Racism Discussion Spurs Action

A discussion of racism in the Gay community held July 16 has resulted in the drafting of a letter to Tommy Stewart accusing him of "unethical as well as illegal [racial discrimination] behavior." The meeting was held at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center as part of the Memphis Gay Coalition's GayRap series.

The two-hour discussion heated up as several people accused Stewart, owner of J-Wag's and Reflections, of "carding" practices which discriminate against Black Gays. Although it was acknowledged that "all the bars do the same thing," Stewart was singled out to be made an example.

A "group of concerned citizens" met July 23 and decided to draft a letter to Stewart. The "action planning committee" then sent a copy of the proposed letter to Memphis Gay and Lesbian organizations asking that it be endorsed. The letter with endorsements was to be signed by August 15 and forwarded to Stewart.

A cover letter seeking these organizations' support was signed by Tony Horne, co-chair of the Black Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Dignity (B-GLAD) and Bill Huckabee, president of the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center. I called Stewart to ask for comment. How of racial discrimination in our community." Once endorsed, copies of the letter to Stewart were to be sent to local newspapers, as well as Gaze, Dare, the Lesbian and Gay News Telegraph, the ACLU and NACP.

The Memphis Gay Coalition at its regular business meeting Aug. 2 refused to endorse the letter because of its inflammatory language. It instead passed a resolution to contact all local Gay bars to determine what criteria they use in carding their patrons and to try to negotiate a consensus among them as to which specific identifications are acceptable. (The preliminary results of that survey appear in an article on page 2 of this issue.)

The Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center Board was reportedly polled by phone and initially endorsed sending the letter. However, at the MGLCC board meeting Aug. 18, the board voted to table any action and to meet in closed session to "iron out philosophical differences."

Participants at the Aug. 20 GayRap felt that there was much more of the issue to explore. To facilitate a continuation of the dialogue, the Memphis Gay Coalition offered four of its excess meeting dates at the Community Center. MGC makes an annual donation to the MGLCC and forwards to Stewart.

At any Aug. 27, the board voted 5-3 not to endorse the letter to Stewart. A second GayRap on the subject of racism was held on Aug. 20. Although tempers flared and voices were raised, the meeting was considered to be considerably more subdued than the previous one. Tommy Stewart attended the meeting, but did not respond to any accusations.

"I didn't come here to speak," Stewart said. "I came here to listen." Stewart recorded the meeting on a portable tape recorder.

Kentucky & Michigan Sodomy Laws Unconstitutional

A trial court in Wayne Co. Michigan again became the second court in a month to strike down a sodomy statute on state constitutional grounds. In reasoning similar to that used by a Kentucky court in early June, the Michigan court recognized that the state sodomy law and related so-called "gross indecency" laws violate every citizen's right to privacy under the state constitution.

A broad range of plaintiffs from all over Michigan successfully challenged the Michigan law, including a 75-year old Lesbian, a Gay male couple, a Lesbian mother, an unmarried Gay man, a married non-Gay man, a bisexual woman, and a non-Gay disabled woman. All the plaintiffs told the court that, because of these laws, they have suffered a chilling effect on their behavior and fear of prosecution since, in Michigan, a sodomy conviction is classified as a felony and could result in up to 15 years in prison and a fine of $5,000.

Wayne Co. Circuit Judge John A. Murphy ruled that the sodomy and gross indecency laws violate the plaintiffs' (and by extension, all sexually active adults') state constitutional right to privacy. The lawsuit also claimed that the laws—which define sodomy as "the abominable and detestable crime against nature" or "an act of gross indecency"—are constitutionally vague and provide unlimited discretion to prosecuting attorneys and arresting officers as to what conduct is criminal.

"The right to privacy victories in Michigan and Kentucky within a month are extremely significant because they show that state courts and state constitutions can do what the federal courts used to do: protect minorities and basic American freedoms against government intrusion," said Paula Bittlebruck, one of the attorneys on the case.

Before the rulings in Kentucky and Michigan, 24 states (as well as the District of Columbia) still criminalized so-called "sodomy," oral or anal sex between consenting adults in private. Entelbrick noted, "Seven of those states (including Kentucky) singled out Lesbian and Gay men as criminals for private sexual acts that most adult Americans engage in, and did not prohibit the exact same conduct when engaged in by heterosexuals.

The Michigan state attorney general must now determine whether the state will appeal the trial court ruling which overturned the sodomy and gross indecency statutes.

It's Filthy and Ya'll Know It

A Christian-owned and operated company which fills orders for customized balloons refused to print several hundred balloons intended to raise visibility for the Georgia Privacy Coalition's campaign to repeal that state's sodomy law. The Privacy Coalition planned to float their sodomy repeal message at the Atlanta Gay and Lesbian pride march and rally at the end of June. The Coalition's plans were burst, however, when the Balloon House of Iowa City, Iowa rejected their order.

In a letter from NGLTF's Privacy Project Director Sue Hyde, Balloon House manager Lynn Griebahn was asked to explain "this outright act of censorship by your company." Griebahn replied, "Because we are Christians, we do not print any material that is lewd, offensive, racist, immoral, wicked or evil. It is our opinion, from reading the word of God, that homosexuality is immoral, lewd, unclean and unrighteous. Because the Lord owns this business, we cannot accept business which displeases Him... Homosexuality is your game and it is filthy, disgusting and wrong. And you know it's wrong..."

In Iowa City on June 23 for that community's Gay and Lesbian pride rally and march, Hyde quipped at the rally, "I was not aware that the Lord owned a balloon company or any other earthly commercial concern. If He did, however, I feel confident that He would consider this display of bigotry filthy disgusting and wrong. And Lynn Griebahn knows it's wrong..."

Lynn Griebahn can be reached at the Balloon House, 918 Dearborn, Iowa City, IA 52240, (319) 354-3471.

Editorial Policy

Gaze is published as a public service of the Memphis Gay Coalition and is produced by volunteers. As a community newspaper, Gaze solicits contributions from its readers in the form of commentaries or guest editorials, letters to the editor, fiction, poetry, press releases, or articles. The editors reserve the right to edit such materials for length, clarity, punctuation, spelling, and grammar. If edited, every effort will be made to preserve the content and tone of the original. Gaze reserves the right to reject any materials submitted for publication. All submissions become the property of the Memphis Gay Coalition.

All materials for publication must be received no later than the 15th of the month preceding publication. Any material received after this time will be used at the discretion of the Gaze staff.
Attack the Source, Not the Symptom

by John Stilwell and Allen Cook

The recent discussions on racism have raised a lot of questions and a lot of tempers. A plan of action is being worked on. But I wonder if we've identified the real source of the problem. It is acknowledged that a problem exists in all the white Gay bars. But the problem is even broader than that. It exists in all Gay bars and in all straight bars. The problem has been defined as racism, but we perceive it more as a problem of controlling the complexion of a bar. In white bars, it's controlling the kind and number of Blacks that are let in. In Black bars, it's controlling the kind and number of whites that are allowed in.

Let's consider what kind of people (black or white) are being allowed into the bar. Despite what we'd like to believe, bar owners run bars to make money, not to provide a place for people to meet and "hang out." Bartenders want people who are going to tip well. They reward good tippers with better service. They also want to make a living. So both the bar owner and the bartenders want people in the bar who are going to spend money. It would be ridiculous to go into a restaurant and expect to be able to just "hang out." If you aren't going to buy anything, you're going to be asked to leave. So why should one think you can go into a bar and "hang out" without spending money? Hanging around in the bar for a period of time without spending money constitutes loitering, which is against the law. You will probably be asked to leave. If you consistently come into a bar and "hang out" without spending money, eventually, you won't be invited. In fact, that's what one kind of person who is not welcome is one who has no money to spend or who has money but doesn't spend it—Black or white.

There is also the question of attitude. If a Black person goes to a predominantly white bar or a white goes to a Black bar and enters the establishment with his or her ass on their shoulders because they expect to be treated badly, they probably will be. This attitude is going to be picked up by the door person, the bar owner, or the bartender and they are not going to be welcomed with open arms. There are enough problems that come with running a bar without taking on the added problem of dealing with someone who has a bad attitude. That person single out himself out as a potential troublemaker.

Then there is the perception of who is a troublemaker. At a Black bar any white who comes in is immediately suspect. ("This guy or girl must be a pointer to cause me trouble.") In white bars, the perception—real or imagined—is that the Blacks who get in are a higher percentage of troublemakers than the whites. And will that solve the problem? We think not. Because the patrons themselves are the problem. Patrons, to a large extent, show their approval of the bar owners' actions, the bar owners have no reason to change their policies. (And that approval can be shown as subtly continued on page 15)

ID's: The Letter of the Law

by Allen Cook and Vincent Astor

When admission to any establishment requires certain prerequisites, there is an opportunity for abuse, especially in the area of discrimination. What then are the areas of discretion a bar-owner has in selecting who may patronize his or her establishment?

According to the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission Code, an owner of an establishment which serves beer or liquor is required to do the following:

- establish and maintain procedures which will screen persons under 21 from obtaining alcoholic beverages.
- establish and maintain procedures which ensure that "troublemakers" are excluded from the establishment.
- require identification at the bar's discretion.
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- require identification at the bar's discretion.

"Troublemakers" are defined as those who are underage, in possession of a false ID, or who have been ejected from another establishment.

The law further stipulates that a "valid" ID must be carried on one's person at all times in an establishment which serves alcohol. Unfortunately state law does not stipulate what sort is not a valid ID. If the bar owner admits and serves alcohol to someone who is underage, has what appears to be a valid ID, he or she can still be held responsible and lose the permit.

The problem of all sorts with no ID are routinely turned away regardless of their apparent age. Betty Wray, who works at the back door for her sister Sharon at WKRK, says, "I have not license a person to drive. This is not obtainable at any Driver Planning Center by going through the identification procedures as for a driver's license and an $8.00 fee.

A birth certificate is good identification for some things, but they really do not identify anyone since these are no picture.

An employee ID may have a picture, but rarely has a birth certificate (remember, employers can be accused of age discrimination). Insurance, social security, welfare or food stamp, library, and credit cards have neither pictures nor birthdays. It is the responsibility of the person in charge to determine whether the ID presented is genuine. It is this person who will be liable if it is called into question and found to be a fake. Therefore, it is in their best interest to check as carefully as possible (a difficult task on extremely busy nights). If they are not satisfied, they will ask for further proof of age. This can lead to negative feelings and actions on both sides of the window, which only leads to suspicion by both parties. This responsibility is also very easy to abuse, not the integrity of the person doing the identifying is important.

The other area of discretion troubledablers and drinkers, unfortunately requires a more subjective continued on page 15
What If They Gave A Funeral And No One Came?

The deterrent that has kept our community behind others of the same size has reared its ugly head again—Madison Avenue)—that female im­

Lambda Chorus Defended

I would like to respond to your “The Case of the Closeted Chorus” article in the July/August issue of Gaye. There are many specific state­ments I disagree with, in fact, there is very little I do agree with in the article. However, I wish to respond specifically to “As long as we let fear run our lives, we have no lives. We are going nowhere and doing noth­ing.”

I am one of the teachers who was in the Commercial Appeal picture. Fear does not run my life. However, it does play a part in my life. For example, I am afraid when a person points a gun at my head.

I am going somewhere, and I am doing something very important with my life. I am going to a job that I love. (I have reservations using the word “job” when referring to my teaching—I enjoy it so much that it hardly seems like a “job”)

Homophobic bigots set out to beat up a faggot or convert a Lesbian. It doesn’t even matter what the situation, George seemed to know how to handle it—either with humor, fi­

Wanted: A Lambda Men’s Chorus? It could be because he can’t sing bass, baritone, or tenor thus disqualifying him from being a part of a Men’s Chorus, or could it simply be that the chorus does not sing the praises of John Stilwell. Your editorial in the July/August 1990 issue of Gaye was appalling. You wrote that the Mem­

George Wilson opened the first “George’s” almost twenty years ago. It was at that original “George’s” (on Madison Avenue) that female im­

Fear does not prevent us from doing something very important with our lives. He is the reason we are as free as we are today to be ourselves.

I love teaching school. For me, teaching is my job. Most of the credit for the Lambda Men’s Chorus goes to Dr. John Stilwell, that I do not offend you when I write that I disagree with anyone you wish, but, only as an individual, not as Presi­

No purpose is served, however, I wish to respond specifically to “As long as we let fear run our lives, we have no lives. We are going nowhere and doing noth­ing.”

The deterrent that has kept our community behind others of the same size has reared its ugly head again—Madison Avenue)—that female im­

I wish that you had known my grandmother. Miss Lillibet never graduated from high school, never drove a car, never set foot in a super­

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Ethics Committee Rules on Barney Frank

Washington, DC — The House Ethics Committee voted July 20 to formally reprimand Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) for activities surrounding his relationship with a male prostitute. The reprimand is one of the least severe actions which the Committee could have taken. Published reports indicate that a majority on the Committee had wanted an even less severe letter of reproval, but in order to have a unanimous decision, the majority gave in to members of the Committee who wanted a more severe action. A reprimand is far less severe than censure or expulsion.

The Ethics investigation began when Rep. Frank was accused by Steve Gobie, a prostitute, of using his services. Rep. Frank asked the committee to conduct an investigation of his own actions to determine if he had violated any rules of the House of Representatives.

Frank is widely viewed as one of the brightest and most effective members of Congress. “Even during the Ethics Committee investigation, Barney remained a vigorous force in the legislative arena,” said McFeeley. All members of the House of Representatives are up for re-election in November of this year. In the last election—the first after he had publicly acknowledged his being gay—Rep. Frank won with 70% per cent of the vote.

Polls in his congressional district indicate he has retained the loyalty of his constituents. In recent weeks, his more serious Republican challenger withdrew from the race, giving every indication that he thought the election could not be won.

Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-CA) failed in his attempt to push for the expulsion of Rep. Frank from the House when the Ethics Committee report came to the House Floor.

NEA Staff Meets With Activists After Gays Charge Agency With Homophobia

Washington, DC—National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) officials met on July 13 with Lesbian and Gay activists following charges that the NEA’s recent denial of grants to four artists was motivated by anti-Gay bias.

On June 30, the NEA rejected four out of eighteen grants unanimously recommended by the agency’s peer review panel. Three of the four artists—Holly Hughes, John Fleck, and Tim Miller—are openly Lesbian or Gay artists whose work addresses, among other issues, sexuality. The fourth applicant, Karen Finley, is a feminist performance and visual artist whose work strongly confronts sexism and homophobia.

In response to the NEA’s rejection of the artists, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund demanded a meeting with NEA Chief John Frohnmayer. The activists charged that homophobia had motivated his actions in rejecting the artists’ applications.

Gay activists subsequently met with agency staff at the NEA offices in Washington, DC. Chief Counsel for the NEA Julie Davis insisted that the Gay and Lesbian content of the artists’ work did not play a part in the rejection of their grant applications. Davis also denied that Frohnmayer made statements attributing the rejection of the grants to “political realities.” Frohnmayer was quoted in the New York Times on June 30 as saying that “political realities” made it likely he would have to veto some NEA grants.

“If the NEA is genuinely interested in refuting charges of anti-Gay bias, they need to take strong positive actions,” said GLAAD’s Gewandner. “We suggested a good first step would be for Mr. Frohnmayer to issue a statement affirming his commitment to funding Gay and Lesbian artists.”

Western Union Backs Down

Washington, DC — Western Union Corp., which earlier this year was sharply criticized by Lesbian and Gay rights advocates for their attempts to overturn the San Francisco Human Rights Ordinance, has issued a revised non-discrimination policy for its employees which specifically includes sexual orientation.

In a statement signed by Western Union’s President and Chief Executive Officer, Robert J. Amman, the company states that its policy of equal opportunity is “founded on sound business judgment and our belief in respect for the individual. We depend on the full and effective employment and development of qualified persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, physical or mental handicap or veteran status.”

Earlier this year, Western Union’s attorneys had sought to have the San Francisco Human Rights Ordinance overturned as unconstitutional, rather than address the merits of an anti-discrimination suit which had been brought against the company by a former Gay employee, Armand Ertag. HRC’s “Speak Out” program had expected to do over $300,000 worth of business this year with Western Union, canceled its account with the company, citing the legal action and its implications for the community.

HRC officials indicated that they do not have immediate plans to resume efforts to overturn the San Francisco Human Rights Ordinance with Western Union, but that the company’s positive steps would make it a possibility in the future. “We terminated their services because we felt that we could not do business with a company that was working to undermine the best interests of our community,” McFeeley stated.

“However, the company’s steps now demonstrate heightened and genuine movement on their part. Their opposition to anti-gay discrimination — which will be prominently posted in Western Union work-places — is important. We are about the business of changing attitudes and policies and we happily embrace this expression of equal opportunity by Western Union,” McFeeley noted.
Passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act Hailed

Washington, DC — In a stunning setback for Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-CA), the U.S. House and Senate reversed their previous votes allowing discrimination against food-handlers with AIDS and gave final approval to landmark legislation giving federal protection against discrimination to people with AIDS and HIV-disease. President Bush has signed the bill into law.

The tumultuous votes in Congress followed a month-long campaign to overturn the previous votes.

Tim McFleely, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a national gay lobbying group, hailed the passage of the bill and the defeat of efforts to discriminate against food handlers with AIDS.

“The passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act is an historic landmark in the history of the AIDS epidemic. It is the most significant effort on the part of the federal government to decisively protect people with AIDS and HIV disease from irrational discrimination,” McFleely stated.

The fate of the Americans with Disabilities Act had been in doubt since the House passed an amendment in May giving employers the right to discharge or discriminate against food handlers with AIDS.

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The fate of the Americans with Disabilities Act had been in doubt since the House passed an amendment in May giving employers the right to discharge or discriminate against food handlers with AIDS. They contacted thousands of Lesbian and Gay businesses around the country, calling on them to contact their senators and representatives.

When Congress returned from Washington after the July 4th holiday, the Campaign Fund organized a Capitol Hill press conference and mobilized other groups in the disabilities community to take the lead in opposing the Helms language. Working with a diverse coalition of disability, public health, labor, religious and civil rights groups, including the National Organizations for AIDS, the Campaign Fund delivered paper lunch bags to Congressional offices with the message, "The National Restaurant Association is out to lunch on the Americans With Disabilities Act."

When the bill came before the Senate for final passage, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) — who had supported Helms’ earlier proposal — offered an alternative amendment that would allow employers to remove employees from food handling jobs only when they have infectious diseases that, unlike AIDS, are transmitted by food. Thosediseaseswouldbeplaced on a list each year by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Sen. Helms offered an amendment to the Hatch language requiring AIDS to be included on the list. After extensive debate, the Helms amendment was rejected 61-39.

When the bill reached the House floor, Rep. Dannemeyer (R-CA) moved to send the bill back to the Conference Committee with instructions to reaccept the Helms proposal. His motion was rejected 224-180, and the bill was approved 337 to 28.

Lesbian/Gay Couples Report Widespread Discrimination

In a national survey, 71% of 1,266 Lesbian and Gay couples said they had experienced at least one type of discrimination as a couple, and 39% had experienced three or more types.

The statistics were released in the May/June issue of Partners Newsletter For Gay & Lesbian Couples. The publishers, who developed the survey, collected responses in 1988 and 1989.

“Gay couples who have sought equal treatment for their relationship unfortunately will not find these statistics surprising,” said Steve Bryant, who edits and publishes the bimonthly newsletter with his 10-year-partner Demian. “But we hope that the information will impress upon elected officials and other policy makers the severity of the problem.”

Discrimination was most frequently reported in connection with employment benefits. However, the problem was not universal. Eight percent of the respondents said their employers provided partners with an employee benefit of some kind. Five percent said their employer provides health insurance for their partner.

Judging from the results, same-sex couples face likely discrimination wherever they seek equal treatment. For example, almost half of those couples who had arranged to parent children through adoption of foster parenting programs said they faced discrimination in the process.

Women reported significantly more discrimination than men. Fully 75% of women reported relationship discrimination of some type, as compared to 65% of men. This may be partly attributable to the added discrimination Lesbians experience as women.

Reports of discrimination also were significantly higher among couples who were more open about their relationship, more strongly committed, more politically liberal, and together more than one year. These couples presumably are more inclined to have asked for or expected equal treatment.
The Normal Heart Opens Oct. 4

Rehearsals are underway for the October production of Larry Kramer’s play The Normal Heart. Performance dates are Oct. 4, 5 and 6 at 8 PM and Oct. 7 at 2:30 PM at Theatre Works, 414 S. Main. Dennis Massey will direct and the cast includes Dennis, Bernie Gwyn, Richard Johnson, Vincent Astor, Kevin Palmer, Wally Dreesen, Sean Farrell, Jimmy Gray and David Williamson.

The Normal Heart was first produced in New York in 1985 and is a no holds barred manner with the beginnings of the AIDS epidemic in New York in 1981. Larry Kramer was a co-founder of Gay Men’s Health Crisis in New York and the author of Faggots in 1987. He is a nationally known activist, author and screenwriter and his play is considered to be largely autobiographical. Its contemporary was As Is, the AIDS play which moved to Broadway and has been produced recently in Nashville. It was produced in Memphis in 1986 with support from A1EAC.

The Normal Heart is a very strong drama. The emotions, frustrations, heartaches and heroism of the pioneers of AIDS activism are displayed in no uncertain terms. Central to the play is the personal relationship between Ned, the radical activist, and Felix, the less-than-outgoing journalist who becomes a victim of AIDS himself. As with Boys in the Band, audience members feel that they know each of the characters in the play. This makes the message even stronger and the cry for help and understanding, not only for those living with AIDS but for all gay people, more poignant.

The Normal Heart is one of the most controversial plays in the history of theater. It has been produced only for those living with AIDS but for all gay people, more poignant.

The Normal Heart

Are you looking for a few good men, or women? We are! Are you? And this year we would like to show Memphis that our GAY and LESBIAN bowling league, Bowling League, Memphis' only all men, or women to bowl in our league. It's a great way to meet new friends and have fun. You don't need to be an expert bowler to join. In fact, this season we will give out our team and individual trophies, along with prize money for the Jackpot Night rolls. To qualify for this all you need to do is bowl on a team throughout the season.

We challenge all GAY and LESBIAN related organizations, businesses, and especially bars to sponsor teams. Your sponsorship can include the use of your organization’s name for the team, and also shirts for your team members. Last year’s only sponsored team was from WKRB, and this year we would like to see the business competition come to the bowling lanes. This is a great way of showing Memphis that our GAY community can compete in one of our nation’s biggest participation sports.

Our organization is also looking for a sponsor for an All Star team to participate in the regional, and national GAY Bowling Tournaments this year. For more information come to our first night of bowling anytime after 6:30 pm; our league officers will be there to help form teams and answer questions.

The cast of The Normal Heart

Brothers and Sisters Want You!

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The cast of The Normal Heart

Brothers and Sisters Want You!
Show Your Pride!

The Memphis Gay Coalition is offering these limited edition Gay Pride T-shirts for only $8 ($7 for members of MGC). Silk screened in purple with a pink triangle, these 100% cotton T-shirts will make the perfect gift — or buy several for yourself! They can be purchased at any MGC or GayRap meeting or by mail (add $2.00 to cover postage and handling). Sizes M, L & XL.

MGC
P.O. Box 3038
Memphis, TN 38173-0038

Also Available at the Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison Avenue

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Coming September 15 "Common Threads: Stories From the Quilt"
Mapplethorpe Photos On Display at Brooks Museum

Two exhibitions of contemporary art containing photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe are currently on exhibition at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art. The Wil and Sally Hergenrader Collection of Contemporary Art is a portion of a private collection belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Hergenrader containing numerous contemporary works in various mediums. From Manet to Motherwell is an exhibition of Artists' Books from the collection of Isabel and Charles Goodman.

The Hergenrader collection contains Calla Lily, 1987, a dye transfer print (see front page) of the type of photograph for which he was justifiably famous. It measures 18 1/4" x 14", and is beautifully colored. The Artists' Books collection contains A Season in Hell by Arthur Rimbaud, with eight hand-rubbed photographs by Mapplethorpe. The image shown in the exhibition is a nude, rear view. This brings to mind those other images which gained him such recent notoriety. This book is among those given to Brooks Museum by the Goodman family and will be available for exhibition and study from now on.

This is a unique opportunity for Memphians to view two such diverse works by this famous Gay artist. The Hergenrader collection will, unfortunately, close on Sept. 2. The Goodman family books will be exhibited until Sept. 2 but many, including A Season in Hell, will remain in the permanent collection. A lecture by Andrew Hoyem will take place Sept. 9 at 2:30; he published several books in the exhibition, among them, one of the most unusual of all, Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror by John Ashbery, 1984.

Memphis Hosts Psycho-Social AIDS Conference

Washington, DC—Over 250 Memphis area health and mental health caregivers received training about the psychological and social impact of AIDS on people with the disease, on their families and friends, and on health care workers themselves.

Memphis hosted the AIDS Community Training (ACT) Project, directed by the American Psychological Association (APA), and funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. The ACT Project was established in 1988 to conduct a series of trainings in medium-sized cities across the country of three years. The ACT Project Training in Memphis on July 26-28 at the Memphis Airport Hilton was the ninth training in that series.

Targeted for training were staff of hospitals, community health and mental health care agencies, substance abuse treatment programs, community outreach agencies, pastoral care centers, hospice organizations, home health care agencies, visiting nurse associations, local volunteer AIDS service organizations, student health services, outpatient clinics, and local and state health departments. Training was also directed to private practitioners, to community-based leaders and educators, and to faculty, students and interns at university programs in psychology, social work, medicine, nursing, and other health-related disciplines.

The ACT Project Training is organized to promote regional linkages between organizations and individuals crucial to comprehensive systems of AIDS-related care. Linkages are promoted by structured networking activities between community-based care organizations and professionals, health care delivery institutions, and health and mental health practitioners and educators.

A special feature of the ACT Project Training was a Symposium on AIDS in Ethnic Minority Communities July 26 with no charge to participants. The Symposium focused on treatment, education, service and prevention issues of relevance to communities of color. This specialized training is a particularly important aspect of the ACT Project's overall educational effort because health and mental health care services targeting communities of color tend to be less available and less well developed than services for Euro-American communities. While this problem is related to broader issues like poverty, access to health care, and institutional racism, it also arises from the erroneous and widely held belief that AIDS is a Gay, white male disease. Although this belief is changing, the change has occurred more slowly in medium-sized cities like Memphis where there have been fewer AIDS-related training efforts directed toward providers working in communities of color.

MGC Extends Racism Discourse

The Memphis Gay Coalition (MGC) has offered four of its excess meeting dates at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGCLC) to extend the discussion of Racism in the Gay Community begun at the last two Gay Raps. Vincent Astor, acting President of the Coalition, made the offer after those attending the Aug. 20 Gay Rap agreed that the issue had not been completely explored. The additional meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month through December.

The MGC has contracted for 24 meetings per year at the MGCLC, but has only used the ones designated for Gay Rap. The Coalition agreed to pay the Center for 12 additional meetings per year and to provide the space free to new organizations or special events. The Coalition's business meeting still takes place at the Main Library on the first Monday of each month.

"The 'Racism in the Gay Community' GayRaps were attended by an extraordinary number of people," said Astor. "We hope to continue the dialogue by offering these meetings." Astor said that previous scheduling of GayRap topics precluded using the third Monday slot.

Waggettes Pass $10,000 Mark

by Renée Greene

Those crazy girls from Madison Ave. are at it again! A year ago the story goes, a few regular customers of J- Wags set out to raise money for PWA's. They uttered a rash statement to the effect that a bunch of old drunks could get together and raise $10,000 or more in a year's time. There were few believers though. Undaunted, these crazy people set out on their task. For Jim Easter, Jerry Atoway, Mattie-Mae Sanchez, and Granny Weaver, it must have been a tiring, but rewarding period. They have worked very hard and deserve our thanks for their efforts.

The most recent of these events, a fundraising show at Barbara's Ballroom, was a huge success—which is to say that at show's end the house, my sight was a bit blurry at the time. I don't know if there was a dry eye in the house, my sight was a bit blurry at the time. Isn't that amazing what a few people can accomplish with heart and determination? Congratulations Waggettes.

National Coming Out Day Committee Being Formed

Oct. 11, 1990 is National Coming Out Day. Various cities across the U.S. are in the process of planning coming out day events, Memphis won't be left out. If you are interested in being on the NCOD committee to help plan events for Memphis please call 521-9525.

NCOD T-Shirts and sweat shirts may be ordered by sending $16.00 (T-Shirt) or $30.00 (Sweat Shirt) plus $3.00 postage and handling to: NCOD, P.O. Box 15524, Santa Fe, NM 87506 or calling (505) 982-2558.

The Wil and MGC Extends Racism Discourse

Two exhibitions of contemporary art containing photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe are currently on exhibition at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art. The Wil and Sally Hergenrader Collection of Contemporary Art is a portion of a private collection belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Hergenrader containing numerous contemporary works in various mediums. From Manet to Motherwell is an exhibition of Artists' Books from the collection of Isabel and Charles Goodman.

The Hergenrader collection contains Calla Lily, 1987, a dye transfer print (see front page) of the type of photograph for which he was justifiably famous. It measures 18 1/4" x 14", and is beautifully colored. The Artists' Books collection contains A Season in Hell by Arthur Rimbaud, with eight hand-rubbed photographs by Mapplethorpe. The image shown in the exhibition is a nude, rear view. This brings to mind those other images which gained him such recent notoriety. This book is among those given to Brooks Museum by the Goodman family and will be available for exhibition and study from now on.

This is a unique opportunity for Memphians to view two such diverse works by this famous Gay artist. The Hergenrader collection will, unfortunately, close on Sept. 2. The Goodman family books will be exhibited until Sept. 2 but many, including A Season in Hell, will remain in the permanent collection. A lecture by Andrew Hoyem will take place Sept. 9 at 2:30; he published several books in the exhibition, among them, one of the most unusual of all, Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror by John Ashbery, 1984.

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Billie Jo Bestows
1990 Awards

by Renée Greene

The incomparable Billie Jo Casino hosted the 7th annual BJC Awards the evening of July 29 at WKRB in Memphis. Entertainment was provided by several prominent Memphis performers including BJ’s protege Crystal Jo Jennings; Miss River City, Michelle Marie; former Miss Reflections, Kirby Kincaid; Misty McEntire; and Liz Carrington.

And now, here are this year’s winners: (no names have been changed to protect anybody.)

Lesbian Of The Year: Sandy Shea.—Other nominees were Hollywood and Ann Myers.

Queer Of The Year: Granny Weaver.—Hands down winner.

Miss Overton Park: Brian W.—with mention to Lady Vic, Wormy, and Tiger Tanner.

Bootstrap Award: Mike Frost. This award goes to a person who has overcome adversity and put themselves back to right.

Disc-Jockey Of The Year: Lee Hill—his third consecutive award in this category, the other nominees were Melena and Wolfe.

Sponge Award: Dennis L.—who we are told can soak up more liquor than a case of Bounty. Keep trying Sandy and Jim, there’s always next year.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Michelle Marie.

Bartender Of The Year: Michael Williams (Barbara’s)—the fastest and most courteous suds-slinger in town.

The Spoon Award: Phyllis N.—by a narrow margin over Vic and Michelle.

Couple Of The Year: Sharon and Kelly.

Most Promising Entertainer: Kirby Kincaid—given to the performer showing the most promise of being somebody in this town. Former winners include Crystal Jo and Fiona Fury.

Last, but not least, the surprising winner of The Bar Of The Year: Reflections Dance And Show Bar.

Many thanks to Billie (Memphis’ Transy Of The Year) for yet another fun-filled evening. We hope to be in attendance at a great many more.

Waggettes

continued from page 8

on crossing the $10,000 threshold, and on behalf of all those you’ve helped, a sincere thank God for people like you.

VOLUNTEER FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!
The Personals Offers Unique AIDS-Related Services

The Personals Computer Bulletin Board System is announcing new AIDS services to the general public. The Personals has served registered users in the Memphis Gay community since 1985. Now, The Personals is offering an extensive AIDS information service without having to register on the system. All that is required is a personal computer with communications software and a modem. To access the AIDS services simply enter "AIDS Information" when the system prompts you for a user name. No password is required. The system will then ask you for information about your computer terminal. Online help is always available if you are uncertain about your terminal. Before calling be certain to set your system for 300, 1200, or 2400 baud using 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, and no parity. The data phone number is (901) 274-6713 (this number is for computers and modems only—no "voice" help is available at this number). You can write The Personals, P.O. Box 40381, Memphis, TN 38174-0381 for more information or help.

The Personals is fully committed to providing the Memphis community with comprehensive current and historical AIDS information and personal support for those affected by AIDS and to make that information and support available 24-hours a day.

By supplying virtually instant access to both the most current and archival information, The Personals offers a unique service to Memphis. No other service in Memphis provides such a large quantity of information 24-hours a day.

Through membership in GayCom (an international network of 18 Gay systems) The Personals has gained access to an impressive and unique collection of AIDS publications, services, and support forums.

Over 5,000,000 bytes of disk space are dedicated to storing AIDS-related periodicals. Current issues of AIDS Treatment Newsletter of the Documentation of AIDS Issues and Research Foundation and People With AIDS Coalition Newsletter are available for reading online. Other publications available include Positive Hope—Newsletter for HIV Positive Members of the Navy and Marine Corps, and Bulletin of Experimental Treatments for AIDS published by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, plus current reprints from the FDA Electronic Bulletin Board.

The comprehensive AIDS Bibliographic and Abstract Service, compiled and distributed by Northumbrian Lights Alternatives, provides over 4,200,000 bytes of AIDS reference data. It is considered the definitive AIDS reference source and is provided on-line as an exclusive service of The Personals.

Surviving and Thriving with AIDS: Hints for the Newly Diagnosed, is the highly acclaimed collection of articles and essays edited by Michael Callen and printed by the People With AIDS Coalition in 1987. By permission, The Personals offers 98% of this valuable resource on-line.

Surviving and Thriving with AIDS: Volume 2, printed in December of 1988, is also available.

The Personals also offers two very special message areas that are shared with the other GayCom systems. These two areas allow Memphians to communicate actively with others across the continent about AIDS. "Survivors" is a "Dear Abby" type message area that is shared with all 18 GayCom systems, providing an anonymous outlet for the thoughts and emotional concerns of those surviving with AIDS. "Survivors" gives users a support group-like atmosphere. "Talking About AIDS," a general AIDS discussion echo area, is a recent addition to the GayCom network. It offers an international public forum for discussing a wide variety of AIDS-related topics including new treatment techniques, medical referrals, and information resources while providing anonymity.

The Bookshop," an on-line bookstore combining tele-computing with mail order techniques, provides a quick and easy way to order AIDS and other publications that are difficult, if not impossible, to purchase locally.

There are also several special sections devoted to Substance Abuse recovery including its vital role in stopping the spread of AIDS.

Through this variety of data services, The Personals provides the most current information available from National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control, Gay Men's Health Crisis, and countless other resources across the nation.

The Dallas Gay Alliance decision to boycott Miller beer as well as Marlboro cigarettes (both owned by Philip Morris, Inc.) received a boost when the Gay bar owners' association, the Dallas Tavern Guild, joined activists by removing the products from their bars. "We appreciate the Guild's awareness of how profits from Miller Beer sales flow into the pockets of Jesse Helms through parent Philip Morris; political action committee or contributions to the Jesse Helms Leadership Center in North Carolina," Bruce Monroe, DGA president said. Miller and Marlboro products are no longer present in most of the Gay bars in the Dallas area.

"We asked Miller representatives lots of questions about their self-proclaimed support of the Gay and Lesbian community," Monroe said. "But we found that it was not so much a commitment to our community, as it was a marketing strategy to sell more beer. We need Miller to stand up to Jesse Helms and let the country know that bigotry and hatred will not be tolerated by corporate America," he said.

Miller Beer, the number one selling beer in Connecticut, has stated that a strong commitment to Gay rights, but has failed to provide any detailed list of corporate contributions to Gay causes. "Miller says it has contributed between $300,000 and $600,000 to AIDS-related or Gay causes, but we have not been able to substantiate it," Monroe said. "Even so, if Jesse Helms were not in the U.S. Senate blocking AIDS funding, we would have seen a $300 million to $600 million response on the part of the government," Monroe said.

Miller has tried to avoid a national boycott, saying the Dallas decision was merely a "local service problem." Activists claim that the incentive to include Miller has been brewing for several weeks and that Miller's time had run out.

Black Gay and Lesbian Organization Named—B-GLAD

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MGC Offers Free Memberships

The last two GayRaps which have dealt with racism in the Gay community have probably been attended by more people than the previous five combined. This, of course, indicates that racism is a hot topic. Much of the discussion has centered on what I would call "institutional racism," that is, racism practiced by the institutions of the Gay community. Fingers are pointed especially at the Gay bar owners who are alleged to practice discrimination by requiring more identification of people of color to get into bars than whites. It has also been implied that both the Memphis Gay Coalition and the Aid to End AIDS Committee have discriminatory racist policies, practices, or attitudes. Members of Black and White Men Together have alleged that the "old-line White Gay males who have controlled the Memphis Gay Coalition and Gaze newspaper...for many years" have entered into some sort of conspiracy to support this institutional racism.

In fairness, it should be pointed out that GayRap itself is a function of the Memphis Gay Coalition which has paid the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center for the use of its space. This newspaper publicized the meeting. It seems to me that as conspirators of silence we would more likely try to ignore the issue than spend money to purposely expose it.

Throughout the years, the members of the MGC Board of directors have bemoaned the fact that MGC has had to field accusations of racism and sexism because its membership is predominantly white and male. In part to broaden its base, the Coalition offered "associate memberships" (with full voting privileges) to "any member of a Gay organization." All that was necessary was for the requesting organization to present the proposal to its membership, vote to become associates, and forward the names of those individuals within the organization who wished to be members. All Coalition dues were waived for associate members.

Three years ago, the Memphis Gay Coalition offered members of all the Gay organizations in town a free associate membership in the Memphis Gay Coalition. At that time, The Gay Women's Social Group, the Bowling League, and Agape New Life Church joined as Associate Members. Only the Gay Women's Social Group has continued its membership over the past three years.

The Memphis Gay Coalition has several levels of membership. A Contributing Member pays $5.00 for one year. This membership entitles the individual to full voting privileges. It was specifically designed so that even if a person were economically disadvantaged, they could still participate. The Subscribing Membership ($8.00) essentially makes anyone who subscribes to Gaze a full voting member in the Coalition. Sustaining Memberships are $20.00 a year and Household members pay $35.00 a year for two members. Supporting Members are those who make a donation of $20.00 or more to any Coalition Project: The Gay Switchboard, Gaze newspaper, or GayFest. Sustaining, Household, and Supporting Memberships include a subscription to Gaze and discounts on Coalition sponsored events and items the Coalition sells.

Associate Memberships are equivalent to Contributing Memberships, including full voting privileges, but cost the Associate Member nothing. In upgrading to a higher membership, the Associate Member gets a $5.00 discount. For example, an Associate Member can become a Subscribing Member and get a subscription to Gaze for $3.00.

The Associate Memberships were specifically designed to encourage participation. No additional investment is required aside from the time invested to participate.

The Memphis Gay Coalition is making this offer again to all the established Gay or Lesbian organizations in Memphis. If your entire organization would like to join, send us a list of your members. (If individuals are concerned about being put on a mailing list, we can send their membership cards and any other mailings to the organization's mailing address.) If some groups can't get a consensus from their membership, we would also like to make this offer to the individual members of the various organizations. If you would like to become an Associate Member of the Memphis Gay Coalition with full voting privileges, please fill out the coupon below. Be sure to include your group affiliation and the name and phone number of an officer, board member, or chair person who can be called to verify your membership.

Yes, I would like to become an Associate member of the Memphis Gay Coalition for free.

Name ____________________________ Phone ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City/State ____________ Zip ____________
I am currently a member in good standing of the following Gay or Lesbian organization(s): ____________________________

You may contact ____________________________ Phone ____________________________ to confirm my membership.

Associate members of the Memphis Gay Coalition are available free to members in good standing of other local Gay or Lesbian organizations.

Memphis Gay Coalition
P.O. Box 3038
Memphis TN 38173-0038

Id Like to Join the Coalition as:

- A Contributing Member ($5.00)
- A Subscribing Member ($8.00, includes a Subscription to Gaze)
- A Sustaining Member ($20.00, includes a Subscription to Gaze)
- A Household (2 People) ($35.00, includes a Subscription to Gaze)

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ____________ State ____________ Zip ____________
Phone ____________________________

WHY LISTEN TO HEARSAY? FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF! NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, Sept. 3, 1990
7:00PM Meeting Room B
Main Library–Peabody & McLean

Join The Memphis Gay Coalition

Clip and mail this coupon to: MGC, P.O. Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038
You Don't Have to be an Emotional Victim

by Becky Caperton

At work, Jill, a successful copyrighter, acts with competence and authority. In private life, however, when interacting with her mate, she becomes dependent, self-effacing, and demands nothing less than total commitment. Jill's pattern: she becomes involved with dominant, aggressive, self-absorbed women and the empathy that Michael desires. This type of woman will never provide Jill with the kind of commitment she wants. Each feels empty, disappointed, betrayed.

Jill, Tim, John and Michael differ and demands nothing less than toW sympathy and support. In real life, we are not the type of woman that affects their entire way of life. They wonder, "Why did THEY do it?" and lack the realization that they can change. They are emotional victims, doomed to an experience of continual pain, suffering, anguish.

It is to this serious subject of victim, rather than to the victims of crime, abuse, and misfortune, that I address this column. In the next several issues, we will take up the everyday problems of essentially normal people, which most of us are, and show how to deal with these problems in life through new psychological techniques. Do you let your victim-promises limit your life or your potential and often destroy you as a person? Do you suffer when you don't have to? The goals of this column are to teach you that you don't have to be a victim and how to accomplish your own devictimization.

The Help Page

Now You Can Designate Your United Way Contribution to ATEAC

This year United Way is allowing donors to designate all or part of their contributions to any non-profit organization—even agencies not among United Way's 58 member agencies.

To designate your pledge, ask your company's United Way coordinator for a "designation card", fill it out, and return it. Remember, you must ask for the card specifically.

A Public Service of Gaze

Insurance Topic of September Gay Rap

The Memphis Gay Coalition will sponsor its monthly GayRap on Monday, Sept. 17 at the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 1291 Madison, at 7 PM. The program topic is "Health and Disability Insurance for the Gay and Lesbian community." Charles Butler, CFP, will facilitate the discussion. Charles has specialized in financial and tax planning for the Gay and Lesbian community since 1984. Free information on topics of concern to the Gay and Lesbian community will be provided by IDS/American Express. Plan to come and share your opinions and concerns.

Benefit Patrons Aid Lady Vic

by Renee Greene

A benefit to help Victoria/Victoria was staged at Barbara's on Aug. 17. Lady Vic was injured a few weeks ago, resulting in a broken bone in her foot, and a cast up to the thigh. Unfortunately, we will not be seeing much of her for a few months... on stage, that is. This show was not just for her friends to participate in; it was open to anyone who possessed the compassion to help a fallen peer. The girls in this show deserve a special round of applause and should take great pride that they were there for a person in need.

Vic would like to express his deepest thanks to all the girls—Billie Jo Casino, Crystal Jo Jennings, Loretta, Renee Greene, Mattie Mae, Grammy Webber, Mill and Sweet Thang, Big Mary, Misty Wright, Lawzum, and Miss Taria. And thanks to all those who so generously donated time and money to make this happen.

This show raised over $300 to help pay his living expenses while recuperating. It was a good start, but he still needs all the help we can give him. Anyone interested in helping can contact Loretta for information. They say she is accepting cards, flowers, gifts, cash, food stamps...

What if it were you???
Kiss This

Wednesday, August 8, 7:00 pm, the Mid-South Coliseum. Heavy metal fans abound. More leather outfits, long wigs, and make-up are present here than a Saturday night at both The Pipeline and Reflections Showbar. There's an electricity in the air as the crowd prepares to see a legendary Rock And Roll Band. Kiss is in town tonight! The show is complemented by not just one, but two warm-up bands: Slaughter and Danger-Danger. The crowd outside is eagerly anticipating the event, a great many wonder aloud as to what the stage setting is. Word is it's full of cat-walks, lasers, pyro-technical devices, smoke, explosions, and the like, and perhaps the most unique background ever - a sphynx wearing shades.

Crystal Jo Jennings (left) and Hetti McDaniel relaxing after the Slaughter/Danger-Danger and Kiss Concert during which they made a cameo appearance on stage.

7:30 pm - Slaughter takes the stage and begins this jam-fest. A few moments into the show, two "fans" appear on stage. However did these two gorgeous red-heads get up there past the security guards? It matters not how, they're all over the stage; while one is hugging Dana Strum by the keyboards the other seems to be conversing with vocalist Mark Slaughter center-stage, then it's back to visit Blas Elias the group's drummer. Meanwhile, the band keeps playing their metal-hit "Up All Night" not missing a beat. Eventually somebody comes out and escorts the leather-clad lovelies off the stage, but not out of the coliseum. Instead of being ejected they are shown to a couple seats in the front row, where they can enjoy the rest of the show.

It proves to be an excellent concert, in spite of the city council's censorship statute. Fans were treated to an evening overflowing with sights and sounds, possibly one of the best Kiss concerts ever seen.

What, you may ask, of the two sexy young ladies who inspired this story? Several spectators approached them to get the scoop even before the show has ended. And is it a scoop!!! For these "girls" names are Hetti McDaniel and Crystal Jo Jennings and they were hired by none other than Kiss bandmembers to make their appearance that night as part of an inside game between the hard rocking groups. The girls are quite adept at appearing before audiences, after all, these guys are two of the hottest female impersonators in the Mid-South. As for them, they declare, "We had a fantastic time here tonight, everybody was so nice to us. It was truly a thrill appearing on that stage before such a huge diverse audience, and we can hardly wait to come back!" Yes, the word is that this is just the first of many such appearances for Crystal and Hetti at such events. On behalf of the girls we would like to thank all the guys for a great show. —Renee Greene
Quick Clips

No soapbox this month, there’s just too much going on.

We Told You So Department

Our psychic sources being correct once again, the Wagettes did indeed have a benefit at Barbara’s the last part of July. $1445.25 was donated to ATEAC.

Billie Jo Casino did indeed have her awards the first weekend in August, without informing us, therefore she has no beef whatsoever over this goes round. We were occupied in St. Louis with two gentlemen friends of ours at the time anyway. Yah. Fortunately, Renee Greene was present and has kindly covered the event for the newspaper on another page.

Billie Jo will be honored at a benefit show on her behalf on Sept. 9 at WKRB. This will probably be a large gathering of entertainers ranging from back then to right now.

Yet another event of which we were not informed was the benefit for Lady Vic held at Barbara’s in mid August. An unfortunate accident has caused her to be presently unable to work, so many of her friends gathered to aid her in her distress. Thanks again to Miss Greene for covering this, haven’t we been pleading for assistance from the glitter segment for years now? Her stories are in the local news section, after all, is designated space.

Speaking of benefits, a benefit for Multiple Sclerosis was held in the heat of the afternoon at Chaps on August 26. $700 was raised that afternoon and we know more than one Gay saloon which is participating in the Ugliest Bartender contest. Billy Bullinser took the plunge into the world of S & M (Sequins and Mascara) for the first time and Lady Vic MC’d from a wheelchair. Our own come first but Gays and Lesbians have huge hearts and open pocket books for mainstream charities too.

Apropos, that same evening, held their Camp and Variety show at WKRB. A donation from their over $700 raised will be made to ATEAC’s Patient Assistance Fund. It turns out that the Rocky Horror Show benefit was the most fun and best attended show of the entire run. Things happened that night onstage and in the audience that happened neither before or since and the cast had more fun than the audience. A tasteful arm bouquet was presented to the company on behalf of ATEAC and was accepted by Mark Chambers (aka Dr. Frank-N- Furger, aka Honna Rinz-Hollman). They praised this ($2742) and the Playhouse Care benefit ($1384) financed patient services at ATEAC for more than one month.

Party Girl Department

We missed the Luau at the Pipeline due to sensibility but we enjoyed the revolving palm tree motif later that evening. We were told that it was an immense success and have seen a very Maplethorpe-esque photograph of the pig used (?) during the festivities. We cannot, out of deference, describe it but it should be viewed.

We missed Tsarush Trash Day at the Pipeline due to a mixup about the time. We imagine it was successful as a fundraiser, we haven’t heard, but we did hear it was enjoyed by those who attended.

However! We made it our business to attend the Night of a Thousand Whores party, after all, it was on a Tuesday and we didn’t have to work. The estimate of 1000 whores was liberal but we were assured there were at least 200. Plus one old broad who spent the evening with Scriptures in hand, thumbing and being scandalized the entire time. One decent Christian woman provided the necessary exception to the rule. We witnessed no virgins nor sacrifices, just a lot of insipid grins on the faces of otherwise handsome young men, who for some reason had yard goods hanging out of these same insipid grins. We are cognizant regarding these new practices among the youth of today but remain perplexed all the same. Good taste has nothing to do with being a TOQ so you may shut up, Claire, before you even think what you are about to say.

Music of the Night Department

So we did see Phantom of the Opera. So get over it.

We ventured forth a couple of weekends ago to scope out a new bar of which we had heard only rumours. We found Diva’s to be a most pleasant and surprising place. Mimi, the owner, boasts with pride about the three dance floors, three bars and convenience facilities (there are never enough powder rooms and this place has six!). The entry is a split level with the main dance floor in the back, surrounded by reflective surfaces using much colored lighting throughout. The nice surprise is the rear section, a low-noise room complete with dance floor and large bar, which is intended for socializing and conversation. There is a kitchen available and Mimi has lots of plans for making community services available to her patrons, such as AIDS outreach. She expects a large black clientele but wishes to encourage a wide variety of people. This is also a showbar, the cast includes many guests, this particular night we ran into Sharrina Whiteside and Tina Templeton, both performers known to us as of the highest calibre.

We returned to Madison Avenue to catch the appearance of Miss Black Gay America at the Apartment. It was our first experience of a show at this location, though we had visited this enormous disco several times previously. The staff and MC’s certainly know how to enjoy themselves behind the microphone. The stage at the Apartment has a beautiful broken mirrored backdrop and there is plenty of space for large dance numbers as well as room for performers to get close to the audience.

We have not yet substantiated any rumours concerning Frank Cooper’s new location-to-be. We are looking forward to seeing it and attending (we still love grand openings).

That Time of Year Again Department

Do real leathermen and women wear all that stuff in Memphis in September? You bet your sweet bippy. It is once again time for the Gays Club Flight 6 run which will take place Labor Day weekend. Many events will take place, the centerpiece being the Mr. Southern Leather Contest to be held at Chaps on Sept. 1 at 10 PM. Later in September is Tsarush’s Aida 13 run Sept. 21, 22, and 23. This is an outdoor, out-of-town run, though this club provides a bunkhouse for those who prefer that to roughing it in tents and caravans. It is advertised as a fun and unusual weekend in the country. Information and applications can be obtained at the Pipeline and at Men of Leather.

Lest we forget, congratulations to Vance Reger, Mr. Great Plains Drummer 1990 (two titles—check those shoulders).

Woman on the Street Department

The Pipeline will have a Flashlight Night on Friday, Sept. 14. There will be no lights burning throughout most of the bar and a flashlight will be included with the cover charge. There will also be drink specials. They are anticipating another big benefit affair on Halloween.

WKRB will host Connie, Cheryl and Lisa on Sept. 7 as well as the Billie Jo Casino benefit on Sept 9.

The Apartment will have a special show featuring, among others, Tenisha Cassidin, Wendy Rachelle and Charrell Vestura on Sunday, Sept. 9.

A wake is planned for Sept. 8 to celebrate a notorious local Lesbian mansion’s 40th birthday. Film at 11.

Diva’s will hold its first Miss Diva pageant on Saturday, Sept. 22.

Thanks to all the boys and girls from Homerville for giving Gay Memphis a lesson in creative benediction.

What a sweet notion! Renee Greene also tells us that Lorretta and Company is becoming a very popular show. As if Lorretta herself could possibly be more popular.

Do not forget to put the upcoming production of The Normal Heart on your calendar. Performances are Oct. 4, 5 and 6 at 8 PM and Oct. 7 at 2:30 PM. All doors proceed go to the ATEAC PWA Assistance Fund. This is true Gay community theatre, the first production of this play in Memphis.

Inevitable Parting Shots Department

And please, please, remember your ID. Please make sure it is legitimate and unquestionable. We will all have a better evening because of it.

Ta ta, Lady A.

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(This is not a dating service or a phone sex line.)
George Wilson—His Friends Remember

Compiled by Vincent Astor

I promised you last month that you would hear a few stories about the late George Wilson, from some of his friends. Space is short this month, even with a larger paper, so this will be the first installment of the best I have gathered.

B. J. Hefner: B. J. remembers a time when many people traveled regularly to New Orleans. Mobile and Biloxi for Mardi Gras and Krewe related events, particularly the New Orleans Krewe of Apollo. (Memphis had a chapter of this Krewe for awhile.) She remembers a stop on the way at a Holiday Inn. It was late, and there seemed to be locating patrons at the motel, so the travelers wondered if they could get a room. George handled the situation by making a remark about "Uncle Kemmons" to aperson on the front desk and how he would not be happy if this group could not be accommodated. His identification showing him to be George Wilson produced a flurry of bowing and scraping. The Holiday Inn (not in a large city, of course) had not seen its opening, plus an elegant suite for the travelers. It just so happens that the founder and president, at the time, of Holiday Inns was named Kemmons. No relation whatever, of course.

Charlie Brown: Charlie briefly alludes to a time in years past when most of the Gay socializing in Overton Park took place in a man's rent room located adjacent to Rainbow Lake (actually a water bearing lake at this time). The original facility was neither cosmetic nor hygienic—real dump. George at one point had a Jactricc fit and hung tasteful curtains in the bathroom to make it more pleasant and homey. It is not remembered how long they lasted.

Spencer: Spencer tells perhaps the most famous story of all. George and Spencer were traveling to see friends who had a place deep in the country—the kind of place where you have to mark the driveway to tell it apart from the other 999 dirt driveways on the same road. These friends decided to mark the driveway with a blowup of the notorious photograph of Marilyn Missfit which became a postcard and an icon of George's. (This is the same poster which hung in the hall at GDI.) Not only was Marilyn officially on the streetcorner but the local town newspaper (Richmond, IN) took notice. In the "Who's Visiting Who'-column, without which no small country town newspaper is complete, there was an account of the out of town visitors which included a very flattering description of Marilyn and an icon of "Uncle Kemmons". It was, after all, July 4. George was very astonished at the time and it became one of his own very favorite stories.

Carolyn Marbury: Carolyn remembers two episodes both typical and humorous. There was a weekend excursion to Sarids lake, and several tents were set up on a small island near the main beach. George set up a fortune telling tent with himself, in costume, as the gypsy fortune teller. Many of the curious sought out the beautiful blonde gypsy and Marilyn told a bunch of people's fortunes, many of them said to be young and handsome.

At one time, George was very fond of a Thunderbird, which he had traveled all the way to Corinth, MS, to buy. One fine evening he was joyriding and sippin' in Riverside Park, a favorite haunt of his. He returned home very late bearing a live duck from the lake in his arms and one of those yellow or orange street corner sign heads—a Mother Goose. The new pet was discovered to be not a duck but a goose. During the time it lived in Carolyn's back yard (several days) it put the entire household in terror of its life. It had begun by destroying every piece of upholstery in the Thunderbird in a most bird-like manner. Since this was not feasible, the household decided that they needed to smuggle the goose back into the park by means of the same Thunderbird. This was finally accomplished along with a hasty getaway.

George Wilson-His Friends Remember

B. J. Hefner:

The founder and true of closeted Gay whites entering towns which included a very astonished at the time and it got away.

It was, after all, July 4. George was very astonished at the time and it became one of his own very favorite stories.

Carolyn Marbury:

When asked to produce one, he refused stating that he was over 21 and looked it. Since the bar has a policy and the state a law which requires an acceptable ID for admission, the doorman refuses the person admission. Is the doorman discriminating? Yes, but legally. If the prospective patron engages in a conversation with the doorman, could he be considered a troublemaker and barred from admission? Yes, legally.

Consider a second example: This same 30-year-old person approaches the bar for admission. He has only a driver's license, a library card, and an employee ID. According to the bar's policies of three picture ID's, he would not be admitted. Fair? No. Discriminatory? Only if the bar admits others on one or two ID's of equal validity. The trigger seems to be not the bar's policy, but its application of the policy. If the prospective patron was a person of color and a pattern of discrimination could be proved against other people of color, a public accommodation discrimination lawsuit could be filed since racial minorities are protected under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Incidentally, a bar which posts a "We reserve the right to refuse anyone service" sign would not stand a chance against provable discrimination.

A further problem may be cultural. It may be true that Blacks have fewer of the "acceptable" ID's than white or that they are reluctant to carry or produce them. This is just as true of closeted Gay whites entering a bar for the first time.

What is needed to eliminate the ID problem is a consensus among all establishments requiring ID's as to what those ID's should be. Furthermore, these "acceptable" ID's should be communicated to the public in a form of a sign at the entrance, and ALL patrons should be required to show them. Until this happens, no one will be immune from charges of racism or discrimination—real or imagined.

Source/Symptom

continued from page 2

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The majority of regular patrons will not allow an outside group to dictate how to run their bars. (In all fairness, we know nothing about running a bar. It is their livelihood and—good or bad, right or wrong—most of them have been doing it successfully for years.) And finally, if something happens in their bars, it's the bar owners' home, business, and personal property that stands to be lost, not ours.

We believe the problem has to be attacked at the source, the patrons themselves. Discrimination in the bars will end only when our individual prejudice and bigotry ends. When a majority of regular patrons express dissatisfaction with patrons, that policy will change. When the majority of regular patrons are outraged at the discrimination being practiced at the door that they get up en masse and leave in disgust, then the bar policy will change.

And we, as a group of concerned citizens, can't accomplish that until we start working together. When individual groups can stop sniping at one another, when we can start talking civilly to one another, when we can start listening to one another, and when we can break down the barriers that exist between our groups, then we can work at working together—in cooperation—not one or two groups trying to dictate the actions of all the other groups. And we've got to agree to disagree and still find a common ground.

When we can do that among ourselves, then we can attack the problem of the bigoted bar patrons. When we resolve the problem of the bar patrons, there will be no need for bar owners to discriminate. If the regular patrons disapprove of it, it won't stand for it, the bar owners simply won't do it.
Bray Retaliation:

To Whom It May Concern:

It has recently come to my attention that some one(s) of the community consider me to be a “power hungry bitch”. It is no surprise to me, as the perpetrator(s), seeing as that they do not have the guts to call me this face to face.

I would like to say to them, when was the last time you got up on a cold winter, or hot summer day to act as an escort and support for women in their struggle to control their own bodies. When was the last time you took your lunch hour to appear before a group of college administrators as an openly Gay man, in the hope that the silence perpetrated against our people.

I personally shut out my frustrations and fears.

Rick G. Bray

Project Inform Praised

Project Inform, a San Francisco based organization, was my personal tug to help me float out the storm of finding out I was HIV positive. Being in denial of declining health, I had learned nothing about AIDS. Whenever it was mentioned, I shut down. Finding myself uninformed and totally ignorant of the disease, I read anything I could find—most notably outdated literature. My support group, mostly medical personnel, talked in clinical terms I did not know. Finally a patient in the local hospital I was visiting gave me Project Inform’s phone number.

I called Project Inform and they helped me to become my own advocate. I feel confident in my doctor’s recommended treatment (not misrepresentations in PI literature). Education of myself has cut through the lies and bullshit that ignorance creates, thus lowering my immune system further.

Thanks Project Inform!

Name Withheld by Request

The Gay 90’s Have Returned

Here is an article I thought you might be able to use regarding my impression of the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade in San Francisco 1990.

This was the 20th anniversary of the parade. It seemed fitting that since I have been out of the closet exactly the same amount of time, that I attend. I will always be glad that I did.

The parade was to start at 10:00. I was there by 7:30 and already the crowd was gathering and continued to swell as same sex couples walked up hand in hand. The numbers eventually reached an estimated 300,000. Standing where I was, I quickly met people from Denver, Houston, Boston, and Birmingham. The whole air was upbeat and full of anticipation. Sharing the curb with me were another grand mother, Rose and grandchildren, Mollie and Nathan. Rose said,”the kids just love the Gay and Lesbian parade—even better than the Shriners.”

Marching to a song that heralded a new climate of defiance and resilience—the “Future Is Ours”—the four hour parade was draped in festive optimism. Literally started with a huge ZZGOGOMMM as tradition dictates, the procession is led by the Women’s Motorcycle Contingency (better known as “Dykes On Bikes”). There were some two hundred 200 riders with some of the biggest, brightest, and most chrome laden cycles I have ever seen. They were driven by “Motorcycle Ma- mas” resplendent in outfits of chains and leather. On the passenger seats of many were beautiful “Lipstick Lesbians”, some of whom were wearing more than garter belts and heels. In the next group were the “Dykes With Their Tykes On Trikes” and then alone woman on her bicycle with a sign that said, “Menopause Cycle.” What a way to start a parade!

It was just starting but let me tell you that Pine Bluff would have to go some to top this.

The honorary Grand Marshalls were two women and a man who recently were ordained as the first openly Gay and Lesbian ministers of the Lutheran Church. Their individual churches may now face expulsion from their governing body. The 350 or so entries in the parade ranged from high camp to ridiculous to outrageous to deeply touching and poignant. There were Gay Cloggers, groups of Gay and Lesbian Hispanics, Asians, Chinese, a large number of Gay Mormons (“Bet You Thought All Mormon Men Were Straight”), and a group called “Clean and Sober” (“We Never Remember Who We Date”). A deaf group signed “I Love You” as they walked by.

Mayor Art Agnos was there as were various elected officials and candidates. Tom Amminio, comic and openly Gay teacher (“That’s Mr. Faggot To You, Kid”), rode in an open car proclaiming his candidacy to the school board. There were Gay and Lesbian judges and people who had been appointed to various positions in state and city government by the current administration. Health care givers (“I Am A Gay Doctor” or “I Am A Gay Nurse”) walked with their charges, “People with AIDS.” Some were pushed in wheel chairs. ACT UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) were highly visible in their T-Shirts of “SILENCE = DEATH.”

PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support) were there with their animals. Gay and Lesbian veterans were there and part of The Quilt was carried along with signs of “We Will Remember.” A bisexual group proclaimed: “We Are Not Fence Sitters, We Are Bridge Builders” and the Gay Runners’ Banners said, “Run, Run, There Is A Sale At Macy’s.” There was something called “Dykes From Hell” whose purpose I did not catch but I could see right off that I probably would not be welcomed at their meeting. It was hard to miss the Gay and Lesbian punks with their spiked hair of pink and teal. Topless women and bare-bunned men were everywhere.

One of the more elaborate floats was a giant aquamarine peacock with gold fluttering wings. On top of this were perched “Empress Marlena” and “Emperor Simon.” Marlena, with her Texas sized hair, was some inches taller than Simon and outweighed him by 50 pounds. There was a visible paunch under the blue sequin gown. It was now high noon and her five o’clock shadow was beginning to show through the Mary Kay make-up. You know what they say—“Drag is NOT a summer sport.”

There were frequently wry social commentaries. A man slathered in pink neon paint carried a huge cross with some writing on it: “The Future Can Be a Better Place.” A huge truck filled with male and female body builders went by.

One of the largest crowd pleasers were the “Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence” led by Sister Boom Boom. Rose said the Sisters were a particular favorite of Mollie and Nathan. Two skaters moved through the melee. One, a bride proclaiming: “Only Six More Days To Become A June Bride”, and the other, a bridesmaid whose banner said, “Dip Me In Chocolate And Feed Me To The Lesbians.”

A cable car carried a group of elderly Gays and Lesbians. There were mounted cowboys (“If You Can Rope Me, You Can Ride Me” and “Real Cowboys Do Not Collect Fiesta Ware”). Parents of Gays and Lesbians marched under the messages: “We Love Our Gay Children” and “If You Are Single, Would You Like To Meet My Lesbian Daughter?” There were Gay grandparents with their grandchildren. Two men pushed a baby stroller, one carrying a diaper bag stating: “Our Son Was Born On Gay Pride Day 1989.”

One could not help but marvel at the diversity of the Gay and Lesbian community and its straight supporters. Maybe when little Nathan and Mollie grow up the “Future Can Indeed Be Ours.”

Jim Norcross
Little Rock
ACLU Supports Gay and Lesbian Rights

by Julie Berbiglia, Administrative Assistant, ACLU of Tennessee

While staffing the ACLU of Tennessee booth at the Lesbian and Gay Pride Rally in Nashville this year, I had several people ask me what ACLU has done in the area of Gay and Lesbian rights. I would like to take this opportunity to re-introduce the ACLU to the Gay and Lesbian community of Tennessee and ask for your support in our continued efforts to protect the privacy rights of all individuals.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is the nation’s foremost advocate of individual rights—litigating, legislating, and educating the public on a broad array of issues affecting individual freedom in the United States. The mission of the ACLU is to protect and defend the rights of the people that are guaranteed in the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the constitutions of the various states. The ACLU strives to extend these rights to include those who have traditionally been denied these rights.

Time and time again, the ACLU has stood alone as the only non-Gay organization speaking up in a strong, clear voice for the civil rights of Lesbians and Gay men. ACLU national board policy holds that “homosexuals are entitled to the same rights, liberties, lack of harassment, and protections as are other citizens.” In 1986, the ACLU became the first non-Gay civil rights organization to endorse full domestic partnership rights for all individuals.

The ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project initiates litigation and educational projects from the organization’s national headquarters. The Project acts as a resource center for dozens of precedent-setting Gay and Lesbian rights cases handled by ACLU affiliates around the country. The Hardwick case, challenging state sodomy laws, was developed and litigated by the ACLU of Georgia.

The national AIDS Task Force facilitates the development of legal strategies and the exchange of information among ACLU lawyers working nationwide on some of the country’s most significant AIDS discrimination cases. ACLU policy supports voluntary and anonymous HIV testing, confidentiality of medical records, and the inclusion of HIV status in anti-discrimination laws. We oppose all compulsory testing, screening, segregation, and reporting of names of individuals based on HIV status.

The ACLU of Tennessee has a strong history of protecting Lesbian and Gay rights through our lobbying, litigation, and education programs. We drafted legislation and spearheaded lobbying efforts to include AIDS/HIV status under Tennessee’s anti-discrimination laws. In the 1988 legislative session, the ACLU successfully opposed legislation that mandated AIDS testing and reporting of HIV+ status. Our national offices and local affiliates supported the federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

In 1982 we successfully supported the right of the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga Students for Gay Awareness to obtain the status as a student campus group and to share in the resources available to all other such organizations. The ACLU worked extensively with the Privacy Project of National ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, Tennessee N.O.W. and other groups to organize the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Task Force (TGLTF). The Gay Advocacy Project, formed in 1981, was organized by the ACLU and the Memphis Gay Coalition to inform Gay men and Lesbians of their rights during arrest. We continue to work closely with the Tennessee Gay and Lesbian Alliance (TGALA).

In 1988 the ACLU of Tennessee organized a statewide hotline for reporting incidents of Gay and Lesbian discrimination and harassment. Our telephone intake staff and volunteers provide support, advice, and referrals to Lesbians and Gay men across Tennessee who experience discrimination in employment, housing, treatment by law enforcement, healthcare, and other areas of civil liberties.

ACLU of Tennessee staff and volunteers speak out at schools, churches and synagogues, public meetings, legislative hearings, and to the broadcast and print media about the need to protect and expand Lesbian and Gay rights.

For more information about the ACLU of Tennessee, please contact us at P.O. Box 120160, Nashville, TN 37212. For information and referrals concerning civil liberties issues, call (615) 320-7142.
Memphis’ First Feminist Bookstore to Open in September

Imagine a place in Memphis where you can find the latest women’s newspaper, or the new CD by your favorite Olivia Newton-John. Imagine a place where you can browse through great fiction while you sip tea with your friends on a rainy Saturday afternoon while your kids play happily nearby. Imagine a place where you can find just the right present for your best friend’s birthday without having to wait two weeks for a catalog.

Sound too good to be true? Well, our dreams are about to become reality. Meristem*, Memphis’ first feminist bookstore, will open September 15 at 930 South Cooper in the Cooper-Young district. Meristem will stock the very best in books by, for, and about women, as well as music, crafts, and jewelry.

Meristem, whose motto is “Books & more for women & their friends,” will have a large Lesbian and Gay section and a large selection of materials about women of color. It will have women’s herstory and biography, as well as loads of fiction. Looking for some ms studies, feminist or escape reading? Meristem will have those, too. Meristem will also have a special children’s section which will specialize in non-sexist, non-racist, non-homophobic children’s books. And, the section will be stocked with toys so kids can play and read while parents shop.

Meristem will also have a special section on recovery, humor, parenting, health, AIDS, politics, ecology, feminist theory, and spirituality. Other topics will include older women, women and the arts, and sex and body image. In addition, the store will stock journals, magazines, and newspapers, as well as information about concerts, organizations, and upcoming events.

And, of course, Meristem will be bringing you the finest in women’s music, in live concerts and on tape and CD. Two fine musicians from the women’s music festival circuit, Jamie Anderson and Mimi Bacewiczka, are already scheduled to perform at the store in October. In addition to stocking books and music, Meristem plans to showcase women’s talent in the visual arts such as painting, sculpture, photography, etc. Meristem will also have an ongoing collection of beautiful handcrafted jewelry for sale, as well as periodic art shows by local artists.

And, the store will also stock some crystals and magic items for ritual and pleasure.

Meristem is made possible through generous contributions of time, money, energy, and expertise from many community volunteers. Some women have built bookshelves or loaned furniture; others have designed or built or painted or provided legal or financial advice. Still other folks have provided enthusiastic support through the many months it has taken to see this store move from a fantasy to a reality. Store owners Vickie Scarborough and Audrey May would like to thank all the women and men whose enthusiasm, hard work, and vision have made Meristem a reality. The owners would also like to thank Southern Wild Sisters in Gulfport and the staff of the other women’s bookstores throughout the U.S. who provided advice and inspiration.

Meristem will officially open its doors for business on Saturday, Sept. 15 for the Cooper-Young Festival. Store hours will be Wednesday through Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 1 to 5 PM. See you there!

* The “meristem” cells of a plant carry the plant’s memory, so that when a cutting is made, it remembers what type of plant it is. Thus, a coleus plant will always create more coleus cells, no matter how many times it is cut. This is similar to women’s ability to pass on women’s culture from generation to generation and to “keep on keeping on” no matter how many times we are cut off at the root. In this way, the name “Meristem” symbolizes our faith in the ability of women to endure and pass on our collective knowledge and experience, generation after generation.

All My Relations

by Kerel Ard

As this world continues to evolve, people are reconnecting, or connecting for the first time, with Mother Earth. On this Land, the Turtle Island (America), there has always been a people who are the true children of that connection. The people, as we native Americans call ourselves, have many gifts to the white-skinned strangers—gifts of food, medicine, skills, and friendship. To the people of black skin that brought us here that we opened our homes as sanctuary and made them part of our tribes.

Much has changed during the last three hundred years. There has been much pain, suffering, and death among the races. Hate and prejudice have taken over the hearts of many people of all colors. Yet the gifts still flow through us. Now that the strangers to this land have ingested the spirit of Turtle Island for several generations, through the food and water the land provides, some have begun to look to the people as teachers and guides in touching the earth and their own souls.

Gay and Lesbian native Americans have a very special place in this flow of gifts. Randy Burr, of the Northern Paiute tribe is current of Gay American Indians, Inc. In his preface to the book Living the Spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology he said:

“Who the U.S. Supreme Court cited millennia of moral teaching in support of Georgia’s sodomy law and the Vatican declared homosexuality intrinsically evil, they must not have been thinking of American history and American morals. Because, throughout America for centuries before and after the arrival of Europeans, Gay and Lesbian American Indians were recognized and valued members of tribal communities. As Maurice Kenny declares, 'We were special'... Gay American Indians were a part of all these communities. We lived openly in our tribes. Our families and communities recognized us and encouraged us to develop our skills. In turn, we made special contributions to our communities... At the same time, Gay American Indians face double oppression—both racism and homophobia... Members of our community, some who are pimpsellers themselves, have been excluded from Sun Dances... On reservations, Gay and Lesbian Indians face rejection and harassment. This is not surprising, however, considering the efforts of Indian agents, missionaries, and boarding schools to suppress all forms of traditional Indian culture. Many Indian people have been taught to be ashamed of such roles as the bentlady (Gaymale), Indian leaders, even traditionalists, have adopted the attributes of the American Indian deserts. Let us come together and reclaim what is our birthright. If you are interested call (901) 432-2860

Training, Ho Mitakuye Oyasin.
Gay man, coming to us from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Agape New Life Church calls new head pastor.

He is John Wayne Tolley, a 41 year old head pastor, to be officially starting on Sunday, Sept. 2. He is John Wayne Tolley, a 41-year-old Gay man, coming to us from Fort Wayne, Indiana.

He brings with him an impressive list of credentials: He is a PhD Candidate at New York University in the school of Education; He has a Masters of Ministry in Religious Communication from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana; and a BA in English Literature and Art History from Indiana Central College. For the last sixteen years John has served as the Minister of Drama at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Now life has brought him to Memphis, a change with which John is pleased, for it affords him the opportunity to bring his talents for special ministries to the Gay and Lesbian community here. Brother Tolley states that his desire is to serve a congregation that is interested in building a faith community where people with spiritual concerns can reclaim their heritage as children of God. So many in our community have been pushed away from this heritage by the heterosexual dominated mainstream church where the power of homophobia all too often takes hold. Together with our congregation, John is anxious to welcome anyone who wishes to "come home." Under his new leadership he envisions Agape New Life Church to become even more of a Christian community in the reformed tradition with a strong ecumenical outreach.

From his visits earlier this year, John came to see two standards which characterize the Agape New Life congregation. These are reaching out to those in need and the healing of parishioners who feel disenfranchised by contemporary religious institutions. Brother Tolley is eager to continue and expand this outreach and spiritual healing, by a three pronged method: "Proclamation", "Education", and "Evangelism" through which the healing of both the individual and community can take place.

Sunday, September 16th, there will be a special welcome Pot Luck Dinner honoring Brother John Tolley. We will worship at 11:00 AM followed by the dinner at 12:00 noon at 405 N. Cleveland # 3. All are welcome. For more information call 327-4145, or on Sunday morning 276-1872.

Agape to Hold Bible Sessions

By Bill M. Tracer

Aside from welcoming a new head pastor, there are other big plans in the works for the month of September at Agape New Life Church. Every Wednesday night in September and the first in October at 7:00 pm, there will be five special sessions on the Bible and Homosexuality. We have held similar study sessions in the past, however these discussion oriented meetings include new research, with the material organized more clearly. The topics will be scheduled as follows:

- Sept 5 "The True Story Behind Sodom and Gomorrah"
- Sept 12 "Leviticus Disarmed, (Law of the Old Covenant, Not the Present One)"
- Sept 19 "Orientation: A Question of What Comes Natural to an Individual"
- Oct 3 "Homosexual/Homo-affectional Love Stories in the Bible."
- Nov 7 "The Case of the Most Blatant Mistranslations in All of the Bible"
- Nov 14 "Internalized Homophobia Sunday, Sept 9 at 4:00PM at Diva's located at 492 S. Main. A business meeting will be held on the 16th."

B-GLAD's Activities are listed in the Gay Community Calendar on page 22

Agape New Life Church

405 N. Cleveland, No.3
Memphis, Tennessee
Phone: 276-1872
Bush Signs Landmark AIDS Bill

Washington, DC — Standing in the bright morning sun on the South Lawn of the White House, President George Bush signed landmark legislation July 26 which will protect people with AIDS and HIV from discrimination. The bill, the Americans with Disabilities Act, outlaws discrimination against 43 million Americans with disabilities including people with AIDS — in employment, transportation, public accommodations, such as restaurants, shops, and theaters.

"This is an immensely important day," the President said before signing the bill. Among the guests at the historic bill signing were five representatives of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the largest national Lesbian and Gay political organization.

This marked only the second time in American history that a President has invited openly Lesbian and Gay Americans to the White House for an official ceremony. Earlier this year, President Bush invited several openly Lesbian and Gay Americans to the signing of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act.

The Campaign Fund was a key member of the coalition which supported the bill and mobilized the successful national opposition to efforts that would have excluded HIV-positive food handlers from the bill, HRJCZ lobbyist Karen Friedman, who helped organize the fight to protect the food handlers, was one of the invitees.

Accompanying her was Stephen Welch, a person with HIV disease, who, in a personal meeting with the President and Mrs. Bush late last year, was able to direct the President in the President's need for anti-discrimination protections for people with AIDS and HIV. Among the other openly Gay invited guests was the Reverend Don Eastman, Chair of the AIDS Interfaith Council and an Elder in the Metropolitan Community Church. "Pres. Bush deserves great credit for his leadership in pushing for these protections. His outspoken opposition to discrimination against people with AIDS is sending a clear message that discrimination is wrong," McFeeley said.

The President's invitations to Lesbian and Gay Americans earlier this year caused considerable controversy among members of the Far Right. The White House invited representatives from HRJCZ and other openly Lesbian and Gay Americans has also generated dissent. One conservative was quoted in that the Washington Times saying that the decision to invite HRJCZ to the White House is "further evidence that the Bush Administration gives lip service to social conservatives while making policy decisions in favor of the homosexual lobby.

While not specifically mentioning AIDS or any other disability included in the legislation, the President spoke eloquently of the need to end discrimination of all kinds in the United States. He stated that the Americans with Disabilities Act "brings us closer to the day when no American will be denied their basic right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. ... We must not and will not rest until every American man and woman with a dream has a chance to embrace it."

"We will not accept, we will not excuse, we will not tolerate discrimination in America," the President stated.

ATEAC Slates Buddy Training

The Aid to End AIDS Committee has announced a "buddy" training class for September 21-22, 1990. A "buddy" is an emotional support volunteer for a person with AIDS. ATEAC's buddies are assigned to a client with AIDS or HIV infection on request when available.

According to Rita Underhill, coordinator of the Buddy program, recent increases in the number of ATEAC clients needing a buddy has necessitated more training.

Buddies are requested to spend at least 4 hours each week with their client providing social or practical assistance. Activities can include such things as talking, grocery shopping, taking them to the movies or a restaurant, or whatever. Buddies also provide a liaison with ATEAC in determining other service needs provided by the organization.

A monthly support group for the buddies allows volunteers to interact with other people providing emotional support to ATEAC's clients. "It's important that the buddies have a place to talk about their experiences since they are bound by our rules of confidentiality," said Underhill.

"It takes a special person to be a buddy," she said. "Some people enter the program because they want to help and are overwhelmed by a client's situation. Our training is designed to prepare them with coping skills so that they don't get burned out. It is also important that they know the 'rules of the road' so they don't get too emotionally involved," Underhill stated.

To become an ATEAC buddy, contact Ms. Underhill at 272-0855.

HIV-Infected Person Sues Insurance Company For Bone Marrow Transplant

New York, NY — A man with advanced HIV infection brought suit in July in state court asking for an emergency order to require his insurance company to pay for the treatment that could save his life. The judge will have to determine who should make critical decisions on payment for needed health care, patients and their doctors, or insurance companies.

The lawsuit, filed in New York State Supreme Court by Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, charges the insurer, Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield, with refusing to pay for a bone marrow transplant for Thomas Bradley, in violation of his insurance policy. Empire has refused to pay because it says the procedure is "investigational," even though FDA and New York State's Medicaid Program have approved it. The lawsuit asks the court to immediately order the company to pay for the procedure so Mr. Bradley can get treatment before it is too late.

"Every day that goes by for Mr. Bradley without this operation risks his life," said lead counsel Mark Scherer, a Lambda Cooperating Attorney in private practice in New York City.

"This case presents a key issue for health care in the 90's," said Lambda staff attorney Evan Wolfson. "Who should decide what treatments are to be used, patients and their doctors or insurance companies with built-in conflict of interest? Time and time again, as in our fight with them over the drug AZT, we have seen insurance companies try to avoid having to pay the costs of caring for people with AIDS and helping to stop the progression of HIV illness. We hope the court will act swiftly, not only to save this man's life, but to make it clear that doctors and patients make the decisions, not insurance companies."

Mr. Bradley's doctor stated in sworn court papers that, because Mr. Bradley has a twin for a donor, he is an excellent candidate for the bone marrow transplant, a standard treatment for patients with congenital immune deficiencies. "As an identical twin, Mr. Bradley is fortunate to have a special treatment option. Through a combination of bone marrow transplantation and intensive chemotherapy, he has a reasonable chance of reconstituting his immune system and of setting back his level of HIV infection." Doctors estimate a 90% rate of survival and improvement with this operation.

Stop AIDS Project Gears Up for Fall

Since its inception in late July, the Stop AIDS Project of the Aid to End AIDS Committee has held eight meetings aimed at stopping the transmission of AIDS. An additional six to eight meetings are scheduled from the middle of September through October.

The Stop AIDS program is designed to bring Gay men together in "an experiment in communication," according to potential meeting guests are invited to a small group meeting in someone's home to talk about how AIDS has affected our community; what we, as individuals, can do about safer sex, and that we can do to stop the epidemic.

"The gatherings held in someone's home for two reasons," said Allen Cook, a Stop AIDS group leader. "First, we want to provide a place in which people feel comfortable — many of the participants don't know each other when they arrive. Second, the host can show his commitment to the project by allowing the use of his home."

"Many people expect a really depressing afternoon or evening discussing AIDS," Cook said. "What they get, I think, is the realization that other people feel the same way they do about safer sex, and that there is something each of us can do to stop the transmission of AIDS."

One of the main tenets of the meetings is that while no one of us can stop the epidemic, each of us has the power to prevent the transmission of the virus — from us to others or to us from others.

Volunteers for the Stop AIDS project are recruited from the meetings. "You can't really convince someone else to come to or host a Stop AIDS meeting if you've never attended one," Cook said.

The Project is based on a San Francisco program which is partially credited with reducing the annual infection rate there from 18% to less than 1%. Funding comes from the Tennessee Department of Health and the Memphis AIDS Coalition.

To register for a Stop AIDS meeting, call Allen Cook at 454-1411.
WKRB Presents

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Sunday
September 9, 1990
9:00 PM
$2.00 Donation

All Star Cast
Then & Now

Anyone wishing to perform, call Sharon Wray (278-9321).
All door proceeds & tips will be donated to Billie Jo.
GWF with 9-year-old daughter wants to share house with female. Large home, good East Memphis neighborhood, big kitchen, jacuzzi, and home-cooked meals available. No drugs. 682-7856. Ask for Millie.

2 GWM's, 32 and 35, seeking Ole Miss alumni/students for attending Oxford football games and for sharing tailgate parties. Interested write: K.R., P.O. Box 241181, Memphis, TN 38124.

GWM, 24, 6'3", hh/lbl, 190#. Looking for same, age 19-29. Looking for amasculine type guy for dating; occasional weekends, cuddling, affection. College students welcome. No fats or fums. Write Dept F-9, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

Attractive GWM, 5'7", 130#, seeks same, age 22-38 for relationship with man of good character. Have variety of interests from music to movies to plays to sport to travel. Must show qualities of both aressiveness and submissiveness. I don't like barflies. Must be non-smoker and employed. No stimulants, drugs, or overweights. If you are looking for sincerity, then this ad is for you. Photo requested. Dept. H-9, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38173-0038.

GBM, 23, 5'10", 160#, professional, financially secure, educated/career oriented. Raw passion/freeze/rules/arts. Seeks GWM 19-30 with similar interests for a sincere relationship. Send letter, phone, or photo. Lex. P.O. Box 3229, Memphis, TN 38173-3229 or call (901) 327-5434.

GWM, 22, 160#, 6'1", straight-acting. Seeks same 21-28 years. No fats, drugs, smokers, barflies. Looks brains, talent, conversa-
GW M wanting young white stud, 19-32 years, well-hung, hairy for fun, games who is oral passive. ASU student preferred. (501) 932-7184.

Attractive semi-retired professional, GWM 63, 5’9”/2’, 155, salt-pepper/brown, varied interests, bottom, seeks special man, aggressive, dominant top, 40-55, for fun relationship. Letter, phone, phone to Nick Adams, P.O. Box 2767-Suite 261, Jackson, TN 38302.


Looking for Bobby Sanders who uses to work at the Quik Mart on Wimbledon. This is Hoyt Hancock. Please call (501) 763-7306. I want to see you.

Attractive, sincere, GWM, 21+br/br, 5’,6”, 135# looking for special man 21-7 for lasting relationship. No fats or fish. Write or call Buddy Winders, 193 Hurdle Circle, Holly Springs, MS 38635.

Arkansas-GWM, 26, 5’10, 180, brown/blue, masculine, attractive, discreet, hairy, sensitive small town guy. Enjoys cars, home, outdoors, etc. Want same 20-40 for friendship/relationship. No drugs, bars or games. Hairy a plus. Write A.R., P.O. Box 384, Salem, AR 72756.

Young Professional GWM. New to area. 5’11, 170#, album hair, hazel eyes. Told very cute. Wants to meet GWM’s 18+ for friendship and going out, possible relationship. Call Jeff (901) 324-3869.

GWM Wanting white butch stud 19-32, hairy and well hung for fun and games. ASU student preferred. Call (501) 932-7184.

Mykonos, Ibiza, Rio, Amsterdam, Bangkok, and quiet, romantic evenings at home. If you prefer these to the Memphis bar and drug scene, contact this GWM, 5’11”, 160#, br/bl, cute, 35, at P.O. Box 365 Hamando, MS 38632.

GWM, 41, 5’4”, 154#, sincere, caring, loving, seeks GWM 28-50, for friendship or possible relationship. Strictly on the level.

RESTAURANTS & BARS

Apartment: 343 Madison -525-9491.
Barbara’s: 1474 Madison -278-4313.
Chaps: 111 N. Claybrook -722-8963.
Divas: 492 S. Main -529-9081.
Oop’s: 1349 Autumn -272-1634.
Pipeline: 1382 Poplar -726-5263.
WRK in Memphis: 1258 Madison -278-9321.

ORGANIZATIONS

Conference For Catholic Lesbians: Faith, 324-6949.
Gay Women’s Social Group: Lee, 327-6165.
Holy Trinity Community Church: Box 41648, Memphis, 38174-9443. Worship Service Sundays at MCC, 1291 Madison, 11:00 AM.
Into The Light (Women’s AA): Meets Sundays at noon, Thursday 8 PM at Memphis Lambda Center.
Kinship: Seventh Day Adventist Gay religious group - Box 171135, Memphis 38177-1135 - 934-6165.
Memphis Center for Reproductive Health: 1462 Poplar Ave, Memphis 38104 - 274-3550.
Memphis Gay Coalition (MGC): Box 3038, Memphis 38173-0038 - 324-GAYS.
Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC): 1291 Madison, Memphis 38104, Mailing address: Box 40221, Memphis 38174-0231 - 276-6651.
Memphis Lambda Center: Meeting place for 12-step recovery programs - 241 N. Cleveland (above United Paint Store), Memphis 27-7379.
Memphis State University Students for Gay & Lesbian Awareness (GALA): GALA c/o Office of Greek Affairs, MSU 38152.
Minority Prison Project (MPP): For information: John Prowett, 1526 Court Street, Memphis 38104.
Mr. Kreee Wurffh of Audiohraphy: Box 3462, Memphis 38102.
Names Project Memphis: Box 34576, Memphis 38184-0576 - 725-0371.
Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG): Box 172031, Memphis 38187-2031 - 761-1444.
Positive Mental Attitude Association, Inc: 28N. Claybrook, 1 Memphis, 38104-276-PMAA.
Transsexuals in Prison (TIP): For information: John Prowett, 1526 Court, Memphis 38104.
Taurus: Leather-Levi club - Box 41082, Memphis 38174-1082.
Wings: Leather-Levi club - Box 31784, Memphis 38174-1784.
Women of Leather: 181 N. Willett, Memphis 38104 - 278-9221.

HELPLINES

Gay Switchboard: 324-GAYS - 7:30-11pm.
LINC: 725-8895.
Narcotics Anonymous: 276-LIVE.
Rape Crisis: 526-2161.
Suicide Crisis Center: 274-7477.
Transvestite-Transexual National Hotline: 206-623-1549 24 hr.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Counseling
Becky Caperton, MS: Counseling - 726-0815.
Beth Causey, M.Div.: Pastoral counseling - 454-0108.
Bob Hughes, MS: Counseling, Codependency/ACOA, Wholistic Healthcare Services, 5583 Murray Road, Memphis 38119 - 763-6351.
Kim A. Moss MS: Midtown Counseling Service, 1835 Union, Suite 101, Memphis 38104 - (901) 726-4586.
Carole Taylor, MS: Counseling - 324-2954.
Northeast Mental Health Center: 382-3880.

Legal
Wayne C. Gallup, Attorney At Law: 208 S. Heard Street, Senatobia, MS 38668 - (601) 562-8738.
Susan Mackenzie, Attorney At Law: 100 N. Main, Suite 3310, Memphis 38103 - (901) 525-0417.
Jocelyn D. Wurzburg, Attorney At Law: 1903 Lincoln America Tower, 60 North Mid-America Mall, Memphis 38103 - (901) 527-3795.

MISCELLANEOUS

Airport Bookmark: 2214 Brooks Rd E - 345-0657.
Cherokee Adult Bookstore: 2947 Lamar - 744-7494.
Fantasy World: 1814 Winchester - 346-2086.
Getwell Adult Bookstore: 1617 Getwell - 745-9054.
Meristem: Feminist Bookstore - 930 South Cooper - 276-0822.
Paris Adult Entertainment Center: 2432 Summer - 323-2665.

GAZE IS ALSO DISTRIBUTED AT THESE BUSINESSES

Star Search Video: 1264 Madison - 272-STAR.

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.
Gaze: Monthly newspaper published by the Memphis Gay Coalition - Box 3038, Memphis 38173-0038 - 454-1411.
The Personal: Gay computer bulletin board - 300 or 1200 baud - 274-6713. (You must have a computer and modem to access this service).
Two's Company: Gay computer bulletin board and computer support. "Handles" accepted. 1200/2400 baud, 726-4073.

23-Gaze-September 1990
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