



The 1999 King and Queen of Hearts are Laura Lee Love (Lonnice McIlwain) and Betty Richardson of Aphrodite, The annual fund-raiser for Friends for Life raised about \$3200.

Triangle Journal Launches Website

After several months of development, the *Triangle Journal News* has launched its website MemphisTJN.com. The site officially became active on Feb. 10.

"The website gives us an opportunity to expand our horizons beyond the printed page," said Allen Cook, *TJN's* publisher and co-editor.

The website version of the newspaper does not look exactly like the print version due to the limitations of HTML, the programming language of the world wide web. It will, however contain the same stories, advertisements and features as the print version.

On the initial "page," web surfers will encounter a table of contents with links which will allow them to access pages containing a specific story or feature. They are also given the option of browsing page by page.

An additional feature is that those advertisers with their own websites will be given links to take the viewer to those sites if desired.

"The website, like the newspaper, is always a work in progress," said Cook. "In time, there may be features there that are not available in the print version."

For example, Cook said a complete version of the newspaper which looks exactly like the print version may be offered as a portable document file (.pdf) viewable through a free program called Adobe Acrobat Reader.

"The downside of this method is that someone accessing a .pdf file would not be able to view it directly on the web," Cook said. "They would have to download the file, launch Acrobat Reader and then open the downloaded file to view or print. Current web browsers do not allow direct viewing of .pdf files in real time," he said. Cook said that ability may appear in future generations of web browsers.

TJN website development was spurred by the interest of Ron Rexter of leatherstreet.com who has worked for several months on preliminary designs. His company is providing the local hosting service.

"I doubt that we'd be up on the web now, if it weren't for Ron," Cook said.

Triangle Journal NEWS

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David Kushma, editorial page editor for The Commercial Appeal (center) was presented an award by the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice. Shown presenting are LGCJ co-chairs Jim Maynard and Margaret Henkle.



Shelia Tankersley, founder of Loving Arms, was named Feb. 23 as Tsarus Man of the Year for 1999

Falwell's Newspaper Attempts to Label "Teletubbies Character"

By David Reed
Associated Press Writer

ROANOKE, Va. (AP) — Is Tinky Winky Gay?

The Rev. Jerry Falwell suspects so, telling parents that the purple "Teletubbies" character from the popular children's television show is a homosexual role model.

Under a headline that reads "Parents Alert. Tinky Winky Comes Out of the Closet," an article in the February edition of the *National Liberty Journal* notes that Tinky Winky has the voice of a boy yet carries a purse.

"He is purple — the Gay-pride color and his antenna is shaped like a triangle — the Gay-pride symbol," the story said. The paper is edited and published by Falwell.

Falwell contends the "subtle depictions" are intentional and in a statement issued Feb. 9 said, "As a Christian I feel that role modeling the Gay lifestyle is damaging to the moral lives of children."

A spokesman for Itsy Bitsy Entertainment Co., which licenses the Teletubbies in the United States, said that what Falwell's newspaper described as a purse is actually

Tinky Winky's magic bag and that the Gay Pride color in England is pink, not purple.

"The fact that he carries a magic bag doesn't make him Gay," Steve Rice said. "It's a children's show folks. To think we would be putting sexual innuendo in a children's show is kind of outlandish."

Hasbro Inc., based in Pawtucket, R.I., is one of the companies that makes Teletubby toys, including Tinky Winky. The company makes Talking Teletubbies dolls, which Hasbro claims were the best-selling plush toy in the United States last year.

When a company representative was asked to comment on Falwell's recommendation to parents, she referred the caller to the Itsy Bitsy Entertainment Co.

Teletubby toys are based on a British show aimed at toddlers and began airing on U.S. public television stations since last spring. The show is now as popular as Barney,

a singing dinosaur who also happens to be purple.

The Teletubbies are portrayed by actors in oversized, brightly colored costumes. They all have television screens on their tummies and, according to the story line, live in a superdome hidden in the hills.

Other than Tinky Winky, the troupe features Dipsy in green, Laa-Laa in orange and Po in red. The Teletubbies dance, sing and share "bi-i-ig hugs" beneath a radiant sun emblazoned with the face of a laughing infant.

Rice said Falwell was attacking "something sweet and innocent" to further his conservative political agenda. "To out a Teletubby in a preschool show is kind of sad on his part. I really find it absurd and kind of offensive," he said.

Pictured: An internet wag has composed and distributed this composite of Tinky Winky with a Falwell face.



Tankersley Named "Man" of Year

Shelia Tankersley was beginning to feel like the Susan Lucci of the Tsarus Man of the Year awards. Nominated four times, Tankersley took home the honors for 1999.

In 1991, Tankersley heard of the problem neo-natal centers were having caring for HIV-positive babies. She had a dream in which she created an organization designed to meet that need. Loving Arms was born.

Loving Arms began as a program to enlist volunteers to simply hold and rock HIV positive babies at The Med — babies many people were afraid to touch, much less hold and rock. In 1995 Tankersley gave up a secure job, cashed in her 401K fund and devoted her life fulltime to helping both babies and their mothers with HIV.

Today Loving Arms is one of the premier providers of assistance to women with HIV and their children.

Speaking at the awards dinner were longtime friends Sharon Wray and Vincent Astor.

Astor noted that he is always expected to reveal the "dirt" on honorees. This time, however he said that he couldn't find any and that fact was perhaps the best compliment he could pay.

A check for \$500 was presented to Tankersley for Loving Arms.

2 The Lessons of King and Heschel

14 Magazine Chided for Parody of Gay Mummer

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New Fiction

plus Past Out, Lesbian Notions, Queer Science, Deep Inside Hollywood, Quick Clips, Sad to Say/Happy to Hear, Local News and more!

The Lessons of King and Heschel

Kerry Lobel
Executive Director of the
National Gay and Lesbian
Task Force

Last month, I was honored to speak at an Atlanta synagogue service commemorating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the anniversary of the death of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led our country through a momentous historical passage. Their faith fueled their passion for social justice.

The lessons they taught us are relevant to the challenges we face today. Because never before have the Gay, Lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community and our progressive allies faced such an organized and entrenched opposition.

We have seen relentless attempts to roll back decades of progress. In fact, we face a successful right wing that is brazenly devoted to shifting the very ground upon which we walk. In the last five years, the Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender community has faced hostile ballot measures and attempts to convert us to heterosexuality.

We've seen increased violence against nearly every minority group in our country, illustrated poignantly last year by the savage murders of James Byrd and Matthew Shepard. We've withstood attacks on civil rights, affirmative action and immigrants. While some of us have been moved to action, others have stood by complacently, content with the status quo and feeling untouched by the winds that howl around us.

Dr. King said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. A true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige and even his

life for the welfare of others. In dangerous valleys and hazardous pathways, he will lift some bruised and beaten brother to a higher and more noble life."

He believed, as many of us believe, that "all life is interrelated." He wrote, "All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny." He told us that whatever affects one directly, affects all directly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. "This," he said, "is the interrelated structure of reality."

There are those who would ask organizations like the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force not to make the connections between GLBT issues and other issues, and I say this to those people: I can never be a woman on Wednesday, a Lesbian on Thursday and a Jew on Friday. Don't force me to choose between those pieces of myself. Don't force me to choose between my arm and my leg, my heart and my head. Each of us must demand a world where all of us can bring our full selves to the table and to every movement for social change.

It is this demand for both wholeness and social action that we must bring to our every corner including our houses of worship. Faith without action means nothing. As Heschel wrote, "Prayer is meaningless unless it is subversive, unless it seeks to overthrow and to ruin the pyramids of callousness, hatred, opportunism, falsehoods. The liturgical movement must become a revolutionary movement, seeking to overthrow the forces that continue to destroy the promise, the hope and the vision."

When he returned from the voting rights march in Selma, Ala., in 1963, Heschel wrote King, "The day we marched together out of Selma was a day of sanctification. That day I hope will never be past



to me — that day will continue to be this day."

For Heschel, that march had spiritual significance. He wrote, "I felt as though my legs were praying." He believed that there was an unseverable connection between faith and action. He believed that one should, as an African proverb said it, "Pray with your feet."

Both of these men called on us to believe and act fully and completely. To them, the worst evil was indifference. As Heschel wrote, "The opposite of good is not evil, the opposite of good is indifference. In a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible." King said, "To accept passively an unjust system is to cooperate with that system." And in doing so, "the oppressed becomes as evil as the oppressor."

These are powerful and challenging words for turbulent times. I hope we take them to heart and join with one another, in Heschel's words, "to overthrow the forces that continue to destroy the promise, the hope and the vision."



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Bias Crimes Bills Defeated in State Where Gay Student Was Killed

By Robert W Black
Associated Press Writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Four months after Gay college student Matthew Shepard was beaten to death, a move to pass hate crimes legislation in Wyoming was scuttled Feb. 3 by a committee.

Supporters said that ended their hopes for the year.

Wyoming is one of nine states without bias crimes laws, and lawmakers have rejected similar measures four times since 1995.

After Shepard's death in October calls for a bias crimes law increased — Republican Gov Jim Geringer for the first time supported it.

Geringer said Feb. 3 that he was disappointed the legislation did not reach the Senate floor for debate, but he added that no law can change how people think about each other.

"What I call on the people of Wyoming to do is to recognize that there are 480,000 of us that

have unique capabilities, limitations whatever they might be and let's not hold that against each other," the governor said. "Let's find a way to build the community of Wyoming."

Two measures died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Both would have increased the maximum fine for a felony by up to \$5,000 and raised the maximum prison sentence by up to five years if prosecutors could prove the crime was motivated by bias.

State Sen. John Schiffer, the Judiciary chairman, said he hoped supporters of bias crime legislation would come back in future sessions with legislation that would have broader support.

Opponents said they objected to listing motivating factors, such as race, religion and sexual orientation, saying the bills offered special protection to certain groups. Others said no new laws are needed, just strict enforcement of existing measures.

Wende Barker, state coordinator for the Wyoming Bias Crimes Coalition, said she was disap-

pointed but not surprised and planned to try to push for such laws again next year.

The only other bias crime-re-

lated bill before the Legislature is one that would set up a task force to examine how many bias crimes are committed in Wyo-

ming. It has passed the House and is pending in the Senate.

Parents of Slain Gay College Student Speak Out

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — The parents of a Gay college student who died after he was pistol-whipped, robbed and lashed to a fence on the Wyoming prairie say they don't want his death exploited by activists for political gain.

"It's a very frightening concept as a parent that your son now becomes a martyr, a public figure for the world," Judy Shepard told *Dateline NBC* for a story "He's just our son."

Matthew Shepard was found Oct. 7 tied to a fence outside the University of Wyoming college town of Laramie, 40 miles west of Cheyenne. He died five days later in a Colorado hospital.

Police said the 21-year-old was attacked, in part, because he was homosexual. Some Gay advocacy groups have invoked the case in seeking harsher sentences for people convicted of crimes that involve bias against the victim.

Wyoming is one of nine states without bias crimes legislation. A move to pass a hate crimes bill was defeated Feb. 3 by a legislative committee.

Shepard's parents described their son as a sometimes naive young man who was often too trusting for his own good.

NBC and *Vanity Fair* in its March issue reveal that Shepard had been attacked and raped in Morocco while he was on a high school trip.

Vanity Fair also reported that Shepard tested HIV-positive at the Fort Collins, Colo., hospital where he died.

The magazine said two men who fought with suspects Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney following Shepard's attack may have come into contact with Shepard's blood and have been put on AIDS drugs. The article did not give a source.

Albany County Coroner Julie Heggie told The Associated Press that she had no information about whether Shepard was HIV-positive. "I know that's not in the autopsy report," Heggie said.

Officials at Poudre Valley Hospital did not return calls for comment.

Mrs. Shepard told *Vanity Fair* that her son had previously tested negative for the virus. The AP was unable to contact the Shepards, who live in Saudi Arabia.

Henderson and McKinney, both of Laramie, have been charged with murder and are awaiting trial. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against both.

"The anger really isn't there yet," Mrs. Shepard said. "I am sure it will come. They've done something horrible to my life, to my son, to my family, and I don't want to waste any of my feelings on them. I'm saving it all for Matt."

Gay Teen Beaten in Suspected Hate Crime

NOVATO, Calif. (AP) — High school student Adam Colton wears the cuts and bruises of a solid beating. They mark his face, his chest, his abdomen, his back.

And carved into his flesh with a pen is the word "fag."

On Feb. 12, the 17-year-old was targeted for the second time

this school year, the same year he decided to reveal that he is Gay and formed the Gay-Straight Alliance at San Marin High School in Novato.

City police are investigating the attack as a possible hate crime, said Sgt. Jim Laveroni.

Colton has no memory of the assault. Though he doesn't remember driving to school, Colton said police found his locked car in its parking lot, "which makes it a strong possibility that I was beaten up on campus," he said.

Colton, a senior, wandered into a classroom after the attack, saying something about having been followed, other students have said. Then he passed out.

The next thing Colton knew he was lying in a hospital bed. He's now at home recovering.

"When I woke up in the hospital, the first thing I thought was that I'd had a diabetic emergency or was in a car accident," Colton said. "Yesterday as a whole was pretty cloudy for me."

School Principal Rudy Tassano was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

The day of the first attack, on Sept. 15, someone had taken several napkins, spread them on the hood of his car parked in the school's lot, and written an obscene message in ketchup, Colton said.

Early that evening, he was grocery shopping for his parents. A group of three high school teens approached him, taunting him with anti-Gay epithets. He went inside and did his shopping. When he came back out, the teens jumped him.

The next week, he said, his car got keyed. The week after that, there was another ketchup message on his car. That weekend, someone wrote an epithet in lighter fluid on his family's driveway and tried to ignite it.

Then there were the looks and the taunts at school, the kids who would pass him in the hall and make a hateful comment to their friends, loud enough for Colton to hear, about Gays.

The pressure was exhausting. "I love going to school, but I was really starting to hate it," Colton said.

The Feb. 12 assault occurred almost a year after a group of San Marin students allegedly yelled a racial epithet at some Black players from nearby Tamalpais High. Three were suspended and one charged with disturbing the peace.

When he decided to come out of the closet at San Marin, Colton said, several people asked him why he would chance violence against himself.

"I didn't want to keep it inside anymore," Colton said.

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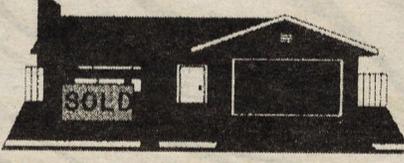
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National Religious Leadership Roundtable Held January 25-56

WASHINGTON — More than 40 leaders of religious and advocacy organizations that support Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) spirituality and equality met Jan. 25-26 for the National Religious Leadership Roundtable.

"We are here to present a different message based in fundamental religious principles of love justice and community," said Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, the world's largest Gay and Lesbian synagogue. "A message that acknowledges the contributions that Gay people bring to our traditions and understanding of God," she added.

This unique group of religious leaders from Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Protestant traditions, representing thousands of people of faith, affirms that religious belief and acceptance of GLBT people do not stand in contradiction. Laura Montgomery-Rutt, National Organizer of Equal Partners in Faith and Roundtable co-convenor heralded the meeting as a triumph for GLBT communities and their allies, "What brings us together is our belief in the full religious and social equality of all people."

At the January meeting, National Religious Leadership

Roundtable participants discussed the Religious Freedom Protection Act, which has the potential to both protect religious freedom and weaken civil rights. Participants also met with theologian Mary Hunt, director of Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual, Andrew Sullivan, author and analyst; Carleton Veazey of the Religious Coalition on Reproductive Rights; and Richard Socarides the White House Special Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor for Public Liaison.

Full participation and inclusion of GLBT people in the life of their religious traditions has been one of the most debated issues of the last two decades in many faith communities. In one of the most dramatic recent signs of support for inclusion and equality in the church, 76 United Methodist clergy conducted a same-sex union ceremony on Jan. 16 in Sacramento accompanied by 13 clergy from other denominations.

Another, 79 clergy signed on to officiate in absentia. In contrast, on Jan. 31, Lifeway Christian Resources, the Southern Baptist Convention's publishing arm, released Sunday school lessons on how homosexuals can "change."

The issue of "changing" sexual orientation has been in the public

eye since last July, when right-wing political groups launched an anti-Gay ad campaign under the guise of a "new discussion on homosexuality." Roundtable participants responded quickly and collectively to the ad campaign, affirming Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, and condemning the attacks.

"The existence of this Roundtable demonstrates a growing movement of support and acceptance in faith communities for Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender people," said Urvashi Vaid, Director of the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The Policy Institute was a co-convenor of the roundtable, in conjunction with Equal Partners In Faith.

Participants in the National Religious Leadership Roundtable include: AIDS National Interfaith Network; Al-Fatiha, GLBT Muslims; American Friends Service Committee; Americans United for Separation of Church and State; Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Gay and Lesbian Affirming Disciples Alliance; Christian Lesbians Out (CLOUT); Congregation Beth Simchat Torah; Dignity/USA, Disciples Justice Action Network; Ecumenical Catholic Church; Equal Partners in Faith;

GLAD Alliance; Human Rights Campaign; Inner Light Unity Fellowship Church; Integrity; Interfaith Alliance; Interfaith Working Group; Lutherans Concerned, Methodist Federation for Social Actions; More Light Presbyterians; National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; New Ways Ministry; Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays; People for the

American Way; Q Spirit; Reconciling Congregation Program; Unitarian Universalist Association, United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concern; Universal Federation of Metropolitan Community Churches; United Methodist Covenant Relationships Network; and Women's Alliance for Theology Ethics and Ritual.

Orthodox Group Protests Romanian Gay Play Production 'Angels in America'

By Mihaela Armaselu
Associated Press Writer

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Orthodox Christians protesting an award-winning play about homosexuals tore up the play's posters and telephoned threats to a theater staging the show.

Police were stationed outside the downtown Nottara Theater Feb. 13 and put plainclothes officers inside as a precaution against disturbances at the production of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, police said.

The security measures were taken after a group of 20 people tore up and defaced posters advertising the play around the city and made threats to the theater. Earlier in the week, they stopped and insulted theatergoers.

Theodor-Cristian Popescu, the play's director, called the protests uncivilized.

Police have not identified the protesters, but suspect members of a group that last year in Bucharest handed out "passports" labeled "Romania — a country free of homosexuals," Maj. Gheorghe Dumitrache said.

Angels in America, focusing on Gay culture and Judaism, opened on Broadway in 1993 and won a Pulitzer Prize and two Tony awards.

Anti-homosexual sentiment runs strong in this former communist country.

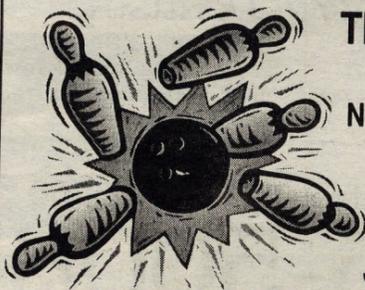
"It's a shame and a lack of good sense to stage such evil plays, which fail to distinguish between

right and wrong" said Tudor Popescu, head of the Young Orthodox Community in Romania, which is active in the campaign against homosexuality.

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Gay Rights Advocates to Spend Millions On Same-Sex Marriage Measure

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Gay rights advocates expect to spend \$10 million urging Californians to support same-sex marriages.

Organizing has begun around the state to try to keep California from going the way of Hawaii and Alaska, where voters resoundingly passed anti-Gay-marriage measures last November.

Leaders of the fight against the initiative, headed for the March 2000 ballot, expressed optimism Friday that a yearlong campaign, and a lot of money, could change Californians' minds about Gay marriage.

"In large part it's a matter of education," said Supervisor Leslie Katz. "When the public becomes aware of what is at stake for our families — as they have around Gays and Lesbians in the workplace and not wanting them to be discriminated against — they'll come around."

Essential to the campaign will

be people like the Rev. Don Fado, the heterosexual Methodist minister who was honored at Friday's event for taking up the cause of Gay marriage.

Fado and 94 other Methodist ministers put their ordinations at risk by blessing the union of a Lesbian couple Jan. 16, an event that's been called a turning point in the Gay marriage fight.

"I'm pleased to be here today to speak out for the right of all people to the legal protections that are offered in our society ... regardless of sexual orientation," Fado said.

Supervisor Mark Leno said a 1998 Field poll showing 56 percent of Californians opposing Gay marriage isn't necessarily a good measure of sentiment on the Knight initiative, which would define marriage as between a man and woman only. Defeat of the initiative would not legalize Gay marriage in California.

"The same poll also showed 58

percent favor equal rights for domestic partnerships," Leno said. "There's something about that word marriage that the public feels very possessive about that's something we can talk about and work with."

Cheryl Deaner, head of the All Our Families Coalition in San Francisco, said California is a very different state from Alaska and Hawaii, with a more diverse population and a far better organized Gay community.

"We've learned a lot," said Deaner, part of the ad hoc committee that's now starting to pull a campaign together. "I don't think it will be the same battle at all."

San Francisco political consultants Robert Barnes and Mike Marshall are already strategizing with activists here, in Los Angeles, and other California cities.

The \$10 million figure is an estimate, Marshall said Feb. 12. No money has been raised yet.

Legal Status Of Marriage Of Woman To Man-becoming-woman Is Unclear

TOOELE, Utah (AP) — A transsexual, midway through operations to become female, was granted a marriage license in Salt Lake County last month and married a woman.

As same-sex marriages are not recognized in Utah, it is unclear what the legal status of the marriage will be when Nicole Cline completes the final surgery, expected to occur in the next year.

Cline, 43, formerly Neal Cline, married Marlene S. Smith, 37, on Jan. 17 at the Sacred Light of Christ Metropolitan Community Church in Salt Lake City.

The marriage will remain legal, contends Shannon Minter, a staff attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco.

"Health insurance, local, state and federal benefits, all will continue to flow to them like any other married couple, because that's what they are," said Minter, who was quoted in a copyright story in *The Salt Lake Tribune*.

Paul Hetrick, a spokesman for Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colo., is skeptical that government agencies have declared such unions legally valid.

"I don't know that I would even think of it as a marriage," he said. "The design of marriage is the coming together of differences, not samenesses. It escapes me what makes this arrangement so great."

Cline said the Tooele couple views the marriage as a Lesbian union. "We are two women living together in marriage, so yes, I consider it a same-sex marriage," Cline said.

Cline was listed as male on the marriage application form, said Salt Lake County Chief Deputy Clerk Nick Floros, who granted the license.

"We had him sign an affidavit that he swore under oath that he was the person he represented himself to be on the application form," Floros said. "There were no court papers that said he changed his sex, only that he changed his name."

There was no legal reason to deny Cline the license, Floros said. "We tried not to violate his rights," he said.

If Cline had been recognized by the state as a woman, Floros said, he would not have granted the marriage license knowing Cline planned to wed a woman.

Floros said he has no idea what

will happen if Cline goes through with the operation. He said Utah marriage laws do not address that question.

Minter said he knows of no court decisions regarding such couples.

"You may have some explaining to do, but marriage is a permanent state," he said. "The only way it can be undone is by a court order." Other than a divorce sought by the couple, no one would have the legal right to ask a court to overturn the marriage, he said.

Cline, Tooele County's planner, began dressing as a woman in 1997. Last year, female courthouse employees complained Cline was using the women's restroom, compelling the county to create a unisex restroom.

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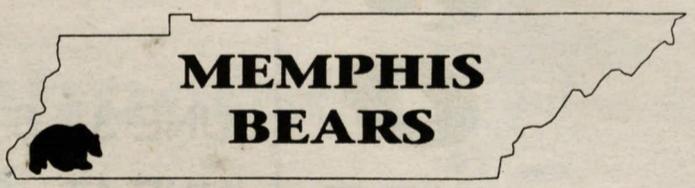
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Gay Lawmaker Blasts Colleague for Remarks on Domestic Partners Bill

By Matt Kelley
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — The only openly Gay Republican in the Arizona Legislature on Feb. 3 accused a colleague of spreading lies, bigotry and silliness in her backing of a bill to prohibit government benefits to employees' Gay partners.

"You can hate me. You can discriminate against me. You can be as bigoted as you want to be. But treat me fairly under the law," Rep. Steve May, R-Phoenix, told a state House panel.

The proposal's chief backer, Rep. Karen Johnson, said she meant nothing personally against May when she said homosexuality was "at the lower end of the behavioral spectrum" and a threat to society. But she stood by her comments.

"I hope that we can work together on a lot of other issues," said Johnson, R-Mesa.

Johnson's measure (HB2524) would prohibit state government, including state universities, from offering health benefits to the unmarried partners of employees. County and city governments could offer such benefits only if their voters approve. The measure would not apply to health benefits for the children of employees who are not married.

A bitterly divided House Government Reform Committee endorsed the bill on a party-line 3-2 vote. House Majority Whip Jim Weiers, who had voted against a similar bill in a different committee, abstained from the vote.

Johnson told the panel the benefits ban was needed because Gays are at higher risk for medical prob-

lems such as AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, some cancers, "as well as a group of rare intestinal diseases that have been grouped together under the title Gay bowel syndrome."

"Given the extreme medical risk and the fundamental psychological problems involved, the undermining of the natural family and the threat to basic freedoms which the sexually promiscuous lifestyle constitutes, wisdom seems to point to only one conclusion: These kinds of lifestyles are at best morally suspect," Johnson said.

"This 'Gay bowel syndrome' does not exist," May retorted. "It's just a silly creation of the radical-right, big-government theocrats."

May also accused Johnson of lying when she said Gay men with AIDS have a life expectancy of 39 and Gay men without AIDS have

a life expectancy of 42.

"I don't know if these lies are born of ignorance, or of bigotry, or prejudice," May said. "I'm offended. I'm disgusted. It's a lie."

May later told the committee he retracted calling Johnson a liar but challenged her to prove her assertions. House rules forbid representatives from insulting another representative's integrity.

A supporter of the bill suggested it was May who was lying.

"Homosexuals are known for telling lies and twisting the truth and attacking and calling names those who would stand up and not go along with their agenda," said Frank Meliti, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition of Arizona.

Currently, only Pima County and Tucson have plans that give benefits to employees' domestic

partners.

Tucson's plan, which grants benefits only to same-sex partners, costs \$25,000 a year out of the city's \$14 million health benefits budget, May said. Pima County's rule, which applies to both heterosexual and homosexual couples, costs the county 1.5 percent of its health benefits budget, or \$225,000 a year, May said.

Representatives of local governments said they opposed the idea because it would restrict their ability to choose what employee benefits to offer.

"The Legislature to date has never gotten involved in local personnel policies," said Kent Fairbairn of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. "Other cities and towns should be able to make that decision at the local level."

Festival Won't Stage Teen's Play About Lesbians

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Samantha Gellar knew her play about Lesbians wouldn't be staged, but she is disappointed anyway that the Charlotte Young Playwrights Festival proved her right.

"In a way, the play is my artistic child. It says something about me," said Samantha, 17, a junior at Northwest School of the Arts. With the support of her parents, she recently declared herself to be a Lesbian.

"Once you've created something, you feel protective and proud of it."

Her play was one of five chosen from among 200 as festival

winners. But her play was not to be staged Feb. 19.

The festival sponsors, Children's Theatre of Charlotte and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, say discussion of sexual orientation is inappropriate for the festival's middle and high school audiences.

And because some past winners at the 3-year-old festival were edited before they were performed, the sponsors warned students in advance this year that winners might be deemed unfit for production.

"It's a play-writing contest," said Children's Theatre spokesman Rob Odum. "We would never

make a play ineligible for the contest based on content. This play is still an award-winner."

Samantha said she knew in advance her play would not be staged at the festival, but "I still consider it discrimination." She said she plans to use her \$100 prize to help pay to have the play produced at the Neighborhood Theatre.

The play is about two adult women, one visually impaired, who meet, talk and fall in love. There is no explicit sex or nudity.

Children's Theatre is a private, nonprofit institution that receives

money from public schools for a variety of programs, including the Young Playwrights Festival.

"We are obligated to follow their guidelines when they fund the project we're doing," Children's Theatre Artistic Director Scott Miller said. "It is very difficult to be an organization that supports students, nurtures their work, and at the same time we have an obligation to the school system."

Recent court cases have tended to support school authorities in determining what materials are appropriate for students to read or see

on stage.

The Young Playwrights Festival is the latest in a series of controversies about homosexuality and the arts that has put Charlotte at the center of a national debate.

On Feb. 16, the Mecklenburg County commissioners approved a resolution to restore funds to the local arts council that were cut in 1997 after the staging of a Pulitzer Prize-winning play with a homosexual theme. The 1997 resolution called for \$2.5 million in cuts to the Arts & Science Council.

Weakened AIDS Virus May Be Hazardous as Vaccine, Study Shows

NEW YORK (AP) — Using a weakened AIDS virus as a vaccine might actually cause the disease, a study in monkeys suggests.

Some scientists have proposed using weakened HIV as a vaccine, and some animal studies have been encouraging. But in the new work, researchers found AIDS in some macaques that had been inoculated with a genetically crippled version of a virus called SIV, a cousin of HIV.

The Associated Press reported

the conclusions of the work last July when results were presented at an AIDS meeting. The details are now presented in the February issue of the journal *Nature Medicine* by Dr. Ruth Reprecht of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and collaborators.

One of 16 macaques vaccinated as adults developed AIDS, as did six of eight animals vaccinated as infants, researchers reported. Some other animals developed immune-system abnormalities.

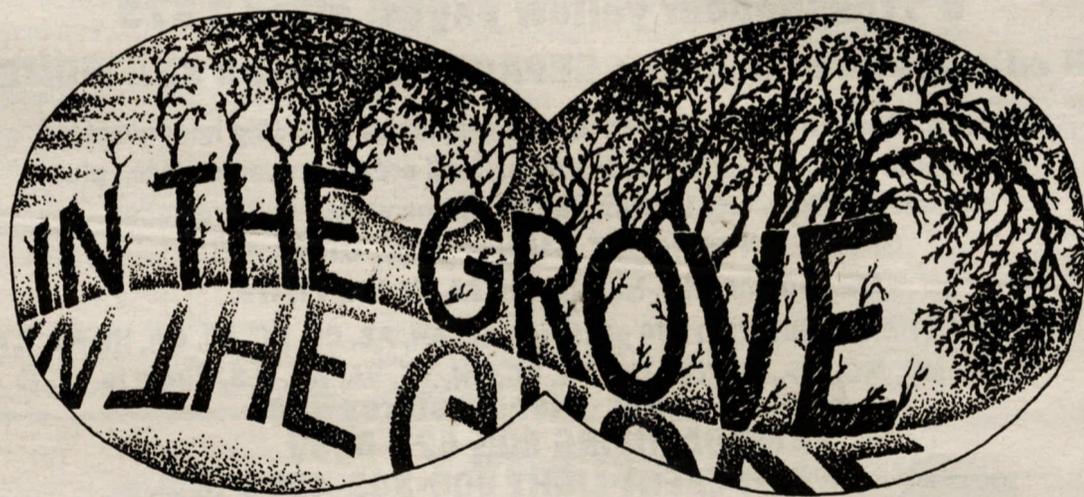
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Husband-Wife Team Makes Key AIDS Discovery

By Erin Shaw
Birmingham Post-herald

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — When Dr. Robert Gallo made the most famous discovery of his remarkable career, Beatrice Hahn and George Shaw were young researchers at his side.

So it surprises Gallo little that

the two, now married, would be linked to yet another important discovery in the medical fight against AIDS.

Hahn, 43, and Shaw, 45, made headlines of their own Monday as leaders in a University of Alabama at Birmingham team that traced the origin of the HIV virus to a subspecies of African chimpanzee.

It was in 1984 that the two

worked at the National Institute of Health with Gallo, who was credited with a discovery that revolutionized testing and treatment for the virus which causes AIDS.

"I had a tremendous number of students in the NIH — hundreds," said Gallo, now director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland. "I would have to list Beatrice and George

among the top few."

Hahn is now the engine behind the UAB research team; just ask Shaw. But she's much more than that to him. She's his wife, and mother of their two small children, 7-year-old Katharina and 1-year-old Christiana.

Talking about their latest discovery, he speaks in a staccato burst of medical terms, but he beams and his speech slows when he talks about "Bea."

"In everything I say," he said, "it's 'Beatrice and I.' ... We do everything together."

They met in 1983 when Shaw arrived for his post-doctoral fellowship in the lab of the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md. Hahn already had worked there for a year, under Gallo's direction.

She came from a town in Germany named Ohsterhofen. He came from the small town of Logan, Ohio. Both had completed their clinical medical training and decided to focus on research.

The two were brought together at first by an intense desire to learn about the makeup of the complex AIDS virus.

"We were challenged by the excitement and the enormity of the growing epidemic," Shaw said. They worked in Gallo's lab until 1985, when the two moved to

UAB.

They were married three years later.

Each continued their rise in their respective areas of concentration, both becoming professors of medicine and microbiology, and Shaw serving as director for the division of hematology and oncology. He also was named a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Scholar, one of six in the world.

While unraveling the mysteries of AIDS is obviously difficult work, Hahn said raising kids can be a tough task, too.

"I wouldn't say that the world of my children is any less complex than the research I do," Hahn said during a rare free moment.

Hahn leaves work at 6 p.m. and holds fast to the rule of never working on weekends. In fact, she learned the UAB team had officially discovered the origin of HIV while on a family horseback riding trip in July.

"When I came to the hotel there was a fax waiting for me from Feng Gao (another key UAB researcher)," she said. The fax contained the information that proved HIV-1 originates from one chimpanzee subspecies.

"I knew this was it and I smiled ... and then I went back to my kids."



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Church Asks Lent Observers to Give Up Prejudices

NAUGATUCK, Conn. (AP) — Instead of the tried-and-true Lenten sacrifices of chocolate or TV, the Congregational Church of Naugatuck is asking people to probe a little deeper.

"What we're asking them to give up is prejudices," said the Rev. Lee Moore, interim senior pastor. "Obviously, (it is) with the hopes that this will carry over into the rest of their lives."

To drive the message home, Moore and the Rev. Paul Bryant-Smith, interim associate pastor, are incorporating the theme of giving up prejudices into upcoming Sunday services during Lent, the 40 days of fasting and penitence between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

Sermons and workshops are planned on confronting prejudice based on race, sex, religion or sexual orientation. Children's programs also will address prejudice against people with mental or physical handicaps.

"In this day and age, we're surrounded by (prejudice) and we need to find a way to overcome it, and there's no better way than by coming to church and learning how to do it," said parishioner Arlene Cypher.

Parishioner Barbara Minton agreed.

"I think there's been too much prejudice over the years. We've got to open up our hearts to a lot of people," she said.

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Sixth Annual St. Patrick's Tourney Set for Mar. 19-21

Submitted by S.P.I.T

There will be a number of people hoping the "lucky leprechaun" hangs around a while after Saint Patrick's Day— at least through the following weekend. For that weekend, March 19-21, will be the time for the sixth annual Saint Patrick's Invitational Tournament, a Gay and Lesbian bowling event that annually brings bowlers from across the country to Memphis for a fun-filled weekend.

SPIT, an event sponsored by the local Brothers and Sisters Bowling League and affiliated with IGBO (the International Gay Bowling Organization), has become one of the area's top ways of showcasing Southern hospitality and fun within the local Gay community.

This year's event will take on a truly international flavor as the first ever Canadian participant will be included in the festivities.

"In addition to the Canadian entrant, we are looking for bowlers from throughout our own country," said Richard Andrews, director of this year's tournament. "We know we have bowlers coming from California and Seattle to the west and Washington, D.C. to the east. And we always have a good number from the heartland, so we think this will be our largest tournament to date."

Participants in the event will be congregating at the Holiday Inn Midtown which is once again serving as the host hotel. Bowling will take place at Cordova Lanes — a first for the tournament and the bowling house, which will be hosting its first tournament since opening in November 1997.

Registration events will take place on Friday night March 19 at Backstreet Bar. The 7-11 activities will include not only the tourney's registration, but also plenty of food and socializing. Members of the local league will be providing the food while the staff and management at Backstreet will be opening the bar for the hospitality time.

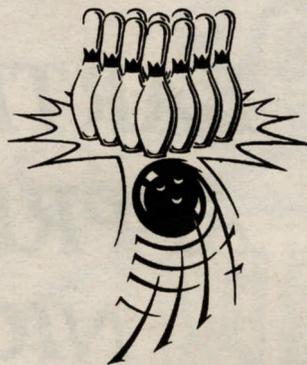
"This is the second year we have used Backstreet for our opening night activities and we are truly grateful to Shane and the employees for their help," Andrews said. "Our bowlers enjoy the time to meet and remeet other participants in the tournament and the gathering at Backstreet is used as an 'ice-breaker' to begin the weekend."

Saturday will see the bowlers gathering in Cordova for the singles and doubles events which will begin at 11 a.m. Each bowler will roll three games in each event.

"DeWayne Hippensteel, manager at Cordova Bowling Center, has promised the lanes will roll out the red carpet for our visitors,"

Andrews commented, "and we are really looking forward to sharing in the center's first tournament."

Activities, in addition to the actual bowling, will include side pots, raffles, Jell-O shooter sales and other fun-filled things planned by



the SPIT committee. The committee will be aided by the local Gay softball league which will be handling many of the bowling center activities.

"We are glad to have the softball league offer its help to us for our weekend activities."

Andrews said, "We will in turn be helping them during their softball tournament in July. This will allow our local people to co-mingle with the out-of-towners, socialize and share our good hospitality."

Saturday evening the committee has tentatively scheduled a "Dutch" treat dinner at a local res-

taurant, although the exact place is still being considered.

"Doing this brings the bowlers together once again, and allows us to start early enough that they will still have plenty of time to visit our local watering holes and party the night away," Andrews said.

Sunday will bring team events with each four-member team bowling three games beginning at 11 a.m.

The weekend will then be highlighted at the Holiday Inn when the local committee hosts its banquet and awards' program. Following a cocktail hour beginning at 6, the banquet will begin at 7 with the Holiday Inn's scrumptious Southern buffet which has become a popular event with past tournament participants.

The awards program will feature trophy and cash prizes for the top bowlers as well as special recognition for a local volunteer, a local business and an out-of-town supporter with the "Goodwill Ambassador" award.

"We have given out between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in cash and prizes each of the past five years," Andrews said, "and this year will be no exception."

A closing party will be held at the Pipeline following the awards' program.

"We have spent five years get-

ting to this point for our tournament," Andrews said. "A great deal of hard work has gone into those five years as well as for preparing for this year's event. We have been referred to as one of the best kept secrets in our IGBO events, and we hope this year will make us well-known across the country. We are expecting our largest turnout of bowlers, bolstered by a good number of locals from both Brothers and Sisters and the other Gay league from Cherokee Lanes, the Mid-Towners."

The tournament director said, "I want to take this opportunity to express my, and the committee's, appreciation to everyone in the local Gay community who has been so generous in helping us present a first-class event. The local bars and other businesses have contributed time and money, without which we could not carry on. This is an event the Memphis Gay community can be proud of and we hope anyone interested will join us for any or all of the weekend's activities."

For further information concerning the tournament or to volunteer to help during the weekend, please contact Andrews at 465-4371 or via e-mail at Rha1453@aol.com.

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Mackenzie to Receive Women of Achievement Award

Attorney Susan Mackenzie will receive a Women of Achievement Award for Courage her work in the area of Lesbian and Gay Rights on March 28.

This is the first time in its 15-year history that the organization has awarded someone for her work in this area. The courage award is given "to a woman who, facing active opposition, backed an un-

popular cause in which she deeply believed."

Mackenzie's legal work on behalf of Lesbians and Gay men has included successfully representing Lesbian mothers and Gay fathers in seeking custody and visitation rights, as well as assisting Lesbian and Gay couples in creating protections for their relationships.

Mackenzie has served as the

president of Memphis NOW, the president of Tennessee NOW, a national board member for NOW, as well as serving on the boards of the Memphis Center for Reproductive Health and the National Lesbian and Law Association.

In the past, Lesbians Audrey May, Vicki Scarborough and Angie Dagastino were given awards, but not specifically for

their work in the area of Lesbian and Gay rights.

Other 1999 recipients include Bert P. Wolff for determination, Lucille DeVore Tucker for heritage, Dandra Harrison for heroism, Tina Birchette award for initiative, Carlotta Watson for steadfastness and Francis Loreing for vision.

The Women of Achievement Awards Dinner is scheduled for Sun., Mar. 28 at the Marriott Hotel. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the banquet and program begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20. For tickets, call Lauri Sklare at 755-9207 or 820-8532.

Softball League Gearing Up For Summer Fun

The Bluff City Sports Association softball league is getting ready for its fourth year of fun and excitement.

Games will be played on Sundays (times and location have not yet been determined). All teams are classified as "Open" which means there can be any combination of men or women on the teams.

The league is also a member of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA). Created in 1977, NAGAAA is an international organization dedicated to promoting amateur athletics for the Gay community. Currently, approximately 50 Gay softball leagues in the US and Canada from 30 cities are mem-

bers.

The league is comprised of players competing in a weekly schedule of games from April until the end of July.

If you are interested in playing,

call Chuck at 374-9787. Also, if a business is interested in sponsoring a team, please call! Get off the couch and away from the computer screen and "hit the fields."

LGCJ to Counter Focus on Family

The Memphis chapter of the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice (LGCJ) is planning a group of events to counter the upcoming Focus on Family conference on homosexuality ("Love Won Out" at Central Church, March 27).

The conference is planning to

bring in national speakers, like self-proclaimed ex-Gay John Paulik and others to address the "Gay agenda" and the "homosexual condition," including Joseph Nicolosi who advocates "reparative therapy."

LGCJ's conference, still in the planning stages, will feature speakers and panels to counter the FOF conference and will likely include a candlelight vigil at Central Church.

Those interested can contact LGCJ at gaymemphis.com, check their web page for information (www.gaymemphis.com/lgcj) or call 327-2677.

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Magazine Criticized for Parody About Gay Mummer

By Meki Cox
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The sight of stubble-faced, blue-collar workers decked out in feathers and sequins and strutting to show tunes down Philadelphia's main boulevard could strike an outsider as odd.

Stranger still to many residents was *Philadelphia* magazine's parody detailing the secret life of a Gay mummer, a thick-chested construction worker who lives for New Year's Day and the parade that allows him to dress up in sequined camouflage and show his true colors.

The satire flopped with most

readers — they didn't know it was a spoof.

Editor Eliot Kaplan has apologized for running the story. He said the story, published in January's issue, seemed so obvious it didn't need a disclaimer.

After all, Kaplan argued, mummers — whose wilder-the-better costumes put them in competition for cash prizes in the nation's oldest New Year's Day parade — traditionally are macho 364 days a year.

"We were attempting to do a satire," he said. "A Gay mummer — we thought it was preposterous. But maybe it was too real. When only 10 to 20 percent of the readers think it's fake ... it just didn't

work. I have to apologize."

In a lot of ways, the mummers' annual parade is like the Mardi Gras festival, with elaborate costumes, instruments and flamboyant routines.

Mummery dates to the 17th century when Europeans came to the New World with their holiday ritual of welcoming the New Year by masquerading, visiting friends and firing weapons into the air. Eventually the city put an end to the shooting and drunken revelry and began sponsoring an annual parade in 1901.

It's a spectacle — men dressing like women, donning feathers and lace, sequins and satin, strutting several miles for all the world to see.

The magazine story chronicled the double life of Neil, just one of the guys as he cracked jokes and taught his buddies new dance steps, sewing Princess Leia costumes as needed. On the inside, Neil was a nervous wreck, fearing anything he said or did would give his secret away.

The hoax was uncovered by *Philadelphia Daily News* columnist Stu Bykofsky, who has been merciless in his criticism of the story.

He isn't alone in questioning the ethics of the spoof, which comes on the heels of a number of high-profile incidents last year in which journalists lost their jobs over fabricated stories and inaccuracies.

This story was particularly troublesome because it makes readers question whether stories are fact or fiction, said Joseph Turow, communications professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communications.

"There's obviously the appearance of a problem here when you're working with something so borderline as that. Subtle humor only implies fakery," he said.

Duane Swierczynski, a *Details* magazine editor who penned the parody, said he wished he would have included more "bombshell clues" to make the story seem fake.

Mummers weren't happy to learn the piece wasn't real.

"There must be Gay mummers," said Palma Lucas, director of the Philadelphia Mummers Museum. "Gays are in every fabric of our lives."

In his defense, Kaplan noted a *Sports Illustrated* April Fool's profile of a fictitious Buddhist-trained baseball pitcher who could throw a 168-mph fastball.

George Plimpton, author of the *SI* piece, said satire has its literary place. But in the case of the magazine's flopped spoof, Plimpton said the piece "might have worked out better" on April 1.

Religious Leaders Call on Mass. to Honor Gay Marriages

By Alison Fitzgerald
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Carmen DeBenedictis is safe sleeping in the arms of either of her two daddies. But the parents of the newly adopted 6-week-old feel less secure about the family situation.

That's because, as a Gay couple, Don Picard and Robert DeBenedictis aren't legally married.

And there are lawmakers on Beacon Hill who want to keep it that way.

"It's strange. Carmen is our next of kin, but we're not next of kin to each other," Picard said.

The unconventional Medford family attended a rally at the Statehouse on Feb. 11 where dozens of religious leaders called for the state to recognize same-sex marriages.

About 150 religious leaders have signed a declaration of support for the right of Gays to marry. The group includes Jews, Quakers, Baptists, Episcopalians, Unitarians, Catholics and others.

"The most fundamental human right, after the necessities of food clothing and shelter, is the right to affection and the supportive love of another person," the declaration begins.

But the movement faces opposition on Beacon Hill.

"I am not for Gay marriages," Gov. Paul Cellucci bluntly declared.

Democrat State Rep. John Rogers is drafting a bill that would more clearly define marriage in Massachusetts. The language in the bill would require that a marriage

be between a man and a woman, thereby prohibiting same-sex couples to marry.

So far, Hawaii is the only state where Gay marriages have been upheld in the courts.

But Congress responded with the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, which denied federal recognition of Gay marriage and allowed states to ignore the unions of Gay couples married in other states. So far, 29 states have banned homosexual marriage.

The Massachusetts religious leaders said they would fight to make sure Gay marriages performed legally in other states are recognized here.

The declaration presented Thursday by clergy compares the ban on Gay marriages to previous bans on interracial marriages and laws prohibiting blacks to marry.

Many of the ministers said they perform Gay marriage ceremonies.

"I am deeply troubled that ... I as a clergyman see the marriages that I officiate at are not being legally recognized by this commonwealth," said Rabbi Howard Berman.

Picard and DeBenedictis said they were united in a spiritual ceremony. But a legal ceremony would give them peace of mind.

They said they face the same obstacles as other Gay couples who want to be legally married: spousal insurance benefits and being considered next of kin if the other is injured or dies.

"It's strange that the state is excited we are adopting a baby, but they are resisting letting us get married," Picard said.

Group Wants to Establish Eternal Flame for Victims of Hate Crimes

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) — A non-profit group based near Seattle is looking for a site in Fort Collins for an eternal flame that would honor victims of hate crimes, such as Matthew Shepard.

Shepard, a Gay University of Wyoming student, died at Poudre Valley Hospital last Oct. 12. He had been robbed, beaten and left to die near Laramie, Wyo., five days earlier.

The International Hate and Violence Education Foundation is spearheading the effort to place a "Flame of Hope" in Fort Collins and light it on the one-year anniversary of Shepard's death, according to Lee Thompson, president of the I HAVE Foundation.

"Matthew Shepard has been a catalyst for a lot of people. He's helped a lot of people change their lives in how they act and react around human rights," Thompson said.

Organizers plan to carry the flame by torch during a walk from Skagway, Alaska, to Fort Collins. Volunteers would pass the torch in a relay covering more than 2,500 miles and spanning more than four months.

Shepard's mother, Judy Shepard, has agreed to take part in the walk and to light the flame on the anniversary of her son's death, Thompson said in announcing the group's plans Feb. 9.

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Millions in Federal AIDS Funding Held Up by Bureaucracy in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The nation's largest provider of medical services for people with HIV and AIDS claims the city has hoarded \$17 million in funds earmarked to shelter poor people with AIDS.

The issue has pitted the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation against city bureaucracy.

There have been demonstrations outside Mayor Richard Riordan's home and counterclaims that the AIDS group is exaggerating the problem.

"With all these protests, our mayor, who is missing in action on most issues, has not said word one," said foundation President Michael Weinstein. "Where's the action plan? No one's being held

accountable for the fact that this money hasn't been used."

City officials said they have been waiting for the results of a study to clarify the needs of AIDS housing in Los Angeles.

"The goal here is not to spend the money faster," said Deputy Mayor Noelia Rodriguez. "It's to spend it wisely."

The City Council voted last

week to allocate \$6.2 million on rental assistance for poor people with AIDS.

Yet more than \$11 million remains unspent in the city's housing program, called HOPWA, for Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS.

"We tried to keep as much of the money intact without committing it until we could find out some of the fundamental things of the study," said Ferd Eggan, AIDS coordinator for the city.

The study conducted by Shelter

Partnership Inc. is believed to be the first of its kind in the nation since the advent of protease inhibitors, the landmark medicines that have helped thousands of HIV patients rebound from the disease.

It found an increased need for independent, long-term housing for AIDS patients and that many of the 785 people surveyed were very poor and close to being homeless.

Activists argue preliminary results of the study were available several months ago.

Appeals Court Strikes Down Louisiana Law Banning Oral and Anal Sex

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A state appeals court has struck down a 194-year-old Louisiana law that made oral and anal sex a felony, saying the law violated the privacy rights of consenting adults.

The decision adds to the growing list of U.S. states that have

struck down sodomy laws based on rights to privacy granted in state constitutions.

The Louisiana court on Feb. 9 reversed the 1996 conviction of Mitchell E. Smith. He had been accused of raping a woman but found guilty under the state's "crimes against nature" statute only of having her perform oral sex.

"There can be no doubt that the right of consenting adults to engage in private non-commercial sexual activity, free from governmental interference, is protected by the privacy clause of the Louisiana Constitution," the court held.

Courts in Georgia, Kentucky, Montana and Tennessee previously had reached the same conclusion in interpreting their respective state constitutions and striking down sodomy laws.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court held in 1986 in a Georgia case that

consenting adults have no federal constitutional right to private homosexual conduct, activists have turned to individual state constitutions to find protection from the sodomy laws.

The U.S. Constitution does not mention the word "privacy," but the Supreme Court since 1965 has recognized that such a right pre-dates the 1787 document itself. However, many state constitutions expressly grant a right to privacy.

Suzanne Goldberg, senior staff attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense Fund in New York City, was jubilant about the decision.

"These laws have no legitimate purpose and that's what courts are starting to recognize," she said. "The government should not be in the business of policing private sexual behavior."

The decision will be appealed, said prosecutor Tim McElroy

Group Protests U.S. Immigration Policies

By Verena Dobnik
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A Gay and Lesbian group protested U.S. immigration policies Feb. 11, saying the government discriminates against same-sex couples when granting visas to foreigners.

"Love knows no borders," dozens of protesters chanted behind police barricades outside the Immigration and Naturalization Service in lower Manhattan.

The demonstration was organized by the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, a New York-based advocacy group.

The group claims green cards are routinely granted to heterosexual foreigners who marry U.S. citizens, while same-sex applicants are rejected.

"We often face an excruciating choice — our partners can either live an ocean apart or stay surreptitiously in the U.S. without proper papers and under threat of deportation," said Carl Goodman, an American whose partner is Peruvian.

"I love an alien," said a sign hoisted by one protester, and another man with an Australian partner held up a red placard asking, "Can my husband come over and stay?"

At least 10,000 Gay couples are affected, said task force attorney Suzanne Goldberg.

The task force wants Congress to establish a special category — such as a legally registered partnership — that would qualify a foreigner with a longtime partner to live in the United States, Goldberg said.

Ten countries recognize same-sex relationships for the purposes of immigration, including Canada, Britain and Australia.

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Baptist Convention Pulls Recommendation of American Airlines

By Hannah Wolfson
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Southern Baptist Convention has withdrawn its recommendation that members fly American Airlines, saying the nation's second-largest carrier broke a promise by donating \$75,000 to pro-Gay organizations.

American insisted it never promised to stay neutral on Gay issues.

In January, the 15.6 million-member convention recommended American and Delta Air Lines for travel to its annual meeting in Atlanta, scheduled for June 15-16. An average of 20,000 people attend such meetings of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Officials pulled the recommendation for American on Feb. 9. Convention spokesman Bill Merrell said the organization recently learned that American gave \$50,000 to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation media awards — which will honor *Corpus Christi*, a play with a Gay Christlike character which has been criticized as blasphemous by Christian groups.

Merrell also said American gave \$25,000 to the Human Rights Campaign, which supports the legalization of same-sex marriages.

He said American officials had promised to stay away from "anti-family organizations" after evan-

gelical groups published an open letter in *The Washington Times* and Texas newspapers in 1997 claiming the airline targeted the Gay market.

"In order to be fair to our constituents and exercise our integrity we had a duty to let our constituents know that we are not recommending American Airlines," Merrell said.

However, the convention doesn't plan a full-scale boycott as was launched against the Walt Disney Co. in 1997, he said. Southern Baptists are boycotting Disney for its corporate practice of extending health insurance to homosexual partners of employees and hosting homosexuals at its amusement parks.

Andrea Rader, a spokeswoman at American's headquarters at Fort Worth, Texas, said the airline appears to have been "singled out" by the convention.

Rader said the airline financially supports the Human Rights Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, known as GLAAD, but she could not confirm the exact figures.

"We consider the Human Rights Campaign and GLAAD to be civil rights organizations, and our association with them is one that we consider to be consistent with our employees' interests and with a significant section of our customer base," Rader said.

Arizona Governor to Lawmakers: Focus on Issues, Not Bedroom Affairs

PHOENIX (AP) — Gov. Jane Hull wants lawmakers to give more attention to matters of import and less to bedroom issues such as medical benefits for Gays.

"I may morally feel one way, but I do not believe that I need to pass laws to put my beliefs on the record," Mrs. Hull, a former House speaker, said Feb. 10 during her radio talk show.

Mrs. Hull had been asked about a bill (HB2524) that would bar the state and universities from extending medical benefits to "domestic partners" of homosexuals. Cities and towns could extend those benefits only if doing so were approved by voters.

Tucson and Pima County are the only two government employers that offer domestic partners benefits in Arizona.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Karen Johnson, R-Mesa, led to a heated and personal exchange in the House as the bill passed the Government Reform Committee narrowly.

Such efforts are an inappropriate expenditure of lawmakers' time and energy, and they should not be limiting what benefits cities and towns may provide, Mrs. Hull said.

"I wish that we could get down to talking about what's really important," she said. "We ought to be looking at state responsibilities, not

worrying about what goes on in cities and counties and towns and bedrooms. The legislators are there to worry about the future of the state of Arizona, and I would prefer that that's what they did."

Johnson said she was disappointed with the governor's remarks and will continue to push her bill despite seeing little likelihood it will pass. Lawmakers do have a role in laws dealing with morality, especially when public tax dollars and activities barred by Arizona law are involved, she said.

"I feel we're here to support the nuclear family," Johnson said. "I don't think our tax money should be used to subvert the nuclear family."

New Zealand Court Says Lesbian Must Pay Child Support

HAMILTON, New Zealand (AP) — A Lesbian gave up her legal fight against paying child support after a High Court ruling.

The former Hamilton woman, who lives in Wellington, will have to make child support payments to her former partner after the High Court on Feb. 10 upheld an earlier Hamilton Family Court ruling.

The High Court judges did not comment on whether same-sex marriages should be recognized in law.

The Family Court had stated she must pay child support for the children she helped bring up. The

landmark decision has wide-ranging implications for other same-sex relationships and those where the adults in parental roles have no biological link to their children.

The women's names and details have been suppressed, as are those of the children.

The woman's lawyer, Andrew Davie, said his client would take no further legal action.

"She has some difficulty understanding how she was unable to adopt and unable to (legally) marry, but has now been made a step-parent," he said.

The birth mother stands to gain

nothing by the decision as her welfare benefit will remain unchanged and the government receives any additional child support money. She said she was relieved and happy for her children.

"You can't decide to have children and then say you don't want to financially support them," she said. "I didn't do this for the Gay community. I did it for my children."

The women lived together for 14 years and their children were conceived through artificial insemination.

Man's Friends Hope for His Survival After Attack in Ireland

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Friends of a Gay Philadelphia man critically beaten in Ireland are hoping that he'll survive the attack and come home soon.

Robert Drake, 36, is being hospitalized in Dublin after suffering a "significant head injury" several weeks ago at his apartment in Sligo, his partner, Scott Pretorius, said.

Pretorius, who is chief radiology resident at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, said Drake may not survive.

Drake, an author, editor and agent, had been in Ireland to research and write a novel. Two men in their early 20s turned themselves in to Irish police but have not been charged with the attack.

The *Irish Independent* newspaper reported Sunday that the two men accused Drake of making a pass at them. But Pretorius said Drake did not "do things like that."

"Robert was there because he loved the place," Drake's friend Ed Hermance of Giovanni's Room, a

Gay and Lesbian bookstore near Drake's Philadelphia home, told *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Pretorius said he believes the men were at Drake's apartment having a drink with him when they discovered he was Gay. Drake was found beaten in his kitchen.

Hermance and Paula Langguth Ryan, a reporter at the *Baltimore Alternative*, are heading a fundraising drive to help bring Drake to Philadelphia. Drake once worked at the Baltimore weekly newspaper for Gays and Lesbians as a book editor.

It would cost as much as \$50,000 to transport Drake on a

ventilator to the United States, Ms. Ryan said.

Pretorius and Drake moved from Maryland to Philadelphia three years ago, where the writer founded a writer's group for Gays and Lesbians. He wrote a novel about a Gay man's response to his partner's murder in a hate crime.

In 1998, he released *The Gay Canon. Great Books Every Gay Man Should Read*.

Donations to the Drake fund can be sent to the Baltimore *Alternative*, P.O. Box 2351, Baltimore, Md. 21203. Please make checks payable to the Robert Drake Fund.



Queer Science

by Dr. Simon LeVay
See page 27

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Surprise Discovery of Possible HIV, Cancer Protector

By Lauran Neergaard
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — It would be a powerful tool for women: a gel or cream they could apply just before sex to protect against AIDS or other sexual infections, without having to get the man to agree to a condom.

Scientists have spent years hunting such a "topical microbicide" with little luck so far, although they have some early candidates that might fight the AIDS virus.

But Penn State University researchers announced a surprise: an experimental microbicide that promises to protect against both HIV and a sexually transmitted virus that causes deadly cervical cancer.

It is a common ingredient in shampoos and toothpastes, so researchers already know it is safe; it also is cheap.

Many chemicals are being tested for anti-HIV action. After all, the AIDS virus is spreading most rapidly in heterosexual women.

But Penn State microbiologist Mary Howett's discovery of the first chemical that also destroyed human papilloma virus, or HPV, has researchers intrigued. The National Institutes of Health cautiously hopes that first-stage testing of sodium dodecyl sulfate could begin in a small number of women later this year.

"We're excited about the broad-spectrum nature," said Dr. Penny Hitchcock, NIH's microbicide chief. The HPV protection is particularly intriguing because "it's been a lot harder for us to find anything that works with that."

"But we're cautious," she stressed, because researchers have lots of work — including turning the ingredient into a usable vaginal gel — before initial testing could begin.

Human papillomavirus is a common sexually transmitted infection. About one in four women is estimated to have a strain of HPV.

Most HPV is symptomless, but some strains go on to cause cervical cancer that kills 5,000 Ameri-

can women and 250,000 women worldwide every year. (The global toll is so high because developing countries cannot afford Pap smears, tests that let most American women discover cervical abnormalities before they grow into actual cancer.)

"If you could eliminate (HPV), you could potentially prevent all those cancers," Howett explained.

Microbicides are gels or films that women would insert into the vagina before sex to protect against various sexually transmitted diseases. So far, none has panned out. A study just found that the popular spermicide nonoxynol-9, long thought the best hope for an anti-HIV gel, does not protect after all.

Scientists now are studying whether other spermicides or chemicals could work instead, and the NIH is spending millions to help.

One approach in early testing is an acid-buffer gel. Semen is very alkaline, raising the pH level of a woman's vagina enough to help acid-averse HIV infect more easily. The gel would maintain a

vagina's natural acidity in hopes of killing HIV.

But until now, no experimental microbicides have blocked the tougher cervical cancer virus.

In the February journal *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*, Howett reported that in test-tube studies, the ingredient SDS inactivated the AID and herpes viruses. Like other experimental microbicides, SDS is a detergent that dissolves the fatty coating that holds those viruses together.

The cervical cancer virus is coated with tightly packed proteins that mere detergents cannot dissolve. But SDS also is a "denaturing" agent — and it picked those

proteins apart.

After it worked in test tubes, Howett injected human cells with the cancer virus or with SDS-treated virus and then implanted those cells inside mice. The treated human cells grew normally with no evidence of HPV infection. The untreated cells grew into genital warts.

It will take years to prove whether SDS will work in the bedroom as well as the lab. Still, Howett calls SDS "a major step toward ... producing a practical, nontoxic, inexpensive, discreet product" to protect women's sexual health.

Lauran Neergaard covers health and medical issues for *The Associated Press* in Washington.

Board Poised to Restore Arts Funding Cuts

By Paul Nowell
Associated Press Writer

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Two years after the staging of a Pulitzer Prize-winning, Gay-themed play led Republicans on the county commission to slash funds to arts groups, the board's new Democratic majority took the first step Feb. 16 towards restoring the cuts.

By a 8-1 vote, Mecklenburg County commissioners approved a resolution co-sponsored by chairman Parks Helms and vice chairman Becky Carney that repeals the April 1997 resolution, which called for \$2.5 million in cuts to the Arts & Science Council.

Unlike the earlier meeting, the recent vote was rather undramatic. When the board gathered at 6 p.m., most of the seats were empty.

Only two people got up to address the board and one of them was the head of the ASC.

"I think this can be done very quickly tonight," Carney said before reading the resolution. "I'm going to read it and we'll vote, probably with very little debate."

She was right.

The only opposing voice was Republican Bill James, the only remaining member of the so-called "Gang of Five" who voted for the cuts nearly two years ago.

"I think the real issue will be decided in coming months," he said before casting his vote. "At some point in time we're going to have to decide if we're going to give them some money."

James said conditions are much different in 1999 than they were when the board considered the con-

troversial resolution. Since 1997, he noted, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that obscenity without artistic merit is not protected speech.

"The court says it's all right for governments to set standards to prohibit obscenity," he said. "The issue to me was not whether we should fund the arts, but how to do it without offending the majority of the people."

Still, the board's vote marked the nullification of a controversial policy approved by the board in April 1997.

Since then, three of the five commissioners who voted to cut the arts funding lost in their re-election bids and a fourth stepped out of the race.

Notably absent was former commissioner Hoyle Martin, a Democrat who authored the original resolution that cut off funds to arts groups that expose viewers to "perverted forms of sexuality."

After a long and contentious meeting, the commission voted 5-4 in April 1997 to cut off the county money for the Arts & Science Council, which funds more than \$11 million worth of arts projects annually.

Instead of giving the money to the council to distribute, the commissioners decided they would distribute the money directly to groups that met its new standards.

Among the works the commissioners cited were *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, which was performed in Charlotte last spring amid protest and a court fight, and *Six Degrees of Separation*, which

a theater company is currently scheduled to perform. It features a Gay character.

The arts funding controversy vote drew national attention to Charlotte.

The cuts angered members of the city's business community, including First Union chairman Ed Crutchfield and BankAmerica (then NationsBank) boss Hugh McColl, who believed it hurt Charlotte's image.

Gay and Lesbian activists called the commissioners narrow-minded.

Angels in America by Tony Kushner, which opened on Broadway in 1993, won a Pulitzer Prize and two Tonys. In two parts, *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* and *Angels in America: Perestroika*, it offers a candid look at AIDS and Gay life in the 1980s.

Memphis Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

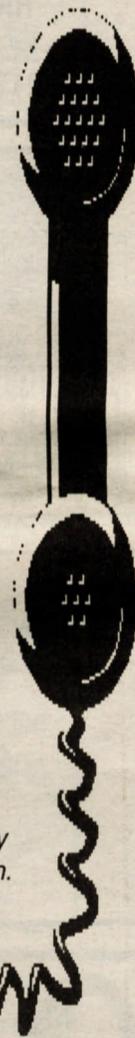
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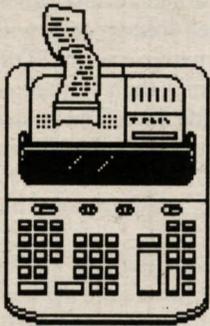
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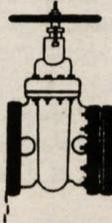
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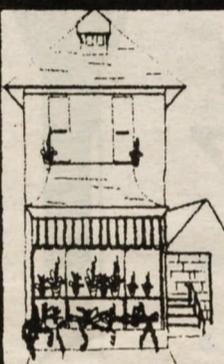


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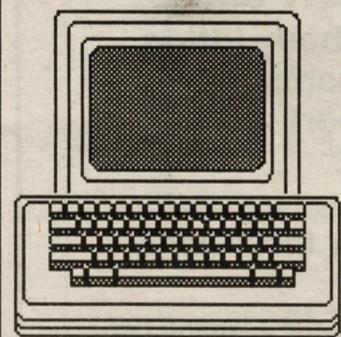
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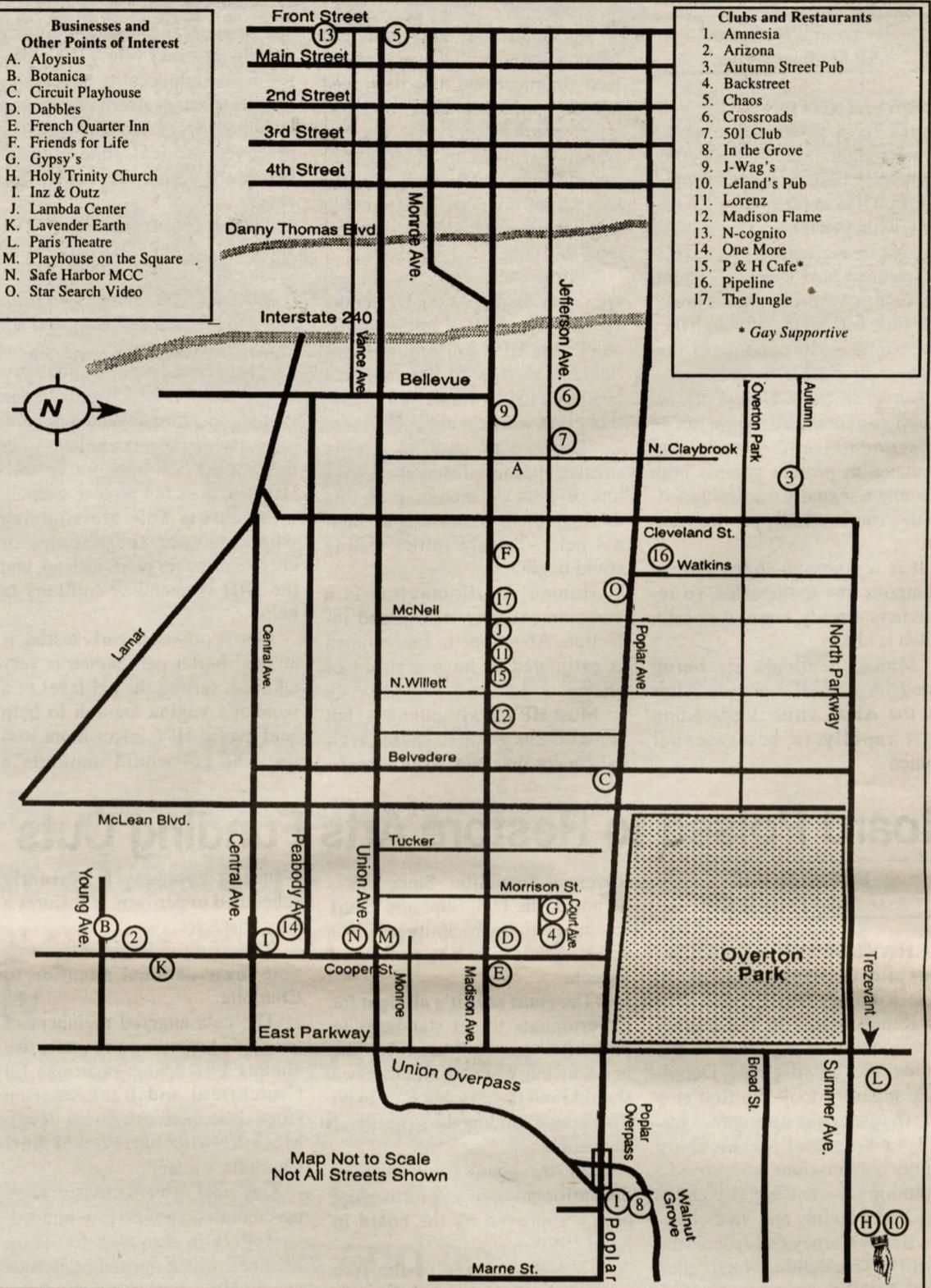
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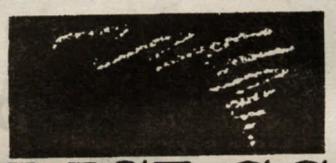
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TJN COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am Living Word Christian Church Services, 10am & 6pm Safe Harbor MCC, Worship Service, 11am, 7pm Bros. & Sisters Bowling, Cordova Lanes, 7945 Club Ctr. Cove, 5:45pm 	March 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball, Glenview Community Center, 1411 S. Barksdale, 6-9 p.m. Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice, Main Library, Meeting Room B, 7pm B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm HIV/AIDS Support Group, Jonesboro, 7pm 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOW Meeting, YWCA, 766 So. Highland, 7pm Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm Catholic Mass with Special Invitation to Gays & Lesbians, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 7pm Amateur, Amnesia 	6
7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HTCC Sunday School, 10am; Service, 11am Living Word Christian Church Services, 10am & 6pm Safe Harbor MCC, Worship Service, 11am, 7pm Bros. & Sisters Bowling, Cordova Lanes, 7945 Club Ctr. Cove, 5:45pm WAC Meeting, 7pm, call 272-3638 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memphis Pride Mtg., Fully Alive, 7pm 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basketball, Glenview Community Center, 1411 S. Barksdale, 6-9 p.m. B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm Southern Country Monthly Hoedown, Club 501 Headliners, Amnesia 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lambda Support Group, Jackson, TN, Regional Hospital, Classroom A, Jackson, TN, 2pm Memphis Bears Club Night, Pipeline, 10pm
14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Services, See March 7 Bros. & Sisters Bowling, Cordova Lanes, 7945 Club Ctr. Cove, 5:45pm 	15 Deadline for April '99 TJN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDS Consortium Mtg., United Way Bldg. on Union, 3pm Integrity, 6pm; Dinner/Mtg., 6:45pm, Calvary Episcopal Basketball, Glenview Community Center, 1411 S. Barksdale, 6-9 p.m. B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm 	17 St. Patrick's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm HIV/AIDS Support Group, Jonesboro, 7pm 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm Misty McEntire Dinner & Awards Show, Madison Flame, Dinner 8-10pm, Show 11pm 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm Southern Country Memphis, 501 Club Portfolio Men, Amnesia St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament (See story on page) 	20 1st Day of Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tsarus Club Night, Pipeline, 10pm St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament (See story on page)
21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Services See March 7 Bros. & Sisters Bowling, Cordova Lanes, 7945 Club Ctr. Cove, 5:45pm WAC Meeting, 7pm, call 272-3638 St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament (See story on page) 	22	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrity Board Mtg., 6:30pm B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm 	26 April '99 TJN Due Out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm Jackson PFlag, Madison Co. Ag Extension Office, 309 C North Parkway, 6:30pm International Male, Amnesia 	27
28 Palm Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Services See March 7 Bros. & Sisters Bowling, Cordova Lanes, 7945 Club Ctr. Cove, 5:45pm Women of Achievement Awards Banquet, Peabody Hotel 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B-GALA, U of M, University Center, 7:30pm 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study, Holy Trinity Community Church, 7pm Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm 	1 April Passover April Fool's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lambda Support Group, Jackson, TN, Regional Hospital, Classroom A, 6pm Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, 7:30pm 	2 Good Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Fifty-One Percent," Sponsored by NOW, WEVL FM 90, 1pm 	3



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Council Passes New Policy On Library Books Deemed Improper

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (AP) — Ignoring threats of legal action, the city council voted 4-3 Feb. 16 in favor of a policy that allows residents to petition for children's books deemed objectionable to be moved to an adult portion of the public library.

Under the policy, library cardholders who gather 300 signatures can have books moved from children's areas unless overruled by the council on appeal.

Anyone will still be allowed access to the books after they're moved, but critics of the policy say

children are less likely to find them in the general circulation areas.

The debate arose over two books — *Heather Has Two Mommies* and *Daddy's Roommates* — directed toward children whose parents are Gay.

Library Administrator Linda Hughes predicted the new policy would only expand the controversy and bury her in paperwork.

"They were already filling out petitions at the library yesterday," Ms. Hughes told the *Wichita Falls Times Record News*. "My staff is going to be buried in petitions. I'm

wondering where I'm going to get the money to do this. We're short-staffed now, I don't have some I can dedicate to taking petitions."

The council vote was a victory for those who said Ms. Hughes was wrong to buy the two books in the first place.

"Just as tax dollars should not be used to support any one religious preference, tax supported dollars shouldn't be used to propogate homosexuality, which is what these two books do," said the Rev. Rob-

ert Jeffress, a Baptist pastor who has preached against the books for months.

Council members a few weeks ago narrowly defeated another measure that proposed a restricted-access area for challenged books.

Diana Philip, director of the North Texas region of the American Civil Liberties Union, tried to persuade the council Tuesday that religious objections to homosexual families shouldn't be a basis for changing library policy.

"From what I heard, this is not about censorship, this is about homophobia," Ms. Philip said. "I would really hope Wichita Falls would be more tolerant than I heard two weeks ago."

She told the council she already has heard from an attorney who wants to test the new policy in court.

"It really depends on how many library patrons want to claim their First Amendment rights," Ms. Philip said.

Doctors Deliberately Stop AIDS Treatment In Attempt To Control HIV

By Daniel Q Haney
AP Medical Editor

CHICAGO (AP) — The tentative results of a small human experiment offer a glimmer of possibility that the body's own defense system can be trained to hold down the AIDS virus.

The clearly risky approach attempts to mimic the success of the much-talked-about "Berlin patient," a newly infected German man who stopped and started AIDS therapy and eventually quit it entirely, only to discover that his virus had inexplicably disappeared. He has remained free of HIV for two years.

"I don't see why others cannot become the Berlin patient," said Dr. Franco Lori, head of the Research Institute for Genetic and Human Therapy at Georgetown University in Washington.

Lori's team is one of a few exploring the idea that it may be possible to wean people away from the demanding regimen of AIDS medicines without actually curing them of their infections.

Lori presented his findings Thursday at the 6th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.

Some physicians are skeptical. They fear AIDS patients who learn of these attempts will stop taking the drugs on their own — with potentially deadly consequences.

"My concern is that this will be overplayed," said Dr. Robert Schooley of the University of Colorado, a conference organizer. "It sounds good to patients. Who wouldn't want to stop treatment? But the real question is whether you can change the immune response. I worry patients will stop therapy whenever that happens, in my experience, the virus comes roaring back."

Lori calls the approach stop and go. The idea: Treat people with standard AIDS drugs until all signs of HIV vanish from the blood-

stream. Withhold the medicines until the virus returns. Then give the drugs again. Keep repeating the cycle until eventually the virus never comes back.

It probably won't be eradicated entirely, so the theory goes, but the body's immune defenses will be able to keep it from the explosive growth that is HIV's killing trademark.

Lori has tried the approach so far on three patients. While it's still too soon to know whether it will work, Lori finds the first few weeks' results promising. The interval before the virus returns is lengthening.

Furthermore, he said that in more aggressive experiments on monkeys, the only practical nonhuman substitute for AIDS research, the approach seems to keep the virus at bay for good.

The next step is a much larger study involving 40 to 80 patients, he said.

Dr. Bruce Walker is conducting similar early-stage experiments on patients at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. "We really don't have any data yet to suggest that this (stopping and starting therapy) is something we should be doing," he said.

"I would not put one of my patients on this," said Dr. Roger Pomerantz of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. "People have talked about this, but it's the first time I've seen anyone have the guts to try it."

In Lori's study, three patients took a combination of the drugs DDI, hydroxyurea and indinavir. The first time they stopped treatment, the virus returned in one week. Doctors treated them again and stopped. This time the virus stayed away for 2 1/2 weeks. Again doctors started and stopped the drugs. The virus disappeared for six to eight weeks.

No one knows how long this will go on or whether eventually these cycles will put the virus into permanent retreat.



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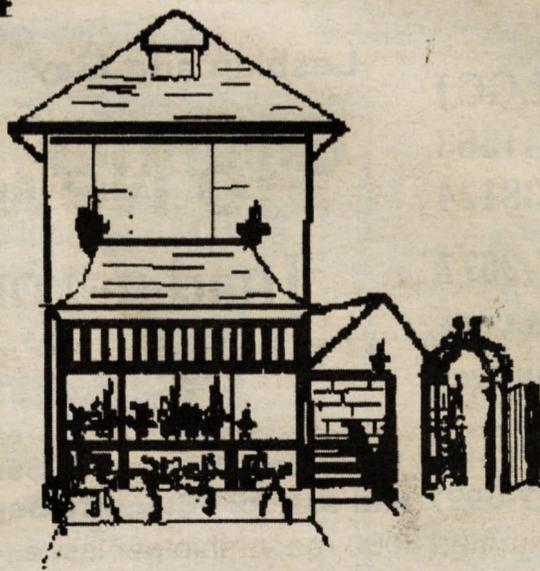
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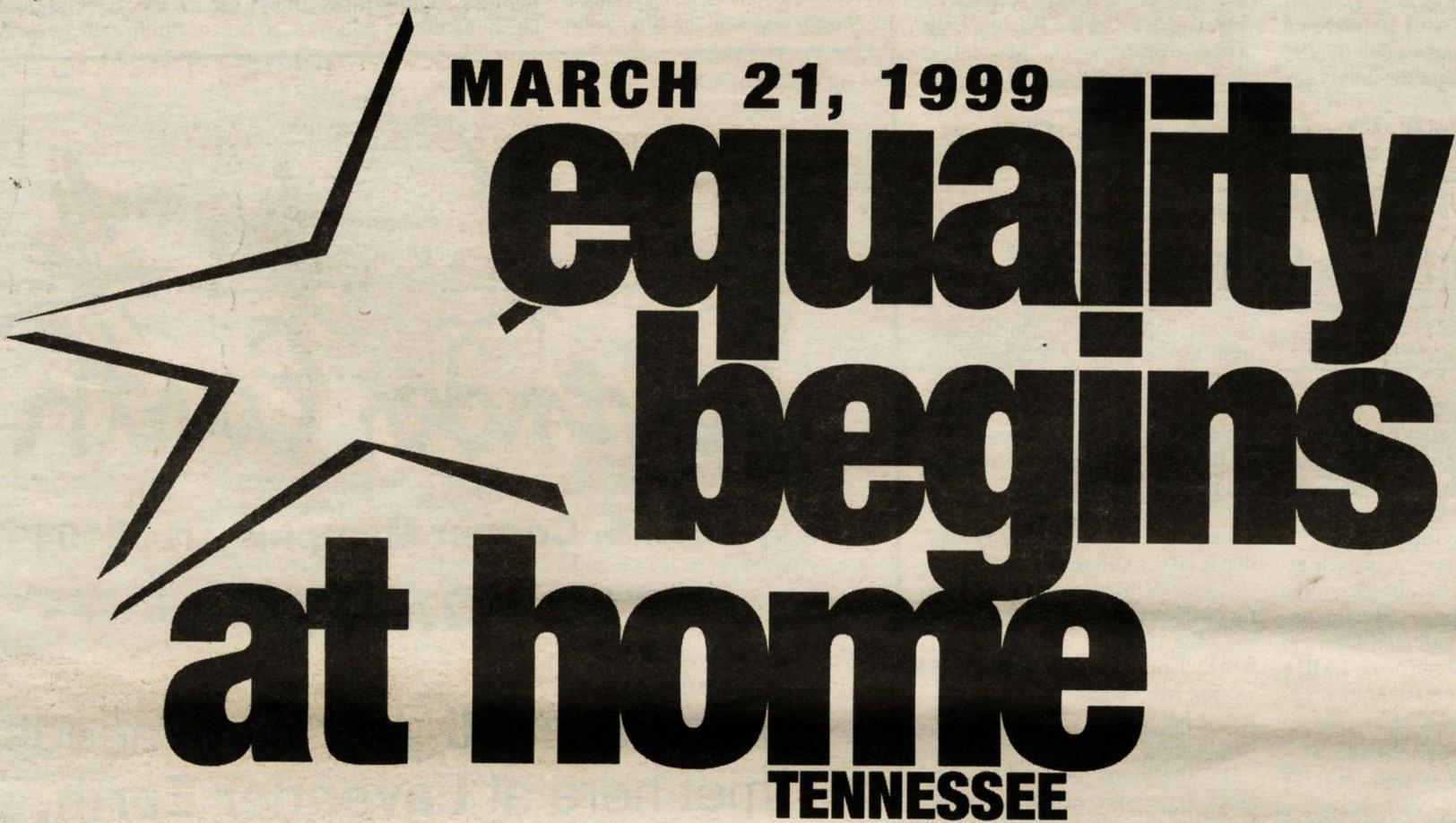


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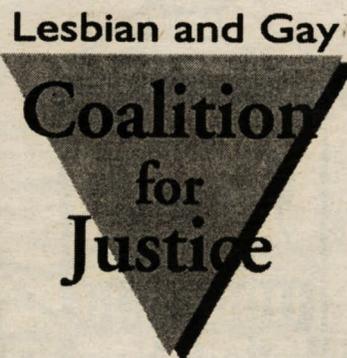
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Sad to Say, Happy to Hear

By Butch Valentine



Sad to say... It has long been suspected that HIV crossed over to humans from chimpanzees. I always wanted to know who the scoundrel was that had sex with one of our furry cousins. This would be solid evidence that everyone looks good around closing time.

Happy to hear... Scientists recently announced they had traced the virus' roots to a related virus in a subspecies of chimps in Africa. I was greatly relieved to read the virus jumped to humans through exposure to blood through hunting or handling and eating of the meat.

Sad to say... Dampening hopeful spirits on this recent announcement is the fact that the subspecies, Pan troglodytes troglodytes (no stutter here), are being hunted to the brink of extinction.

Happy to hear... The chimp virus is known as SIVcpz for simian immunodeficiency virus chimpanzee. While HIV (human yadda yadda) is lethal to people, SIV seems to cause no illnesses in chimpanzee. Now here's the clincher — humans and chimps are 98 percent genetically similar. There could be a valuable clue here in the search for The Cure.

Sad to say... As I was waking up one morning, I heard all this hoopla over a Gay twinkie. Big deal I thought until I realized they were talking about a Gay Tinky, and that woke me up big time. A supposedly Gay Tinky Winky Rev Jerry Falwell, of course, is outing Tinky Winky, an adorable, purple, purse-toting Teletubbie with a triangular antenna. The February edition of *National Liberty Journal*, edited and published by Falwell, contained an article saying the character "is Gay and a damaging moral symbol for children." To support its imagination, the publication states, "He is purple-the Gay — pride color; and his antenna is shaped like a triangle — the Gay-pride symbol."

Happy to hear... Can we keep him, huh? Can we? Can we? Can we? Huh? Huh? It's such a cute name, this Tinky Winky — as cute as he is. (Actually, it reminds me of what my family used to call "the privates" on a boy — Tinky Dinky.) No toaster oven yet, we can't keep him as one of our own — a spokesperson for Itsy Bitsy Entertainment Co., says the purse is actually a magic bag. "The fact that he carries a magic bag doesn't make him Gay" The score on the Katie Couric-Rev Falwell debate on the *Today Show* that groggy morn — Common Sense-1; Ridiculous-0.

Sad to say... Treatment for pain

in this country is painfully lacking. Doctor's often fail to prescribe adequate pain medications, usually out of fear of causing an addiction for the patient. Under-medication usually hinders a patient's recovery, and for terminally-ill patients, is down-right cruel.

Happy to hear... The VA, the nation's biggest medical system, is launching a humongous effort to treat and alleviate pain by treating it as a "5th vital sign." Doctors and nurses will be assessing patients' pain just as they would note pulse, temp, breathing and blood pressure. They will ask the patients to rate their pain on a scale of one to 10. If they had asked me that when I gave birth to my kidney stone, I would have yelled out "100 million, billion, trillion!!" That's the scale I use when this little puppy's in pain.

Sad to say... France's Civil Solidarity Pact would give legal status to unmarried couples, no matter the genders involved. Sounds good to me. I really like the name, too. But around 100,000 French folks don't agree with little ol' me, and they showed it as they protested in a march through Paris, saying the bill subverts family values and the bill's real aim is to legalize homosexual marriages and allow Gay couples to adopt.

Happy to hear... Don't they realize it's those treasured family values that spew hatred, repression, suppression and discrimination throughout the world. The French government is determined to put the bill through the legal process, with the possibility it could become law before the end of this year. Y2K could be looking good.

Sad to say... Instead, the French should be on the streets about this atrocity. In the mid-80's, their gov-

ernment blocked an American test for the HIV in blood products while a French test was being perfected by the Pasteur Institute, as well as deciding against importing expensive heated blood products cleansed of HIV. Therefore, HIV-tainted blood products remained on the market, infecting thousands of people through blood transfusions. All because of money and the notorious dislike by the French of anything American invading their culture.

Happy to hear... Three former officials are on trial in this scandal that has left at least seven people dead and countless others dying. They risk eight years in prison and \$145,000 in fines.

Sad to say... While in this country, as a matter of fact, in this state of Tennessee, an HIV-infected woman had indiscriminate and unsafe sex with up to 50 men, most of whom she met in bars. At first she said she did it out of anger and revenge for getting the virus from her boyfriend. Pamela Wiser, of Lewisburg, pleaded guilty to 22 counts of knowingly exposing partners.

Happy to hear... Those charges are a Class C felony in Tennessee, and she faced 132 years in prison. During the trial, she changed her story about "doing it" out of revenge, but simply had trouble saying "no" to sex. If she could only have a second chance, she promised the judge she would stay "out of trouble and out of bars and away from rednecks." The judge wisely wanted to take her out of circulation and sentenced the 29-year old woman to 26 1/2 years in prison.

Sad to say... Now here's more embarrassment for us Tennesseans. Our lawmakers are about to legalize cooking and eating roadkill.

Happy to hear... Make sure you ask your honey what that new dish is that's being served for supper.

Sad to say... And here's more food for thought. A Brit has admitted killing a 32-year-old mother of four and ate parts of her cooked in

pasta and cheese.

Happy to hear... Between these two juicy tid-bits, and the aforementioned monkey meat business, me thinks me's gonna become a vegetarian.

Sad to say... I'm so bad with music. What group was it that sang, "I Can Get Nooooo Satisfaction"? Now's there may be proof to that. Psychological researchers have

presented data suggesting that people for whom affluence is a priority tend to experience a high degree of anxiety and depression as well as a lower overall level of well-being. Ditto for those obsessed with their good looks.

Happy to hear... Well, then, I guess that just makes me happier than a pig in shit.

Court TV Argues for Live Coverage of Shepard Trial

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — Cable television's Court TV wants to provide live, uninterrupted coverage of a trial on the murder of a Gay University of Wyoming student.

Court TV attorneys Feb. 18 asked Judge Jeffrey Donnell to allow the channel to record the trial against Russell Henderson, one of two men charged in Matthew Shepard's death.

The channel educates the public about the justice system, and would reduce the media frenzy inside the courthouse by "pooling," or sharing its coverage with other media at locations far away from

the courtroom, they said.

Currently no video or still cameras are allowed in the courtroom.

Prosecutor Cal Rerucha said cameras turn attorneys into theatrical performers and detract from the court's mission to provide a fair trial.

Rerucha and Henderson's public defender, Wyatt Skaggs, recounted horror stories about previous trials in Wyoming that were televised.

Rerucha reminded Donnell that he runs the courtroom, and asked that he run the trial by not permitting Court TV cameras in the courtroom.

Donnell is expected to rule on the issue before Henderson's trial starts March 22.

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Who was Diego Vinales?

The riots that took place at the Stonewall Inn in June 1969 have come down in history as the impetus of the Lesbian and Gay liberation movement. But a gruesome incident several months later also roused the fledgling movement, making the name "Diego Vinales" a rallying cry to action.

In the early morning hours of March 8, 1970, New York City police raided a bar in Greenwich Village called the Snake Pit. Much like the Stonewall Inn, the Snake Pit was a dark, dingy, overcrowded "private club" operated by the Mafia without a liquor license. The li-

fore many customers arrived. The police sent the handful of clients home and arrested only the management and employees.

In contrast, the evening was in full swing at the Snake Pit when the police arrived. Officers hauled a total of 167 people, staff and customers alike, off to the precinct house. Pine, who had also been responsible for the Stonewall raid eight months earlier, was aware of the danger of "a riotous crowd milling around outside," he told a *Village Voice* reporter "Our purpose in making the arrests was to get them out of there."

them by calling them "faggots." Still others claimed the police were incredibly polite and referred to them as "gentlemen."

In this confusion, a 23-year-old Argentinean national named Diego Vinales panicked. Worried about deportation and the fact that his family didn't know he was Gay, Vinales raced up the stairs to the second floor of the station and either leaped or fell from a window. An iron fence surrounded the building, and Vinales was impaled on six 14-inch spikes. Inside the precinct house, the Gay men arrested with Vinales listened with horror to his screams.

Amazingly, Vinales was still alive when the police got to him. Because they

gery, doctors dislodged the spikes from Vinales's flesh.

News of Vinales's grisly ordeal spread quickly. The Gay Liberation Front (GLF) and the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), two organizations who usually had different priorities, worked together to rally people for a march on the precinct. In addition to holding an all-day phone-a-thon, activists distributed 3,000 flyers in bars and on the streets. "Any way you look at it," the flyers read, "that boy was pushed! We are all being pushed!" One activist, Allen Warshawsky, recalled how Vinales's fall made him and others feel: "I [began] to feel an anger welling up inside me.... An anger at the stinking, rotten, corrupt system that defines, fosters and promotes my 'criminal' status."

At nine o'clock that night, 500 Gay people marched en masse to the Sixth Precinct. GLF carried its banner, while other signs read "Gays Are Getting Angry." Shouts of "Say it loud ... Gay is proud!" and "Stop the killings!" went out from the crowd, but the demonstrators were in general orderly and well-behaved. After a protest at the police station, the crowd continued on to St. Vincent's Hospital, where they held a "death vigil" for Vinales.

Miraculously, though, Vinales didn't die, though he underwent

surgery several times and spent more than three months in the hospital. Arthur Bell, a reporter for *Gay Power*, visited Vinales in the hospital and found the young Argentinean unwilling to talk about the incident in detail, perhaps out of fear. "His family may now know of the Snake Pit incident," Bell wrote. "He has not heard from them."

In the aftermath, GAA emerged as a leader of the movement. It achieved several major coups, like winning the support of then-Congressman (and later mayor) Ed Koch, who wrote an impassioned letter to the Police Commissioner calling for an end to police harassment of Gay people. Vinales's tragic fall galvanized the lesbian and Gay community as nothing since the Stonewall riots had.

David Bianco, M.A., is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at DaveBianco@aol.com. For more *Past Out*, visit www.Gay.net.

For further reading:

Bell, Arthur. *Dancing the Gay Lib Blues: A Year in the Homosexual Liberation Movement* (Simon & Schuster, 1971).

Martello, Leo Louis. "Raid Victim Impaled on Fence." *The Advocate* (April 29-May 12, 1970).

Teal, Donn. *The Gay Militants* (Stein & Day, 1971).

PAST OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO



censing violation was the ostensible reason for the raid, though Sidney Pine, the police inspector in charge, told reporters that people in the neighborhood had also complained about noise.

Pine and his officers had closed two similar bars the night before. Both of those raids had occurred early in the evening, however, be-

Paddy wagons arrived to transport the men to the police station. Reports of what actually happened at the precinct house varied wildly. "Things were terribly disorganized," one eyewitness later said. Some men asserted that they were never read their rights or apprised of the charges against them. Others said the police verbally abused

couldn't move him off the fence without causing further injury, the fire department's special rescue squad was called in. Using an electric saw, the rescue team cut away the section of the fence on which Vinales was impaled and brought him to the hospital with the fence prongs still imbedded in his thigh and pelvis. During a two-hour sur-

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Congratulations and Something Afoot

By Vincent Astor

It's going to be a busy month.

Bits and Snippets

Congratulations to the 1999 Tsarus Man of the Year—Shelia Tankersley, founder of Loving Arms. I remember Shelia from the old Memphis Gay Coalition days and how warm and pleasant she always has been. She had this unique idea that HIV babies were having an especially difficult time of it because they were not getting the same kind of nurturing that healthy babies with healthy parents were getting. She surmised that their healing and care would be enhanced by just being held and paid attention to for even a little while. Babies sense this being held

in a very important way, since it's the primary way a person can communicate with them. It worked, blossomed and became today's Loving Arms with Shelia at its helm.

Congratulations to Rev. Ed Hammett of Holy Trinity Community Church on his 50th birthday, recognized with due celebration by his friends and church. The 9th anniversary of the founding of Holy Trinity is close on the heels of Ed's own celebration.

Congratulations to this year's King and Queen of Hearts, Betty Richardson of Aphrodite and Laura Lee Love (Lonnie McIlwain). They were chosen by popular vote at the 8th annual King and Queen of Hearts benefit at Madison Flame. Favorite entertainer was George Jr., who has been famous for his particular brand

of entertainment (also as his evil twin Afeelya Twat) for right around 30 years. \$3,200 was raised for Friends For Life. Jimmy Gray hosted and is creator of the event.

C o n - gratulations also to David Kushma who was presented an award for conspicuous support of Gay/Lesbian issues. He is Editorial Page Editor for the *Commercial Appeal* which, to tell the truth, has published a number

of supportive articles over the years and has shown support again more recently. This award came from the newly formed Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice. A wine and cheese reception was held at the Fogelman Center at U of M to announce the forming of this organization last month. Representatives of a number of our community organizations were present as well as David's wife Sandy.

Congratulations also to noted attorney Susan Mackenzie who will receive a Women of Achievement award for her work in the area of Lesbian and Gay rights on Sun., Mar. 28. She is not the first out Lesbian to receive this award, but the first to be recognized specifically regarding Lesbian and Gay issues. In the 15 years that the awards have been presented, Audrey May, Vicki Scarborough and Angie Dagastino have received awards for work in other fields relating to women's issues and lifestyles.

Lady A. in a Quandary (Again!)

What do you do on the weekend from hell? It could be paradise, depending on one's point of view.

The weekend in question is the weekend of March 19-21. The Cotton Pickin' Squares will be traveling to a fly-in weekend with a sister club, Sho-Me Squares, in Kansas City, Mo. Four clubs rotate these regional dance events; Memphis, San Antonio, Dallas and Kansas City. For those who do not travel to Kansas City, St. Patrick's Catholic Church downtown is hosting a square dance on Fri., Mar. 19, to which Gay and Lesbian dancers have been invited.

Also on the home front, but unrelated, is the sixth annual St. Patrick's Invitational Tournament (SPIT) hosted by Brothers & Sisters Bowling League. Bowlers from all over the country, and this year from Canada, will gather in Memphis for a full weekend of bowling and socializing. Host hotel is Holiday Inn Midtown, bowling will be at Cordova Lanes, parties will be held

at Backstreet, and Pipeline with the main banquet at the hotel. Assisting in the endeavor will be the Bluff City Sports Association. The teamwork will continue when the bowlers join the softball players for their event in July.

For those interested in a short hop out of town, the Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite will guest in a benefit at The Other Side in Jackson, Tenn., on Sat., Mar. 20. This show will benefit Human Beings Care, the primary HIV resource in Jackson.

For those interested in a longer hop, the Memphis Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice will join the Nashville organization of the same name for a Statewide Rally at War Memorial Plaza in front of the Tennessee State Capitol. This will take place on Sun., Mar. 21 (the first day of spring). There will be other events the night before and the evening after. This is part of the nationwide event called Equality Begins at Home and is planned to show our strength and numbers in state capitals in all 50 states plus territories and possessions.

If this wasn't full enough, Thurs., Mar. 18, is the 5th annual Misty McEntire Dinner and Awards, held at Madison Flame. For \$20, guests will be served a private dinner from 8-10 p.m. catered by Arizona. The bar will open at 10 and a \$5 cover will admit other patrons to a show/awards extravaganza which will take place at 11. Hetti McDaniels is scheduled to co-hostess with Misty. Performers will include Lorretta Williams, Alexis Spalding, Jackee, Shelby Lynn, Laura Lee Love, Crystal Jo, Tu Real and some surprises. Tickets are available at 501, the Jungle and Madison Flame.

Pick your paradise.

As For The Rest....

Right after Equality Begins in Nashville comes a local action by the LGJ to counter a Focus on the Family Conference on Homosexuality to be held at Central Church here in Memphis. This whole deal is to focus on the ex-Gay movement, the "Gay agenda," the "homosexual condition" and "reparative therapy." Sounds pretty scary, doesn't it. The Coalition for Justice is planning a similar event with speakers and panels to showcase those of us who don't want to change and do not need repair. A candlelight vigil near Central Church, similar to the one at the Pyramid a couple of years ago, is being discussed. All this happens the weekend of March 27.

It's almost too sad to fathom that people, men and women, are conditioned to hate themselves so much as to need such "change devices."

R.I.P.—Leland's Pub.

The women of the Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite have asked me to extend their thanks to the community for the generous donations to their fund-raisers. Over 100 toys were purchased for Loving Arms. Donations were made to Memphis Family Shelter, Hope House, Friends For Life and Holy Trinity Church during the holidays. Their new headquarters is at Holy Trinity at their location on Summer Ave. Their meeting time is the first Sunday of each month and they may be contacted through the church or at 683-0250.

Another Omission

I forgot to mention Carol Molder, who was also honored in December by Memphis Pride for her long and continuing work on the annual Parade and Festival. This year's event will include a rally before, a parade during and entertainment after at the Festival.

The month I don't forget something will be the month I quit doing this.

Warm Fuzzy of the Month

Friends in the Cotton Pickin' Squares were saddened by the sudden death of member Willie LeFleur on New Year's Day. I didn't know Willie too well, only enough to realize he was a kind, outgoing individual. I heard numerous stories about his life and escapades, and discovered he had been a very interesting person, highly thought of by his many friends.

What I did observe was the outpouring of care and concern (in very tangible ways) to Willie's partner through the suddenness of Willie's death and the difficult time that followed by the members of Cotton Pickin' Squares.

This amplifies what I have said so many times about the goodness of so many of us.

Final Round

I attended a worship service last month following a seminar for clergy by Chris Glaser, a prominent Gay Presbyterian writer and speaker. The service was led by Margaret Henkle and Cathy Switzer of Safe Harbor MCC and a nice crowd of both Christians and Jews attended in the chapel at Temple Israel.

In the talk that followed, Chris highlighted five gifts which we, as Gay men and Lesbians, have to offer: **Discernment** (sharper because we always have to analyze our behavior within our culture), **Imagination** (to re-imagine God as accepting, not rejecting), **Sexuality** (which can lead to spirituality through love and commitment), **Sacrament** (our coming out experiences, like coming of age) and **Sanctuary** (our tendency to listen and be hospitable both to our own and others).

Those sure make us look bright and shining. So, shine on.

Ta, ta.
V. A.

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QUEER Science

By Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Extra Terrestrial Life and Queers

Since 1960, when astronomer Frank Drake first turned the 85-foot Green Bank radiotelescope toward the nearby star Tau Ceti, the search for signals from extra-terrestrial civilizations has become a major scientific enterprise, bolstered by widespread public interest, solid theoretical studies, and ingenious technical advances.

The first contact with aliens still remains in the domain of science fiction, but it could become a reality at any time. So it's none too soon to think about the potential consequences of such contact, and in particular to pose the question: What's in it for queers?

Since a basic requirement for communication is that "they" have constructed radio-tele-

scopes, we can be sure that we will be dealing with a technical civilization, and not one that is dedicated solely to, say, contemplation of their navels (if they have such things). And given that we have had technology for such a short time, it seems likely that any civilization we hear from will be far more advanced than our own — thousands, perhaps millions of years ahead of us.

Regardless of the nature of the alien civilization, or what we do or do not learn from it, it seems likely that the knowledge that we are but one life among many will greatly strengthen our own sense of family: that differences of skin color, religion and sexual orientation will pale into insignificance in the realization of our

common terrestrial heritage. This I see as being the major benefit of contact with aliens. If we can survive the culture shock, we will be better humans for the experience.

But what of the actual information that we might receive? People talk of cures for cancer, controlled nuclear fusion, rational government, and so forth. Yes, but these are trivial — things we could figure out unaided within a century or two at most.

The beings who we hear from will be far, far beyond that level. One thing above all may shock us about them: that they no longer are made of organic chemicals — the carbon compounds, dissolved in water, that form the basis of life on earth and probably of natural life everywhere. Too squishy, too unreliable, too mortal!

Rather, my speculation is that they will have translated themselves into inorganic media. We will take them for computer-controlled robots, until we realize that they are the true evolutionary successors to their organic forerunners, incorporating the entirety of their minds but extending them in ways we can scarcely imagine. The great majority of technical civilizations in

the galaxy, I suspect, will turn out to be post-organic.

Soon, we will clamor for our own translation. Even without alien contact, we may make some progress in that direction. Perhaps, as Marvin Minsky of MIT has suggested, it will happen through haphazard bionic replacement of body or brain parts. Or perhaps natural or man-made catastrophes will force us to confront our organic vulnerability and to work toward a completely new physical identity. But alien contact will be the real spur, as well as the source of knowledge and skill to achieve what they have achieved.

Once we have achieved it, sex (whether virtual or real) will be purely recreational in function. No need for reproduction: if you get hit by lightning, they will reconstitute you from stored records. There will be no moral distinction between Gay or straight — why should there be? Nor much of a practical distinction either, for plug-in modules will allow each of us to experience any or all sexualities that we desire, for essentially limitless periods.

What JPL scientist Amy Ryan has called the "empathy cruise" — a temporary voyage into other

people's minds, made possible by technology — could become a permanent state of being. And the pleasure of sex and orgasm could be ramped up to the maximum that our systems could tolerate.

Immediately after the translation, human psychosexual evolution will be extraordinarily fast, but later it will settle into a steady state, whose details are hard to predict.

Pleasure at the turn of a dial? But then, why do anything? Wouldn't we become like the Lotus-Eaters, or like those lab rats who do nothing but stimulate their own brains? Indeed, it seems as if that must happen. How could the life of the intellect survive, when a fictive but compelling sense of intellectual accomplishment could be keyed in, at any desired intensity? And so we will disengage ourselves from unnecessary pursuits, and our radiotelescopes will swing idly on their mounts, hearing and sending nothing.

But then, such a fate must have overtaken alien civilizations, too. They will not have bothered to send us a message in the first place, and we will remain alone in the universe.

Study Provides More Evidence Of Racial Divide in AIDS

By Daniel Q Haney
AP Medical Editor

CHICAGO (AP) — Researchers reported Tuesday that Blacks donating blood for the first time are 25 times more likely than whites to have recently acquired HIV infections.

The study is the latest to document the growing racial divide in AIDS, which is evolving from being largely an illness of white homosexuals to one of poor Blacks who catch it through drug abuse and heterosexual encounters. Nationally, more than half of all HIV infections are among Blacks.

The research examined blood donors, who are among the least likely of all people to be infected. Those who do risky things, such as inject drugs, are discouraged from giving. And since most donors do so repeatedly, they have already passed earlier screening tests.

Recently, scientists developed a method of testing blood that reveals whether the infection is new or long-standing. They used it to look for fresh infections among people across

the country who were giving blood for the first time.

Dr. Michael P. Busch and others from the Blood Centers of the Pacific in San Francisco used the new method to analyze the samples of 1.7 million first-time donors. Of the total, 427 were HIV-infected. The new test revealed that 58 of them had been infected within the previous few weeks.

Busch said new infections were about three times more common among first-time donors than among those who give repeatedly.

The analysis showed that about 2 of every 100,000 white donors annually are newly infected, compared with 51 per 100,000 among Blacks and less than four among Hispanics and Asians.

Dr. Martha Rogers of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the latest data reflect "the well-recognized shift in the epidemic to people of color."

Among other findings of the study:

—The number of new infections among first-time donors

remained steady between 1993 and 1996, the years sampled.

—Men were twice as likely as women to be infected.

—Infections among new donors were highest in the South, where there were 25 infections per 100,000, and lowest in the central and western parts of the country, where there were less than 2.

The data were presented Tuesday at the 6th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.

Among other reports at the meeting, researchers from the Federal University of Rio de

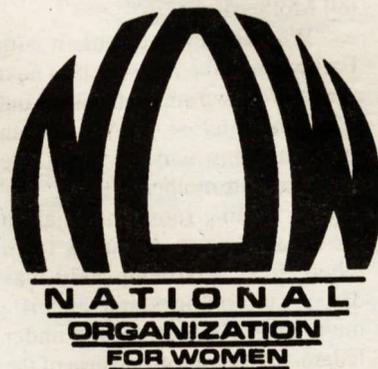
Janiero, Brazil, showed that about 15 percent of men on powerful AIDS medicines still have measurable amounts of the virus in their semen. Doctors have hoped that the drugs would reduce virus levels so low that infected people will be less likely to spread HIV.

A French team, headed by Dr. Stephane Blance of INSERM, also reported the deaths of two babies born to mothers who had taken the drugs AZT and 3TC to prevent transmission of the AIDS virus during pregnancy. The two were among 197 children born to in-

fectured mothers in the French study.

The babies died of a condition caused by genetic damage to the mitochondrial DNA. However, the doctors have no evidence that the AIDS drugs caused the deaths.

Earlier in the meeting, a United Nations team found that a one-week regimen of the two drugs were effective in preventing AIDS transmission in Africa. CDC officials said they had heard of no cases of this complication in the United States but would look into it.



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A HOUSE, A YARD AND A DOG

Fiction by Jim Norcross

"Danny. Hey, Danny."

Danny Phillips looked up from the package of pork chops he was inspecting. He wondered if his mother would like them.

The two girls who came toward him wore jeans, Memphis Pride T-shirts and Birkenstocks. Both had extremely close cropped hair; their faces were devoid of makeup.

"I swear you never know who you'll run into in Seessels," said Danny "Hello, Michelle. Hello, Janet."

Michelle peered down at the grocery basket and its contents. "Well, I see we're having baked potatoes, a salad" — and she looked at the pork chops Danny was holding — "and pork chops? What time should we be there? Gay guys are always such good cooks."

"Sorry, Michelle. Not tonight. This is just for Mother and me."

Michelle turned to Janet and said, "Janet, don't think you've ever actually met Danny. But you've heard me speak of him."

Janet looked up briefly, nodded and stared off indifferently into space as Michelle continued. "Danny and I've known each other all our lives — grew up in the same trailer park in Frayser. How have you been doing, buddy? How is your mother?"

"Not too good," said Danny, placing the pork chops into the basket. "I guess you've heard about the trouble Earl's in now?"

"No, what the hell has that brother of yours done now?"

"He's been drinking a lot lately. He's held up an all-night filling station over in some little town in Arkansas. He shot the attendant. The guy's still in the hospital in pretty bad shape and may not make it. I might have to move back in with Mother."

"Danny, you can't give up your apartment in Midtown! You love that place."

"Well, Mother needs me at home."

Janet was looking around, bored and impatient. Michelle drew her aside. "Honey, why don't you go on and get the beer while I chat with Danny for a minute?" Janet frowned, but she disappeared around the corner. "Isn't she beautiful?" said Michelle. "I'm so in love. This is the one I've been looking for."

"Michelle," said Danny, "it hasn't been two months since you and Rachel broke up, and before that there was Lynne. You even had that big holy union at Holy Trinity with her."

"Well, it didn't work out, and please spare me the lecture about how Lesbians can't stay together. This one is different, I tell you. Is that station attendant going to die?"

"I don't know. You know what will happen if he does? Mother is

frantic, and I think I need to go back home."

"Don't do anything rash yet. You love that apartment and have worked so hard decorating it." She embraced Danny just as Janet came around the corner with two six



of Bud Light.

"I'm ready to go now," said Janet, frowning at Michelle.

"Well," said Michelle, "guess we have to run. Janet wants to go to Amnesia, but we're going to drop by One More for a game of darts first. I was hoping maybe you would want to go with us."

"Thanks, but I have to go home and fix Mother's supper. Maybe next time."

Janet glanced at her watch and tugged impatiently at Michelle's arm. "It's getting late. Let's go."

As they walked away, Michelle said, "Oh, poor Danny. He's so sweet. His brother Earl is always in trouble, but he's Mama's favorite and can do no wrong. She treats Danny so unfairly!"

"Well, I don't care," said Janet in a pouting tone. "I don't know him. I don't care what happens." She handed the beer to Michelle to pay for. "I don't understand how you can be friends with guys anyway."

Danny worked as a florist in a small shop just outside the Cooper-Young area. It was a job that he both loved and was good at. He had aspirations of owning his own shop. He'd grown up in a trailer park, and he yearned for a house with a yard where he could grow roses. He wanted a dog, as he had never had one. Most of all he desperately wanted a relationship — someone to share his life with.

His mother had raised a terrible fuss when he had wanted to leave Frayser where he shared a bedroom in the tiny trailer with Earl. Mama had finally acquiesced only when Danny started working late during peak times. "I guess it will be all right," she'd said. "Earl is here with me."

Then Danny met Mark, who worked for a freight company and made deliveries to the flower shop. Their attraction was immediate. They didn't go to the bars but would share lunch at someplace

like Buns on the Run Cafe or Arizona, or they would go to Mark's or Danny's apartment, where Danny would prepare something. More often than not they would just go to the park and talk.

Danny had never been in love

fore. He now had things to share with Michelle. She and Janet were having problems, but Danny wanted to talk only about how in love he was.

Mark was six years older than Danny, recently out of the Navy, and, like Danny, was just coming out. Most importantly, as far as Danny was concerned, was the fact that he also wanted a house, a yard, and a dog.

"When are we going to look at houses? Then we can go to the pound and find us a dog," Mark kept saying.

"I can't do anything now, Mark. Not until this problem with Earl is settled. I haven't even told Mother I'm Gay. She is so religious. It's gonna kill her."

"Danny, your Mother's as strong as a country mule, and she won't be the first mother to find out her son is Gay."

Three months after the shooting, the station attendant continued to cling to life. Earl, who had been refused bail because of his extensive record, was being held in a tiny country jail in Arkansas. Mrs. Phillips increased her demands for Danny to return home. When Danny spoke to Michelle one night, he talked to her about what to do.

"Mark and I want to buy a house, some place with enough room for me to grow roses. What do you think I should do? Should I tell Mother I'm Gay?"

"Why don't you discuss it with Earl when you go to visit him next week? You two are so different, but you two are close. Maybe he can suggest some way to break the news to your mother."

The visiting room at the jail in the small eastern Arkansas town where Earl was being held was dirty, undersupervised and ill-maintained. In fact, it was under federal investigation because of the primitive and barely adequate conditions. The walls were dull and badly scarred, and graffiti-marked.

There were but two metal tables and a few chrome chairs with ripped green-vinyl seats.

Prisoners were allowed to come into the room and talk privately to relatives and authorized visitors. Roy, the one guard, was a slight Social Security recipient with poor eyesight and even worse hearing. He was almost as old as the jail itself. The whole atmosphere and system reeked of the "good ole boy let's make it through the day with no hassle atmosphere".

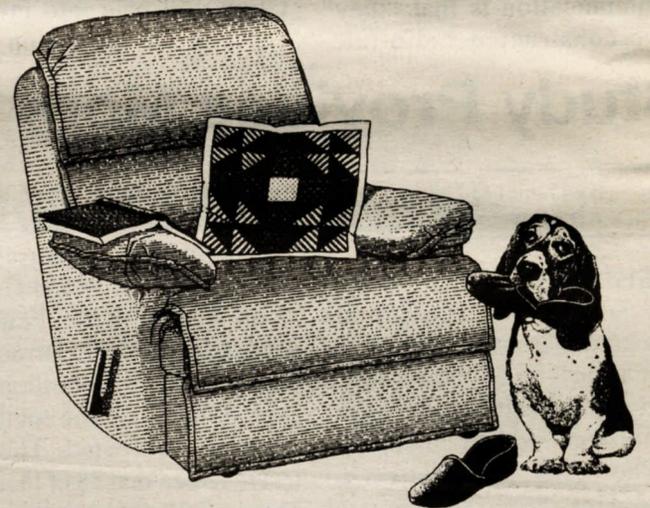
Earl entered the visiting area. He looked pale, thin and pitiful in spite of the swagger in his walk. Danny wanted to throw his arms around his brother, but he knew Earl had a disdain for any sort of demonstrative affection. Sissy stuff, he called it.

They had once been close when Earl was younger and their father was out drinking and their mother was working at her minimum wage, night-shift factory job. Earl was the official babysitter while their mother slept or worked. He used to take Danny to the park to play ball, but when Earl discovered girls and beer, they'd grown apart.

"Hello, Earl. How are you doing?"

"Hello, Little Brother."

Earl looked very much like an older version of Danny, with the same pale coloring and the same



light blue eyes. However, Earl's arms were heavily tattooed and his orange jump suit, which was open almost to his navel, revealed an ornate tattoo on his hairless chest. It was of a large heart surrounded by a garland of roses and red and blue parrots. In the center of the heart was the word MOM.

"You look tired, Earl — and thin. Are they treating you all right in here?"

"Well, this ain't The Peabody. But you know me. I can take care of myself. I just chill out and go about my business. How about you? Got you a real job yet, or are you still fooling around in that fruity flower shop?"

Danny didn't answer. "Well, let me know if the fags bother you, Little Brother. Lord, I hate them. They are all over the place; we even have one in here. But old Earl here can take care of

himself. Let me show you something." He checked to see where the guard was. Roy was on the far side of the room, leaning back in his chair, his glasses halfway down his nose and the sports page of *The Commercial Appeal* spread out across his lap. His back was to the two brothers. He appeared half asleep.

Turning away from Roy, Earl put his hand down the inside leg of the jump suit and pulled out a four-inch homemade knife with a handle wrapped in tape. "Look what I got, Little Brother."

"Earl, be careful. Please don't get in any more trouble."

"I tell you I can take care of myself. You just take care of Mom." Earl replaced the knife. "Say, got you a girlfriend yet? Guess I won't be having any grandkids for Mom to fuss over. At least not for a while, not until I get out of this — if I ever do." He broke out into a big grin. "So it's, up to YOU."

"Earl, that's what I came here to talk to you about. I won't be having any kids either. I'm in love though."

"Great. What's her name? Am I going to get to meet her? Must be one of those career women who don't have time to have kids. A lawyer maybe? I sure could use one of them right now." He laughed.

"That's all right. You can take care of Mom and get her out of that trailer park. Maybe all of you can move in together—maybe a nice place in Central Gardens."

"No. You don't understand. I'm Gay. I'm in love with another guy."

Earl mouth dropped open. "What did you say? My little brother's a fag? Ain't no way!" Earl's tone was incredulous. "You got to be kidding. Tell me you're kidding Little Brother?"

When Earl looked at Danny and saw that he wasn't joking, his face flushed with rage. "You disgust me. We ain't never had anything like that in our family. You'll disgrace all of us."

"Earl how can you say that? Dad was an alcoholic, and you're looking at a life sentence at least, maybe even worse. How can you say that I disgraced the family?"

See *House* on page 32

Lesbian Notions

by Paula Martinac

The Institute of Medicine's report on Lesbian health was recently released and will soon be available in bookstores. Not surprisingly, this first-ever government-funded report on the subject finds that very little is known about Lesbian health. While that conclusion may seem lightweight for two years of study, its simplicity, I think, is one of its greatest attributes.

According to the report, there are just not enough data to make pronouncements about Lesbians' risks for certain diseases. More studies need to be undertaken, since Lesbians have been virtually ignored in medical literature.

Hopefully, these conclusions will make Lesbian health issues more visible to the mainstream medical community and also help ease the growing breast cancer scare among Lesbians that has been fed by frenzied media reporting.

We've all heard the frightening figures: American women now have a 1-in-9 chance of developing breast cancer. We've also witnessed the medical community's sudden and maddening flip-flopping on the age at which a woman should first undergo mammography. As a result, breast cancer panic has reached epidemic proportions in this country. Some healthy women, who are genetically at risk for breast cancer, but may never develop the disease, are opting to have double mastectomies as a perverse kind of prevention.

Yet many news reports have been sloppy in their dissemination of medical findings. The 1-in-9 figure is for a woman who lives to be 85. The risk of developing breast cancer is quite small for young women, then changes rapidly between the ages of 40 and 50, when the odds rise from 1 in 217 to 1 in 50. The press has also paid a limited amount of attention to other factors that can impact women's health, especially the connections among breast cancer, the environment and geographic location.

Lesbians' risk for breast cancer is said to be even greater, currently estimated (or overestimated, in my opinion) at 1 in 3. Yet the warnings about Lesbians and breast cancer have always sounded suspicious in the judgmental way they are worded. I've read one too many times that Lesbians are more prone to get breast cancer because of certain "lifestyle choices." First, we tend to bear children "late" (that is, after 30) or not at all. The not-so-subtle implication is that because Lesbians don't reproduce the way straight women do, we have to face dire health consequences.

Second, the higher breast cancer risk of Lesbians purportedly stems from our drinking and smoking so much and, oh yes, from being overweight. But the surveys are skewed because much of the fact-finding on Lesbian health has been done through questionnaires distributed in Lesbian bars. It's hard to give credence to pronouncements about risk that are based so heavily on the tired old stereotype of the hard-drinking, chain-smoking, built-like-a-Mack-truck bulldyke.

My own frustrated response to these "facts" about Lesbians and breast cancer points to a problem: Lesbians must pay attention to and be vigilant about our health needs, even though we may be highly (and rightly) skeptical of the medical establishment in this country. The new government report voices alarm that Lesbians use traditional medical care less often than straight women, and the reasons it lists include fear of homophobia and the high cost of medical care.

But another reason some of us do not access traditional health care is deeply rooted in Lesbian culture and is more about empowerment than victimization. Lesbian and straight feminists who experienced homophobia and misogyny from doctors founded the women's health movement in the 1970s. This movement resisted the

medicalization of women that had been taking place in this country for a century, and it tried to put women in touch with their own health needs.

It not only created women's and Lesbian health clinics with payment based on a sliding scale, but it also encouraged women to get to know their own bodies, swap stories of illness and health, and educate themselves about their health care options. And unlike most mainstream doctors, the women's health movement endorsed alternative forms of care, including chiropractic and homeopathy. Today many Lesbians still rely on alternative medical providers for their care.

Sadly, many Lesbian health clinics have foundered financially. Those that remain — like St. Mark's Health Collective in New York, now part of the coed Callen-Lorde Community Health Project

— can serve as models to local Lesbian and Gay communities.

Both Lesbians and Gay men need to take Lesbian health seriously by investing time and money in it, as we have admirably done in Gay men's health. And Lesbians themselves need to take responsibility by becoming informed about our choices and refusing to become victims of a homophobic and sexist medical establishment.

It's a simple prescription and

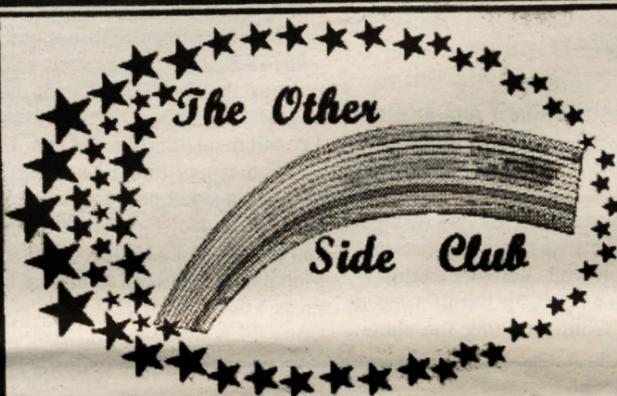
one I hope will be discussed much more in light of the new government report.

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. Her Lambda Award-winning novel, *Out of Time*, has just been re-released in a new edition. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com. For more Lesbian Notions, visit www.gfn.com (Gay Financial Network).



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See Calendar on page 19 for event info.

Deep Inside HOLLYWOOD

by Romeo San Vicente

Wolf Go-ing Gay

Party of Five hunk Scott Wolf is getting in touch with his queer side playing a Gay soap opera actor in *Go*, a dark comedy about a drug deal gone awry from *Swingers* director Doug Liman. While the Wolf man doesn't actually get to kiss another dude, his fellow homo sapien co-star Jay Mohr (of *Jerry Maguire* fame) does get some guy-guy action. Wolf's crotch, however, does play a major part in the plot, according to a source close to the film — so expect some close-ups of Wolf's prime time package. *Go* opens this spring, with *Dawson's Creek* cutie Katie Holmes co-starring.



Scott Wolf

No Credit For Kathy

Fag hag Kathy Griffin is competing with herself, and Warner Bros. is none too thrilled about it. Griffin, the funniest redhead since Lucy, plays Brooke Shields's sidekick on *Suddenly Susan* but has another prime-time gig, voicing the character of "Alice" on the new UPN animated series *Dilbert*. Un-

fortunately, *Dilbert* airs at 8 pm Mondays — against Must She TV's *Suddenly Susan*. While Griffin can work both jobs, she can only get credit for her NBC gig due to a standard clause in her contract that allows only one network exclusivity to her name. That hasn't stopped Griffin from plugging the show;

she recently did the talk show circuit to plug the *Dilbert* series. Not to mention, Griffin's distinctive voice speaks for itself.

Bill and Ted's Cross-Dressing Adventure?

Ed Solomon, the writer-producer behind such box-office smashes as *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* and *Men in Black* has committed to produce a film for Columbia Pictures called *Hot*. Loosely based on the life of Hilton Williams, the film is about an African-American singer who witnesses a crime and hides out by touring in drag as female R&B songstress Shirley Murdoch. Hopefully Solomon will use his celebrity connections to convince Will

Smith to fill out Murdoch's dress.

Femme Friendly Film

Filmmaker Linda Yellin, who was the toast of Sundance a couple of years back with her female ensemble piece *Chantilly Lace* has just wrapped production on another film. *Simian Line* is a relationship piece about couples breaking up and making up. *Simian's* cast includes William Hurt, Tyne Daly, and pregnant Super Model Cindy Crawford who hasn't been in front of a movie camera since 1995's bomb *Fair Game*.

All's Well that Fallswell

What does Jerry Fallwell think — that the purple Teletubby Tinky Winky is the first Gay kid's char-

acter on television? Maybe the reverend didn't spend his youth watching *Scooby Doo* like I did, but I remember Velma was putting out some butch vibes way back when; but then again what budding dyke wouldn't? After all, she was shackling up in the Mystery Mobile with the sexy Daphne. And let's not forget Snagglepuss (yeah, right, like THAT happened?) The big pink feline who talked with a lisp and like to exit closets (and other rooms) "stage left"?

Romeo San Vicente's florist had the hots for Tinky Winky. Romeo can be reached care of this publication or at RomeoDeep@aol.com. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit www.Gay.net or www.popcornq.com

Government Okays Controversial Film On Lesbian Relationship

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — India's government will not order cuts in a film about a Lesbian relationship that was pulled from theaters last year after violent protests, a government minister said Feb. 14.

"The censor board has said no cuts are needed and we have accepted that decision," Information and Broadcasting Minister Pramod Mahajan was quoted as saying by Press Trust of India.

Fire, an internationally acclaimed Indian film, directed by Canada-based Deepa Mehta, was sent to the censors for review by the federal government last December after it enraged the Shiv Sena, a right-wing Hindu ally of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Shiv Sena members attacked theaters in New Delhi and Bombay

where the film was being screened, tore down posters, smashed furniture and organized violent protests.

The party said the film, which features the sexual relationship of two women caught in unhappy marriages, was an affront to India's centuries-old Hindu culture.

Lesbian groups and women's rights organizations organized rival protests to demand the film run.



Mon., March. 1
Mon., March. 15

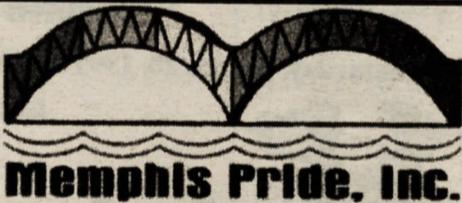
6 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

St. John's United Methodist Church
(Peabody & Bellevue)

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Please fill out this membership form and mail to:

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a joyous "YES!"

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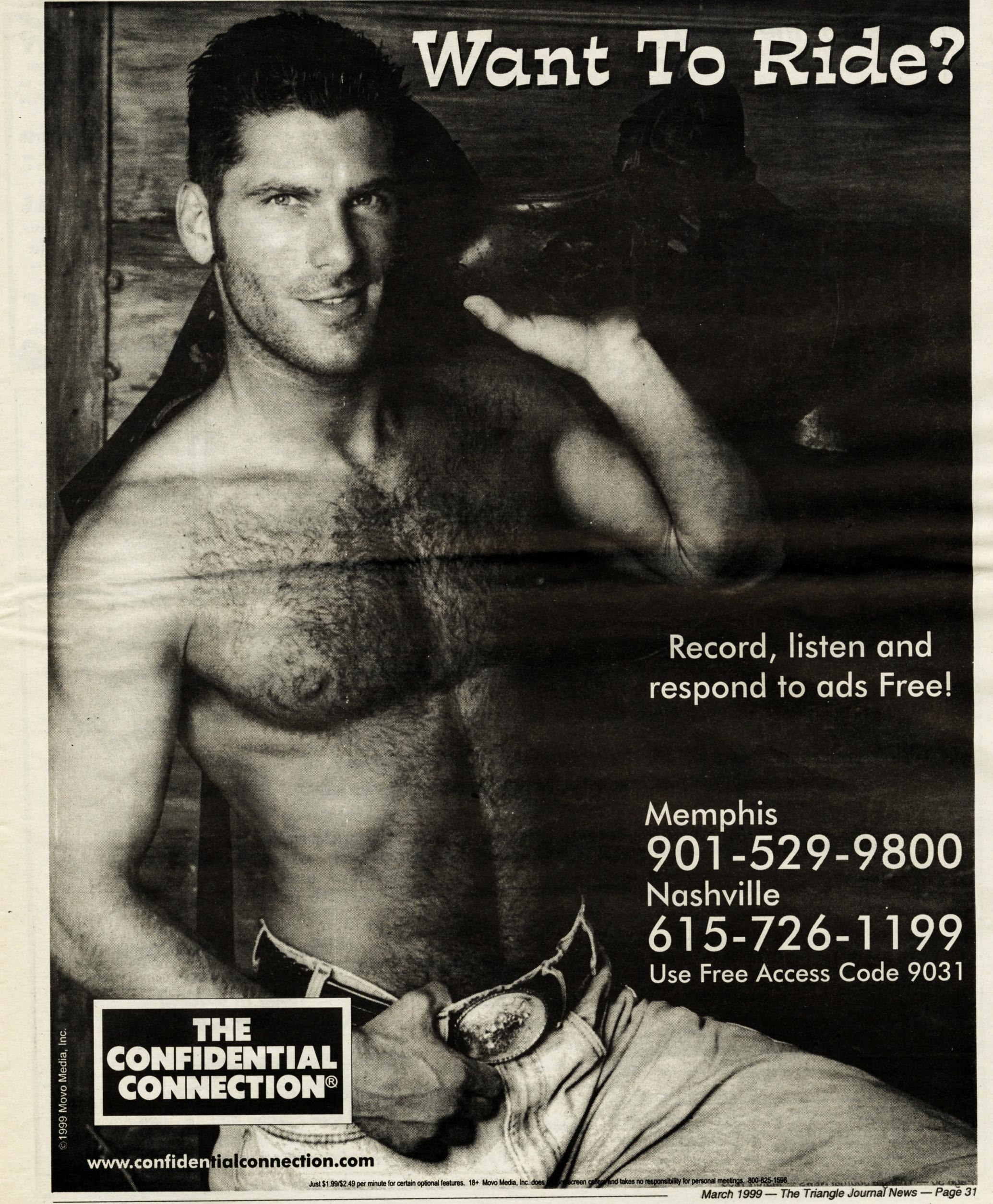
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March 1999 — The Triangle Journal News — Page 31

Just for the record...

Contrary to what appears to be circulating in other Gay press, the Triangle Journal News accepts advertising from both Gay and non-Gay advertisers alike.

We do not discriminate against advertisers in any way, shape or form — nor have we ever discriminated — unless we have had business problems with them.

We don't even ASK if an advertiser's business is Gay-owned nor do we care whether or not it is.



House

Continued from page 29

"Well, at least I'm normal. What about this girl you've met?"

"I didn't say it was a girl. I just said I was in love. It's a guy and his name is Mark. We want to buy a house together. I want a relationship — someone to share my life with — more than anything in the world. I want things you and I never had growing up — things like having people over to cook out and to play cards. I want someone to go to church with. I don't want to be alone like you, Earl. I won't have children, but I can at least have a dog. Is that too much to ask — to have someone to love?"

"You have Mom. She loves you."

"It's not the same. I'm in love with Mark. I'm sorry if that upsets you, but that's just the way it is."

Earl's face flushed, and then it became livid with anger. He quivered with rage and then was on his feet, shaking his fist in the air. "You can't move out. You can't leave Mom alone. I won't permit it." His voice rose higher in anger. "I'll not let my little brother be a fag."

Then with one swift expeditious move Earl pulled the knife from under the jump suit, leapt over the table and without warning plunged it into Danny's stomach. "Faggot! Damn, I hate faggots." Blood spurted. Danny moaned in pain and fell to the floor holding his stomach, a look of frozen surprise and pain on his face.

"No brother of mine is going to disgrace my mama. Ain't no way." Earl stood back, wiped the blade of the knife on his orange suit then dropped it on the concrete floor. "Guard! Guard!" he screamed. "Get over here!"

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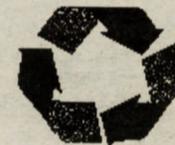


Thursday Nights
7:30 p.m.

Prescott Memorial
Baptist Church

Walker & Mynders
(Near University of Memphis)

Space donated as a service of the Triangle Journal News



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SPRING PICNIC

Saturday, April 17, 1999

Shelby Farms Picnic Shelter 3
Covered pavillion - come rain or shine

Take Walnut Grove east past I-240, Baptist East and Humphreys.

At the next traffic light, turn left onto Farm Rd., drive forward into the Park - you will be on Pike Lake Rd.

Turn right at first stop sign. Take left on Overlook Drive.

Pass through second stop sign, then turn right on Beaver Lake Drive. (riding stables)

Join the picnic at Shelter 3.

Your 4 legged friends are welcome -

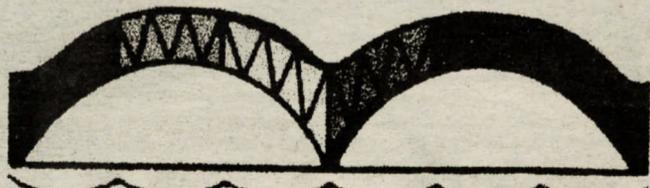
please have them on a leash!!

Hike begins at 10:00am

Picnic from

Noon til 4:00pm

Food and Drinks will be sold



Memphis Pride, Inc.

Mark Your Calendars

June 18 - MGLCC River Boat Ride

June 19 - Pride Day Parade and Festival

Oct. 9 - National Coming Out Day Festivities

If you need more info., call 32-PRIDE (327-7433)



MEMPHIS PERSONALS

Place your FREE ad 1-800-546-MENN

TENNESSEE

LEAVE ME A MESSAGE WM, 28, 5'7", 140 lbs, brown/brown, HIV+, healthy, financially secure, looking for a BM, 28-45, masculine, HIV+, healthy, stable and secure. (Nashville) ☎11992

TALK TO ME 32-year-old BiWM, 5'11", 175 lbs, brown/brown, very masculine, looking for some Guys to get off with. (Nashville) ☎11995

I NEED A MAN Pre-op TV, 44, looks 24, likes bars, nice shows, romantic dinners, cats and quiet evenings at home. I prefer a straight-looking Man, for friendship and possible long-term relationship. Must be drug-free. (Nashville) ☎11671

RELATIONSHIP OF EQUALS Educated, masculine GWM, 35, 190 lbs, blonde/brown, healthy, with many different interests. Looking for a clean-shaven Guy who's serious about the possibility of a possible long-term relationship. No bars, games or addicts of any kind. (Nashville) ☎11615

GOOD OL' COUNTRY BOY 29-year-old WM, brown/blue, writes and sings country music. Looking for a straight-acting Guy, 25-35, for a possible relationship. (Lafollette) ☎19605

RIDE'EM COWBOY Musician GWM, 24, into country music and dancing. Looking for a young Man, 18-25, to have fun with. If you're a musician or you just want to have a fun relationship, give me a call. (Nashville) ☎10652

GIVING AND RECEIVING Very good-looking GWM, 5'7", 165 lbs, strawberry-blonde/hazel-green, works out, hair chest and legs. Looking for someone who enjoys spending time together, for a caring, honest relationship. (Chattanooga) ☎10525

I CAN TRAVEL TO MEET YOU. Submissive GWM, into bookstores and motels. Seeking a dominant top, in the Nashville and southern Kentucky area. I'm very oral and like anal, but anything goes. (Bowling Green) ☎22437

COUNTRY BOY 29-year-old WM, writes and sing Country songs. Looking for an honest Guy, 25-30, who doesn't drink. (Lafollette) ☎19615

FULL OF LOVE AND PASSION Attractive, intelligent, committed, smooth bottom GWM, 22, 5'9", 135 lbs, reddish-brown/hazel, seeking a sincere, honest, masculine, hairy GM, 30-45, under 6', under 150 lbs, who's ready to settle down and take it slow. If you're not serious then please don't respond. (Clarksville) ☎19078

VERY SMOOTH WM, 30, 5'10", 170 lbs, dirty blonde, hazel, very smooth. Looking for someone in the area to get together with. (Paris) ☎10802

CASUAL FRIENDSHIP GBM, 35, 5'10", 180 lbs, looking for other GBM, in Memphis, for a casual friendship. (Memphis) ☎11278



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STRIPPED AND TIED DOWN WM, looking for younger Guys who like fantasy fun with an older Guy. (Memphis) ☎10474

WORK TOWARDS MORE HIV+ GM, 40, enjoys music, laughter, long walks in the woods, the ocean and reading. Looking for someone who would be a friend and work from there. (Greenbriar) ☎10797

NO STRINGS, JUST FUN WM, 35, would like to have a sexual relationship with a BM, 21-35. If interested, give me a call. (Memphis) ☎21822

RIDE'EM COWBOY! Hot cowboy seeking a hot, financially secure, generous, cowboy daddy, who would enjoys some serious Man to Man action. (Memphis) ☎21958

MYSTERIOUS AND EROTIC SWM, 32, looking for a slim Guy, under 28, for deep, intimate relationship based on fantasy fulfillment. Race open. (Memphis) ☎21782

WANNA PLAY A GAME? GWM, 5'6", brown/green, seeking a 20-year-old SM, into fantasy role play. If you're into fantasies, getting stripped searched and having fun, call. (Memphis) ☎21637

OPEN-MINDED SBIWM, 6', brown/blue, seeking another BiM, TS to TV, for fun times and possibly more. Give me a call. (Memphis) ☎21753

REALISTIC OPTIMIST NEEDED 22-year-old WM, 5'10", 165 lbs, brown/brown, seeking intelligent, spontaneous, mature, realistic optimist who rational decisions. Not into the bar scene. (Memphis) ☎21615

FRIENDSHIP WITH BENEFITS 32-year-old BM, looking for a BM, over 26, for fun and possibly a relationship. (Memphis) ☎21650

MASCULINE ONLY Masculine WM, 6'1", 180 lbs, shaved head, tattooed, pierced nipples, looking for a masculine M who wants to have a good time. If you're a queen, femme, into drugs, fat or over 35, don't call. (Memphis) ☎21550

CUDDLE WITH ME Hairy WM, 33, 6', 200 lbs, brown/brown, looking for a WM, 35-40, for cuddling, dining out, dancing and having a good time. (Johnson City) ☎21455

33-YEAR-OLD GWM, 6'1", 200 lbs, brown/brown, interested in meeting an older M into dancing movies and the outdoors. (Johnson City) ☎21400

COME PLEASE ME Dominant WM, 6' 220 lbs, looking for a submissive TV/TS and anyone who loves to please a masculine Man. (Jackson) ☎20997

SOUTHERN BOY WM, 5'11", 175 lbs, short brown/blue. If you like what you see, give me a call. (Henderson) ☎20917

LET'S HANG OUT Straight-acting, masculine Guy, likes the outdoors, hiking, biking and camping. If you're interested in meeting someone straight-forward and masculine, give me a call. (Bristol) ☎16269

A MAN'S MAN Nice-looking WM, 31, blonde/hazel, grad student, enjoys country and rock music. Looking for straight-acting WM, for good times, companionship and whatever else happens. (Johnson City) ☎20709

I NEED IT ROUGH WM, 37, 5'11", 199 lbs, looking for an aggressive top, for friendship, fun times and possibly more. Bears, leather and daddy's welcome and a plus. (Nashville) ☎20642

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP Older, attractive bottom seeking attractive top for fun get togethers. (Nashville) ☎20384

HUNTING FOR A MAN WM, 36, 6'1", 165 lbs, light brown/green, seeking other WM, for friendship and fun. (Nashville) ☎20242

DISCRETION A MUST BiWM, 5'8", 190 lbs, looking for a submissive WM, for fun. (Clarksville) ☎19897

FORBIDDEN PLEASURES. Tall, attractive, submissive Boy seeking aggressive, generous Man who needs to have his fantasies fulfilled. Let's meet for some fun after work. (Memphis) ☎19358

KING OF THE JUNGLE 30-year-old WM, 5'10", 165 lbs, Tarzan type, works out a lot, looking for another smooth, jock type Guy, over 6', with big ticklish feet. (Memphis) ☎19323



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READY FOR A RELATIONSHIP GWM, 32, 6', 200 lbs, works in television, like dining out, going out, travel, quiet evenings at home and theater. Looking for someone who's a top for a relationship. Race and age open. (Johnson City) ☎19317

NEW TO THIS Bottom WM, 38, dark/blue, smooth, new to the lifestyle. Looking for someone who can take of me in all ways. (Nashville) ☎18968

ARE YOU A TOP? GWM, 28, 5'8", 200 lbs, looking for a masculine Guy, 25-40, who likes to be on top most of the time and wants a relationship. (Clarkesville) ☎18958

MOSTLY A TOP Middle-aged WM, mostly a top, interested in meeting a middle-aged Male for oral sex. (Chattanooga) ☎18726

MAN OF MY DREAMS Very open-minded GWM, 18, 5'7", 157 lbs, brown/brown, likes shopping, movies, camping, picnicking and going out on dates. Looking for a tanned, muscular, smooth Guys 18-25, to be the Man of my dreams. If this is you, give me a call. (Columbia) ☎15160

A BIT SKEPTICAL I was just going through the personals and I don't really think these things work. If you think you can prove me wrong, leave me a message so I can tell you about myself. (Dixon) ☎18491 Looking for a hot top (Greenville) ☎16994

SHY BUT FUN-LOVING 42-year-old WM, 6', 195 lbs, hairy chest, likes movies, videos, partying and trying new experiences. Give me a call. (Memphis) ☎16989

ALABAMA

MY FIRST TIME Hairy, well-endowed GWM, 5'9", 165 lbs, blonde/hazel, into similar honest Guys with salt-n-pepper hair. Let's get together and be ourselves. (Tuscaloosa) ☎22379

ISO A BOTTOM Top WM, 5'10", 145 lbs, brown/blue, ISO someone for fun. (Birmingham) ☎10512

LAW STUDENT GWM, 23, 5'10", 180 lbs, nonsmoker, light drinker, ISO older SWM, over 50, for friendship and possible long-term relationship. You should look your age. (Birmingham) ☎10082

HAIRY COWBOY WANTED Married BiWM, 32, looking for a bear type in my area. I can be your top or bottom. Must be discreet. (Birmingham) ☎11023

DOWN AND DIRTY LOVIN' 34-year-old Guy with his own business, looking for an older Guy to get with every Couple of weeks to get a little crazy. Discretion is a must. (Birmingham) ☎21391

HAIRY-CHESTED BODYBUILDER Very muscular WM, 28, 6'5", 260 lbs, nice-looking, well-endowed, looking for a Guy for friendship and maybe more. (Birmingham) ☎21210

GIVE ME A REDHEAD Masculine, versatile GWM, 32, 6', 210 lbs, husky, dark/hazel, goatee, looking for a fair-skinned redhead. If this sounds interesting, let's get together. (Birmingham) ☎20196

CALL THIS BEAR Hairy, well-endowed WM, 32, 6'5", 260lbs, dark/green, mustache, goatee, looking for a Man. (Birmingham) ☎19935

LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU 37-year-old Professional WM, 5'4", 125 lbs, enjoys the outdoors, gardening, old movies, hiking, working out and entertaining. Looking for a mature, fit top with his act together, for dating and possible relationship. (Louisville) ☎22022

JUST BE YOURSELF Very good-looking GBM, 5'11", 200 lbs, interested in meeting straight-acting GB/HM, who's at ease with himself. If you're into dining out, dancing and having fun, give me call. (Tucson) ☎20378

ISO SOMETHING MORE BM, 18, 6', 195 lbs, medium build, muscular, with a great personality, seeking down-to-earth BM, 18-25, who knows how treat someone right. (Louisville) ☎20097

LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING Pre-op TS, 34, looking for a friendship, romance with someone who enjoys quiet times, movies, dinner and dancing. Looking for intelligent, international-minded Man. If interested, give me a call. (Louisville) ☎19728

GAY AND UNASHAMED Masculine, professional GWM, 26, 6', 175 lbs, dark/green, looking for Guys in Louisville who like to party and have a good time. (Louisville) ☎19245

PLEASE CALL. 22-year-old GM, looking for someone to get to know and possibly start a relationship with. (Louisville) ☎19079

NICE-LOOKING, EASYGOING GUY WM, 32, 5'9", 170 lbs, brown/hazel, not into the bar scene, enjoys going for walks, horseback riding and spending time with my dogs. Looking for someone I can have a conversation and have fun with, for friendship and maybe more. (Louisville) ☎19037

SMOOTH AND WELL-ENDOWED Attractive GWM, 33, 5'6", 135 lbs, dark/dark, smooth and well-endowed. Looking for masculine Guys, 25-35, HW, for friendship, fun, dating and possible relationship. (Louisville) ☎18973

WANNA RIDE? Looking for a fun-loving cowboy, who likes going to rodeos, movies and riding horses. Friendship first and possibly more. (Louisville) ☎15338

YOUNG ENERGETIC GUY Real Man of respect and standards, well-groomed, well-built, likes to dance, live things up, take long walks and be surprised. Seeking someone who's energetic, talkative, well-groomed, respects themselves, has high self esteem and wants to get ahead in life. (Madison Field) ☎18574

MISSISSIPPI

NEW ADVENTURES Looking for good times and we'll see where it goes from there. If interested, leave me a message. (Tupelo) ☎12353

ISO SPECIAL PERSON Looking for an honest, caring Guy for friendship and possible relationship. I likes movies, fishing, boating and spending time with someone special. Must be drug-free. (Oxford) ☎11885

WILL YOU BE MY FRIEND? I enjoy movies, dining out and hanging out. Looking for someone to be friends with and possibly start a relationship with. (Oxford) ☎10779

HANG OUT WITH ME BM, 145 lbs, looking for a person to hang out and have some fun with. Give me a call. (Oxford) ☎10330

CAME AND GET ME. Very kinky SWM, 50, into oral sex, jerking off and X-rated movies. I need a partner with a place to have some fun. (Memphis) ☎22395

SHOW ME THE WAY WM, 5'9", 169 lbs, short brown/blue, new to this and hoping to meet a SWM, 26-35, to show me the way ad help me out. (Harrisburg) ☎11176

HIV+ GWM, 43, 5'10", swimmer's build, smoker, drug-free, enjoys dancing and movies. Seeking a similar Guy for a possible long-term relationship. (Jackson) ☎21821

FRIENDSHIP AND MORE WM, 18, looking for a WM, 18-22, for fun and possible relationship. If interested, give me a call. (Jackson) ☎21909

BREAK ME IN SWM, 34, 6'1", 190 lbs, looking for someone for a first time experience. Interested? Then leave me a message. (Carthage) ☎18604

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CLASSIFIED Rates: Personal, non-commercial ads FREE. Limit of 30 words (including address or phone number) and a \$2.00 charge for the use of our P.O. box. Please specify if you want to use our P.O. box. Commercial ads are charged at the rate of 20¢ per word, \$3.00 minimum. Phone numbers and zip codes are free. Deadline for ads is the 15th of each month. Send to Triangle Journal News, Box 11485 Memphis, TN 38111-0485. Classifieds must be submitted in writing and must include your name and a telephone number where you

can be reached to verify the ad. If you would like a copy of the issue in which your ad appears, please send \$1.00 to cover postage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BED & BREAKFAST

Ozark Bed & Breakfast-5 wooded

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

The Arbour Glen Bed & Breakfast-Circa 1896. Located on Eureka Springs Historic District loop close to downtown shops & restaurants. Completely renovated for comfort but still maintaining its old world charm, elegance & romance. Picturesque tree-covered hollow. The Arbour Glen, #7 Lema, Eureka Springs, AR 72632. (501) 253-9010.

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Attention all art and erotic collectors in the Tenn., Miss. and Ark. areas who have purchased Colt Studio material in the past. I have taken Colt photographs and altered them into different drawings, black and white and color, different sizes, matted. Selling from \$35 to \$50. Price negotiable. If interested, my beeper # is 769-1126. Ask for Danny

GUIDES

Gloryholes List! Best locations in Tennessee to give or get oral satis-

faction! Hot studs, construction workers, college jocks, heated businessmen, leathermen, active athletes and other guys are anxious to meet you. Complete list of Gloryholes mailed back in plain discreet envelope. Please be 18yo+. To order your guide(s), send \$5.00: **Metroplex-TJN**, Box 451781, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Also available: SoCal, NoCal, Seattle, Chicago, Vegas, Arizona, Denver, New Orleans, Carolina, OH-IN, FL, NYC, TX, Kansas City, KS; Philly; MD (at \$5.00 each).

HELP WANTED

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DON'T YOU DESERVE THE BEST? California trained, certified bodyworker offers therapeutic and sports massage. 1 1/2 hours, by appointment, outcall only. Gift certificates also available. **Craig 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. (901) 278-9768.**

Erotic massage for men given by Gay couple. Both 30s, fit, friendly, in the Tupelo area. No fee, no attitude. Call eves. 601-844-4701. Ask for J. R.

PERSONALS

Attention GWM over 50. Are you tired of being turned down and ig-

nored in the bars, parks and movies because of your age? I am, too. Give me a call. We might get together and have a good time. Remember, sex is like a game of bridge, you either need a very good hand or a very good partner. I'm both. Give me a call: 683-2629.

EXPLORE YOUR OTHER SIDE... FREE to Record, Browse & Respond. 901-565-0006, Pub #519, 18+. 100% Local.

GAY CRUISING!!! Record, listen and respond to hot personal ads FREE (18+). The Confidential Connection® 901-529-9800 Code: 9006.

GWM, 36, 6'3", 200#, good looking, long hair with hazel-blue eyes, in good health, seeking GWM, 21-30, slick, slim & sexy for romantic lover. Will be waiting to hear from you. Call anytime (601) 343-5102. MS. GWM, 42, in Fayette County. Seeking GWM who is open and honest, to have a relationship with. Call Jimmy Moss at 901-465-9225 or 901-877-3351. Or write me: Jimmy Moss, 16530 Hwy 64 West, Somerville, TN 38068.

Honest, sincere Memphis man seeking masculine Gay or bi men. I'm 39, 5'8", short black hair, moustache, 165#. Imrie Hancock, 6323 Limewood, Memphis, TN 38134.

J/O Buddies. Meet by phone. Try it FREE! 901-821-9100, Code 7001, 18+.

JOCKS... BOXERS... BRIEFS... And the Men in Them!! FREE to Record, Browse & Respond. 901-565-0006, Pub #518, 18+. 100% Local.

35 yo master of discipline, ISO naughty submissive slave. I am into bondage, spaking, shaving, endless sex, toys and more. 18-22ish, smooth-bodied, white male, about 140# with boyish looks and mannerisms. Skinny a plus. No diseases. For an absolute spanking good time, call Mr. Paul: 323-1521. **24-HOUR MEAT!** Meet local guys discreetly on The Confidential Connection®. Record, listen and respond to hot personal ads FREE! (18+) 901-529-9800 Code: 9007.

RENTAL

Duplex Available. 1020 Meda St., north side, corner of Walker & Meda in Cooper-Young. \$395 per month, plus utilities. Central heat & A/C, washer & dryer connections. Neighbor is very quiet Gay male seeking equally quiet neighbor for other side of duplex. Caged pets OK. Call **LECO Realty** for details.

WANTED

Wanted. 1997 Memphis Pride T-shirts for archive (small logo on left, row of rainbow triangles). Any size, need to be in good condition. Also seeking rare 1994 bandana for Memphis Pride and Memphis Area Pride/Southeastern Conference 1980 memorabilia. Some to go in permanent museum collection. V. Astor—day 580-5495, evening 725-1698.



If you haven't been to Integrity lately, you haven't been to Integrity. Check us out! We meet on the third Tuesday of every month.

Integrity Memphis
Calvary Episcopal Church



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

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

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

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

Phoenix (Alcoholics Anonymous) All Meetings Open

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

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

Into The Light (Alcoholics Anonymous - Women)

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

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

Seriously Sober (Alcoholics Anonymous)

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

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

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

Freely Speaking (All 12-Step Programs)

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

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

Space donated as a public service by the Triangle Journal News