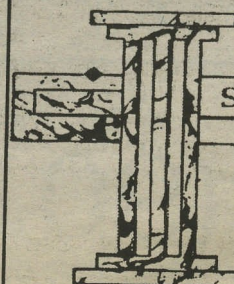


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# Montana Supreme Court Hears Arguments on Gay Sex

MISSOULA (AP)—The Montana Supreme Court heard arguments Apr. 11 challenging the state's deviate sexual conduct law, which bans homosexual sex but took no immediate action.

A primary question is: If the Montana Constitution protects heterosexual sex, how can it not also protect homosexual sex?

That and other questions came before the court in oral arguments in the case of *Gryczan vs. State of Montana*, which was filed in 1993 by six homosexual Montanans.

District Judge Jeffrey Sherlock of Helena ruled the law unconstitutional in February 1996.

Attorney General Joe Mazurek,

with agreement from Gov. Marc Racicot, appealed that decision.

Mazurek said such an important case should be resolved by the state's highest court.

The justices — particular Terry Trieweiler and James Nelson — challenged Assistant Attorney General Clay Smith from the outset Friday.

Smith argued the politically charged issue ought not even be settled by the high court, but rather by the Legislature. Further, Smith said the six plaintiffs weren't entitled to bring suit because they have not been threatened or injured by enforcement of the law.

"There is no credible threat of

prosecution," Smith told the justices.

Plaintiffs' attorneys Holly Franz and Rosemary Daszkiewicz argued that the law is punitive even when unenforced. The law brands homosexuals as criminals, Franz said, and promotes discrimination and hatred.

The case is grounded primarily in the state constitution's right to privacy.

"What could be more private

than sex?" Trieweiler asked Smith.

Smith argued that while people rightly view sex as a private matter, that doesn't mean sex — even heterosexual sex — enjoys constitutional protection or exists as a fundamental right. Instead, heterosexual sex might be protected on the grounds of reproduction or the sanctity of marriage, Smith said.

Nelson noted that the law wasn't regulating particular sexual conduct but focusing on who might

engage in those acts. And that, Daszkiewicz said, was discrimination.

The court took the arguments under study.

During a news conference before the court session, several of the plaintiffs said they expect the Supreme Court to uphold Sherlock's decision. Overturning the law would tell Montanans that the state values tolerance over hatred and bigotry, they said.

## Study: Children of Lesbian Couples Emotionally Healthy

By Paul Recer  
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lesbians who become parents through artificial insemination are raising emotionally healthy and well-adjusted children, according to three new studies.

In studies presented Thursday at a meeting of social scientists, researchers said standard psychological tests found no significant differences between children of lesbian parents and those of heterosexual parents.

"When you look at kids with standard psychological assessments, you can't tell who has a lesbian parent and who has a heterosexual parent," said Charlotte J. Patterson, a University of Virginia researcher. "That's really the main finding from these studies."

The studies were conducted in the United States, Britain and the Netherlands. They were presented at a meeting of the Society for Research on Child Development.

Most of the children in the lesbian families were conceived at fertility clinics. Some of the children of heterosexual parents also were conceived at fertility clinics, but the studies also compared these groups with children born from natural conception.

Though the studies found no differences between the groups, Patterson noted that "the existing body of research is relatively sparse and open to criticism."

She said many of the studies are based on small samples and the lesbian couples studied often have volunteered for the research, which can affect the results.

The studies involved children up to age 9. Patterson said this means that the children were too young to determine if having homosexual parents will affect the youngsters' sexual orientation.

Interest in the development of children born to lesbian couples has increased in recent years because more and more lesbians are choosing to raise a family, said Patterson.

"There is a lesbian baby boom," she said. "It hasn't been quantified, but there is a general community sense that more and more lesbian couples are having children."

Part of the reason may be that more fertility clinics now are providing services to lesbian couples, she said. These clinics help lesbians become pregnant with the sperm of anonymous donors.

Fiona Tasker of Birkbeck College in the Netherlands said her study found that non-biological lesbian parents were usually more involved with the children than are the fathers of heterosexual couples.

"The woman who is the co-parent in a lesbian family is more likely to take a major role in raising the children," said Tasker.

In a study of 15 lesbian couples and 41 parents of children born through natural conception, Tasker said she found that 90 percent of the lesbian co-parents assumed the common child-raising tasks. Only about 37 percent of the fathers in heterosexual couples, however, took an active role, she said.

In disciplining the children, Tasker found, 60 percent of the lesbian co-parents took an active role, while it was only 20 percent of the fathers in heterosexual families.

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# Corporate Effort to Weaken Domestic Partners Law Falls Flat

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — An attempt to ease the city's groundbreaking domestic partners law by excluding unmarried straight couples from the benefits it would offer has fallen flat.

San Francisco's three Gay supervisors have backed off the potentially divisive amendment, saying they wanted to stay united on an issue of such importance.

Two of them, Susan Leal and Leslie Katz, announced a week ago that they were considering the exclusion. But Tom Ammiano refused to go along with the idea, calling it an attempt to "nickel and dime civil rights."

"This is landmark legislation, and with legislation of this significance it's very important that the

Gay and Lesbian officeholders be united on this," Supervisor Susan Leal said Tuesday. "We didn't want to be divided any more."

The law, passed last year and scheduled to take effect in June, requires companies and agencies doing business with the city to provide the same benefits to workers with registered domestic partners — Gay or straight — as they do to married employees.

Currently, it will apply only to workers who register their partnerships with a government agency. The proposed amendment would have allowed companies to set up their own registries and exclude unmarried straight couples.

Corporate interests wanted the exclusion because they worried

that the cost of providing benefits to a large number of additional people would be too high. They thought the exclusion would ease their financial obligations.

After the conflict surfaced publicly last week, the proposed

amendment quickly began to unravel. Supporters didn't want to be tagged with any thought of weakening the domestic partners law.

Katz said dropping pursuit of the Gay-only registry plan wasn't difficult for her or Leal.

"This wasn't anything any of us cared passionately about, to be blunt," she said. "Susan (Leal) and I might have been willing to be more flexible, but it wasn't something we were going to go to the mat on."

## Regent's Bid to Halt Play at University Fails

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A play with a homosexual theme and a brief nude scene will go on despite objections from a University of Nebraska regent.

The play, *Six Degrees of Separation*, was inspired by a true story about a wealthy white couple that is duped by a Black man who claims to be the son of actor Sidney Poitier. It was scheduled to begin this weekend.

Regent Robert Allen of Hastings objected to a 30-second full frontal nude scene of a male actor. He also was worried that students who did not approve of the play's subject matter would be required to help produce or view the play for course credit.

Dick Durst, dean of UNL's College of Fine and Performing Arts, said he assured Allen that no student who felt uncomfortable would be required to see or work on the show.

Durst said the university supports the play and believes its con-

tent will be presented responsibly by its actors and director Tice Miller.

Both students and faculty helped decide to produce *Six Degrees*, which won the Olivier Award for best play and the New York Drama Critic's Circle Award in 1993, Durst said.

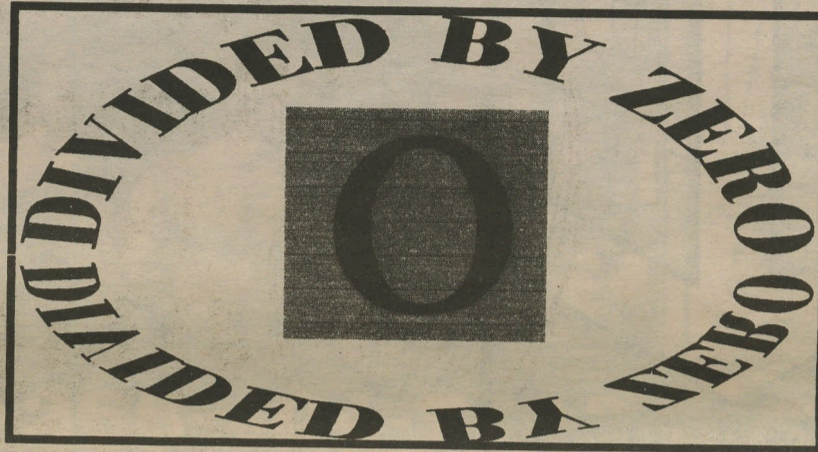
"I feel strongly that neither he (Allen) nor I can be the public censor," Durst said.

He said the adult content of the play is true to the playwright's intent and is important to the story line. Those who choose to see the play for its shock value will be disappointed.

"It's very important to the character and the story line," he said. "We shouldn't do the play if we're not doing the nudity."

UNL officials said this is not the first time nudity has been on a UNL stage. At least 15 productions performed at UNL since 1977 have contained nudity or partial nudity.

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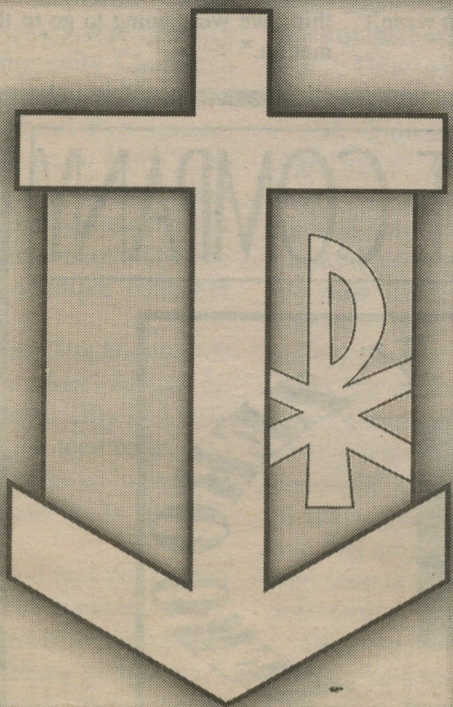
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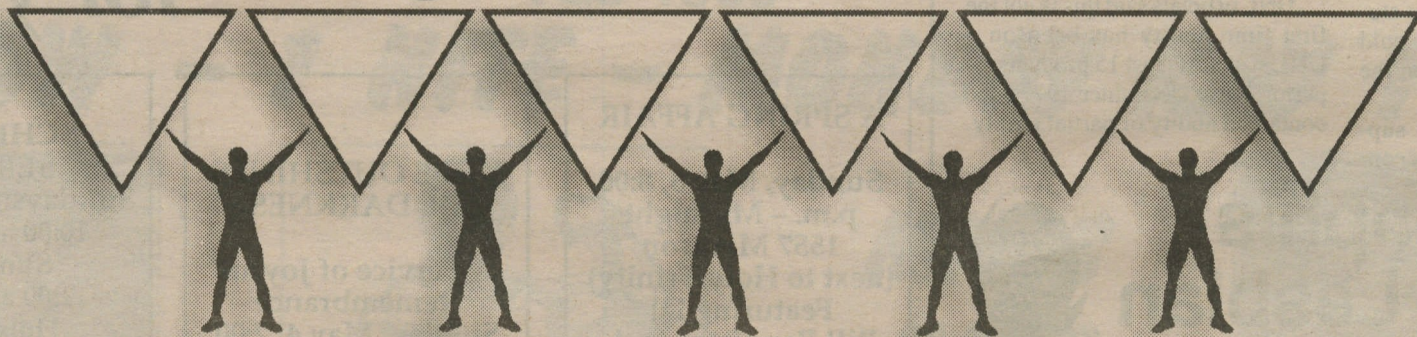
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# Mississippi Officials Facing Tough Decisions on Providing New Drugs

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A state Health Department official is soliciting recommendations from health officials, medical providers and AIDS patients in working to stretch federal funding for AIDS drugs.

Craig Thompson, director of the agency's Division of STD/HIV warns that limited funds may force health officials to cap the number of AIDS patients receiving the expensive life-extending drugs.

"We're in crisis as far as AIDS funding," Thompson said.

Thompson asked a gathering of about 40 people Apr. 16 for recommendations in allocating federal Ryan White CARE funds for AIDS drugs. The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act provides drugs to treat HIV and opportunistic infections for uninsured and underinsured people infected with the AIDS virus.

Thompson is attempting to determine which drugs to discontinue in the Mississippi AIDS Drug Assistance program and what criteria to use in deciding who will receive the drugs.

"Make no mistake," said Robert S. McGowan, director of Grace House, a residence for people with AIDS. "We are considering who is going to live and who is going to die."

"No form of medical rationing is pleasant," said Dr. William Causey of Jackson, one of those attending the session. "It's always going to be painful for some. To me, the biggest crime I deal with is seeing people who want to be on the drugs, who need to be on the drugs but can't afford it."

Causey said he and other providers were going to start lobbying the state Legislature for funds.

Thompson said he and others from the Health Department are prohibited from lobbying lawmakers. But he said he could provide information to any group that might want to lobby for more money.

"I will gladly offer the division to serve as a resource," Thompson said. "We will act as a public clearinghouse."

New drug treatments, known as combination therapy, are keeping patients alive indefinitely but can cost from \$12,000 to \$16,000 per year per patient at normal market prices.

"It's become a standard of care. If you can tolerate it, they're going to put you on it," Thompson said. "This is a drug therapy that can keep people alive. It's almost indefinite how long a patient can live."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in February reported the first significant drop in AIDS deaths since the epidemic began in 1981. CDC officials credited better treatment and programs for the 13 percent drop in deaths. About 22,000 people died of AIDS in the first six months of 1996, down from 24,900 a year earlier.

Bob Lowery, director of CARE and Services Branch at the Health Department, said that in other states about 80 percent of AIDS patients have begun taking combination therapy drugs. He said that if the Health Department tried to serve that many in Mississippi, it would need an estimated \$10.5 million.

For this fiscal year, Mississippi

received \$2,040,326 to provide AIDS drugs.

"The more patients who are going on triple combination therapy, the fewer we're going to be able to serve," Lowery said. "We're looking at capping the amount of people that we serve. We'll reach a certain number, then at that point, you'll have to start a

waiting list for those who need drugs."

There are few other choices for patients who find themselves on a waiting list, Lowery acknowledged. "The options will be very, very limited."

Late last year the Health Department started providing patients with combination therapy drugs

and immediately ran into funding problems, Thompson said.

At the end of its fiscal year in March, the Health Department ran out of money to provide services to about 880 patients, Lowery said. The Health Department had to take \$80,000 from its 1997 Ryan White funding to make it through the last fiscal year.



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## Gore Says Administration Trying to Expand Medicaid for PWAs

By Brian Witte  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration is looking into expanding Medicaid coverage for people afflicted with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, according to Vice President Al Gore.

Gore said he has asked the Health Care Financing Administration "to look into the possibility" of making Medicaid available earlier to people with HIV to improve their access to cutting-edge drugs that fight the disease.

"Our view is that getting these drugs to people earlier will not cost more in the long run," Gore said. "It may even save money, and it will certainly save lives."

Gore said the move was necessary because people diagnosed with HIV can develop full-blown

AIDS before becoming eligible for Medicaid "and that makes some of these new drugs prohibitively expensive for people who need them."

"We think this should change to ensure that good people are not deprived of lifesaving medicine," he said.

Gore, who accepted the award jointly with his wife, Tipper, said there is good reason for optimism in the war on AIDS because of "remarkable progress" in finding effective drugs to combat the deadly disease.

"People who thought they were certain to die are now living healthy lives," he said. "Deaths from AIDS are dropping for the first time ever."

But he noted, "We've got a long way to go before we beat this monster. We're just now beginning to see the way to do it."

# "Play Ball" Signals Beginning of Softball Season

Submitted by BCAA

The Bluff City Sports Association Softball League began its second year of play on Apr. 6, with six teams lacing up their cleats, giving 'high fives' and cheering each other on.

Participating teams this year are Arizona Coyotes, Autumn St. Haze, J-Wag Jaguars, Mid-South Vision Center Peepers, Cole-Haysten Clippers and Dabbles Hair Salon Dabblers.

The sponsors of these teams are to be congratulated for

agreeing to be sponsors and supporting this endeavor.

All games are played on Sunday evenings starting at 6 p.m. at Tobey Softball Complex, located at the corner of Hollywood & Central Ave. Three games are slated for each night of play.

Come out, watch and cheer for your favorite team or just enjoy the atmosphere of fun and fellowship. Fan support has been great again this year.

Based on play of all teams this year with only a few weeks

of games in, they are close and exciting to watch.

## League Standings

(as of Apr. 20, 1997)

Clippers 3-0

Haze 3-0

Jaguars 2-1

Coyotes 1-2

Dabblers 1-2

Peepers 0-3

Game scheduled through the month of May are:

### April 27

6 p.m. - Dabblers vs Jaguars

7 p.m. - Haze vs Clippers

8 p.m. - Peepers vs Coyotes

### May 4

6 p.m. - Haze vs Jaguars

7 p.m. - Peepers vs Dabblers

8 p.m. - Clippers vs Coyotes

### May 11

NO GAMES SCHEDULED

### May 18

6 p.m. - Coyotes vs Dabblers

7 p.m. - Haze vs Peepers

8 p.m. - Jaguars vs Clippers

### May 25

NO GAMES SCHEDULED

Congratulations to J-Wag's Jaguars for placing second in the "C" Recreational Division in Birmingham and to Autumn St. Haze for their excellent play in the "C" Competitive Division.

## Changes Set to Reopen

Changes, closed last December due to fire, is scheduled to reopen shortly.

Owner Diane Starr received a report from the Fire Department that the cause of the blaze which closed the bar was definitely arson but no other evidence has been produced.

The bar has been remodeled and repainted. The format will include live music. It was very popular with Lesbians before its closing.

## Alliance Club Afternoon to Feature Casino Prize

Submitted by Alliance

Alliance L.L. will be hosting a club night at Pipeline Sunday afternoon, May 17, at 5:30 on the patio. The all purpose, odorless, colorless, tasteless leather club for the 21st century will begin the evening's festivities with a free cookout in true Alliance fashion, Jell-o shooters will be available for the more adventurous palate, and door prizes will be given away throughout the night!

Grand door prize will be a

free night's stay for two plus a free breakfast or dinner at Fitzgerald's casino in Tunica!

The evening will culminate with a hairy chest contest (especially for all Bear and Bear lovers!). When Alliance is involved, one can count on good food, lots of fun, and plenty of surprises.

Be there Sun., May 17, at 5:30 on the patio at the Pipeline, and perhaps you could be the lucky winner of a fantastic night in Tunica.

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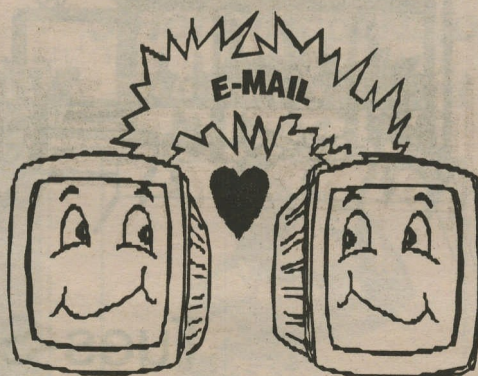
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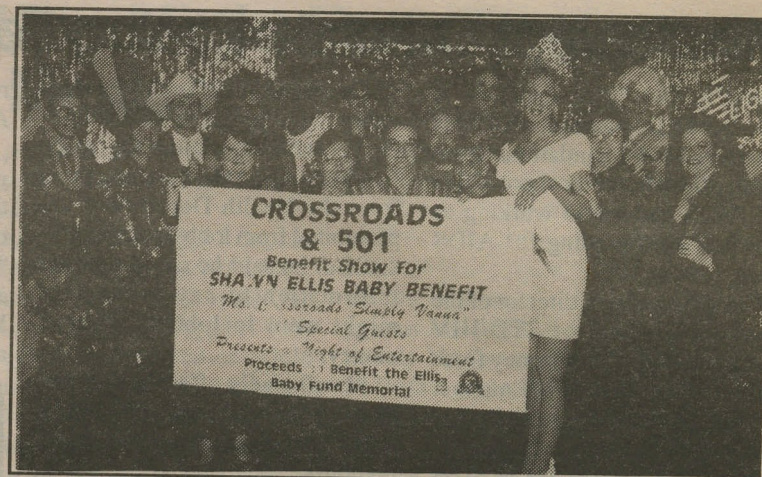
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Friends and employees of Crossroads and 501 raised \$500 to help the family of Shawn Ellis who died in a house fire earlier this year. See Letter to the Editor on page 2. Photo by George Limberakis

## Local Gay/Les History to be Published

Dr. Daneel Buring, a graduate of the University of Memphis has been informed that her history of Gay and Lesbian Memphis, written as her doctoral dissertation, will be published by Garland Publishing later this year.

Buring collected many stories and interviews during a long period of research and collected the most thorough documentation of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian community to date. It includes rare interviews from some sources no longer available.

A native Memphian, she had hoped to publish some of her tales and findings after her graduation. The working title is *Gay and Lesbian Memphis — Race, Class and Culture*. She has also begun soliciting photographs and permission to reproduce same.

According to Buring, "It's time go give back some of our history to those who have kept it in memory."

Publication date is planned for sometime late in the year and a local book signing will be included.

## FFL Auction Proceeds Down from '96

Despite an increase in overall attendance, the annual Friends for Life Auction for AIDS resulted in a smaller profit than last year.

Organizers put the gross revenue at about \$6,000 less than previous years.

This year's event was held Apr. 11 at the Peabody Hotel's Tennessee Exhibition Hall. WMC's Tom Prestigiacomo was guest auctioneer.

Auction items ranged from a donated car to hair care and personal services. As usual, the auction was divided into two parts — a large silent auction for modestly priced items and a live auction for items expected to bring in large amounts.

According to Paul Kelly, Friends for Life board member, most of the

silent auction items were had for bargain prices. He said that in previous years those items had been bid at near their retail value.

The Auction for AIDS and the fall masquerade ball comprise the agency's two major annual fundraisers. The decrease could result in a budget shortfall which may be made up during the year.

Friends for Life is a federally tax-exempt AIDS service and education organization located at 1450 Poplar Ave. in Memphis. It receives grants from the state of Tennessee and the federal government to provide services, but must raise funds for its administrative overhead.



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# A Cathedral of Hope: In Memphis? It Could Happen!

Commentary  
by Ira L. King

Last month I had the joy of visiting the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, Tex. This Metropolitan Community Church is a wonderful testament to what can be done within a community when the community's minds and hearts are in one accord. The Cathedral of Hope is the largest Gay church in the world. I was there the Sunday before Easter. The place was packed. There was a wonderful large choir, an orchestra, seating for a few thousand, and an atmosphere of love and hope.

So what? Big deal! Well, it is a big deal. As I sat in one of several hundred pews with my partner, I thought about Memphis and its Gay churches, and the struggles our churches have just to make ends meet. I thought about Living Word with its charismatic bent. I thought about Holy Trinity Community Church, which tries earnestly to be all things to all people (a singularly impossible task). I thought about Safe Harbor, and its nomadic efforts to find a home.

I am in a quandry as to why the Gay Christian community in Memphis can't accomplish what the same community in Dallas has. I know that Holy Trinity is shopping for a permanent church home, and rightfully so. Every congregation should have a home of its own. Living Word meets in a parishioner's home and that's fine. Many a congregation has its roots in someone's living room. Safe Harbor seems to constantly seek a safe haven. Does one dare suggest that these congregations might consider merging for the greater good of the community. One of the most frequent comments I get from Gay visitors to our community is

how fragmented it is. Usually I shrug this off to a person's inability to get off his butt and go out and make friends. However, in the case of our local Gay churches, I must confess that the visitor is probably right.

I would like to know what it is that causes the fragmentation among our churches. Unless I miss my guess, we all believe in the same God. Unless I miss my guess, we are all seeking refuge from a church society that has shunned us because of our sexual preferences. The Gay and Lesbian men and women who attend our churches come from very diversified religious backgrounds. In a community that emphasizes its diversity, we should be embracing the opportunity to worship as one corporate body.

Unfortunately, our community's churches (just like the churches in the heterosexual community) have been born not only out of a need to find rest, peace and fellowship among our own, but also of spite, hurt feelings, crushed egos, in-fighting, etc. You get the picture.

I have met and am acquainted with many of the clergy in our community. I find them to be forthright, intelligent, hard working, loving, caring, thoughtful ministers of the Gospel. I must admit, however, that Gay ministers are no different from straight ones when it comes to personal prejudices, likes and dislikes regarding the type of congregation they would choose to serve. I would love to see these clergy come together and form a union that would lead to a Cathedral of Hope in Memphis. I truly believe that with the proper leadership and support from the church laity, this can be accomplished.

Folks I'm not talking about

anything fancy here. I'm talking about a building constructed of minds and hearts whose mortar is God's love and unending peace. I'm talking about a congregation whose cohesiveness is derived from its diversity. I'm talking about people willing to look beyond their hurt feelings, broken hearts and toes that have been stepped on. I'm

talking about people who don't have to be the big deacon, the head usher, the choir soloist, the head preacher. I'm talking about a community that needs a central worship center that can be enjoyed by all and shunned by none. I'm not talking about a Central Church or a Bellevue Baptist Church. I'm talking about a worship center built

to the glory of God that we can truly call our own. A worship center that the Gay and Lesbian community and the city of Memphis can be proud of. I'm talking about a gift to God from a community that loves and appreciates Him.

What? You don't think this can happen in Memphis. I think you're wrong.



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## Curtis James Jewell 1965-1997

Curtis James Jewell, 32, of Memphis, retired customer service coordinator for Azo Inc. and local AIDS activist, died of lung cancer due to AIDS Apr. 8 at Baptist Memorial Hospital East.

Services were held at St. Ann Catholic Church on Highland.

Jewell was a member of the Memphis AIDS Consortium and past president of the Mid-South AIDS Mastery Foundation. His work for the AIDS Consortium and Friends for Life included a strong advocacy for people infected and affected by AIDS and HIV.

He is survived by his lover, Jonathan Taylor Powell; his mother, Catherine Jewell of West Memphis; three sisters; and six brothers.

The family requests than any memorials be sent to the AIDS Mastery Foundation, Loving Arms or the charity of the donor's choice.



## Firing of San Francisco Human Rights Commissioner Upheld

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A public official who “preaches homophobia” as a member of San Francisco’s anti-discrimination agency is not assured job security, says a federal appeals court.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the city’s firing of the Rev. Eugene Lumpkin, who said he thought homosexuality was an abomination and appeared to endorse anti-Gay violence.

Neither freedom of speech nor freedom of religion gives an appointed public official the right to undermine the tolerance his office is supposed to promote, the court said Thursday.

Lumpkin had the right to speak as a private citizen, “but the First Amendment does not assure him job security when he preaches homophobia” while serving on the city’s anti-discrimination agency, the court said.

Lumpkin’s lawyer, James Struck, said he would probably appeal further.

“This opinion shows complete intolerance for religious beliefs that are widely held,” said Struck, of the Rutherford Institute, a conservative religious-liberties organization.

He said Lumpkin did not support anti-Gay violence and held views no different from those of orthodox Catholics, Muslims and Jews. “Now the 9th Circuit has painted all those people as homophobes,” Struck said.

Lumpkin, a pastor appointed to the commission by then-Mayor Frank Jordan, was fired by Jordan in 1993 after a furor over his public comments about homosexuals.

“The homosexual lifestyle is an abomination against God,” Lumpkin said. “So I have to preach that homosexuality is a sin.”

He also said he believed “everything the Bible sayeth.” Asked by a television interviewer about a statement in Leviticus that a man who slept with a man should be put to death, Lumpkin said, “That’s what God sayeth.”

Jordan, in announcing the firing, said Lumpkin had the right to his religious beliefs but had “crossed the line from belief to behavior to advocacy” and “implied that he condoned physical harm.” San Francisco supervisors backed the firing.

Lumpkin’s lawsuit, claiming violations of his constitutional rights, was dismissed by U.S. Dis-

trict Judge Fern Smith. The appeals court upheld her decision in a 3-0 ruling.

The court cited the Human Rights Commission’s official responsibilities, “to eliminate prejudice and discrimination” based on race, religion, sex, sexual orientation and other grounds, and to promote “equal opportunity for and good will toward all people.”

Lumpkin’s statements “are not simply hostile to the commission’s charge, they are at war with it,” said the opinion by Judge William Norris.

Neither the First Amendment nor the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (a 1993 federal law) requires government at any level to put up with policy-level officials who work at cross-purposes with the policies they are responsible for carrying out.”

Deputy City Attorney Burk Delventhal said the court endorsed the city’s argument that “when a person accepts public office, his ability to engage in what might otherwise be protected speech is limited to the extent necessary to enable the person to discharge his public duties.”

## Wisconsin Lawmaker Says He Wasn’t Aware Public TV Segment was Shot in His District

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin state lawmaker said he did not know that a national public television program about Gay farmers was shot in his district when he criticized it.

But Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, said he still opposes the show.

“I know there are Gay people in my district,” he said. “This isn’t about Gay bashing. This is about using tax dollars to promote the Gay lifestyle.”

The Wisconsin ties to the program make criticism of it by Fitzgerald all the more vicious, said John Catania, producer of the Gay- and Lesbian-issues TV series that will include the segment.

“What does it say about his own constituents and me as a native of Wisconsin?” asked Catania, a native of New Berlin who lives in New York.

“He’s maligning his own constituents, and he’s maligning Gay and Lesbian people in Wisconsin and from Wisconsin who are contributing greatly to the community.”

Fitzgerald demanded on Apr. 2 that the show not be broadcast. He said tax money and donations that supports public television should not be used for a program about the Gay lifestyle.

The segment, “Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest,” was taped in Waterloo.

Catania, who is Gay, said Apr. 3 that the seven-minute segment of the one-hour *In the Life* series does not promote any lifestyle or political view but seeks only to provide information so people will know about the Gay and Lesbian community.

Officials of Wisconsin Public Television provided the crew to film the segment. The officials have refused to cancel the program.

Fitzgerald said the public attention created by his objections to the show and media coverage of the situation have had at least one negative consequence.

“Now everybody in the world is going to watch it,” he said.

*In the Life* is not shown on WKNO in Memphis.

## The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center’s Mid-South Archives

Friday, May 9th, beginning at 8:30 p.m., the Mid-South Archives, a division of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, will hold its first exhibit.

*Couplings*, a collection of over fifty vintage photographs of queer love and other unusual friendships, will be shown at the Otherlands Coffee Shop and Exotic Gifts, 641 South Cooper Ave. Admission is five dollars, which buys not only

entrance to the exhibit but the commemorative booklet published by the Archives as well.

The Mid-South Archives and MGLCC’s library moves into its new location, an office at Holy Trinity Community Church, 1559 Madison Ave. shortly after the May 9th exhibit. Rev. Tim Meadows, the Board of Directors, and the Holy Trinity congregation have been generous enough to provide

a home for the collection which makes it accessible to the public and serves as a practical operational headquarters.

The Archive’s holdings presently include, among other things, over two-hundred historical photographs, documents from both local and national history. Memphis Pride memorabilia, video footage, and oral interviews with Gays and Lesbians. Excerpts of the latter are

published in our free bimonthly paper, *ultraviolet*, available at various midtown outlets.

Donations to the Archives, library or MGLCC can be made by contacting us either through the switchboard at 324-4297 or via

Holy Trinity at 726-9443. The contact person is Brian Pera.

This exhibit is sponsored by the Antique Warehouse Mall, 2563 Summer Ave. and Midtown Galleries/David Stearns Interior Design, 2228 Central Ave., 725-0049.



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- Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church - 756-5433
- Prescott Memorial Baptist Church - 327-8479
- Safe Harbor MCC - 458-0501
- St. John’s United Methodist Church - 726-4104
- St. Therese Catholic Church - 276-1412
- Unitarian Church of the River - 526-8631
- Unity Church (Kirby Road) - 753-0831

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# Lesbian Sues Cemetery Over Epitaph for Life Partner

By Scott Bekker  
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A year after Cynthia Friedman died of cancer, a customary Jewish unveiling was held at her grave in a suburban Philadelphia cemetery — but there was no headstone to reveal.

A year later, her parents and her companion of 13 years, are still fighting over whether Friedman's Lesbian relationship will be acknowledged on Friedman's headstone.

Lawyers for Friedman's partner, Sherry Barone, filed a lawsuit Apr. 15 in U.S. District Court against the Har Jehuda Cemetery in Upper Darby, where Barone purchased adjacent cemetery plots for herself and Friedman.

The lawsuit alleges the cemetery breached a contract with Friedman and Barone by refusing

to honor the couple's wish for the epitaph to include the phrase "lifetime partner."

"I didn't complete the grieving process that a person should have after losing a loved one, and I will never recover from the emotional and spiritual agony of the unveiling at Cynthia's unmarked grave," Barone, 36, of Santa Monica, Calif., said in a statement.

Gay rights advocates say the case illustrates the need for legalizing same-sex marriages.

"This is the case that answers that question that comes up in state Legislature after state Legislature around the country," said David Buckel, of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which defends the civil rights of Lesbians, Gay men and people with HIV or AIDS.

"Why aren't legal documents enough? Why do Gay people need the right to marry as well?" asked

Buckel, who is representing Barone.

He says the lawsuit is the first of its kind.

Mindy Brooks, an attorney for the cemetery, said she had not seen the lawsuit and would not discuss the case.

Barone and Friedman were Philadelphia natives who moved together to Los Angeles.

When Friedman was diagnosed with cancer, the couple had drawn up legal documents including a will, power of attorney and health proxy, giving Barone authority over Friedman's affairs.

In private conversations, the lawsuit said, Friedman also told Barone she wanted the phrase "Beloved life partner, daughter, granddaughter, sister and aunt" on her headstone. Friedman's mother wanted the life partner reference left out of the epitaph.

"This couple did essentially ev-

erything they could to make sure their relationship was respected," Buckel said. "You know that in a

similar situation, a husband or a wife would never, ever, get this kind of response."

# Greenville, S.C., Pastor Warns of AIDS with Pending Gay Pride March

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — A religious conservative leader here is warning people to avoid restaurants because of a fear AIDS could easily be spread with a large number of Gays coming for an upcoming pride march.

The Rev. Stan Craig, pastor of Choice Hills Baptist Church, also wants people to stay away from the march partly because of the same health concerns, *The Greenville News* reported Apr. 12.

Health specialists said that the concerns of Craig, chairman of Citizens for Traditional Family Values, are absolutely unfounded.

Pastors or youth ministers at more than a dozen churches contacted said they were unaware of Craig's concerns or chose not to follow his advice.

Area health officials and AIDS specialists criticized Craig's comments and said there is no risk of contracting the disease through casual contact such as using the same toilets or drinking out of the same glass.

Organizers of the Gay pride march say Craig is inciting fear.

Said Craig: "They are going to be using the toilets; they are going to be using the parks; they are going to be using the restaurants."

He added, "I know there is no way in the world you can just drop out of life. All I was saying is that as a precautionary way of making sure you don't come into contact with AIDS on such a wide scale, that we ought to stay away and back off some normal routines and activities."

Craig said residents need to be concerned.

As many as 5,000 Gays and their supporters were expected in Greenville on April 19 for a march,

organizers of that event say. It was moved from Columbia after Greenville County Council members approved a resolution condemning homosexuality last spring.

Craig said that Citizens for Traditional Family Values distributed more than 200,000 pamphlets challenging Gay rights.

The group, which Craig said includes about 400 churches, is planning a rally of its own April 26 at Greenville Memorial Stadium.

Craig said he got a call that said Gays plan to taint grocery store food with HIV-positive blood. Craig would not say how much he believed the call.

"His goal is to whip up hysteria and cause people to be afraid simply for cohesion in his own group," said David Friddle, organizer of the Gay pride march. "It's fear for hate's sake."

Friddle and Susan Stallard, co-chairwoman of ProJustice Carolina, said Craig's concerns about Gays spiking food in supermarkets are unfounded.

County Health Director Ron

Rolett and Andy Hall, executive director of AID Upstate, said AIDS is not easily spread.

"Whoever is proposing that is ignorant," Rolett said.

Rolett and

Hall said almost 20 years of research have ruled out HIV's being spread through such casual contact as Craig talks about.

The Rev. David Yearick, pastor of Hampton Park Baptist Church and a member of Craig's organization, says the group has not voted to endorse Craig's stand.

He says Craig's opinions are not Yearick's personal view and he will not issue warnings to his congregation.

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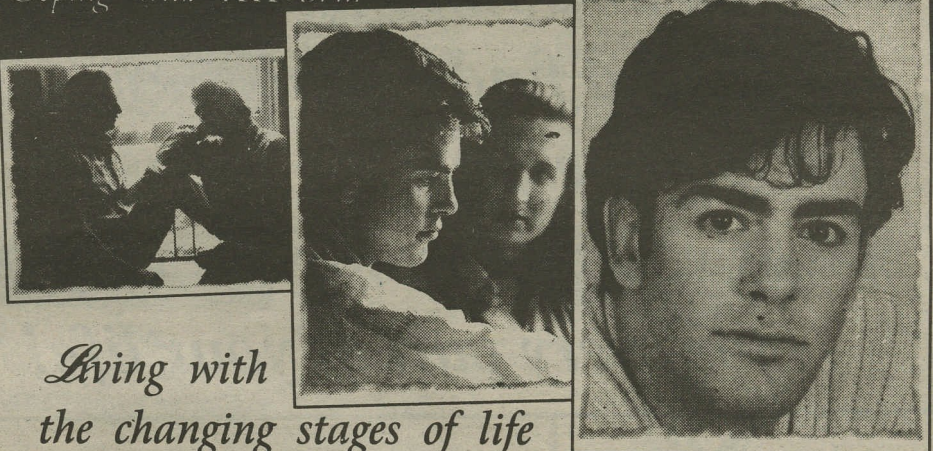
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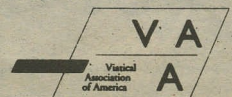
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# Utah School Board Holds Meetings on Clubs Issue

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Granite School Board held meetings at five schools to listen to public comment on whether to ban all nonacademic clubs in order to keep Gay clubs from forming.

Some patrons wanted to ban all clubs not related to academics to

avoid having controversial groups. Others said eliminating clubs would hurt students and their education.

During a public hearing at Cottonwood High School, the majority of patrons wanted to keep all clubs.

"How can we give children the

knowledge and skills they need if we are shutting the door on them?" asked Donna Olsen, a parent.

"Our children want and need guidance, and if we don't offer it to them they will find in on their own," she said adding that banning all noncurricular clubs just "teaches fear and intolerance."

Public meetings also were held at four other high schools.

A board member, a district representative and the school principal were at each of the sites. Notes from the five meetings will be compiled and given to the board at its May 6 meeting. A decision will be made later.

Patrons were told the only choices were to ban all clubs not related to academic courses, or allow all types of clubs to meet as long as members follow certain guidelines.

"I wish there was a third option. Clubs should not advocate criminal behavior. And I consider homosexuality criminal behavior," resident James Geertsen said.

Thirty of the approximately 35

residents who attended the Cottonwood meeting voted to keep all clubs.

If Granite does ban all clubs not related to a class, they still could meet at the school under Utah's Civic Center Act, which allows groups to rent school space after hours.

The Gay-Straight Alliance has been meeting at East High School under that law even though the Salt Lake City School District banned all nonacademic clubs last year.

Granite District has been under pressure to get a school-club policy in place since the beginning of the current school year, when a group of students at Cottonwood High School applied to form a Gay-straight alliance.

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## Ellen Getting Outed at City Auditorium

By Jay Reeves  
Associated Press Writer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Rebuffed by a private theater, a Gay advocacy group said it rented the 5,000-seat city auditorium to show the coming-out episode of *Ellen*, which the local ABC station refused to air.

Kevin Snow said that he anticipates filling the cavernous hall for the television sitcom, in which lead character Ellen Morgan, played by Ellen DeGeneres, will reveal she is a Lesbian.

"It's not just a TV show," said Snow, a Gay stand-up comedian and entertainment chairman for Birmingham Pride Alabama. "There's a fundamental issue here, and that's censorship."

ABC 33/40, which broadcasts from east Mississippi to west Georgia, refused to broadcast the show on grounds it is inappropriate for families. No other ABC affiliate has balked, network spokeswoman Susan Sewell said.

Snow said Birmingham Pride Alabama will use a satellite feed

to project the show on a big screen at Boutwell Auditorium, the site of concerts, shows and White Citizen Council meetings during the civil rights era.

Snow's group attempted to rent the privately owned Alabama Theater, but management there decided the show was too controversial and refused.

Auditorium general manager Henry Gedson Jr. said he saw no problem with showing the controversial show at Boutwell, which another Gay group rents annually for a huge costume ball.

"The ones who don't want to come don't come. You just give the people of Alabama a choice," Gedson said.

The city will charge Birmingham Pride between \$1,500 and \$2,900, depending on how many people attend the April 30 show. There will be no charge for the show, but the group will ask for \$5 donations.

*Ellen* will be the first prime time network program to feature a Gay lead character.

## Feast for Friends

Mon., May 5

Mon., May 19

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.*

# Tsarus Turns Twenty

by Vincent Astor  
Tsarus Associate

Being Gay or Lesbian knows no boundaries or limits. Some types get a lot of notoriety-activists, drag queens, Lesbian feminists, Faeries...and leatherfolk.

The leather lifestyle has been around for a long time, but the concept of Leather Pride is much newer. Just as effeminacy can inspire ridicule, strong masculinity can inspire fear, derision or even ostracism. The trappings of leatherfolk are associated with crudity, insensitivity and extreme fetishism (whether the individual wearing the trappings is or not). Added to this has been the "fashion leather" fad during which the trappings became chic, were made and looked cheap, and lost some of the forboding and mystery.

It is now the aura of the wearer which must contribute equally with the trappings to actually make a leatherman or leatherwoman, and it is only in the decade of the 90s that leatherfolk have striven for and achieved some acceptance among non-leather people. It is the same quest for individuality that all Gays and Lesbians, each to his/her own degree, experience in a basically hostile world.

Tsarus, Memphis' oldest leather club, celebrates its 20th anniversary this spring. This is its story.

In April of 1977, seven Gay men banded together to form a club. These men were non-stereotypical, basically "normal" masculine people, who wished to come together for fellowship, brotherhood and shared interests. They knew men of the Gateway Club in St. Louis who had organized two years earlier and formed a similar organization.

The structure is along fraternal lines. For instance, a prospective member is known as a "pledge" and there is a probationary period of association. These kinds of clubs can be pretty small, therefore, the mounting of a community-scale event or one which attracts people from other cities is a large job. Pledges expect to do a lot of footwork and go-fering, but this is used as a period to find how well a person will fit in with the rest of the members and also to give the pledge an idea of what is expected of a member.

Clubs have different criteria for potential members. Sexual play is not necessarily a part of any of this; it is much more the exception than the rule. Tsarus is primarily a group of friends who deepen this friendship by means of club brotherhood. Brotherhood is the word most often heard from leather clubs. There are members and associate members and honorary forms of both. An associate member is a person involved with other

clubs or one who cannot devote his/her full time to a club but wishes to formally support it and be a part of it. It is a compliment on both sides to be an associate member.

Members, as in Tsarus, will refer to one another as club brothers. It is this closeness which is a vital part of Tsarus. According to longtime members Sharon Wray and the late Jeff Vann, "It has held the club together all this time. If there was some sort of disagreement, we could put it aside until something could be worked out.



That is what brotherhood is all about. Individuals may have left, but the club has continued. It has to be in here [pointing to the heart]."

The name "Tsarus" was derived from two ancient Egyptian gods, Ptah and Osiris. Ptah was the god of the ancient city of Memphis and was worshipped there as the creator of the universe. Osiris was the god of death and rebirth and also very important to ancient Memphis as it is the site of many tombs. The name became Pta-siris (Tsarus), pronounced "saurus".

In the club's colors (symbol), the name "TSARUS" surmounts a black pyramid (symbolizing strength) on a white circular field (symbolizing togetherness) and is surrounded by a black circle. The part of the circle over the name is broken up into the links of a chain symbolizing brotherhood; the name "Memphis" is beneath the pyramid. Other clubs have letter designations after their names—Gateway MC (motorcycle club), Conductors LL (leather-levi)—Tsarus does not. It includes bike people, leather people and fetish people, but does not limit itself.

The origins of the leather lifestyle began after the Second World War when Gay men were creating identities for themselves. The trappings of the ultra-masculine (the Marlon Brando type) were a statement against the stereotype of those days, the prissy effeminate man. Fetish behavior can be a part of this, but isn't a necessity. Con-

sent is the key word for fetish behavior.

Gatherings of leathermen and leatherwomen are called runs. They are similar to motorcycle runs held by motorcycle clubs. The common tie with bike clubs is bikes; the common tie with leather clubs is the leather lifestyle, bikes are welcome but optional. In Tsarus' early years, the members attended numerous runs as a group and became known as a Memphis-based club. It took a long while for them to be accepted at home.

The associations with sadomasochism (SM) or its counterpart bondage and discipline (BD) and

the annual run or some other club function.

After a Gateway run and some brainstorming in the car on the drive back from St. Louis, the name for Tsarus' own run came in a flash—AIDA. Giuseppe Verdi, who composed the opera *Aida* could never have dreamed that setting the opera (sung in Italian) in Egypt would inspire a leather club. In 1982, AIDA-I, Back to Nature, was held at a campsite at Blue Goose, Tenn. Many club runs are in cities at hotels; AIDA is a campout run. AIDA-II was held on private property newly purchased by a member somewhere in the neighborhood of Jackson, Tenn. This has been the run site ever since, and this year the 15th run is being celebrated as AIDA-20 in honor of the club's 20th anniversary.

At a run, the host club provides meals and space for accommodations, sometimes for a weekend, sometimes longer. Outdoor games and contests are organized, and a lot of fellowship and fraternity is encouraged. Other clubs in attendance provide parties, sometimes themed, to spice up the proceedings. Individuals and other clubs are honored at the end of the run by the conferring of honorary memberships and associate memberships and the exchange of club colors to decorate the home bar of each club.

In 1985, the club began an event-fund-raiser which would include the entire Memphis community. For 13 years an individual or organization has been honored as Tsarus Man of the Year. Proceeds from the annual banquet are given to the recipient's charity of choice. It has turned out to be one of the biggest surprises of the year, and a sincere compliment coming from an unlooked-for source. Female recipients have enjoyed the joke tremendously.

In 1986 the Pipeline opened as Memphis first official leather bar. In 1987, the Tsarus colors were installed there, where they remain. Club members have been founding members of two other local clubs, Riverboat Gamblers MC and Women of Leather, but retained their ties to Tsarus. As Gateway helped to found Tsarus,

Tsarus in its turn helped to found Conductors in Nashville.

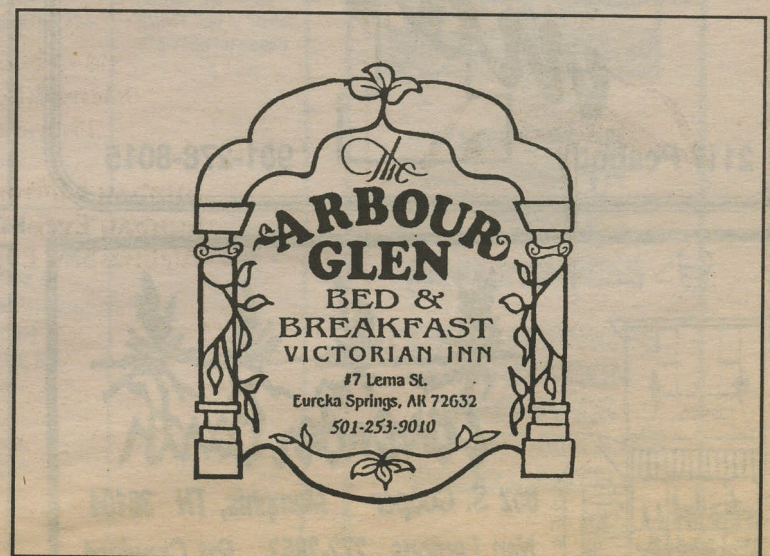
Several deceased members of Tsarus gained recognition for courage in adversity. The most famous is the late Michael McAdory who became the longest-lived PWA of his time and spearheaded AIDS programs in Houston, Texas, in the early years of the pandemic. Personally, he was deeply involved with treatment research. Tsarus colors are on his memorial panel in the Names Project Quilt.

The late Michael Sandin was the first to stand up locally and tell his story to the *Commercial Appeal*. Though his name was not used, it was the very first time a personal AIDS story had been told in Memphis.

The late Dennis Kijowski, owner of the Pipeline, chaired Memphis Pride for two years taking the celebration to levels of which the founders only dreamed. His own struggle with AIDS took a back seat to the growth of Memphis Pride, and his efforts showed Memphis something it had never seen.

The club continues strong and active. Members have come and gone, but Tsarus is still involved in fund-raisers for AIDS and other causes. The closeness of the members has likened them in some eyes to a clique, but members maintain that the club is built on closeness, becoming friendship, becoming brotherhood. They are a very diverse group and always willing to make new acquaintances.

One cannot tell the history of a leather club without delving into the history and background of the lifestyle itself. If any reader wishes to have more information, there are publications such as the *Leatherman's Handbook* and several leather periodicals. Or, you could screw your courage to the sticking place, hold your breath, drop your voice an octave and ask a member of any of Memphis' four leather clubs. You will get a polite answer, that you can depend on; you will get your information, of course; and you just might get to know some very interesting and worthwhile people in the process. They won't bite, unless you say, "Please, sir."

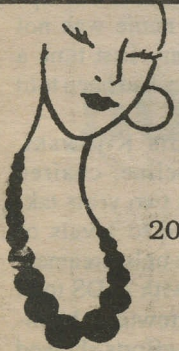




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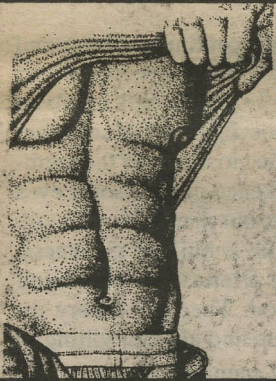
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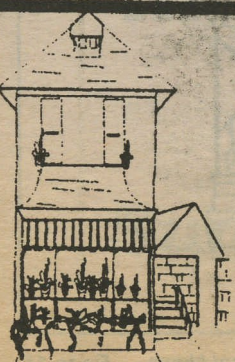
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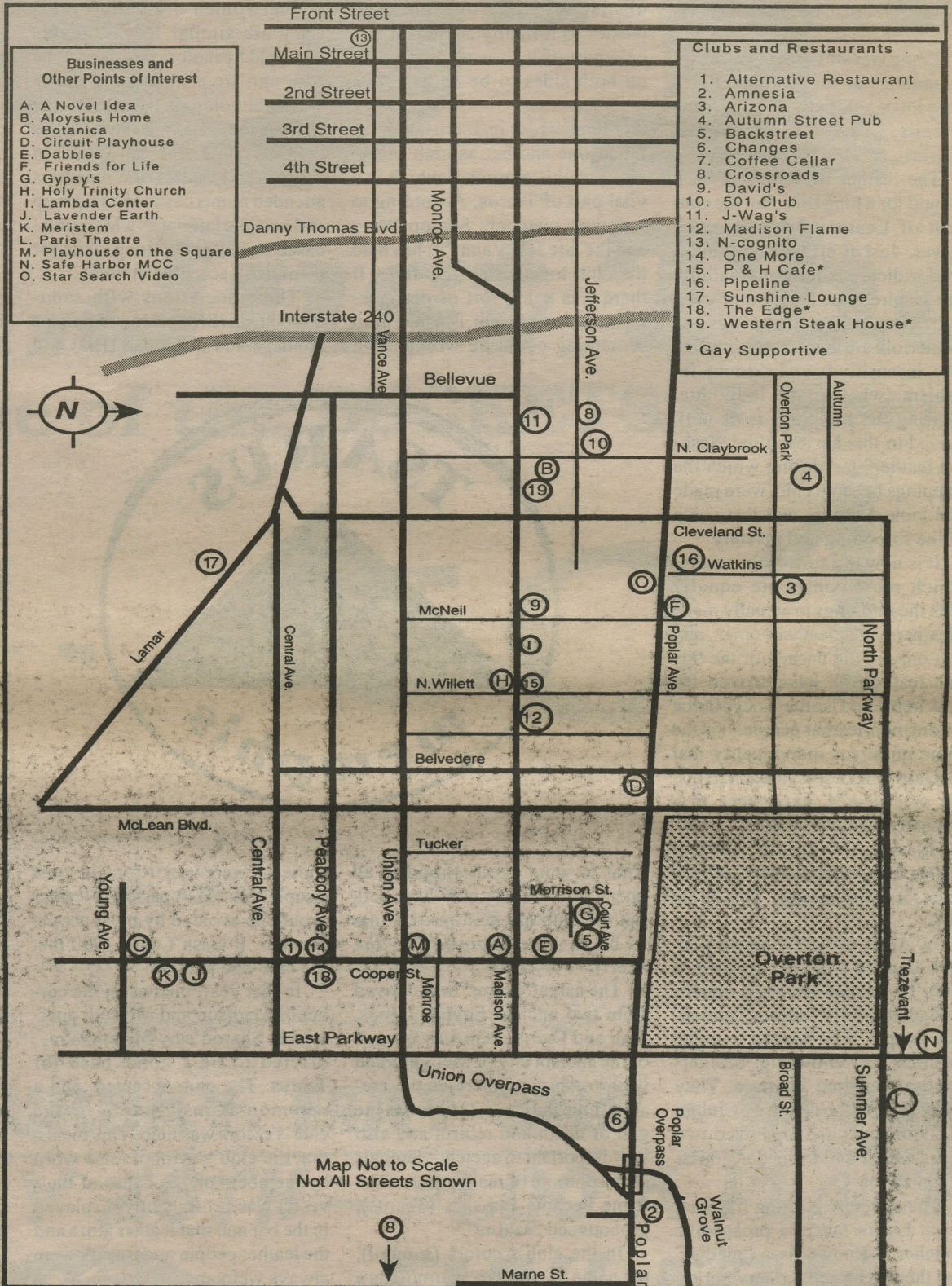
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  - 2. Amnesia
  - 3. Arizona
  - 4. Autumn Street Pub
  - 5. Backstreet
  - 6. Changes
  - 7. Coffee Cellar
  - 8. Crossroads
  - 9. David's
  - 10. 501 Club
  - 11. J-Wag's
  - 12. Madison Flame
  - 13. N-cognito
  - 14. One More
  - 15. P & H Cafe\*
  - 16. Pipeline
  - 17. Sunshine Lounge
  - 18. The Edge\*
  - 19. Western Steak House\*
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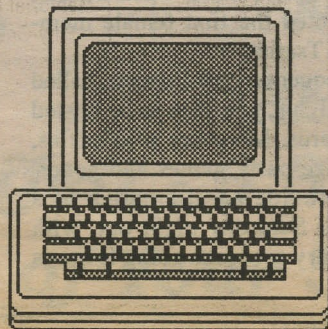
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**TJN COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>APRIL 27</b> • HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am, 7 pm • Living Word Christian Church, Services, 10 am & 6pm • Safe Harbor MCC, ; Worship Service 11 am, 7pm • Softball, Tobey Park, Hollywood & Central, 6pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	<b>30</b> • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	<b>MAY 1</b> • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	<b>2</b> • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • "Spirited Threads" Quilt Exhibit, First Congregational, 7pm • AIDA 20	<b>3</b> • Mr. 501 Contest, Club 501 • AIDA 20
<b>4</b> • Church Services, (see Sunday, April 27) • BWMT Potluck, 5:30pm, 276-7756 for details • Softball, Tobey Park, Hollywood & Central, 6pm • WAC Meeting, 7pm, call 272-3638	<b>Cinco de Mayo 5</b> • Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm	<b>6</b> • Community Discussion on Sexuality, Race & Class with Susan Raffa Author of <i>Queerly Classed</i> , Meristem, 7pm • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	<b>7</b> • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	<b>8</b> • NOW Meeting, YWCA, 766 So. Highland, 7pm • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Skatentight, Skateland, • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	<b>9</b> • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • Benefit Performance by "Girls Room," Autumn Street Pub, 10pm	<b>10</b> • Integrity 2nd Annual Spring Retreat, St. Columbia Conf. Center, 10am-4pm
<b>Mother's Day 11</b> • Church Services (see Sunday, April 27) • Softball, Tobey Park, Hollywood & Central, 6pm • Miles Hart & Co., Autumn Street Pub	<b>12</b> • Miles Hart & Co., J-Wags	<b>13</b> • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	<b>14</b> • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	<b>Deadline for June '97 TJN 15</b> • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	<b>16</b> • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm	<b>Armed Forces Day 17</b>
<b>18</b> • Church Services, (see Sunday, April 27) • Softball, Tobey Park, Hollywood & Central, 6pm • WAC Meeting, 7pm, call 272-3638 • BWMT Movie Night, 276-7756 for details • Alliance Club Afternoon, Pipeline, 5:30pm • Big Patio Cookout, Autumn Street Pub	<b>19</b> • Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm	<b>20</b> • Integrity Eucharist & Healing Svc., 6pm; Dinner/Mtg., 6:45pm, Calvary Episcopal • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	<b>21</b> • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	<b>22</b> • National NOW Conference Planning Mtg., 7pm • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	<b>23</b> • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm • Reception for BWMT 15th Anniversary Celebration, 276-7756 for details	<b>24</b> • NOW Bridging the Village Conference: Exploring Violence Prevention & Social Justice, 9am-4pm • BWMT Trip to Tunica, 276-7756 for details
<b>25</b> • Church Services, (see Sunday, April 27) • Softball, Tobey Park, Hollywood & Central, 6pm • BWMT Bar-B-Que, 276-7756 for details	<b>Memorial Day Observed 26</b> • BWMT Farewell Brunch, 276-7756 for details	<b>27</b> • Integrity Board Mtg., 6:30pm • B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm	<b>28</b> • Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm • Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm • Safe Harbor MCC, 7pm	<b>29</b> • Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm • Southern Country Dance Lessons, Madison Flame, 8pm	<b>June '97 TJN Due Out Memorial Day 30</b> • "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm	<b>31</b>



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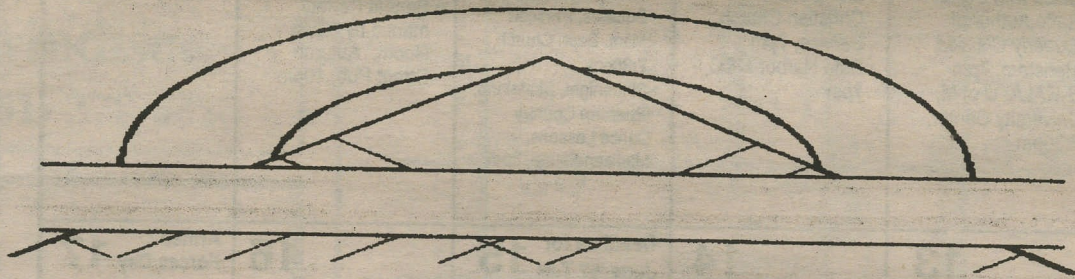
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## Headline from the Past

# J. Edgar Hoover Dies of Heart Attack at 77, Leaves Bulk of Estate to Longtime Companion Clyde Tolson.

### Was J. Edgar Hoover Gay?

For decades, Americans have periodically debated the sexuality of longtime FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, the dominant law enforcement official of this century.

In his public life, Hoover set a new standard in his zealous pursuit and surveillance of those deemed dangerous to national security. His private life, in turn, has become a lightning rod for both his critics and his defender.

Those who see Hoover as a national hero and freedom fighter tend to vigorously defend him against rumors of homosexuality, while his critics—both Gay and straight—often describe Hoover's rumored peccadilloes with glee. Both approaches are historically problematic and—more disturbingly—seem to presume that homosexuality is a character flaw.

Any serious inquiry into Hoover's sexuality has to start with the following basic fact: for more than 40 years, the most important person in his life was another man—Clyde Tolson. Tolson, who was five years younger than Hoover, rose quickly through FBI ranks once Hoover became his patron. Within two years, Tolson was assistant director of the bureau, and the pair were inseparable. Hoover and Tolson often traveled together, and rarely dined apart. Hoover's albums consisted almost exclusively of photographs of Tolson from their many vacations together. Anyone who knew what a Gay couple looked like saw

something very familiar when they looked at America's top two G-men.

In addition, the case that Hoover was heterosexual requires tremendous mental strain. Hoover was close friends with Lela Rogers (Ginger's mother), whose far-right philosophy matched his own. Some people suggest that the two may have been lovers, although with far less evidence than that which romantically links the director to Tolson. Other purported girlfriends have been put forth, but it is clear that Hoover never seriously dated any woman, nor did he ever give any indication that he wished he had a wife. Those who argue that Hoover was straight sometimes depend on amusing contortions—such as when one writer argued that Hoover must have been straight, since he kept a portrait of Marilyn Monroe on his wall. One wonders whether the starlet's picture was kept next to a Judy Garland or a Bette Davis.

But whether we classify Hoover as Gay, homosexual, asexual or even "homosocial," the director's obsession with homosexuality cannot be challenged. During the 1950s and 1960s, when the homophile movement was diminutive and quite powerless, Hoover had his agents keep close tabs on Gay and Lesbian organizing—even keeping the menus from some Gay gatherings in his files.

He blackmailed several Gay government employees, and cracked down on any individuals

or groups who repeated rumors of his own homosexuality.

One woman who told her bridge partners she had heard Hoover was Gay was visited by FBI agents who demanded that she call her friends and retract her accusation. Perhaps with no sense of irony, Hoover was

Hoover lecturing a 15-year-old male prostitute about his long hair before having sex with him.

While it is probable that Hoover had a sexual relationship with Tolson—and quite possible that Hoover did hire underage male prostitutes and attend Gay orgies,

leaders as "J. Edna" and "Mother Tolson"—and the jokes have not stopped; even President Clinton suggested when selecting a new FBI director that it would be hard to find someone who could fill J. Edgar Hoover's pumps.

Perhaps Hoover's closet makes him a fair target for such jokes. But if he had been openly Gay and candid about a love of cross-dressing, that would not have changed his role as the corrupt policeman of American conformity. If the primary reason for Hoover's continued ignominy is his "queerness" and not his politics, we all lose.

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.

## PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

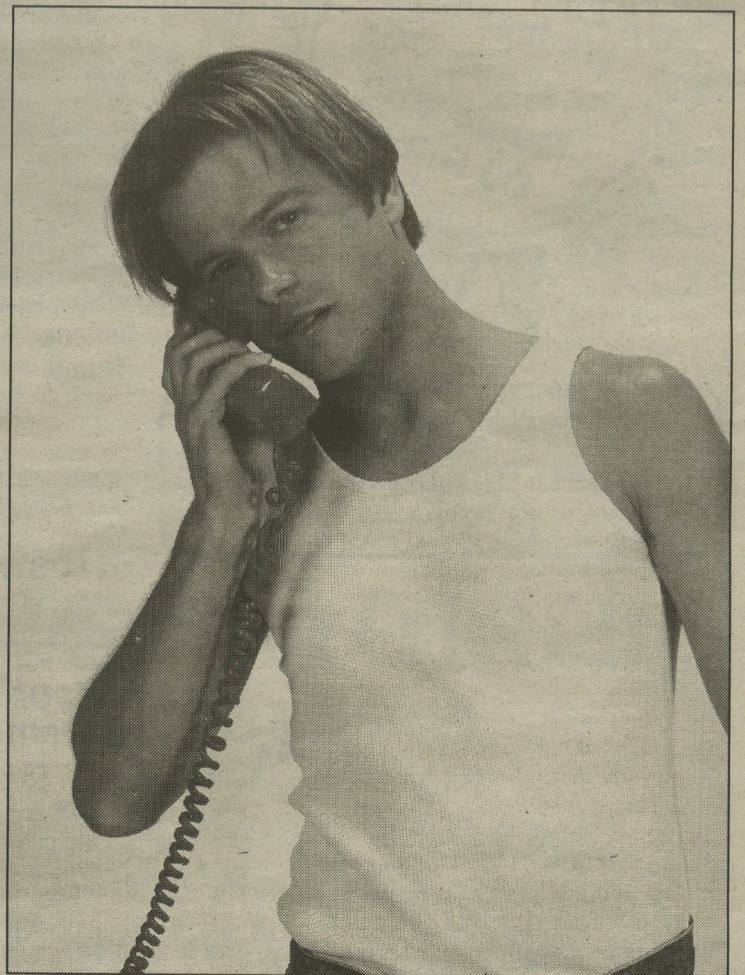
once quoted as saying, "I regret to say that we of the FBI are powerless to act in cases of oral-genital intimacy, unless it has in some way obstructed interstate commerce."

On the other hand, the "proof" that Hoover was Gay that has circulated since the 1920s (and especially since the publication of several "tell-all" biographies this decade) is rarely substantiated by more than one source and often seems exaggerated in order to sully Hoover's reputation. For observers who don't share the assumption that homosexuality is a character flaw, these tales can be somewhat disturbing—even when titillating.

One recent book argued that Hoover never executed a full-frontal assault against the Mafia because they had full-frontal shots of him orally servicing his deputy. This book also gained public attention for its (weakly documented) descriptions of Hoover attending Gay sex orgies in a short fluffy black dress, lace stockings, high heels and a black curly wig. It quotes a woman who claims to have witnessed the director, so attired, being introduced by Roy Cohn as "Mary." It also tells of

the way Hoover's homosexuality has been used to reinforce the negative aspects of his life (wire-tapping, blackmail and selective law enforcement, to name a few) should give Gays and Lesbians pause. During his life, Washington pols privately referred to the FBI's

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## Sad to Say, Happy to Hear

By Butch Valentine



**Sad to say...** When they say to drink plenty of water when taking Crixivan, they ain't just whistling Dixie. I gave birth to 'Li'l Rock' Valentine, a very painful kidney stone, a potential side effect of the drug which I had been taking for less than a month. If a lady says having a baby is like pulling your bottom lip up and over the top of your head, imagine pissing out what feels like the Rock of Gibraltar.

**Happy to hear...** The only benefit of that experience was the shots of Demerol/phenegren. But because I have a history of kidney stones, and I never want to go through that again, if possible, it looks like I'll be one of the first ones in Memphis to be taking the new protease inhibitor (PI) Viracept.

**Sad to say...** The Ruler of the Republic of Righteous Wonders, Rev. Jerry Falwell, is instructing his subjects to begin a letter-writing campaign to General Motors, Chrysler, and Johnson and Johnson to withdraw their sponsorship of the episode of *Ellen* when the character Ellen Morgan announces her homosexuality. ABC and Disney aren't to be forgotten, either.

**Happy to hear...** It is ironic he was speaking to the annual legislative conference of New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms. He's allowed to practice free speech, but the sitcom isn't? FYI... practice your kind of censorship with your remote control, not your mouth.

**Sad to say...** Falwell calls her Ellen DeGenerate...

**Happy to hear...** She was on the cover of *Time* magazine (April 14).

**Sad to say...** Censorship again. In Charlotte, NC, commissioners voted 5-4 to cut off \$2.5 million of county money for the Arts and Science Council. The commissioners were angry over the performance of *Angels in America*. They voted to cut off funds to art groups that expose viewers to "perverted forms of sexuality."

**Happy to hear...** Unbelievably, the *Angels in America* series was shown in Memphis without public protest or funding cuts. It even won several accolades at the Memphis Theatre Awards last summer. Go figure.

**Sad to say...** They're big, radiant and gather dust in the back of your closet. Just where and when does one have an opportunity to wear a tiara?

**Happy to hear...** Tiaras are making a dramatic comeback according to Geoffrey Mann of the London jeweler Wartske. Munn says they "absolutely hum with majesty." Hmm... Munn says they hum. Anyway, Joan Rivers also says they're great... "On a bad hair

day, just pull back the hair and slap on a tiara." Get your feather dusters out.

**Sad to say...** A very repressed homosexual... high-tech religion... UFOs... the Hale-Bopp comet... castration... androgyny... hidden weapons... the coming millennium... mass suicide! The stuff made-for-TV movies are all about. The captivating saga of the Heaven's Gate suicide cult will be coming to a TV channel soon, for sure.

**Happy to hear...** At least they didn't take their Uzis to the nearest McDonald's and wipe out innocent victims.

**Sad to say...** Fifteen years ago, children infected with HIV lived an average of 18 months.

**Happy to hear...** Today, many are becoming teenagers, dreaming about first dates and proms. With the recent approval by the FDA of two PIs, doctors are "no longer content to buy another year or two." They think they might even have a chance to see their young patients grow up.

**Sad to say...** Where have all the ribbons gone? With all the good news about the new drug therapies, declining death rate and the likelihood HIV/AIDS could become a long-term manageable disease, the interest level seems to have peaked. Did you notice the obvious lack of red ribbons during the Academy Awards ceremony? Billy Bob Thornton's blue ribbon stood out! In Hollywood, even symbols are susceptible. "It has become cliché," says Gerry Ansel, spokesperson for AIDS Project Los Angeles.

**Happy to hear...** But AIDS is still a hot item in the news media. While a reporter with the *Wall Street Journal* won a Pulitzer Prize for his series on the new PIs, our own Jacqueline Marino, ace reporter at the *Memphis Flyer*, who has done an outstanding job of covering HIV/AIDS and Gay-related issues, recently won two of only three awards for investigative reporting at the Atlanta Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, an 11-state journalism competition. One of her awards was the results of her probing investigation of the shenanigans at the Shelby County Jail titled *Denial: The AIDS Controversy at 201 Poplar*. Congrats, my friend.

**Sad to say...** It was bound to happen. Heidi Aseltyne of Indianapolis, 25, traveled to Michigan to commit suicide with the assistance of Dr. Jack Kervorkian. She is the first AIDS patient to be linked with "Dr. Death." Wow... I'm only surprised it didn't happen sooner.

**Sad to say...** While TV-land is freaking out over the Ellens Mor-

gan and DeGeneres coming out, they forget, Amanda Bearse, who plays Marcy on *Married with Children*, came out way back in '93. And wasn't Jane Hathaway of *The Beverly Hillbillies* truly TV's first Lesbian goddess?

**Happy to hear...** But Lesbianism is thriving in today's Hollywood—on and off the screen. Lesbians in Film and Television (LIFT) boasts of close to 1,000 members. Melissa, k.d., Chastity, Ellen, Amanda and countless others are out and in charge. Says Nana Jacobson, a top production executive at Dream Works SKG, "Now it's trendy to be a Lesbian." From the lipstick Lesbians in the executive offices and in front of the cameras to the tool-belt crowd who compete in the macho world of gaffers, carpenters and grips—they've come a long way, baby.

**Sad to say...** When an AIDS patient has stopped responding to the cocktail drug therapy, doctors have had to guess which drug in the mix was no longer effective.

**Happy to hear...** A new blood test is being researched that will enable them to tell exactly which medication the patient is resistant to, and be able to adjust the treatment. It takes the worry out of guessing.

**Sad to say...** It's not true. Magic Johnson has not been cured of AIDS as his wife has been quoted. There's no cure yet, Ms. J.

**Happy to hear...** Because he is on the cocktail therapy, his viral load is clinically undetectable. Specialists say 90 percent of those who take the potent combination therapy within a few months of diagnosis have similar undetectable levels.

**Sad to say...** Even pharmacists have difficulties keeping straight the many names of the rapidly expanding arsenal of drugs used to fight AIDS. Do you realize each drug has three names, i.e... 3TC, Epivir, and Lamivudine are all the same drug.

**Happy to hear...** My sister #1, Ernie, a Feast for Friends volunteer extraordinaire, while trying to absorb everything I talk about, has taken to calling protease inhibitors "proteasers." Bless her heart. But it has such a clear, simple ring to it, doesn't it?

**Sad to say...** They even pick on their own. When the epitome of clean cut, Pat Boone, appeared on the American Music Awards wearing leather pants, vest, spiked dog collar, chains and decal tattoos to promote his CD *In a Metal Mood* (heavy metal lyrics set to the big band sound, if you can imagine), they went berserk! Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN) canceled the former heartthrob's long-running gospel show, *Gospel America*.

**Happy to hear...** Boone is emphatic, not sympathetic noting most of the opinionated big-mouths (my opinion) either didn't see the show or hadn't heard the music or listened to the lyrics. On TBN he explained he was just trying to bring

attention to his latest offering (which he did quite successfully). To those who wanted it to be his final offering, he said to "lighten up." Christians need to find more things to celebrate and less to condemn (his opinion). And yes, after I have smoked my "evening medicinal," I sometimes watch TBN.

**Sad to say...** The choicest cut of all? Maybe or maybe not. A report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* finds that circumcision does not reduce the chances of contracting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). So that excuse is gone.

**Happy to hear...** Circumcised men (worldwide, all Jews and Muslims, and in the U.S., 81 percent of whites, 65 percent blacks, and 54 percent Hispanics) suffer less sexual dysfunction and practice a "more highly elaborated set of sexual practices." Works for me.

**Sad to say...** I always get nervous when I am a guest speaker, but never more so than at Temple Israel last December in front of 200 high school students and parents as part of the World AIDS Day observance. I asked the Rabbi if I could "walk with the mike" instead of standing at the podium as the other speakers had because the natives were getting restless, and I wanted to get their attention. Well, the Rabbi had to unplug it and unravel the cord, causing an awkward delay. When one of the fellow panelists, who was Jewish, asked what was going on, I explained I talked with my hands and wanted to "walk the mike." She commented I must be Jewish, and right when I gave my reply, the Rabbi was plugging in the microphone... right when I was saying, "No, but at least I'm circumcised."

**Happy to hear...** Needless to say, I got their attention.



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# QUEER Science

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Should scientists work in ivory towers? Should they search for the truth, regardless of the effects, good or bad, that their discoveries may have on society? Or should they plan their research so that it will confer the greatest possible benefit and the least possible harm? How answerable, in other words, should scientists be for the uses to which their research is put?

These questions are particularly relevant to research into the basis of sexual orientation. That's because people have such differing views as to whether homosexuality is desirable or undesirable. Quite a few people have told me that they wish this kind of research wasn't being done, because they

fear that it will be misused. This fear is at the center of Jonathan Tolins' play *The Twilight of the Golds*, in which a woman aborts her fetus after finding out (through scanning of the fetus's hypothalamus, and by genetic tests) that it will be Gay. The message of the play, it seems, is that scientists who work in this area are either homophobic straight people or self-loathing homosexuals.

I do not deny that this field of research has the potential for abuse. History is full of examples of attempts to "cure" Gay people (mostly men) by means of traumatic biological techniques such as hormone treatment. These techniques have not worked, but it is

possible that eventually a technique will be developed that does work. In a creative endeavor of my own, the medical thriller *Albrick's Gold*, I explore a scenario for how brain scientists might actually develop a "successful" procedure to alter people's sexual orientation. It's a grim prospect.

So how can I justify doing research that might help make this fiction into fact? Firstly, I do so by appealing to the value of knowledge about ourselves, regardless of any practical consequences. If it's worthwhile trying to understand what makes us human, then it's worthwhile trying to understand what is most human about us: our diversity. And sexual orientation is a central aspect of human diversity that deserves to be explored without thought for the consequences. In other words, I believe in the ivory tower. It's where most of our understanding of the world and ourselves has been won.

But I also believe that knowledge about sexual orientation, like most knowledge, has the potential for practical benefit as well as for harm. And the most obvious benefit, as I see it, is in helping change homophobic attitudes. Many surveys, in the U.S. and elsewhere, have shown that people with anti-Gay attitudes also tend to be skeptical that homosexuality really exists in any deep sense: they think that there's nothing more to homosexuality than straight people acting out of character. This attitude was first expressed by the Bible's Paul ("changing the natural use into that which is against nature"), and it is now encapsulated in the central dogma of anti-Gay thought: the idea that homosexuality is nothing more than a "chosen lifestyle."

Biology does not say whether homosexuality is good or bad, but it does reinforce what most Gay people believe about themselves: that their sexual orientation is a central, defining aspect of their natures, not a mere set of behaviors that anyone might or might not display, as whim or morality might dictate. This view has implications

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Dr. Dougherty is a professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He recently appeared in *The Magic Flute* with Opera Memphis and has also been a soloist with the Columbus (Ohio) Symphony.

Pontius is a soloist with the Germantown Symphony Orchestra, has been featured in the annual performance of *The Messiah* at Calvary Episcopal Church and was a principle soloist with Opera Columbus (Ohio).

Shaw is an Opera Memphis

favorite, having made 10 appearances including recently *The Magic Flute*, and has been a featured soloist with the New York City Opera.

The program promises to be as dramatic and memorable as the booming voices of the Three Basses. They will be performing a selection of famous opera arias and favorites from the musical theatre in a manner that will be most entertaining. The variety of selections are certain to provide musical enjoyment.

The doors open at 7 p.m. so patrons may tour the museum at their leisure. The concert begins at 8 p.m. with a lavish champagne reception will follow featuring the Germantown Symphony Orchestra String Quartet.

Tickets for this elegant evening of entertainment are available for a \$100 donation per person or \$250 for special seating which includes listing as a benefactor in the program.

Proceeds of the event will benefit Friends for Life AIDS Resource Center. Because this is an intimate setting and seating is limited, advanced ticket sales are required. This will be a sell-out, so early inquiries are encouraged.

For additional information or tickets, contact Butch Valentine at 272-0855.



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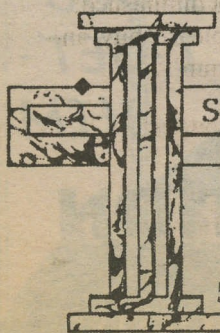
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# MESSAGE

BY

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in the legal field: for example, as to whether Gay people are entitled to protection from discrimination under equal-protection doctrine. But more importantly, it carries the potential to change homophobic attitudes at a grass-roots level. One 1992 study (by psychologists Julie Piskur and Douglas Degelman) actually documented this effect: a group of students who read research reports supporting a biological basis for sexual orientation developed more Gay-friendly attitudes than a comparison group who read reports arguing against such a basis. And in real life, I have met quite a number of people who seem to exemplify this effect: for example, the editor of the *Arizona Republic*, William Cheshire, who in 1991 retracted a series of anti-Gay editorials after reading scientific papers on the subject of homosexuality.

Whether scientific knowledge about sexual orientation is misused will depend, in large measure, on our own actions: whether we can persuade the world that Gay people should be respected as individuals and valued for the unique contribution they bring to society. I think we can. This is where I disagree with Jonathan Tolins. He, it seems, cannot imagine a world in which a Gay child would be welcomed. Yet only by imagining such a world can we help bring it into being.

Simon LeVay, PhD, is well-known for his research on the "Gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nonas), and *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996), and *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak/Masquerade Books). He is also a 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](mailto:SLeVay@aol.com).

# Ruth & Naomi — Lesbian Sisters?

By Greg Bullard, Pastor  
Safe Harbor MCC

Over the past few months we looked at the "slam" passages that we hear all of the time. Now I think that it time to start outing the Gay and Lesbian people in the Bible. Our story is here! We have been told that we did not exist and that we are not there, but we are. We have been told that the Romans 1 passage refers to Lesbians, but it does not. Here is one that does though: Ruth 1:1-19. Here is the primary text of the passage (vss 16-17):

*But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!"*

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die and there be buried.

*May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"*

How often have we heard this in a wedding? This is probably the most impassioned plea of commitment that is in Scripture. It is between two women! How appropriate and loving this is. This love, that rejects the boundaries that society places, is lifted high by God!

God saw Ruth's love for

Naomi as good — very good. She and Naomi are lifted high as examples of women with courage, strength and commitment. Commitment to each other!

One thing that I like about this story is that these women go on a journey together without any men. In those times a woman was supposed to be accompanied by a man and "looked after." Not my idea of equal treatment! Anyway they go against prevailing attitudes and custom on a journey, that was dangerous, by themselves. They finish the journey, then they set about trying to ensure that they will have a place to sleep and something to eat. Ruth eventually marries Boaz and joins the eventual family of Jesus.

Does Ruth marrying and having children make her not be a Lesbian? Definitely not. How many people do we know that were or are in marriages. The need or want for children and social acceptance can be great. That does not change who a person is.

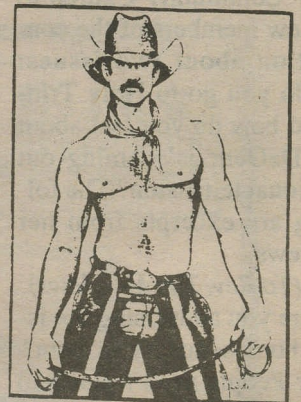
Here we have two women (dare I say Lesbians?) that were committed to each other and yet had to live in a world that did not accept or love them. God, however, did. So much so that we have their commitment and

love lifted as examples even in the weddings of heterosexuals. Their relationship transcended the arbitrary rules of society to accept the ultimate rule: that of Love. May our relationships be so committed that we seek this type of love, companionship and caring. It is one that does

not leave when it is not easy, but instead says that we are more important than selfish wants. It would have been easy for Ruth just to stay in Moab, but she had the courage to choose and the commitment to being chosen that God gives us when we love radically.

May the God of radical and unconditional love keep you now and forever!

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## Solution to Gay/Lesbian Crossword Puzzle on page 32

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# Ellen, Oprah, Pam Crittenden: Tuning In to Coming Out

Commentary By Ira L. King

On Wed., Apr. 16, Channel 3 News Reporter Pam Crittenden (PC) was at Holy Trinity Community Church to interview members of the congregation about two issues: Why do you go to Holy Trinity, and how do you feel about Ellen DeGeneris' coming out on national television? The following are excerpts from her interviews.

**PC (To Rev. Tim Meadows):** How are you addressing the issue of homosexuality as a sin?

**TM:** People need to look to the scripture from an individual perspective and make up their own minds.

**PC:** Do you feel the church has persecuted homosexuals?

**TM:** We use the term "church damaged." Many people have been damaged by the inconsis-

tency between what their churches taught about love for all and what they practiced. Many have been shunned because of their sexual preference.

**PC:** How do you feel about Ellen coming out?

**TM:** This is really a two-edged sword. On the one hand, there is the positive side showing that Gay men and women are just like the rest of society. We work hard, pay taxes, and lead quiet lives filled with the same hopes and dreams.

On the other hand there is that segment of the Gay community which is looked upon negatively. Unfortunately this is all many people see and they take that small population as a representation of the entire Gay community.

These were just a few of the many comments filmed by Ms. Crittenden. Some chose not to

be interviewed on camera, which is their prerogative.

After Ms. Crittenden finished her interviews, the cameraman took some sweeping shots panning the entire group. Since we had been told ahead of time that the camera would only film those who were willing, some were offended that the camera was on during the group's prayer time.

I'm sorry. I just don't get it. Many sat in that assembly and said that they are proud to be Gay. Yet they constantly worry about being seen on camera. Their biggest fear is that someone at work or in one of their social circles will find out about their sexuality and shun them. This attitude is absurd. These people need to wake up and smell the coffee. We are always griping about how backward the

South is. Well, if some of us aren't willing to take our heads out of the sand and quit running everytime we smell a TV camera, things are not going to change.

Those of us who have lived through the protests and marches of the 60s and 70s ought to take strength from the lessons learned during those times of strife and not be afraid to stand up and be who and what we are.

Moving right along. Recently Oprah Winfrey, the mistress of daytime talk shows, read viewer mail and addressed comments related to her support of the Ellen outing. On the upcoming episode, Miss Winfrey plays Ellen's psychologist. Viewer response revealed that while most of Oprah's audience is learning to embrace Gays and

Lesbians, some Oprah fans were very dismayed that she would support such an episode and such a lifestyle.

They are obviously unaware of Oprah's deep concern for the Gay community, which stems somewhat from having a dear personal friend who died of AIDS. She has addressed her sympathy for and recognition of the Gay community many times on her show.

I applaud Oprah's forthrightness. I applaud Disney for not backing down when sponsors began backing out. I applaud Pam Crittenden for taking the time to interview those of us directly affected by the sexual bigotry that confronts us daily. Parts of Ms. Crittenden's interviews will be seen on the 10 o'clock news on Wed., April 30, following the Ellen outing.

**Happy Hour Daily  
11 AM to 7 PM**

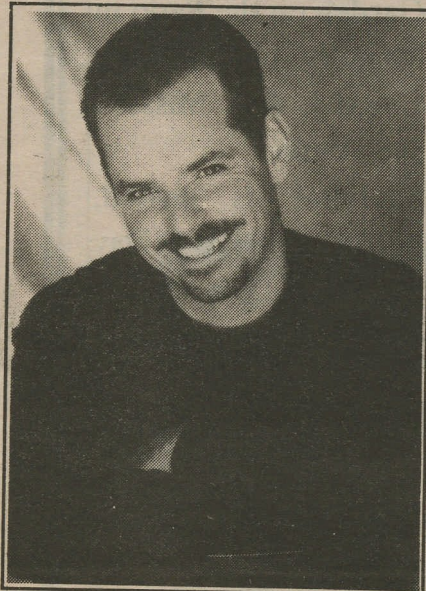
**Showtime Every  
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1:30 a.m. til ?**



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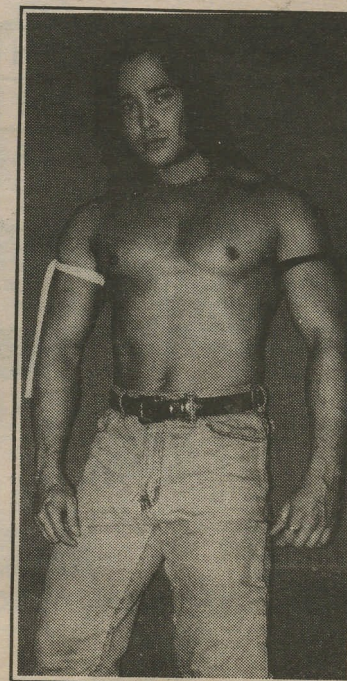
**Miles Hart**



**Special Guest from  
"Hot Atlanta"  
(Picture not Available)**

**MILES  
HART  
&  
COMPANY**

**SHOWTIME  
11 P.M.**



**Shadow**