Boys in the Band Auditions Set

Auditions for a production of "The Boys in the Band" by Mart Crowley will be held Dec. 2-3 at WKRB. The play will be produced at WKRB and will run for about three performances. Production dates have not been finalized.

Reading auditions will be held Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, December 3 from 5-7:30 PM at WKRB, 1528 Madison. The production is being produced by Sharon Wray and directed by Dennis Massey. For more information, call 278-9321 between 5-7 PM only.

GCN/Nashville Under Fire

Nashville — Gay Cable Network/Nashville, an hour-long program produced in New York and airing on Community Access Television in Nashville, is under attack from fundamentalists led by Belmont Church. Executive Director of CAT, Elliot Mitchell, has refused to cancel the program citing the company's guarantee of air time to any citizen whose program meets the guidelines of not being obscene, containing commercial content, or in promoting a lottery.

Churches have urged their members to call CAT and voice their objections and also to drop their cable service in an attempt to impress Viacom, the operator of Nashville's cable system, that they mean business. They are also being urged to call their city council members who could vote to withdraw station funding.

GCN/Nashville is mobilizing support for the programming. A continuing battle could draw national attention to Nashville over First Amendment rights.

Felony May Become Misdemeanor

Crimes Against Nature Law Reviewed

When the state legislature reconvenes in January, they will very likely be considering recommended changes to the Tennessee Criminal Code which will, among other things, make homosexual acts a crime but will reduce the crime from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Tennessee is under federal court order to reduce overcrowding in its jail facilities and lawmakers are applying pressure to eliminate archaic and vague language in the Tennessee Criminal Code. A subcommittee, chaired by Nashville Attorney David Raybin, has been working on the Criminal Code for two-and-a-half-years. According to executive director of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, Sue B. Cain, the proposed changes have been filed with the Judiciary committee in the state senate and house of representatives.

The proposed revisions to the "crimes against nature" law would eliminate crimes against nature but would call for "penalties to be leveled against a person charged with an act of sexual penetration with a person of the same gender," reported Dare newspaper. The revision would change homosexual acts from a felony, punishable by 5 to 15 years and a fine not to exceed $10,000, to a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by not more than 30 days in jail and/or a $50 fine.

When the legislature reconvenes in January, it will be the responsibility of the Judiciary committees to route the report to a particular committee. It may be assigned to a study committee. At any rate, it will probably be well into the 1989 session before the report will come up for consideration.

Various recommendations have already come under attack from groups as diversified as the Tennessee Sheriff's Association, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said, "There is no reason at all why the Tennessee Sentencing Commission and the state legislature should take the step of reducing the crime from a felony to a misdemeanor without taking the next step and removing it from the books completely.

"To reduce it to a misdemeanor, I think, for most Lesbians and Gay men does not reduce the sting of the state's inappropriate role in our private lives. Gay men and Lesbians have the same inalienable rights to private consensual sex acts as heterosexuals."

Hyde went on to say, "In regard to homosexual acts, the Commission's logic had nothing to do with reducing inmate population, but instead had to do with the continued stigmatization of Gay men and Lesbians in Tennessee."

Tennessee will join Arkansas, Texas, and Kansas as states in which homosexual acts are classified as a misdemeanor, if the revision is adopted by the Tennessee legislature. In Montana and Nevada, homosexual acts are classified as a felony. In more than half of the United States, both homosexual and heterosexual sodomy are still classified as felony crimes.

Gaze Begins 10th Year of Publication to Gay Community

With this issue, Gaze newspaper begins its tenth year of publication. Originally conceived by Coalition Founders, Bill Johnson and Ric Sullivan, as a newsletter for the Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights, Gaze hit the streets in December of '79 as a full-blown, 4-page tabloid. Johnson continued as editor until December of '82 at which time it was turned over to co-editors Allen Cook and John Stilwell. During that period, production services were provided by Kari Rehmack and Dickey Stafford. The major writing at that time was done by Bill Johnson and Ric Sullivan.

Over the years, the paper has evolved through many graphic changes, gone up and down in the number of pages, and for a short period, even went to a bi-monthly schedule.

Sophistication in producing the actual copy has gone from an IBM selectric to an IBM composer to APC computer and spin writer to the current state-of-the-art Macintosh with Laser printer.

One thing has not changed. Gaze continues to be produced by volunteers as a service of the Memphis Gay Coalition. For that reason, persons interested in writing articles, reviews, commentaries, and/or guest editorials are encouraged to contact us.

There is also a need for assistance in ad sales. Designed as a not-for-profit venture, Gaze is produced with revenue collected from ad sales. At the present time, the primary source of that revenue are the Gay bars. That advertising base needs to be broadened to include other Gay-owned businesses as well as businesses catering to or sympathetic to Gays.

With this issue, we are introducing some graphics to change the look of Gaze. We welcome your comments and suggestions on these changes and other changes you might like to see in future issues.

Inside Gaze

Election Produced Mixed Results for Gays

How Do You Feel About Intimacy?

New AIDS Cases on Decline

Memphis Memoirs - The Alice Mitchell Case

Published as a Service of The Memphis Gay Coalition

December 1988
We read in passing the other day about a serious problem that several of our Gay brethren were having in the neighborhood of Jackson, Mississippi. They had been arrested for tearoom activities at a highway rest stop; and, as we recall, the judge made a point of publishing names, etc., and insisted that they serve some time in the hoosegow and be used as an example. We are not here to say a great deal about the do's and don'ts of tearooms, nor are we here to moralize about same. It does occur to moi, however, (despite the thrill, apparent ease of contact, and the sharp tang that a bit of danger can add to sexual situations) to ask: Is this what Gay people really want? Are we so afraid in our normal situations that we have to seek a little gratification in a public restroom? So many of us have been there, for whatever reason; but the main point is this: We have a right to choose our companions. We do not have a right to have sex anywhere, anytime; nobody does, to our knowledge. We do have a right not to be harassed. Every time someone, someplace, remembers to vote for a sympathetic person (or remembers to vote at all), every time somebody stands up and makes a big stink because they are tired of harassment, every time somebody acknowledges their lover to the world at large, they are bringing the day a hair closer when we will not need tearooms. Do you like hiding all the time? Do you like living in such fear that your evenings are spent sneaking into a Gay bar, drinking yourself into a stupor, and hoping to spend a few minutes next to a warm body? For God's sake, Mary! Our business owners work hard to keep our Gay spaces free of harassment. We have places we can go: once we didn't. We need to be able to patronize any bar or any restaurant and be ourselves. We need to have places we can go to work without pretense. This does not concern wearing sequins and mascara to the office. Get real. This does concern the many, many people who live in constant fear. This does concern those whose lives and careers would be nined by negative publicity. This concerns those people whose primary place to find other Gay people and perhaps a little companionship is to hang out at the neighborhood quarter movies and rattle change all night. What a dump.

Each time a tiny victory is won, through courage and persistence, a step is taken. Our royal person will not live to see widespread tolerance. We will, however, support these efforts when we can and exhort our gentle readers to do the same, or at least refrain from dishing those who have the courage to say—no more! As a wise person once said, either get out in front, follow along behind, or get the hell out of the way. We're moving forward. Lady A.
Tuesdays
Dance Floor Opens 8pm
Rachel Slurr's Modern Music
$2 No Draft Beer Blast 8-11pm
25¢ Coolers 8-12m

Wednesdays
Dance Floor Opens 8pm
"Claim to Fame" Night
$50 Cash Prize to Winner
Show at 11pm
$3 Cover
$1 Optional No Draft Beer Blast 8-12m

Thursdays
Dance Floor Opens 8pm
Secret Fantasy Male Dancers
Show at 10:30pm
$3 Cover
$1 Optional No Draft Beer Blast 8-12m

Fridays & Saturdays
Dance Floor Opens 8pm
Special Theme Shows 11:30pm
$5 Cover

Sundays
Dance Floor Opens 8pm
Laid Back Nite & Jock Night
$1 Optional Beer Blast for Guys 8-12pm
$3 Cover

Special Christmas Show
Christmas Eve

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Happy Holidays from Everyone at GDI
Helms Stalling Hate Crimes Bill

Washington — The first positive federal legislation to address violence against Lesbians, Gay men, racial, ethnic, and religious minorities, stalled in the U.S. Senate because of threats by Sen. Jesse Helms to introduce sweeping anti-Gay amendments. The Hate Crimes Statistics Act which would fortify federal data collection on Senate floor crumbled as Helms told the Majority Leader Mike Mozingo, a spokesman for Food Lion, a grocery chain which has banned sale of the issue.

Guccione contended that much of the criticism is hypothetical in that "some of these store owners already sell condoms. It’s a terrible over-reaction to what is essentially a public service message," he said.

Gay "Marriages" No Longer Uncommon

Gay and Lesbian union and marriage ceremonies may be more widespread than commonly assumed. Despite the failure of states of legally recognize homosexual marriage, many couples are honoring their relationships with wedding rituals. The popularity of these ceremonies is suggested by early returns from a national survey of same-sex couples undertaken by Partners, The Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples.

Of the first 156 survey respondents, 12% of respondents indicated that they had formalized their relationship with a ceremony, and 4% said they planned to do so. Another 12% relied on other traditional observances, such as celebrating anniversaries. Additionally, 43% said they wear rings or other symbols of their relationship.

More than 700 completed surveys have been returned to Partners thus far, and the survey remains open to participants through January. The short anonymous questionnaire requests general information on subjects such as sexual agreements and satisfaction, sources of relationship support, and discipline against same-sex couples.

To participate in the survey, write to Partners, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped business size envelope. Partners will send two forms per request (enough for one couple). Affix extra postage for additional forms.
Election Produces Mixed Results for Gay Community

This year's election brought mixed results for the Gay community according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The most significant victory was the defeat of Proposition 102 in California, the Dannemeyer AIDS initiative. This defeat, however, Jeffrey Levi, NGLTF's executive director, observed that "this election marks the end of an era of neglect by the President of the nation's most compelling public health issue. While we do not fully agree with President-elect George Bush on many of his positions on AIDS, Bush has been more engaged on this issue than the Reagan administration. Bush actively supports anti-discrimination protections for persons with HIV infections, and has had an open ear to those working on AIDS in the Public Health Service." Commenting on the defeat of Proposition 102 and its impact on national politics, Levi observed, "This is a great victory for public health. It is a statement by the people of California that they will not be browbeaten into accepting excessive and ineffective 'quick fixes' to the AIDS problem. It proves that education of a population can work in changing attitudes and increasing understanding about AIDS. We hope this defeat of William Dannemeyer - on the heels of three-to-one votes against his repressive proposals in the House of Representatives last month - will return debate to a more reasonable level in California and in the nation's capital. We also believe that defeat of this measure will stop a steamroller effect of copy cat propositions around the country."

NGLTF noted with regret passage of another California AIDS initiative, Proposition 96, which, among other things, allows court-ordered testing of persons accused of certain crimes. Observed public information director Urvashi Vaid, "While not as far-reaching as Proposition 102, it attacks the basic civil liberties of those most vulnerable in our society - persons accused of crimes. Had this required testing of those convicted of sexual assault, etc., this might have been an understandable - though not necessarily appropriate approach. However, in permitting testing of those merely accused of certain crimes, the measure undermines the fundamental American principle of innocent until proven guilty - and provides a mechanism for the prosecution of crimes. It poses a substantial threat to the accused's opportunity to receive a fair, impartial trial, particularly in jury cases."

The vote to repeal the Oregon executive order on sexual orientation discrimination was the source of great disappointment - "to Gay and Lesbians and all those concerned with civil liberties," Levi said. "On the anniversary of Kristallnacht, it is particularly sad that the people of Oregon would turn their backs on any minority group that has suffered discrimination." The contrasting vote in the Presidential election: Oregonians supported Gov. Dukakis - showed, Levi said, "that progressive views in other areas does not always translate into support for Gay/Lesbian civil rights."

The returning 101st Congress will look quite similar to the 100th, with one major exception. "The loss of Lowell Weicker - our strongest advocate and spokesperson in the United States Senate - will be a tremendous one," commented Levi. "Weicker stood alone at times in fighting uncompromisingly for those who were not represented in the Senate - all minorities, not just Gay and Lesbians. His role in increasing funding for AIDS, most recently in the extension of federal funding of AZT, cannot be overestimated."

With the election over, Levi said, "some of the most challenging work is ahead of us. A new administration is being constructed - and we plan to be on the ground floor in helping and advising and counseling the transition teams about AIDS and civil rights issues."

"We anticipate continued discussion and access to the Public Health Service in a Bush administration," Levi continued, "just as we have had access within the Dept. of Health and Human Services in the Reagan Administration. The change we anticipate is greater receptiveness at the political level - assuming the budget cutters at the Office of Management and Budget are not given the upper hand in health policy debates."

On a less optimistic note, Levi observed, "it is clear, based on the record, that George Bush still needs a good deal of education on Gay/Lesbian issues. It is our hope, however, that a younger, more moderate generation of cabinet officials and other political appointees will at least afford access on these concerns."

Carr waived his right to a jury trial in exchange for an agreement by the prosecution not to seek the death penalty and to drop several lesser charges. Although he has not yet been sentenced, Carr faces life imprisonment without parole. An appeal by Carr's defense attorney is expected.

Brenner and Wight were on a hiking trip in Adams County when they twice encountered the defendant along their route. After making camp in a secluded area, the women were suddenly fired upon by Carr, who had been hiding nearby. Wight, who was shot in the back and the head, died at the campsite. Although shot five times, Brenner managed to walk nearly four miles to a road where she was able to get help.

Victim-Blaming Tactic Fails in Lesbian Murder Case

On Oct. 27, Adams Co. Pennsylvania Judge Oscar Spicer convicted Stephen Roy Carr of first degree murder in a shooting that killed Rebecca Wight and critically wounded her lover, Claudia Brenner. In a move praised by Brenner, the Gay community, and victim advocates, the judge also excluded as inadmissible any arguments by the defense that the victim's sexual orientation and behavior provoked the attack.

On May 13, the two women were fired upon at their Appalachian trail campsite by Carr, whose attorney claimed in a preliminary hearing that Brenner and Wight "provoked" the attack by performing sexual acts in front of him, and otherwise teased him. While acknowledging that she and Wight had made love at the campsite, Brenner insisted that they both thought they were alone, and described the accusation that they provoked the attack as "not only untrue but insulting." In a statement released to the press, Brenner asserted that "Rebecca and I were lovers... Nothing about who we were or our love for each other could be considered motivation for the outrageous, inhumane violence that Stephen Roy Carr perpetrated against us."

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"Aphrodite Supports Gay Memphis"
Intimacy Quiz

by Becky Caperton

In the last issue of Gaze, we discussed intimacy — what it is and how to develop it. Below is a quiz that may help you evaluate the intimacy you have with others.

1. Do you lack an intimate relationship with another person?
2. Do you feel that your relationships could be more fulfilling?
3. Are you afraid to communicate your true feelings to another person?
4. Do you openly seek to expand your understanding of intimacy?
5. Do you resent relationships which have ended, and hesitate to enter into new ones?
6. Would you like to learn more about being intimate with yourself?

If you answered “yes” to some of the questions, you may want to consider the following suggestions for creating successful intimacy:

- TRUST each other. Without trust, intimacy is impossible.
- COMMUNICATE your needs to the other person. Do it sincerely without blaming or nagging. Don’t assume that he or she already knows what you need.
- LISTEN to the other person’s needs and feelings, too. Remember that life is a process of growth and change, and don’t cling to a fixed image of the other person which doesn’t allow them to develop in other directions.
- SHARE your feelings as well as your needs, even if you think your feelings are silly or frivolous.
- HAVE FUN together! Specialness comes with laughter and joyous times together.
- RESOLVE conflicts so that both of you are satisfied. Neither of you will always get your way, so work on compromises that show the strength of your relationship, not the strength of one person.
- UNDERSTAND that one person cannot meet all your needs. Cultivate other friendships that enhance your understanding of intimacy. Enjoy things that you do alone, and bring that joy to the relationship.

Achieving intimacy can be scary, and it’s definitely a lot of work. But nothing else brings the same sense of joy, fulfillment, and meaning that makes it all worthwhile.

Merry Christmas!

Got a problem or question? Write to Becky, c/o Gaze, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038. Ms. Caperton is a psychological counselor in private practice in Memphis. See “Information and Services” listing in this issue.

Gay Women’s Social Group

is having an

Ornament Making Party

Dec. 10, 1988 at 7:30 pm

$2.00 donation for materials

For more information call Carol at 524-0949

MEMPHIS GAY COALITION

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Suleiman the Magnificent

Suleiman the Magnificent, ruler of the Ottoman Empire from 1520 to 1566, was born around 1495. He was quiet and sensitive, and loved poetry and music. He had a long, thin body which he carried gracefully, a delicate complexion, and long thin hands.

In his adolescence, Suleiman’s father gave him a Greek slave named Ibrahim as a companion. Ibrahim was two years older than Suleiman, and was tall with dark, curly hair and a solid muscular body. The two men shared many interests, often discussing religion and philosophy. Ibrahim never left the prince’s side, and it was common knowledge that Ibrahim shared the prince’s bed.

When Suleiman became the tenth Sultan of the house of Osman, he made Ibrahim his Grand Wizir, or head of the Imperial Council. Later Ibrahim was also named head of the army, making him second only to Suleiman who had no real desire to rule. Ibrahim’s new-found power corrupted his values, and he soon rejected some of Suleiman’s most cherished ideas.

In 1534, hearing a rumor that Ibrahim was plotting to take over the empire, Suleiman invited Ibrahim to dinner. After eating, the two went to the sultan’s bedroom. The next morning, slaves found the walls streaked with blood and Ibrahim’s naked body, which had been strangled with a bowstring, lying face down on the bed. Suleiman refused to allow the walls to be cleaned, and the stains remained until his death.

Lawrence of Arabia

Thomas Edward Lawrence was born in England in 1888 and grew up during the height of the British Empire. While a student at Oxford, he immersed himself first in the Medieval and then in the ancient world. It was through his study of the classics that he first came into contact with Middle Eastern culture.

In 1911, while on an archaeological expedition, Lawrence met a fourteen-year-old boy named Salim Achmed (nicknamed “Dahoum”) at Carchemish. Dahoum was sensitive and handsome, and Lawrence fell deeply in love with him. When Lawrence returned to England with Dahoum, their relationship was hardly noticed. Because Dahoum was an Arab, the English assumed he was Lawrence’s servant. Lawrence later wrote that after the twentieth blow “a delicious warmth, probably sexual” had surged through his body and made him relax. This beating left a lasting psychological scar on Lawrence. He wondered how it might affect his relationship with Dahoum, but he never found out. During his absence, his lover had died of typhus.

Lawrence’s memoirs, entitled The Seven Pillars of Wisdom, are dedicated to “S.A.,” which aroused a good deal of speculations. It is not generally thought that “S.A.” stood for Salim Achmed.

BWMT memphis

State of Purpose

Black and White Men Together of Memphis, Inc. is a Gay interracial organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. To these ends, we engage in educational, political, cultural, and social activities as means of dealing with racism, sexism, homophobia, and other inequities in our community and in our lives.

BWMT Presents

HOT, HORNY, & HEALTHY Safer Sex Workshops
December 9,10,11
with Phill Wilson, BWMT/LA

Season’s Greetings to the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community

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with Phill Wilson, BWMT/LA

Season’s Greetings to the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community

For Regular Calendar Information this month: Call Nick (327-3753), Ed (452-5894), Irwin (726-1461) or write BWMT/Memphis, P.O. Box 41773, Memphis, TN 38174.
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on the river
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526-1038
Where there are fifty men
for every one
FDA OK's Typhoid Vaccine for AIDS Therapy

Washington - According to reports in the November issue of Spin magazine, the federal Food and Drug Administration has authorized a second drug for treatment of AIDS. A New York researcher primarily associated with sexually transmitted diseases petitioned the FDA last December to administer typhoid vaccine as a means of slowing development of AIDS infections. He says the results are dramatic.

"It has been found that a complete immunization and remission of a person afflicted with AIDS may be achieved by the administration of typhoid vaccine, with no observed toxicity," read the patent granted to Salvatore Catapano by the FDA.

According to the Bay Area Reporter, the patent in only one of three ever granted for AIDS treatment. Catapano said he had formulated his typhoid vaccine theory after he found it stimulated the immune system in rats. The typhoid vaccine is initially administered twice weekly, then weekly, then once a month, at a cost of less than $2,000 a year.

Dr. Lewis Mehl said he had treated more than 30 AIDS patients in San Francisco, and he found neither objective nor adverse results to report.

"I can say that 85% appear to be making excellent subjective progress that has improved in blood count, lower enzymes, and, in general, less tiredness and fatigue," said Mehl.

The story of the typhoid vaccine against AIDS appears in the November issue of Spin Magazine, which is championing Catapano's research.

Catapano apparently has a patent on the specific use of the vaccine, but not the vaccine itself. He believes that the source of immune depression in AIDS patients is bacterial, not viral, and that people with AIDS are suffering from late-stage syphilis whose symptoms have worsened by multiple exposures.

New AIDS Cases On Decline

Berkeley, CA — The latest analysis of a major AIDS study shows new AIDS infections in San Francisco have continued to decline substantially, mostly because of a decrease in high-risk sexual behaviors.

The rate of new infections per year among previously uninfected persons in the San Francisco Men's Health Study dropped from 5.9% to 0.7% between the first half of 1985 and the second half of 1987.

The new statistics, which amount to an 88% drop in the annual rate for new infections, are reported by Warren Winkelstein, MD, director of the Men's Health Study and professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health at the University of California at Berkeley.

The reason for the decline is that more and more homosexual and bisexual men have abandoned or greatly reduced their practice of unprotected anal-genital intercourse and have decreased their number of sexual partners, Winkelstein said.

Winkelstein and his colleagues reported their new finding in the current issue of the American Journal of Public Health.

Since 1984, the San Francisco Men's Health Study has been monitoring the spread of AIDS among a representative sample of gay and bisexual men in San Francisco.

Previously, Winkelstein and his colleagues found a decline in new AIDS infections among the men in the study from an estimated annual rate of approximately 18% per year between 1982 and 1984 to approximately 4% per year in 1986. This decline was also a result of reduction in unprotected anal-genital intercourse and number of sexual partners.

The new findings reinforce the conclusion that current public education strategies, supported by effective community organization and public health department efforts, can control the spread of the epidemic of HIV infection, Winkelstein pointed out.

He also emphasized the importance of maintaining the present policies regarding the confidentiality of HIV test results, availability of alternate test sites and contact notification procedures.

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MEN OF LEATHER

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Tuesday - Saturday
By Lady A.

Well! ’Tis the season to be jolly, or helpful, or merry, or sarcastic, or bitchy, or something. We discovered that the season was begun a bit early — with a lot of caring for one another, overlaid with literally sarcastic, or bitchy, or something. The season was begun a bit early in places where we should be. The season was begun a bit early what the season is all about?

Another fine mess department

We seem to be making a habit of having alternative pleasures, or mostly occupations, which keep us away from pleasures, or mostly occupation. There are places where we should be. Thanks to modern technology, however, we may enjoy these theatrical treats second hand.

We are speaking, first of all, of the second annual Camp Show for PWA’s sponsored by the Pipeline. The pre-show was handled by an oh-so-impromptu entrance by the Petites. These devil-may-care sylphs of the vacuum hose (yes, Mae, we stuttered not) entered the saloon doing five simultaneous Hattie McDaniel impressions, the quality of which was highly debatable. If the NAACP was not notified — well, they lucked out, we suppose. R-a-C’s and Moon Pies! Indeed! We jest not, it’s on tape.

The show opened by a re-appearance of the Unknown Drag singing the song for which she became notorious (the only song she has ever done) to great applause. Many were the participants in this flamboyant piece of theatrical whatchamacallit, including the Unlikely Trio, doing their interpretation of “Sincerely.” The Lady in Pink (yes, you dear, the one in the middle) is the type of performer who can always be called upon to follow a different drummer in most any situation. The trouble is, this drummer could never hold down a steady job. One attendee referred to a certain performer, no name was mentioned to moi, as “looking like one of Jerry Lawler’s opponents.” Sharon and Kelly did a “Frumps do have more fun” number which we will have to catch live sometime.

A true highlight was something truly unique for these days and times. We saw, with our own eyes, a genuine attempt at a Judy Garland impersonation. It was very well done, even a bit wistful. Some of us do remember, and some more of us should find out what the rest of us know. We were impressed.

Over $500 was raised for PWA services and equally divided between ATEAC and HRC.

Eat your heart out

MGM DEPARTMENT

Wow! Now wasn’t that a discussible title. Dingbats, we were discussing Aphrodite’s That’s Entertainment VII benefit. Get it? Got it? Good!

We were treated to mere excerpts of this show but we wished we had indeed attended instead of being where we had been, some people just don’t seem to be able to keep appointments. GRRRRRR.

The surprises were many, Sharon Wray in whiskers (no, no, we know you’ve always wished for them secretly) and not one Dolly but two! Dueling Dollies, we just can’t cope. Dolly Levi’s wig was almost as big as Dolly Parton’s and as for the hot pink feather boa, we perceive a tease number when it’s downstage center, girls. There was participation from Tsarus members and Wings members. A good time was had by all, naturally. And Dennis was almost always in step.

Aphrodite named Betty Rae as this year’s honorary member and the over $900 raised by the show will go toward the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets annually distributed by the club. Anyone who knows of a Gay person or family who could benefit from one of these baskets, please contact the club directly (see Information and Services in this newspaper) or through WKRB.

Let us strongly reiterate that these both were benefits. Let it always be said, and never loudly enough, that we care about and care for our own.

Rumour mill department

Holey Moley! There is actually a new bar opening. Tommy Stewart told moi personally that Reflections, his new enterprise, should be open in time for the holidays. It will be very easy to find, being in the old Backstreet space, and will be devoted to dancing and cruising, rather than a lot of shows. The light show and sound equipment will be entirely new. The size and layout will be similar, and the parking goes on for acres. Open hours and beer bust schedules will be similar to other locations with later hours on Friday and Saturday nights.

Runours about other new establishments remain shrouded in the mist of uncertainty. That means, it’s their turn to call moi.

As for community events, both the Pipeline and the Memphis Gay Coalition had community Thanksgiving dinners. The idea was to offer an alternative to those with no family in town.

By the by, we hope you are enjoying MEMPHIS MEMOIRS. We are only beginning to research the history of the Memphis Gay Community, and we welcome any contributions likely to come our way.

We are still looking for old copies of GAITY and GAZE.

Women on the street department

December 4 marks the PIPELINE’S fourth anniversary. That Sunday’s regular BUFFET will be extra special as will this year’s Christmas decorations. We understand that the decorating has been in the planning stages for months.

Christmas Day will fall on another buffet day which will call for another extra special feast, with all the Christmas trimmings.

The big event for WKRB in November was a SPECIAL SHOW on November 27 featuring BILLIE JO CASINO and LILY CHRISTINE, seldom seen nowadays, assisted by LIZ CARRINGTON, all three being performers of long standing and high quality. One of our favorite Lesbians, Rebel, will give a farewell performance on December 4, and the Christmas special will be on December 18.

HUMAN RESPONSE COUNCIL will receive a benefit on December 11 at WKRB.

The winner of GDI’s MISS MESS MEMPHIS was KATHY KIRKLAND. Second was KIRBY KINCAID.

SHARON WRAY is taking another step toward alternative entertainment at WKRB. The classic Gay play of plays THE BOYS IN THE BAND will be produced at the bar in the early spring. AUDITIONS will be on Friday, December 2, and Saturday, December 3, from 5 to 7:30 PM both nights. Dennis Massey will direct. For more information, call 278-9321 between 5 & 7 PM.

Well, kiddies, we know it’s early, but your correspondents, in a rare hot flash of magnanimity, wants you, one and all, to have a Merry Christmas, a Chanukah Tovah, a Good Yuletide or just a nice day off. Yes, even all the ones we aren’t speaking to — and even Phyllis.
ACLU Sues Gov't Over Helms Amendment

New York — The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed suit against Health and Human Services Secretary (HHS) Otis Bowen and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Director James Mason in a move to forever nullify congressional measures that prohibit the "promotion" of homosexuality.

In the suit, filed Oct. 13 in the U.S. District Court in Manhattan, the ACLU is representing the Gay Men's Health Crisis, the Fund for Human Dignity, Horizons Community Services of Chicago, among others.

The target of the suit is the controversial amendment which Jesse Helms attached to section 514 of the Labor Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill for fiscal 1988 which, after conference negotiation, stated that no funds from the CDC shall be used to provide AIDS education, information, or prevention materials and activities that promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual activity.

That amendment has had a chilling effect on grants to AIDS education community-based organizations which have targeted safe-sex education to Gay men.

Nan Hunter, director of ACLU's AIDS Project, stated that although the joint House/Senate committee which gave the final approval to the October 1987 amendment, included language restricting its impact. In their conference committee report, the rider, which will continue to affect funding grants into early next year, has limited grants for AIDS education nationwide.

Since the amendment's passage, the ACLU has been gathering research for the court and will now seek to find the amendment unconstitutional on the basis of its vagueness. Doing so, she says may nullify similar amendments in the future.

Helms has vowed to keep reintroducing the measure until it takes. He threatened to filibuster the issue just before the election break in the current Congressional session. This fall, Helms made three unsuccessful attempts to renew his AIDS education amendment on the Labor, Health, and Human Services Appropriations bill, failing by, at one point, only one vote.

The suit states that such provisions are "impermissible restrictions on their speech which are vague, content-based, and discriminatory."

"Right now, we have to battle this every year," Hunter said. "If we can declare this language unconstitutional, we won't have to fight it this year and again next year. If they declare this language is unconstitutional, Congress will never be able to enact this kind of amendment again."

Gay Canadians Sue Gov't Over Benefits

Vancouver, B.C. — In a case designed to determine whether Canada already has national Gay rights protections, a British Columbia couple is suing the Canadian federal government for what they see as their fare share under Canada's Old Age Security Act.

James Egan and John Nesbit have been together for 40 years. Under Canadian law, citizens over the age of 65 receive an old age pension. Spouses — either married for common-law — between the ages of 60 and 64 may apply for a spouse's allowance when the couple's income is less than $16,000.

When Nesbit was refused his spouse's allowance by Health and Welfare Canada, the couple decided to fight back and eventually received funding for their case from the government itself under a special Court Challenge Program.

According to the Bay Area Reporter, the couple's lawyers intend to prove that Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, a contention that has been put forth by human rights advocates since the charter was enacted six years ago.

The 67-year-old Egan says he is particularly galled that a common-law heterosexual couple who has been together only one year is automatically approved for the allowance, while he and Nesbit have been automatically denied.

"We're not asking for any special protection at all," Egan said. "We're asking for precisely the same protections that are accorded to heterosexuals."

Egan is a an openly Gay politician and Gay activist. He represents 7,000 islanders in the local government council.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4
Special Buffet at Regular Time

"Thanks for all the support and love we have received"
Staff and Management of The Pipeline

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Pipeline

CHRISTMAS BUFFET on Christmas Day
Turkey & Trimmings Drink Specials

PIPEGLINE
1382 Poplar Avenue
Southeastern Conference Slated

The 14th Annual Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men will be held April 13-16, 1989 in Dallas.

Begun in 1976 by students and concerned members of the Chapel Hill, North Carolina area, the SECLGM is the oldest regional Gay/Lesbian conference in the United States. For the first time Texas will be hosting the 1989 conference.

The conference will provide a forum to share aspects of Gay life, broaden information and skills, and encourage greater community involvement through extensive networking within the region.

The theme of the Dallas SEC, "Southeast Meets Southwest," has been designed to promote involvement and participation by Gay and Lesbian individuals and organizations from coast to coast, furthering individual growth while promoting regional communications and networking.

Focus areas will include Intimacy, Sex & Relationships; Health Issues; AIDS, Youth and Aging; Breaking Cultural and Physical Barriers; Substance and Alcohol Abuse; Law and Politics; Fundraising; Stress Reduction; and Gay/ Lesbian Parenting, among others.

The registration fee is $40 (early registration is $35) which includes a reception, all workshops and speakers, a Friday evening reception, dance and night life tour, and membership in SEGLGM. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers in downtown Dallas. For more information, write SSECLGM, P.O. Box 190712, Dallas, TX 75219 or call (214) 471-6040.

Hot, Horny & Healthy Workshops Slated

by Ken Albright

The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association of BWMT in conjunction with BWMT/Memphis has announced a series of Hot, Horny & Healthy workshops to be held the weekend of Dec. 9-11.

Phill Wilson, co-chair of BWMT/Los Angeles, and health trainer/consultant for the National Task Force on AIDS will be in Memphis to do three workshops. Wilson is not only an accomplished activist for Gay and AIDS issues, but was co-chair of last year's Black, Lesbian, and Gay Leadership Conference held in Los Angeles and will serve the same role in 1989.

These Hot, Horny, & Healthy workshops are designed to teach Gay men how to enjoy a healthy, vigorous, creative sex life while taking the AIDS epidemic into account and playing safely. The workshops are innovative, fun, informative, informal, and progressive.

Schedule of workshops is as follows:

Friday, Dec. 9, 7-10 PM HH&H workshop for BWMT Chapter members and friends. Also open to the public.

Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 AM-4 PM (Lunch included) - "Train the Trainer" Workshop - Enrollment limited to 12. This is a thorough workshop on how to conduct workshops in the community and to teach our Gay brothers to have a satisfying, but safe sex life in the age of AIDS.

Sunday, Dec. 11, 6-9 PM - Community-wide HH&H workshop open to the public at the Apartment Club, Madison and Danny Thomas. We antici-
Smithsonian to Acquire Quilt Panels

Washington — The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will acquire commemorative panels collected by the NAMES project for its AIDS Memorial Quilt.

The acquisition will take place over a period of time in an effort to document the diversity of those who have died from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. The quilt panels will be added to the collections of the Division of Medical Sciences, which has an ongoing interest in issues related to the history of public health in the United States.

Museum Director Roger G. Kennedy, in speaking about this acquisition, said “The AIDS Memorial Quilt is significant not only as a symbol of those who have died, but also as one aspect of the country’s response to the loss.”

The quilt currently consists of nearly 9,000 panels, each commemorating a person who died from the AIDS virus. Each of the 3-foot by 6-foot panels — many created by family groups and friends — is distinctive in its design, reflecting the personality and interests of the AIDS victim memorialized in the panel.

During the coming years, the museum’s Division of Medical Sciences, in cooperation with the NAMES project, will identify and select a number of panels — based on design, message, gender, and age of the individual depicted. The selected panels will join other objects, graphics, and educational materials in the collections which document the medical and social history of AIDS.

The division is an active member of the newly formed AIDS History Group, a national organization whose aim is to coordinate efforts to preserve and document the history of AIDS.

Now Is The Time...

...for those people interested in forming a Gay Community Center to step forward with their ideas, their time, and their energy to make it a reality. Take a chance that things can change.

Gay Community Center Organizational Meeting

Monday, December 5, 1988
7:30 PM
Meeting Room A
Main Library - Peabody & McLean

Gaze and the Memphis Gay Coalition
Would Like to Thank the Following Advertisers for their Support During 1988

Agape New Life Church
Preston's Pipeline
Men of Leather Memphis Center for Reproductive Health Raven's Nest BWMT
Aid To End AIDS Committee J-Wag's Aphrodite

Tsarus Affordable VCR Repair & Care Co. M&M Productions Ray's Rockhouse Young Avenue Exchange Flea Market Star Search Video Custom Cakes by Dutch The Book Mart Church of the Blessed Redeemer

GDI on the River David D. daPonte Bunny Lee Wings Sharon Wray Catherine Kelly WKRB Becky Caperton Steve Cohen David Upton LaRado Leather, Inc. Economy Interiors
"I Killed Her For Love"

Alice Mitchell Jailed - 1892

Part 2

Snow glistened on the ground that cold January afternoon as the buggy containing two young women raced along Front Street. At Front and Madison, just north of the post office, the vehicle jerked to a stop and the rider, Alice Mitchell, 19, leaped out and ran down the bluff toward the riverboat landing.

Near the Illinois Central railroad track, Alice caught up with her "closest friend," Freda Ward, 17, who was going to board the steamer "Ora Lee" with her sister, and slashed her throat from ear to ear with a razor blade before several startled witnesses.

Later that evening, after her arrest, Alice said that she loved Freda desperately, wanted to marry her, and could not live without her.

On Monday, February 1, 1892, the women [Alice Mitchell and her "accomplice" Lillie Johnson] and their attorneys appeared in Shelby County criminal court to plead to the charges. Miss Johnson pled "not guilty" while attorneys for Miss Mitchell pled "present insanity."

Habeas corpus proceedings were immediately initiated to win the release of Lillie Johnson. These were thoroughly approved by the newspapers and Memphis public, who believed she was innocent.

Each appearance of the women in court, no matter how brief or insignificant, drew immense crowds. Women of all ages, races and social stations were especially attracted. Newspapers reported that they filled the courtroom and hallways outside. This feminine interest started many Memphis males and led the Memphis Public Ledger to caustically say of the proceedings: "Distrustingly decent so far, eh ladies?"

Memphians were not the only ones who were curious. The famous French actress Mme. Sarah Bernhart, in Memphis at the time, went to the jail and attempted to visit the two prisoners. She was barred from talking with them, the Public Ledger reported, but was permitted to peek in their cells.

On February 25, Lillie Johnson's habeas corpus hearing, many details of Alice and Freda's love affair were first made public. Freda's sister, Jo Ward, told the court of the women's romance and how she had broken it up. She also gave an eyewitness account of the murder. Numerous passages from the girls' love letters were also read.

F. J. Simms, a "brain doctor," also testified at the hearing. He told the court that Alice Mitchell was "undoubtedly insane" and that while there was an extremely developed Platonc or brain love between her and Freda, there was no evidence of "homo-Sexuality."

Later on, however, a letter was read in which Alice wrote Freda, "It will be three weeks Friday since you slept with me. I don't think I will get to sleep with you."

Throughout this and later court proceedings, the attitude of the "Victorian era" press and the public was generally sympathetic to the two women. The Memphis papers ran lengthy, florid accounts of the bloody slaying, the overall tone was one of awe and fascination rather than moral outrage. The slaying was viewed as a unique human tragedy rather than a conventional murder.

On February 27, Lillie Johnson was ordered freed from jail on $10,000 bond on grounds of poor health caused by confinement. The public generally approved of this, but Judge DuBose informed her that he thought she had indeed aided and abetted the slaying and was guilty as charged.

Miss Johnson then went home with her parents while Miss Mitchell was returned to the Shelby County Jail to await her sanity hearing.

During this period, Miss Mitchell was provided with special accommodations in the lockup, the Weekly Commercial reported. She was not kept in a cell like other prisoners but had the "coziest room in jail, with plenty of air, sunshine, and a good view of the street."

"No jailor has yet had the courage to offer to place her in a cell. They have daughters of their own and the thought of putting this child, criminal as she is, along with those older in crime is shocking to them," the Commercial said.

Next month will be the final installment in this sensational piece of Gay Memphis. It was originally published in the November, 1975, issue of Gayety newspaper. Written by Fred Harris, edited by Gary Poe.
**Annual Gay Community Christmas Dinner & Party**

(Sponsored by The Memphis Gay Coalition)

**at**

GDJ - 287 South Front St.
Monday, December 19 - 7:30 PM

Free Admission with Pot Luck Dinner or Party Item.

Cash Bar Available. Entertainment

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**Information & Services**

The Information and Services directory is printed as a public service and its listings are free. Agencies and businesses listed herein have requested to be listed but have not been charged.

**MEMPHIS ORGANIZATIONS**

Aid to End AIDS Committee (ATEAC): Box 40389, Memphis 38174-0389 - 762-8401, 455-AIDS.

Agape New Life Church: Worship Sundays at 11:00 AM and Wednesdays at 7:30 PM - 276-1872.

American Gay Atheists: Memphis; Box 41371, Memphis, 38174-1371.

Black & White Men Together: Box 41773, Memphis 38174 - 327-3753, 452-5894, or 726-1461.

Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition, Inc. of Memphis: P.O. Box 40892, Memphis 38174-0982.

Gay Athletic Association: Bowling, volleyball, camping, and more; Box 22914, Memphis 38112 - 744-0575.

Gay Women’s Social Group: 324-6949 or 377-7312.

Human Response Council: PWA services. 275-3536.

Kinship: Seventh Day Adventist Gay religious group. P.O. Box 171135, Memphis, 38187-1135 - 754-6160.

Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: 1462 Poplar Ave, Memphis, 38104 - 274-3550.

Memphis Gay Coalition: Box 3038, Memphis, 38173-0038 - 324-GAYS.

Memphis Lambda Center: Meeting place for 12-step recovery programs. 241 N. Cleveland (above United Paint Store), Memphis - 276-7379.


Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite: Box 41822, Memphis, 38174-1822.

National Organization for Women (NOW): Box 40982, Memphis, 38104.

Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (P-FLAG): P.O. Box 172031, Memphis, 38187-2031 - 761-1444.

Phoenix (Gay AA): 272-9549, 276-7379, or 454-1414.

Tennessee Gay & Lesbian Task Force: P.O. Box 24446, Nashville, TN 37202-4446. Memphis contact: Rick Bray - 274-0454.

Transsexuals in Prison (TIP): For information: John Prowett, 1973 Sipes, Memphis, 38127.

Tsarus: (Leather-Levi club) Box 41082, Memphis, 38174-1082.

Wings: (Leather-Levi club) Box 41784, Memphis, 38174-1784.

Women of Leather: 181 N. Willett, Memphis, 38104 - 726-5263.

**MEDIA**

AIDS Update: newspaper published by the Aid to End AIDS Committee - 458-AIDS.

Gay Alternative: radio program, Mon. 6:00-7:00 PM, WEVL: FM 90 - Box 41773, Memphis, 38174.

Gay Switchboard: 300-0575.


**HELPLINES**

AIDS Switchboard: 458-AIDS.

Gay Switchboard: 324-GAYS.

LINC: 725-8985.

Narcotics Anonymous: 276-LIVE.

Rape Crisis: 528-2161.

Suicide & Crisis Intervention: 274-7477.

**COUNSELING SERVICES**

Becky Caperton, MS: Counseling - 327-9758.

Carole Taylor, MS: Counseling - 458-7098.

Northeast Mental Health Center: 382-3880.

**LEGAL SERVICES**


**RESTAURANTS & BARS**

Another Bar: 1351 Autumn - 278-5348.

Barbara's: 1474 Madison - 278-4313.

GDJ on the River: 287 S. Front Street - 526-1038.


Pipeline: 1382 Poplar - 726-5263.

WKRB in Memphis: 1528 Madison - 278-9321.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Airport Adult Theatre: 2214 Brooks Rd. E. - 345-0657.

The Book Mart: 852 S. Cooper - 278-9546.

Cherokee Adult Book Store: 2947 Lamar - 744-7949.

Fantasy World: 1814 Winchester - 346-2086.


Madison-1266 Madison - 722-8963.

Paris Adult Entertainment Center: 2432 Summer - 323-2665.

Star Search Video: 1264 Madison - 272-STAR.

The Village Newsroom: 669 Mendenhall Rd S. - 682-3326 & 1803 Union - 726-1622.