Falwell's at It Again!

By David Reed
Associated Press Writer

ROANOKE, Va. (AP) — The Rev. Jerry Falwell's newspaper, which previously claimed that a popular Teletubbies character is a Gay role model, now asserts that the all-female Lilith Fair concert tour is named for a demon.

"Many young people no doubt attend the Lilith Fair concerts not knowing the demonic legend of the mystical woman whose name the series manifests," says the "Parents Alert" column in the June issue of National Liberty Journal.

According to ancient Jewish literature, Lilith was created by God as Adam's first wife, but left Eden after refusing to be submissive to Adam.

The Lilith Fair got its name from the character's original aspect, a woman seeking equality and independence, tour publicist Ambrosia Healy said.

But the column in Falwell's conservative Christian newspaper says there are many conflicting accounts of the Lilith character.

"According to pagan legend, it said, Lilith dwelled with demons after leaving Eden and went mad after witnessing the execution of her children. "As a result, she went on a killing spree, seducing and murdering her own demonic male offspring and then slaying their children."

Falwell was ridiculed after the same column in February asserted that the creators of the Teletubbies TV series for toddlers intended the character Tinky Winky as a Gay role model.

"This Lilith Fair Alert is certain to draw more fire, but we are willing to take the heat in order to document the truth behind the benign appearance of this music festival," said the article by senior editor J.M. Smith.

A spokeswoman for Falwell, Beth Bragg, said Friday that the Lynchburg minister had not read the column in the newspaper, in which he is listed as editor and publisher, and wouldn't comment.

"But he has the highest regard and confidence in his editor," she said.

The Lilith character also became the namesake of the Independent Jewish Women's Magazine. Editor Susan Weidman said Jewish scholars demonized Lilith hundreds of years ago because they were threatened by the idea of a strong woman who insisted on equality.

"Clearly, some of that is going on now with people like Jerry Falwell," she said.

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 9

JULY 1999

Gay Memphis Participates in Pride Parade and Festival

By Allen Cook

On what had to have been one of the most beautiful days of the year, the Memphis Gay, Lesbian and transgendered community came out June 19 to celebrate. The sun was bright, the temperatures moderate and the humidity low — certainly not typical June weather, for Memphis.

Gay Pride events are generally held around the country in June to commemorate the Stonewall Riots, considered by many the genesis of the modern Gay Pride Movement. 1999 marks the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.


The rally even had its own cheerleaders. Against the background of parade floats and group contingents, rally speakers led the marchers in Gay and Lesbian-positive chants like: "Say it loud, I'm Gay and I'm proud."

Stepping off at about 4 p.m., the parade wound west on Poplar, south on McLean, east on Madison, north on Cooper ending up at the Pride Festival site behind Overton Square.

The parade was the largest in Memphis to date with its signature 100-foot rainbow flag, floats, decorated cars and trucks, marching contingents and even four horse-drawn carriages.

The theme of the Pride Parade and Festival this year was "Building Community One Step at a Time."

Aloysius Home Recipient of $860,000 Grant, Breaks Ground for New Facility

By Allen Cook

On Mon., June 21 — the feast day of St. Aloysius of Gonzaga — Aloysius Home, Inc. broke ground for a new facility adjoining its current building at 28 N. Claybrook. Since 1995, Aloysius Home has provided supportive housing for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The new residence will include 22 beds for permanent supportive housing for single persons and families. It will be staffed by a full complement of nursing personnel and other supportive staff.

Construction is scheduled to begin in August; the building is scheduled to open in the fall of 2000.

The facility will be dedicated to the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration who founded St. Joseph Hospital, and will be named St. Joseph Hall.

Aloysius Home operated a facility at the former convent adjoining St. Joseph Hospital on North Parkway until last year.

Sister Jane Marie Klein presented a check for $430,000 during the groundbreaking ceremony. It is the first installment of an $860,000 gift earmarked for the construction of the facility. Executive Director of Aloysius Home Ruth Brown said the second installment will be received when construction actually begins.

The building was designed by Self Tucker Architects of Memphis. Jimmy Tucker was the principle architect. The addition was

See Aloysius Home on page 24
Moving Beyond Pride

by Christopher Ott

June is observed as Gay pride month throughout the country, and there’s a lot to celebrate. We’ve had significant victories over the last several years, and, slowly but surely, anti-Gay prejudice has begun to lose ground. But even as we celebrate, it’s also important to ask why we’ve run into so many serious setbacks:

- More and more of us feel safe to come out of the closet, but why is there a rising tide of anti-Gay violence, reflected most brutally in hate crimes like the murder of Matthew Shepard?
- Coverage of Gay issues in the media is probably more even-handed than it has ever been, but why is it still so common for political and religious leaders to make outrageous and inflammatory statements about Gay issues, like Pat Robertson’s warning last year that Orlando might be destroyed by a meteorite as a punishment for its pride celebration?

There have been a lot of attempts to explain the way we seem to take one step back for almost every step we take forward, but few have examined the role that the slogan “Gay pride” may be playing in this. The pride concept has served us well until now by counteract ing the shame of the closet, but it also has drawbacks. The problem with pride is that it doesn’t state clearly what the Gay-rights movement is really all about: equal legal and social treatment for Lesbians, Gay men and bisexuals. The rallying cry of pride may even have helped to provoke a backlash against Gay equality.

Practically speaking, the “Gay pride” slogan doesn’t reach people who aren’t already pretty comfortable about the facts of sexual orientation. As homophobes hear it, the language of Gay pride reinforces the idea that Gay people are fundamentally different.

In everyday speech, people use the word “pride” to talk about things which they believe are special, extraordinary and exclusive. Talking too much about pride, therefore, may be counterproductive.

Gay people base our claim to civil rights on the fact that our sexual orientation and our relationships are no different — no more worthy of shame or pride — than anyone else’s. Endless declarations about pride may actually help reinforce negative assumptions. Talking too much about pride may give the impression that we have something to prove, and can suggest that we still can’t quite put the shame of the closet behind us.

A better alternative to the “Gay pride” slogan is “Gay equality.” What we need more than anything is to emphasize that all of us — who are Gay are much more similar to straight people than we are different.

That’s not to say that we are “just like them” or should try to “assimilate.” We are different, and there are things about sexuality (and life in general) that we tend to understand better than straight people.

The point, however, is that these differences don’t matter in terms of civil rights. A new slogan like “Gay equality” would help to make this clear. It’s time for the separatism and exclusiveness which are reinforced by the slogan “Gay pride” to end.

We and our supporters can no longer limit ourselves to simply countering arguments about “family values” with declar ations of pride. We need to move beyond simplistic arguments that require us to justify ourselves in terms of pride, because pride is not the point.

The differences between Gays and straights don’t matter in any way that is worthy of discomfort, unequal legal treatment or hostility. In the most fundamental human ways, Gay people are much more similar to straights than we are different, and as a group we have nothing more or less to be proud of than anyone else.

Christopher Ott is the publisher of Straight Answers (http://www.sia.com/sa), a web site devoted to changing the terms of debate over sexual orientation.
July's Freedom Line - Up
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Reggie White Condemns Gays (Again) and Southern Baptists Call for Hormel Ambassadorship to Be Rescinded

by Julia Lieblich
AP Religion Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Homosexuality dominated the final day of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting, as members criticized the appointment of the nation's first openly Gay ambassador and cheered football great Reggie White for again condemning the Gay lifestyle.

"God said it not Reggie White," the player-turned-preacher told the audience June 16. "Leviticus 18.22 says, 'Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman.'" The applause at the Georgia Dome was thunderous. Last year, White declared homosexuality a sin when he addressed the Wisconsin Legislature.

Earlier, members of the nation's largest Protestant denomination voted overwhelmingly to urge President Clinton to rescind James Hormel's appointment as ambassador to Luxembourg.

"We need to speak out and say we do not want an avowed homo-sexual to represent the U.S.," said the Rev. Wiley Drake of Buena Park, Calif., who wrote the 1997 resolution calling on Southern Baptists to boycott Disney because of its Gay-friendly policies.

Hormel, a former dean of the University of Chicago law school, used part of his family's meatpacking fortune to help create the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest Gay and Lesbian political group.

Senators had held up Hormel's nomination since 1997, but Clinton appointed him while the Senate was in recess, angering religious conservatives.

David Smith, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, defended Hormel and called him a "qualified and honorable man."

"It's become an annual convention event: devote a day to Gay bashing," Smith said.

The convention also rebuked Clinton — who is a Southern Baptist — for proclaiming June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month.

Previous conventions have been marked by tension between moderates and conservatives and have produced controversial pronounce-ments like the Disney boycott and the decision to target Jews for proselytizing.

This meeting was far from contentious, as many moderates stayed home and the Rev. Paige Patterson, a conservative, was elected to a second one-year term as president without opposition. About 11,000 members attended.

"It makes me very proud to be a part of this community," he said. "I will do my very best to represent the president and this wonderful country of ours."

New Ambassador to Luxembourg Gets Gala Sendoff

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco philanthropist James Hormel, who fought anti-Gay hostility and U.S. Senate conservatives to win a diplomatic post, got a warm farewell from city officials before heading to Europe as ambassador to Luxembourg.

Hormel was hugged, cheered and praised by city supervisors who lauded him for retaining his dignity during the nearly two years it took to fight for the post.

"There has been a very mean-spirited campaign against Jim's nomination," Supervisor Mark Leno said during the board meeting. "Jim has been a remarkable leader ... not only locally but across the nation."

Senate Majority leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., refused to allow Hormel's nomination to go to a full vote by the Senate. President Clinton finally made the appointment June 4 while Congress was in recess.

Lott's objections to Hormel, 66, focused mainly on the fact that he is Gay and supports Gay causes. Hormel used part of his family's Hormel Foods Corp. fortune to help create the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest Gay and Lesbian political group.

In brief remarks, Hormel said he was deeply touched by the support he had received from the city.

"It makes me very proud to be a part of this community," he said. "I will do my very best to represent the president and this wonderful country of ours."

Defense Argues Domestic Violence Law Does Not Apply to Gays

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Attorneys for a man accused of ignoring a restraining order to stay away from his same-sex partner want a judge to dismiss charges since a domestic violence law does not apply to Gay couples.

David Baker, 39, was charged last October after he allegedly violated a domestic violence injunction taken out by 39-year-old David Lozier, his partner of seven years.

Baker's public defenders say the injunction is invalid.

"The court, in issuing this injunction, recognized a homosexual relationship as a 'family,' which violates the longstanding policy of the Florida Constitution, statutes, Legislature and courts," the lawyers wrote.

Florida does not recognize marriages between same-sex partners.

"Homosexual couples have been specifically denied family protection" under the law, Assistant Public Defender Jeanine Cohen said in arguing the motion in court before Circuit Judge Ronald Ficarrotta.

If the injunction is found to be invalid, the underlying criminal charges could not be prosecuted.

Records show Lozier reported instances of a kicked-in glass door and cut phone wires and said Baker struck him during a fight. After the court ordered Baker to stay away from Lozier, Lozier reported several harassing and threatening phone calls.

Prosecutor Linda Shiflet, however, argued that to rule against the fact that if unmarried heterosexual partners are protected, Gay partners should be as well, she said.

Shiflet said the language "as if a family" applies to same-sex partners living under the same roof, paying bills together and in an intimate relationship.

Gates Gives $25 Million to AIDS Vaccine Initiative

NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft chairman Bill Gates and his wife Melinda have donated $25 million to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, the organization announced.

"Bill and Melinda Gates' historic act of generosity will allow us to significantly accelerate the scientific effort," said Dr. Seth Berkley, the AIDS initiative's president.

Gates said May 3 in a statement: "Melinda and I want our children — and all children — to grow up in a world without AIDS. Vaccines are one of the most far-reaching and effective technologies of our time. We're proud to be supporting the heroic work of IAVI in this gift."

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing HIV vac-cines for use around the world.

Gates has given $6.5 billion to his two charitable foundations since 1994. The foundations then give money to schools and other causes.
Vermont Governor Signs Hate-crimes Law: Said First to Protect Transgendered

By David Gram  Associated Press Writer

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Saying "it is a serious crime now" to harass others for perceived differences, Gov. Howard Dean signed legislation allowing civil suits for offenses linked to bigotry.

The law authorizes judges to issue injunctions ordering harassers to stop their behavior. If they violate the order once, it's a misdemeanor; twice, it's a felony.

The governor signed the bill into law surrounded by lawmakers and others who had backed the legislation.

Dean called the bill sorely needed, telling of close friends of his who were forced to remove their daughter from a Chittenden County high school because she was repeatedly harassed by other students and school officials did nothing.

He cited a state Health Department survey of high school students in 1997 in which 29 percent of homosexual students reported having been threatened or injured with a weapon at school within the previous 30 days. Eighteen percent reported skipping school because of fear of harassment within the previous 30 days.

Between Jan. 1, 1996, and Oct. 31, 1998, there were 78 reported hate-motivated incidents in Vermont, the governor said. He said 47 percent were racial; 31 percent motivated by sexual orientation; 11 percent anti-Semitic; and 10 percent based on ethnic differences. The incidents resulted in 17 arrests.

Vermont in 1990 passed a law enhancing penalties for some crimes when those crimes are motivated by prejudice. But the governor complained that such hate motivations have been deemed hard to prove, and that the law is rarely enforced.

The new law would make it a crime to violate a judge's order to stay away from someone who had won the protection of an anti-harassment order in Superior Court. The order could be sought either by the victim or by the attorney general's office.

"It really does put some teeth in the hate crimes bill," Dean said of the new law. "What this does is empowers people to act on their own and to try to recruit the courts to protect them."

With the law's enactment, Vermont becomes the second state — Minnesota was first — to include "gender identity" as a possible hate-crime motivator. That's designed to protect people who assume non-traditional sex roles.

Rep. Thomas Little, R-Shelburne, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said the new law was aimed at giving a "better tool to the victim and the victim's family and the attorney general to in a less costly and more efficient way" enforce against hate crimes.

Protests Against Gay Days Draw More Awareness, Crowds

By Mike Schneider  Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — As many as 100,000 Gays and Lesbians were expected to attend Gay Days in Orlando and the event's founder credits religious groups that publicly oppose the gathering with fueling its booming popularity.

"We have taken advantage of the controversy," said Doug Swallow, founder of Gay Days, which started June 3. "In a way, it's free advertising for the event."

What started out as a one-day visit to Walt Disney World nine years ago by a small group of Gays and Lesbians has evolved into an extended weekend of theme-park hopping and nightclub crawling.

Many religious groups have protested the event, saying the theme parks shouldn't encourage homosexuality even though Disney and the other attractions don't sponsor the gathering.

A coalition of 18 religious groups tried to air a television commercial during Gay Days to encourage Gays and Lesbians to change their lifestyles. Most Orlando television stations declined to air the commercial, but it did run on three Christian- and family-oriented stations.

The primary motivation is to provide hope for those who want to walk away from homosexuality," said Janet Folger, national director of the Center for Reclaiming America, which spearheaded the TV campaign. "If it brings more awareness (to Gay Days), so be it."

Operation Rescue last year held weekend demonstrations in Orlando to protest abortion clinics and Gay Days. A handful of evangelists went into the Magic Kingdom to try to preach to Gays and Lesbians.

Two years ago the Southern Baptist Convention cited Gay Days as one of several reasons for its boycott of Walt Disney Co.

The Southern Baptist boycott elevated it to a new level of public attention," said David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, a Gay-rights group. "It reached a new plateau of visibility both within the non-Gay community and the Gay community."

Yvette Cantu, a policy analyst for the Washington-based Family Research Council and a former Lesbian, said the conservative message needs to get out regardless of its unintended consequences. "I don't think it's bad for people to know what's going on," Cantu said.

Swallow and other Gays first publicized the event in 1991 over computer bulletin boards and by word of mouth at Orlando-area Gay bars. Attendees, who numbered about 2,000 in the first year at the Magic Kingdom, were told to wear red shirts so they would be easily identifiable.

The number of attendees doubled the following year and a tradition was born that Gays and Lesbians at the Magic Kingdom would gather at Cinderella's Castle in the afternoon.

As many as 100,000 Gays and Lesbians are expected to attend this year's Gay Days. By comparison, annual Gay Pride parades in both San Francisco and Los Angeles attract about 250,000 people.

Gay Days events have expanded from one day to four and now include other central Florida theme parks, nightclubs and entertainment venues.

None of the major theme parks — Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando Escape, Sea World and Busch Gardens — sponsors Gay Days, although many events are held at their venues.

In the Gay Days hospitality suite at a hotel in Orlando's tourist district, Andrea Renaissance hawked Gay Days shirts, tank tops and pins from a table. She praised the event for its friendliness to Gays and Lesbians with families and for the lack of cliques found at many Gay and Lesbian events.

She also praised the religious groups for drawing more attention to the event. "They cut off their noses to spite their faces," said Renaissance, a behavior therapist from Las Vegas. "We adore them for that."

"We adore them for that."

ACLUsues Myrtle Beach Over Flag Ban

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The American Civil Liberties Union is suing the city of Myrtle Beach on behalf of a restaurant owner fined for displaying a rainbow flag.

The city's sign ordinance bans flags in commercial business districts except national, state, county, city and church flags. Corporate flags can be flown only in amusement parks five acres or larger.

This is a content-based restriction," said Steven Bates, executive director of the ACLU of South Carolina. "Government may not enact a law that approves the expression of some points of view and prohibits all others. The First Amendment's guarantee of free speech does not depend on government approval."

The suit was filed May 31 in federal court and asks that the city be barred from enforcing the ordinance.

Linda Robertson was fined $373 for displaying a rainbow flag outside the Rainbow House Bistro. The rainbow flag is a symbol of Gay and Lesbian pride. Two days later she was told to remove a Prisoner of War/missing in action flag.

Robertson was not notified earlier that the POW flag had to come down because inspectors didn't notice it, the city has said.
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Five Life Terms for Man Who Killed Gays to Stop Spread of AIDS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man who used the promise of sex to lure 28 when the main attraction didn't turn into a Gay—rights rally.

He avoided a possible death sentence by changing his innocent plea to guilty on 10 days into his trial.

Deputy District Attorney Mike Duarte said the sentence was appropriate given inconsistencies between Chavez's confession and the details of the killings.

In September 1996, he was charged with killing Alfred Mess Rowswell, 46; Reuben Panis, 56; Donald Kleeman, 48; Michael Cates, 45; and Leo Hildebrand, 52.

"After forcing them to disclose: their "privilege of ownership of a cottage," and that the family would have to leave by Mon., June 22.

But Graham said officials have not approached the home to kick him out. Instead, he said, they have chained the camp gates to keep out outsiders.

"Somebody is manning the gates deciding who they want in and who they want to keep out," he said in a telephone interview from the cottage.

A camp spokesman who refused to identify himself confirmed that the Chicago District Campground Association, which runs the camp, "controlled the gates and the press is not allowed in because you people are so obnoxious." Marjorie J. Cilley, the association's board president, declined comment.

The controversy began when the Grahams' 16-year-old daughter Amelia posted signs in the cottage's windows supporting homosexual friends to whom the camp had refused to rent a summer home. The signs angered trustees, who said they incited "fighting." And the Grahams were told to either sell their cottage or be evicted.

Negotiations with the campground have thus far failed.

The United Methodist Church's northern Illinois Conference has launched an investigation and is scheduled to hold a hearing July 2 to determine the church's jurisdiction over the 140-year-old site.

Bishop C. Joseph Sprague, leader of the 142,000 Methodists in northern Illinois, said if the allegations that the campground is discriminating against Gays is true, and the church has authority over the camp, he will order the discrimination stopped. If the church does not have that authority, he said he will take legal action to prevent the campground from using the church's name.

Five Life Terms for Man Who Killed Gays to Stop Spread of AIDS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man who used the promise of sex to lure five Gay men to their homes where they were strangled and robbed was sentenced to life in prison for consecutive lifeterms in prison for

“After forcing them to disclose: their "privilege of ownership of a cottage," and that the family would have to leave by Mon., June 22.

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Family Says Campground Has Chained Gates to Keep Their Visitors Out

OTTAWA (AP) — A much hyped anti—homosexual protest turned into a Gay—rights rally June 28 when the main attraction didn’t show.

Fear of inadequate police protection kept pastor Fred Phelps of Topeka, Kan., notorious for picketing Gay funerals — from his Canadian debut, said his daughter Shirley Phelps—Roper.

"When the government shows it has a heart as black as the perverts' yours, you have to watch out for yourselves," she said in a telephone interview from Kansas.

Phelps—Roper said her father and about 12 supporters arrived in Ottawa and she urged them to "stay away from those cops."

The group was to picket the Supreme Court of Canada to protest a May 20 ruling ordering Ontario to include same—sex couples in the definition of spouse.

A barricaded space reserved for the entourage stayed empty as about 500 Gay supporters held a colorful demonstration of their own.

"The power of love is infinitely better than the power of hate," openly Gay Parliament member Svend Robinson told a cheering crowd.

Phelps-Roper said police sent "mixed messages" on how much protection would be offered her father, who has picketed Gays for nine years.

While one police contact assured her of security, another was "running his mouth" to the media about attempts to block her dad at the border, she said.

Her anger was mostly directed at Sgt. Pat Callaghan, head of Ottawa Police hate—crimes unit, who was quoted on gaps in Canada's hate crimes legislation that allow Phelps to use his "God Hates Fags" message here.

The Criminal Code forbids "public incitement of hatred" against groups of particular color, race, ethnicity and religion, but sexual orientation is left out.

The law hasn’t changed for 33 years despite changes to human rights legislation in 1996 protecting Gays and Lesbians.

Justice Department officials are talking about broadening the law to cover homosexuals and other groups.

See Phelps on Page 27
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| **SEPTEMBER 1 - 6** | Southern Decadence – New Orleans, LA |
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Oregon State GOP Backs Anti-Gay Rights Measure in Closed Meeting

By Brad Cain
Associated Press Writer

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — At a meeting in June, the Oregon Republican Party's state central committee backed the Oregon Citizens Alliance's new anti-Gay rights measure, but the public never heard about it.

That's because there was no advance public notice of the meeting, and signs were posted on the doors reading, "Closed to press."

The action came when about 100 central committee members gathered in a meeting room at the Salem Public Library to discuss various party matters, including the OCA's proposed ballot measure for the 2000 election.

On a voice vote June 19, the members endorsed what OCA calls its "student protection act," which would prohibit public school instruction "encouraging, promoting or sanctioning" homosexuality.

The stance in favor of the OCA's measure wasn't a surprise, given the socially conservative views of many state committee members. But the meeting marked the first time the GOP has made an entire central committee meeting off-limits to coverage by the news media. Darryl Howard, the party's executive director, defended the decision to close the meeting and said it "had nothing to do with" the OCA's anti-Gay rights measure.

Rather, he said, Republicans wanted to have a private meeting to discuss strategy for next year's elections.

"We as a party have a job to do to elect Republicans," Howard said Monday. "That doesn't mean that we have to tell everybody what we're doing or how much it costs."

One central committee member said he was taken aback when he saw signs taped to the doors saying "Closed to press."

"I thought it was odd and unusual," said Lee Coleman of Beaverton, who is president of Log Cabin Republicans of Oregon, a group of Gay Republicans.

Coleman said the OCA measure was endorsed after a 40-minute debate that he described as "heated and viciously anti-Gay."

Under Oregon's public meetings laws, political parties are treated as private entities and as such as not required to open their meetings to the public or the news media.

In the past, both Republicans and Democrats on occasion have closed portions of their central committee meetings to discuss finances or personnel matters, but never an entire meeting as the GOP did.

Craig Berkman, a Portland businessman who served as state GOP chairman from 1989 to 1993, said he thinks it was a mistake to close a meeting where a controversial issue such as the OCA measure was being discussed.

"A political party, by definition, is an organization that connects not only with its members but the public at large," Berkman said. "It seems a little unfortunate that this issue was debated in an other than public forum."

Deal Between Pat Robertson and Bank of Scotland Called Off

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — The Bank of Scotland will break off a proposed deal with evangelist Pat Robertson after he referred to Scotland as a "dark land" because it tolerates homosexuals, the BBC reported June 3.

The report on the British Broadcasting Corp. Web site, attributed to an unidentified source at the bank, said the chief executive planned to inform Robertson that the bank is dropping plans to launch a U.S. telephone banking service in cooperation with the religious broadcaster's financial services company.

The BBC said bank executives decided to review the deal after watching Robertson's comments, made in a television broadcast that is available on the Internet.

On his 700 Club television show May 18, the former presidential candidate criticized Scotland for its tolerance of homosexuals, calling it a "a rather dark land."

"In Europe, the big word is tolerance," Robertson said. "Homosexuals are riding high in the media ... And in Scotland, you can't believe how strong the homosexuals are. It's just unbelievable."

Following the broadcast, the Bank of Scotland came under pressure to break off the deal. On Wednesday, the bank acknowledged that customers had closed as many as 500 accounts since March, apparently because of the publicity over its dealings with Robertson.

"The whole situation is hypocritical because he's attacking Mr. Hormel on what he says are moral grounds while his staff are downloading pornography on the computer system," Smith said at an Oregon City news conference.

Inhofe's office has only described the material as "inappropriate." Inhofe has said the people involved have been disciplined. "I don't know what relation that has to James Hormel," he told KRMG radio host John Erling.

Inhofe threatened to single-handedly hold up "every single presidential nomination" to protest the appointment of Hormel during a congressional recess.

He said that his opposition had to do with the way President Clinton appointed Hormel, not the fact Hormel is homosexual.

The Capitol Hill newspaper, Roll Call, reported that the material found on computers in Inhofe's Washington, D.C., offices was slowing down the computer system. An Inhofe spokesman said "certain inappropriate material" was found during routine system checks during the first week of June, but denied that it interfered with the computer system.

Inhofe's office issued a statement saying the three staff members involved had been disciplined. The senator and his spokesman have refused to name the staffers, citing privacy concerns.

Smith said his group does not know exactly what type of material was found on the computers.
WASHINGTON, DC — The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) Policy Institute announced June 14 that Virginia Apuzzo, the Clinton administration's highest ranking Lesbian official, is resigning and will accept a new position at the Policy Institute's think tank in New York City.

The Policy Institute's Virginia Apuzzo Chair for Leadership in Public Policy is the first endowed chair to be created by the think-tank of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Apuzzo will join the Policy Institute staff as the first holder of the Apuzzo Chair on Sept. 7. The move reunites Apuzzo with an organization she served as Board leader and as executive director in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Apuzzo Chair is designed to recognize leaders with a distinguished record of service on behalf of the Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) communities. During Apuzzo's tenure at the Policy Institute, she will serve as a senior movement strategist, write and lecture on a wide range of issues, and steer several specific projects to increase support for GLBT equality in both the public and private sector. Drawing on her experiences in the White House and her many years of public service, Apuzzo will bring activists, policymakers and academics together to develop new strategies and to broaden support for GLBT equality.

After Apuzzo's tenure, the chair will be awarded to other distinguished activists, political leaders, scholars or business people who have been catalysts for change on behalf of GLBT people.

"The Apuzzo Chair creates a capacity long missing in our national Gay, Lesbian, bisexual, and transgender movement — the capacity to tap the wisdom of innovative leaders and harness their experience to strategically help our movement succeed," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of the Task Force. "We are delighted that with all the options available to her, Ginny chose to continue her movement work through NGLTF's Policy Institute."

Lobel noted that with Apuzzo's addition, the Policy Institute houses some of the most seasoned and distinguished strategists in the GLBT movement. They include Institute Director Urvashi Vaid, Senior Fellow Dave Fleischer, Aging and Religion Initiative Consultant Ken South, and Senior Fellow and Institute Founder John D'Emilio.

Virginia Apuzzo is a longtime leader and innovator in the Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement. A former educator and ex-nun, Apuzzo held the position of assistant to the president for Administration and Management from 1997-1999, making her the highest ranking openly Gay official in the administration. Prior to this, Apuzzo served as Associate deputy secretary of the Department of Labor. She is former commissioner of the New York State Civil Service Commission and former president of the State Department of Civil Service.

In 1980, as an openly-Gay Lesbian delegate to the Democratic National Convention, Apuzzo co-authored the first Gay and Lesbian civil rights plank of a major political party. As executive director of NGLTF from 1982-1986, Apuzzo testified at the first Congressional hearings on AIDS and spearheaded the community's response to HIV/AIDS policy on the federal level. In addition, Apuzzo initiated the first national anti-violence work in our movement and helped develop the concept and funding of the first anti-violence projects in San Francisco and New York. Throughout the 1980s, she was an outspoken advocate for a progressive and inclusive HIV policy at the national and state level.

"Creating change is about matching ideas with a strategy that will ensure their success," said Apuzzo. "As our movement grows larger, the traditional pursuit of access and visibility are no longer enough. We need to move from access to responsiveness and from visibility to full participation. We must not just think, but do."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was founded in 1973 and is the leading grassroots organizing, public policy advocacy and educational organization in the Gay, Lesbian, bisexual, and transgender movement. NGLTF's Policy Institute was founded in 1995 and is today the largest think tank in the GLBT movement. Since its inception, the Policy Institute has formulated original models for collaboration and change at the national, state and local level, producing substantive research and strategic projects to strengthen the GLBT movement and its goals.

NGLTF's Policy Institute is a think tank dedicated to research, policy analysis and strategic projects to advance the greater understanding and equality of GLBT people. NGLTF works to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against GLBT people at the local, state and national level. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.
An Open Letter to Jerry Falwell From Mel White

I know from the sound of your voice, Jerry, that you are still sorry that you did not take a stand for equality in those early years of ministry. Nevertheless, after condemning President Johnson’s Civil Rights legislation as an act of “civil wrong” and after preaching fervently against integration, you had the courage to acknowledge your sinfulness and to end your racist ways.

In all those years, you told me, “it didn’t cross my mind that segregation and its consequences for the human family were evil. I was blind to that reality. I didn’t realize it then, but if the church had done its job from the beginning of this nation’s history, there would have been no need for the civil rights movement.”

Well said, friend. But now I have to ask you one more time. Has it ever crossed your mind that you might be just as wrong about homosexuality as you were about segregation? Could it be that you are blind to a tragic new reality, that the consequences of your anti-homosexual rhetoric are as evil for the human family as were your separations against integration? Have you even thought about the possibility that you are ruining lives, destroying families, and causing endless suffering with your false claims that we are “sick and sinful,” that we “abuse and recruit children,” that we “undermine family values.”

In the 1950s and 60s, you misused the Bible to support segregation. In the 1990s you are misusing it again, this time to caricature and condemn God’s Gay and Lesbian children. Once you denied black Christians the rights (and the rites) of church membership. Now it’s Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians you reject.

For 10 years we’ve been collecting samples of your dangerous and misleading rhetoric against homosexuals. We have file drawers filled with your anti-Gay mailings to raise funds and mobilize volunteers. We have audio and video collections of your anti-Gay sermons and your anti-Gay radio and television broadcasts. Coupled with your regular appearances on Nightline, Geraldo, and Larry King Live, your ability to attract media attention (as you did with Tinky Winky) you have become one of the nation’s primary sources of misinformation about homosexuality and homosexuals.

You are saying things about us that are NOT true, terrible things with tragic consequences in our lives and in the lives of those we love.

Please, Jerry, hear your own words about segregation and apply them to my homosexual sisters and brothers. “I can see from the earliest days of my new faith in Christ,” you told me, “that God had tried to get me to understand and to acknowledge my own racial sinfulness. In Bible College, the Scriptures had been perfectly clear about the equality of all men and women. The Scriptures are still clear about loving all people equally. The Scriptures are still clear about fighting injustice and standing against the immoral and dehumanizing traditions of man. Why can’t you apply THOSE Scriptures to us instead of the six verses you misuse over and over again to clobber and condemn GLBT people?”

For years you supported the “immoral and dehumanizing traditions” used to persecute people of color. Then, finally, the Spirit of Truth set you free. Now, you are a supporter of “immoral and dehumanizing traditions.”

See Open Letter on page 34.

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J. Kyle Dearen, Pastor
140 N. Garland
Memphis, TN 38104
Phone 270-0577

Sunday Morning 10 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening 7 p.m.

And in accordance with this will of God, we have been made holy, consecrated, and sanctified through the offering made once for all of the body of Jesus Christ” Hebrews 10:10 AMP
Join us as we praise and worship Our Awesome God!

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U.S.CANADA: $16 postpaid; Nationwide resources including headquarters of national organizations; publications; mail order companies, etc., plus complete city by city information for all the States and Provinces.
GREATER NORTHEAST: $10 postpaid: CT, DC, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV.
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A DIFFERENT LIGHT 800-343-4002
and many others

For free listing application, prices, mailing labels, etc., please send self-addressed stamped envelope to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-TN, Village Stn, NY, NY 10014 Voice: 212-674-0120
Fax: 212-420-1126 gayello@banet.net
http://gayellowpages.com

**Controversial Men’s Movement Cause of Concern; Local Clergy Respond to the Promise Keepers**

MEMPHIS — Many clergy and people of faith stayed away from the Promise Keepers Rally in Memphis last month, as men from Memphis and surrounding areas gathered together on June 3-4. Instead, many local people of faith came together to affirm the values of diversity and equality regardless of race, religious orientation, age or gender.

With the help and encouragement of Equal Partners in Faith, a multi-racial network of religious leaders and people of faith committed to equality and diversity and dedicated to helping the most marginalized and progressive people of faith promote a more inclusive vision of religion and society, local people of faith are responding in several ways.

A letter was circulated about the controversial views of the Promise Keepers leaders, to draw attention to the fact that the leaders of the Promise Keepers are not representative of most people of faith. Rev. Tim Meadows, pastor at Holy Trinity Community Church, stated, “I believe that although many men gain spiritual satisfaction from these events, the agenda of the Promise Keepers challenges pre-mises many people of faith in the Memphis religious community hold dear—that all people are created in God’s image and equal in God’s sight.”

A coalition event, being organized by the Public Issues Forum’s Committee to Challenge the Religious Right which also involves people of faith, took place at the Fogelman Center at the University of Memphis, Thurs., June 3—the night the Promise Keepers came to town. This event was a heated “dialogue” between Ed Amsley, one of the founders of the Moral Majority, and the Rev. Barry Lynn, advisory board member of Equal Partners in Faith, and executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

People of faith also gave their support to a National Coalition for Women informational picket on June 4, from 6-7 p.m. on Front Street, across from the Pyramid, where the Promise Keepers rally took place.

Rev. Steven Baines, project coordinator of Equal Partners in Faith, summed it up by saying, “Progressive religious and spiritual voices are a part of the religious fabric of this society. Diversity and human dignity are threads that bind us together. We are encouraged by the coordinated actions of people of faith and others to hold the leadership of Promise Keepers accountable.”

**Southern Girl Convention Offers Empowerment**

The Southern Girl Convention, “a celebration of girls who refuse to be Southern Belles,” will be held Fri., July 30-Sun., Aug. 1 at the University of Memphis.

The Memphis chapter of the Women’s Action Coalition, promoters of the Southern Girl Convention, invite girls and women across the South to this weekend of female empowerment through discussions, performance art, networking and much more.

“We want to honor every girl’s personal experiences being raised and living as a female in the South,” emphasizes Jennifer Sauer, one of the convention’s organizers. “Despite racial tensions, religious persecution and the continued acceptance of plantation politics, there are girls and women throughout the South who are fighting to make a difference in other girls’ lives,” Sauer said.

“We are producing the Southern Girl Convention because the passion to create a truly just and equal world is not dead,” she adds.

**Integrity Book Discussion Group to Show It’s Elementary at July Meeting.**

Integrity successfully launched its book discussion group in November 1998. Facilitated by group members and meeting in the homes of its members, the symposium is the brain child of Jonathan Cole.

“The group is open to all Integrity members or not interested in discussing Lesbian spirituality and theology,” says Cole. “It is a greater chance for fellowship and mind-heart renewal.”

Upcoming titles (available at Davis Kidd Bookstores, Poplar at Perkins, under the Group name Integrity) are:

- Uncharted Lives: Understanding the Life Passages of Gay Men by Stanley Siegal July 6
- The Intimate Connection: Male Sexuality, Masculine Spirituality by James B. Nelson August 3
- The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions by Marcus J. Borg and N. T. Wright September 7
- June 4, from 6—7 p.m. on Front Street, across from the Pyramid, where the Promise Keepers rally took place.

**Feast For Friends 7th Anniversary Dinner**

By Butch Valentine

The family at Feast For Friends is looking forward to celebrating its seventh anniversary on July 19th at St. John’s United Methodist Church, corner of Bellevue and Peabody.

Feast For Friends is one of the more successful programs sponsored by Friends For Life, it is open to those living with HIV/AIDS, their friends, families, partners, caregivers and those who work in the industry. The dinners are held on 6:30 on the first and third Mondays of each month and are free, but donations are accepted to help offset expenses.

What is truly unique about this program is that it is a completely donation- and volunteer-driven, all-inclusive program. But we couldn’t be looking forward to our seventh anniversary if we didn’t have the caring and support that we received from this year’s supporters and sponsors. We are grateful to those who supported Feast For Friends in 1998-1999:

Dr. Marshall Koonce
Charles Hirsch
Herb Zeman

Amnesia
Martha Bowers
Alan Herbers

Integrity Memphis
Seron Loz

Juan Fuentes
Backstreet

Joyce Yager
Lewis Brown and the Pipeline’s

Monday Night Pool Club
Chester Proctor and Ron Cash
Nancy Fletcher
Rev. Ed Hammert
Gary Dody
Terry and Cindy Wilson

First Presbyterian Church
Richard Montalvo
Calvary Church Breakfast Club
The Southwest Tennessee HIV/AIDS Care (Ryan White)

Consortium
Crossroads
Greg Belz
Sacred Heart Southern Missions
Ken Nelson
Marilyn Underwood

Roche Pharmaceuticals
Temple Israel
John and Bonnie Greer
Rev. LaPaula Turner

David Babij
Mary Nease and Kathy Williams

The incredible range of workshops lined up so far, from Environmental Racism to Do-it-yourself Car Repair, and from Body Image to Desktop Zine Publishing, indicate the Southern girls and women definitely believe that change comes through a revolution of the mind, body and soul.

Registration is $10, and includes access to all conference discussions, movies, performances and workshops. Ampal space will be available for distributing literature, ‘zine trading, selling T-shirts, etc.

All facilities are wheelchair accessible. Musicians, presenters and workshop proposals are welcome. Group discounts and work in exchange for fees are possible.

For a complete brochure or further information, e-mail suzukikeane@hotmail.com; write Promotions, Action Coalition, 787 Ellsworth, Memphis, TN 38111 (include SASE); or phone 901-458-9907 (long distance calls will be returned collect).

**BCAA Softball League Standings**

The Bluff City Athletic Association Softball League standings as of June 30, 1999:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Won/Lost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J-Wag's Jaguars</td>
<td>8/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backstreet Haze</td>
<td>6/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ReMax</td>
<td>5/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jungle Jocks</td>
<td>4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Trinity</td>
<td>4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipeline Drillers</td>
<td>1/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesbians</td>
<td>0/9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See calendar on page 21 for games times. The season has been extended through July 25 to accommodate rained-out games.
Rufus "Dogs" Pride Ride

The calliope was singing merry riverboat tunes, with the able prod—
ding of Vincent Astor. The photog—
rapher was snapping pictures as
passengers boarded the Memphis
Queen. The water was calm. There
was a crescent moon. The boat was
big. The dog howled. It was a great
night. The boat ride sponsored by
the Memphis Gay and Lesbian
Community Center was, in my es—
imation, the best ever. Approxim—
ately 200 people were aboard for
the kickoff to Gay Pride Weekend
in Memphis.

The greatest contributor to the
unqualified success of the boat ride
was the appearance and perform—
ance by Memphis blues legend
Rufus "The Dog" Thomas. The
man is in his 80s and still knows
how to entertain an audience. With
the help of a five-piece band, Rufus
walked the dog and rocked the
room. He taught the funky chicken,
even inviting participants on stage
for the first time. Even people
with southern blues articula—
tion. From swing to blues, Rufus
spread the news! Thank you, Mr.
Thomas.

There was lots of dancing. Lots
doing. Ms. Bonnie "Bitch" said her night was complete when
Rufus sang "I Love you, Baby" to
her and then invited her to sing it
back to him. She was swooning for
the rest of the night. It was very
refreshing to see so many people
on the dance floor for most of the
cruise. It seemed that no one was
too shy. In fact, the band was still
playing as the boat docked at the
conclusion of the cruise.

An added entertainment attrac—
tion was the circle drum ensemble
called Djembe Mountain. Their
musical offerings were a mixture
of tropical, African and folk drums.

The food was fine. Not too light,
not too heavy. There were ample
bars and plenty of helpful bartend—
ers.

The planners of this year's boat
ride did everything right. The boat
size was right. The entertainment
was right. The price was right.
There could have been more
people. The Memphis Queen is a
very big boat. Everyone had a good
time while cruising Ol' Man River.

Circle Drum ensemble Djembe Mountain kept the entertainment going
between Rufus’ sets.

Rufus Thomas on stage at the 20th Annual Pride River Ride.

Spirituality
in Theory
and Practice.

Idlewild Presbyterian Church
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All are welcome.

Sundays -- Services 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Tuesdays -- Service of Wholeness 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays -- Church Night Dinner 5:30 p.m.

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Pam and Sharron have the coffee on
and the griddle hot at 7 each morning.
Start your day with a hot, hearty
breakfast from Buns on the Run.

Tip Sought in Hunnicutt Slaying

Police are seeking clues in the
April 5 murder of 42-year-old Lindell Hunnicutt, who was
found dead in his midtown home.
West Precinct officers were
called to 1465 N. Parkway at 2:30
p.m. by a friend who was unable
to get an answer at the door.
Police went inside the house
and found Hunnicutt fatally
stabbed. Robbery is a presumed
motive.

Anyone with information is
asked to call Crime Stoppers at
528-CASH. Callers are given se—
cet code numbers to protect their
identity. Up to $1000 in cash will
be paid to anyone with informa—
tion leading to an arrest.

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Services
WEB SITE: http://members.oio.com/gmox
Artists conception of the existing Aloysius Home building at 28 N. Claybrook with the proposed addition of St. Joseph Hall, planned to open in fall of 2000.

This small apartment building directly across the street from Aloysius Home will be acquired for housing for People with AIDS who do not require assisted care.

Architectural rendering looking west---of the rear courtyard between the existing building (left) and St. Joseph Hall.

State Sen. Steve Cohen was among the dignitaries attending the June 21 groundbreaking ceremony.

Sister Jane Marie Klein of the Order of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration and Ruth Brown, Executive Director of Aloysius Home break ground for St. Joseph Hall.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Friday July 23
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MAXI HOUSTON

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Greenfield, Mass. (AP) — Police say two prep school students carved an anti-Gay slur into the back of a fellow student because they didn’t like the music he listened to.

Jonathan Shapiro, 18, of Keene, N.H., and Matthew Rogers, 20, of Franklin, Tenn., are accused of using a pocket knife to carve the word “HOMO” into the back of a fellow student at the Northfield Mount Hermon School.

Police said June 2 the 17-year-old victim was attacked because he liked to listen to the British rock band Queen.

“There was apparently a disagreement over the style of music he liked,” said Gill Police Chief David Hastings. “Rogers called it a Gay band.”

The youths allegedly backed the victim into a corner of a dormitory room, forced him to turn around and used a pocket knife to cut the letters into his back, Hastings said.

“Incidents such as the one alleged to have taken place are why we consider with basic human decency, the values that Northfield Mount Hermon stands for, are and abhorrent to every member of our community,” Headmaster Richard W. Mueller said in a prepared statement.

Both students pleaded innocent to charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault with intent to maim, and assault with intent to intimidate resulting in bodily harm.

The third charge made the incident a hate crime, which would require the suspects to undergo counseling and diversity training if convicted.

Each suspect faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

Shapiro, a senior, was released on $5,000 cash bail following his arraignment June 3 in Greenfield District Court. Rogers, who was doing a postgraduate year between high school and college, was released on $10,000 cash bail a day earlier.

Northfield Mount Hermon, a coeducational school, currently has 1,139 students on its rural campuses along the Connecticut River in Gill and Northfield.

Rogers had accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, according to Karen Myers, an academy spokeswoman.

“Once we are able to verify the charges we will have to reconsider the appointment,” she said.

The victim, whose name was not released, did not require hospitalization and initially kept quiet about the alleged May 27 attack.

“The school staff didn’t know about it for a couple of days. Then they called us,” Hastings said.

“It’s very sad to think that this young man may carry these scars on his back for the rest of his life,” said prosecutor Laurie MacLeod.

Hastings described the wounds as “deep enough to draw blood.”

“When I saw them they were three days old and they were still very visible,” he said. “The letters were 4 to 5 inches high and ran all the way across his back.”

Prep School Students Charged with Carving ‘Homo’ into Student’s Back

Two Gay Faculty Members Resign From University of Missouri

Columbia, Mo. (AP) — Two Gay faculty members at the University of Missouri have resigned, citing a decision by curators not to include sexual orientation in the school’s non-discrimination clause.

Horace Griffin, an assistant professor of religious studies, and Denny Schrock, an extension assistant professor of horticulture, turned in their resignations in mid-June.

More than 200 U.S. colleges and universities include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination statements.

“I can very truthfully say I would not have been looking for another job had the board decided to include sexual orientation,” said Schrock, who is also a state master gardener.

He has accepted a similar job at the University of Illinois, which includes sexual orientation in its anti-bias clause.

Griffin has taken a faculty position at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill.

In his letter, Griffin wrote: “The University of Missouri has failed to signal to its Lesbian, Gay and bisexual faculty, staff and students that we are equal and valued members of the university community.”

Curators and university president Manuel Pacheco say an executive order prohibiting all forms of discrimination provides sufficient protection.

Warning: Many Internet-sold Home AIDS Tests Are Bogus

Washington (AP) — Americans who have tested themselves at home for the AIDS virus may want to get an official test, the government warned June 18 after buying some HIV kits sold on the Internet — and discovering they gave false results.

“Using one of these kits could give a person who might be infected with HIV the false impression that he or she is not infected,” the Federal Trade Commission warned in a consumer alert.

The FTC recently tested at-home HIV test kits sold over the Internet by using a known HIV-infected sample — so the tests should have signaled that the “user” was infected. Instead, in every case the kits signaled that the user was healthy.

Internet ads falsely state or imply that the kits were approved by the World Health Organization, the Food and Drug Administration or another well-known health organization.

In fact, the FDA has approved just one at-home test kit for the AIDS virus — Home Access Health Corp.’s Home Access Express HIV-1 Test System. It does not give instant results. Instead, people mail a drop of blood on a special card to a laboratory and later call a hot line to learn the results from a trained counselor.

The World Health Organization does not approve or license HIV tests, the consumer alert warned.

A Food and Drug Administration investigation of one fraudulent Internet-sold HIV test recently landed a California man in jail.

The FDA warned in 1997 against using “Lei-Home Access HIV tests.” A company Internet site claimed over 100,000 tests were sold, but a judge found that the tests were bogus and no customer received accurate results. In February, company owner Larry Greene, 51, of Los Banos, Calif., was sentenced to over five years in prison.

The FDA says illegal sales of useless HIV tests are a growing problem, and it is investigating people involved in the sale and manufacture of other fraudulent HIV kits. No one could say how many are under investigation, although a quick Internet search turned up ads for several unapproved kits.

The FTC would neither confirm nor deny whether it was investigating sellers of the useless HIV tests that it recently tested, nor would it name the products.

“Using one of these kits could give a person who might be infected with HIV the false impression that he or she is not infected,” the Federal Trade Commission warned in a consumer alert.
Corporations Increasingly Sponsor Gay Pride Parades

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Michael Guy remembers a time when corporate sponsorship for the local Gay pride parade was unimaginable.

"We had a printed program, but it was mainly Gay and Lesbian-owned businesses and restaurants," said Guy, a Trinity Repertory Company graphic designer whose been involved with Rhode Island Pride Celebration since 1987.

Times have changed. The June 19 Providence Gay pride parade that began at the Statehouse had the backing of several corporations, including Fleet Bank's finance division; CVS ProCare, a division of the pharmacy chain; Internet provider IDS World Network; and Bud Light, distributed by the local company McLaughlin & Moran.

Guy said corporations now realize "that there aren't going to be negative repercussions by being a sponsor."

Cory Coberly, spokeswoman for Fleet, said the bank's reason for sponsoring the parade comes down to the fact that all people — Gay or straight — have banking needs.

"We are a bank that's here to make a profit," Roberts told The Providence Journal. "There's no reason why we would discriminate against any potential customer."

The Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community is now considered a "niche market," said Alex Gorriaran, who was in charge of lining up sponsors.

Still, some people are taken aback by the change.

AIDS activist Garith Fulham said one of his friends was surprised that Budweiser — the official beer of NASCAR racing — was a sponsor of the Gay pride parade.

"Why not?" Fulham told his friend. "Do you know how much money they make off of us?"

Organizers of the week-long celebration also approached potential corporate sponsors known to be "Gay-friendly."

For example, at Fleet, there is an organization of Gay employees. Most of them carried a banner in the Providence 24th annual parade.

Fulham said the corporate sponsors not only provide financial help, they also help the cause in general.

"When mainstream America sees corporate America standing up with our community it makes people think. "Well, maybe the Gay and Lesbian community isn't all that bad.""
Former Watergate Lawyer Sets Sights on State's Sodomy Law

ROANOKE, Va. (AP) — Former Watergate attorney Samuel Garrison III has a sworn enemy that he’s not going to defeat: Virginia’s anti-sodomy law.

The 207-year-old law makes it a felony for any Virginia—homosexual or heterosexual, man or woman, married or single—to engage in oral sex or anal sex.

For the most part, the law is ignored. But police vice squads around the state — in Richmond, Charlottesville and Roanoke, for instance — have lately resuscitated it to clamp down on homosexual activity in public parks and restrooms. They’ve also used it to file felony charges against people who solicit oral sex, while people who solicit intercourse have been charged with misdemeanors.

The law, Garrison said, is crazy.

“You’ve got all these adult Virginians committing sodomy joyously and frequently, in their homes or in hotels,” Garrison said. “But the fact is, it’s illegal in Virginia. The statute on its face is unconstitutional.”

Garrison, once the chief Republican counsel for the House Judiciary Committee considering President Richard Nixon’s impeachment, is now defending nine men accused of soliciting oral sex from an undercover police officer at Roanoke’s Wasena Park. One of the men is scheduled for trial in July.

The other eight pleaded guilty in June, but only on condition that they be allowed to appeal by challenging the law’s constitutionality. Garrison, himself a homosexual, said it is the anti-sodomy law that will be put on trial in the Virginia appeals court.

“It would be quite an honor to be the champion” defender of sodomy, Garrison said. “What we’re talking about is being the champion of 4 million adult Virginians, being the champion of keeping the government from intruding into their bedrooms.”

Alice Ekirch sees it differently. Ekirch, the Roanoke assistant Commonwealth’s attorney who prosecuted Garrison’s clients, said the sodomy law is fair and necessary to halt sex acts in public places.

“We’re not talking about going into the bedrooms of consenting adults,” she said. “We’re talking about trying to stop people from having sex in a public park. It’s not unconstitutional on its face, and that’s what we’re arguing on appeal.”

Garrison, 57, is no stranger to high-profile cases. Formerly Roanoke’s prosecutor, Garrison moved to Washington to join the staff of then-Vice President Spiro T. Agnew at the age of 30. He ended up investigating Watergate in 1974.

Back in Roanoke in 1980, Garrison’s soaring legal career nose-dived. He was convicted of embezzling nearly $46,000, a crime for which he spent four months in prison and lost his law license. The Virginia Supreme Court restored Garrison’s law license in 1993.

Now, Garrison could end up arguing on behalf of men whose lives have been shattered over an act that, Garrison says, most Virginians feel fine about.

Garrison is not the first to attempt to undo the law. The General Assembly has considered several bills in recent years that sought to rewrite the anti-sodomy statute so that the only “crimes against nature” would be sex acts involving minors, close relatives or animals.

But the bills all died quietly. While lawmakers publicly voiced concerns that the state’s anti-sodomy law is an old-fashioned attempt to regulate private behavior, few were willing to go on record as a supporter of a particular sex act.

“People wanted to stay out of the way of the whole thing,” said Del. Clifton “Chip” Woodrum, D-Roanoke.

As recently as 40 years ago there were 51 sodomy laws in the United States — one in every state plus the District of Columbia. Today, 18 such laws remain, including the one in Virginia. Twenty-six of the original statutes were repealed by local legislatures. Seven were struck down by state courts.
STAR WARS AT THE MADISON FLAME

Entertainment extravaganza to benefit the Holy Trinity Building Fund.

Sunday, July 18, 1999
8:00 p.m.
$3.00 donation at the door.
Millennium March: A Retrospective of the First 14 Months Date

Submitted by The MMOW

The Millennium March on Washington for Equality, the 4th national March on Washington in the history of the LGBT justice movement, will take place on April 30, 2000. MMOW staff members have prepared the following report as an overview of the steps taken and accomplished during the first 14 months of planning and organization for the Millennium March.

1. A meeting was held in Washington, D.C., in June of 1998 to which 45 state, national and regional LGBT organizations sent representatives. These participants represented hundreds of thousands of grassroots activists across America. Participants affirmed that a March on Washington will be held April 30, 2000.

2. Participants at the June meeting created a Millennium March Board of Directors and established board goals of a minimum membership of 50 percent people of color as well as gender parity. These goals have been achieved and exceeded.

3. There are currently 15 members of the MMOW Board of Directors. Nine are women (60 percent). And for the first time in the history of the LGBT Marches on Washington, 60 percent of the members of the board of directors are people of color, including 33 percent Latino, 20 percent African American, and 7 percent Asian American.

4. Seventy-five state, regional and national LGBT organizations have endorsed the Millennium March on Washington, among them Rock The Vote, PFLAG, National Organization of Lesbian & Gay & Lesbian Bands of America, Human Rights Campaign, InterPride, The Feminist Majority, National Center for Lesbian Rights, UFMC, and the one million members of College Democrats.

5. Four members of the MMOW Board of Directors have been named co-chairs of the event: Duan Cramer (The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt), Ann DeGroot (OUTFront Minnesota), Nicole Murray-Ramirez (National Latina/o Lesbian and Gay Organization), and Duane Cramer (The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt).

6. Robin Tyler Productions has been retained to produce the March. Robin was intimately involved with the three previous national Marches on Washington, producing the main stage rallies.

7. The Board of Directors established an MMOW Leadership Council. The Leadership Council consists of one representative from each endorsing organization (for example, Kate Kendall serves as representative for the National Center for Lesbian Rights; Christian de la Huerta is rep for Q Spirit; Brenda Henson is rep for Camp Sister Spirit) and two at-large members from every state and Puerto Rico.

8. A work plan was designed and submitted to the Board of Directors, including a detailed budget. This plan was approved.

9. The Board of Directors approved plans to conduct "GLBT Vote 2000" to register voters and mobilize GLBT voters to the polls for the presidential election in November of 2000. MMOW will coordinate efforts with Jesse Jackson's voter registration drive and with the election efforts of "Rock The Vote."

10. The Board approved "town meetings" and public forums across the U.S. to facilitate local input and organizing. Public meetings have already been held in Dallas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Pensacola, Philadelphia and San Diego. The Board will also conduct

massive Internet polling, allowing every grassroots activist in the country to vote on the platform of the Millennium March. This level of grassroots participation — giving every member of the LGBT community the opportunity to vote on the March's platform — will use the latest Internet technology and capabilities to make the Millennium March the most democratic, participatory March in LGBT history.

11. In the first 13 months, (March 1998-April 1, 1999) $13,152 was raised and $13,004 was spent on expenses, including advertising, travel, postage, office supplies, printing, telecommunications and related expenses.

12. PlanetOut has signed on as a corporate sponsor of the Millennium March with a commitment to provide $250,000 cash — and a total of more than $1 million in cash and in-kind services.

13. The official website has been launched at http://www.mmow.org.

14. In an historic first, plans have been announced to cybercast the March on Washington to the entire world via the Internet. The March will be translated into Spanish, French, Chinese, Italian and other languages.

15. March organizers held a national press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on April 30, 1999 to announce GLBT Vote 2000, PlanetOut's $1 million sponsorship, the creation of the March's official website, and the launching of a series of town meetings across the U.S.

16. The board of directors affirmed that all MMOW board meetings will be open to the public and the press, and will include an open comment period for the public.

17. Several polls show overwhelming grassroots support for the March on Washington. The Advocate Magazine's Internet Poll shows 84% of respondents support the Millennium March. The Datalounge Poll shows more than 85% support. The UFMCC Poll consistently shows more than 90% support by grassroots UFMCC members. And the PlanetOut Survey shows that more than 60% of the LGBT community wants to attend the Millennium March.

18. The Board of Directors has retained veteran activist Ginny Foat to serve as the March's associate producer and Jim Birkett to serve as communications director.

19. A significant portion of the profits from the Millennium March will be distributed to people of color organizations and to state and local LGBT organizations, with the remainder to be determined at a later date.

Teen-age Boys Convicted in Beating Death of Gay Man

By Karen Testa

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Steven Goedereis was walking home on an empty street after sharing some drinks with coworkers when he passed someone he found attractive.

"Hey, beautiful," he said.

The object of his compliment — a 16-year-old boy — teamed up with a friend to beat Goedereis beyond recognition and into unconsciousness, repeatedly punching and kicking him in the head.

He died two days later.

Bryan Donahue, now 17, and Billy Dodge, 18, both high school dropouts who'd been drinking beer and tequila that day, were charged in Goedereis' beating.

Donahue faces life in prison but turned around and punched Goedereis, demanding money and taking his knapsack, Mack told jurors. Donahue then ran back to the friends he'd left nearby and returned with Dodge to find the 118-pound Goedereis.

"All the defendant had to do was continue walking away," Mack said as the man's mother sobbed silently in the courtroom.

"He wasn't in fear. He was in control. He was dominating the victim."

Donahue's lawyer, Joe Atterbury, argued his client was frightened when he went back to his friends and said, "Somebody just tried to rape me."

Donahue, who also was walking with Goedereis, admitted ... there was something sexual orientation. That means his conviction could carry a penalty several years higher than if he'd been convicted of third-degree murder without the hate crime provision.

Both were scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 3.

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Yes we have glycerin soap that will stun you with their beauty. These soaps look identical to precious gem stones. A must for every bath.

New Stonewall Jams coming in July

Visa/MC/Disc/AE
### TJN Community Calendar

**June 1999**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Church Services: HTCC Sunday School 10am &amp; Service 11am, Living Word Christian Church Services 10am &amp; 6pm; Safe Harbor MCC Worship Service 11am &amp; 7pm; Brothers &amp; Sisters Bowling, Cordova Lanes, 7945 Club Center Ctr. 5:45pm</td>
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<td>Womin Celebrating Women, Fully Alive, Call 323-2078, 6:15pm</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>BGALA, Call for Info. (278-5825 or 729-3915), 7-30pm</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Cotton Pickin' Squares, Prescott Mem. Bapt. Church, (Call 272-2116 or 325-6518 for times); BGALA Board Meeting; Call for time and location (729-3915)</td>
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<td>Independence Day Observed; Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm</td>
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<td>LGJC, Man Library, Mtg. Rm. B, 7pm; BGALA, Call for Info. (278-5825 or 729-3915), 7:30pm</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>HTCC, Bible Study, 7pm; Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Church Services (See June 27)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Womin Celebrating Women, Fully Alive, Call 323-2078, 6:15pm</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>BGALA, Call for Info. (278-5825 or 729-3915), 7:30pm</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Deadline for Aug.'99 TJN</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Church Services (See June 27)</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Feast for Friends Dinner, St. John's Methodist, 6:30pm; Mtg. Mtg., Fully Alive, Call 323-2078, 7pm</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>AIDS Consortium Mtg., United way on Union, 3pm; Integrity Service, 6pm &amp; Dinner/Mtg., 6:15pm; BGALA, Call for Info. (278-5825 or 729-3915), 7:30pm</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>HTCC, Bible Study, 7pm; Living Word Christian Church, Service, 7pm</td>
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About 700 parade participants and supporters gathered at Overton Park on June 19 for the Pride kick-off rally, sponsored by Memphis N.O.W. and the Memphis Chapter of the Lesbian and Gay Coalition for Justice.

Parade Grand Marshalls LaPaula Turner and Jim Maynard address the crowd.

Scantily clad men, dancing divas and music created the atmosphere for the Amnesia 2K float.

We ee

The Pride parade flag (foreground) and two multi-colored balloon arches await the parade.

For the first time this year, the parade rally had its own troupe of cheerleaders.

Vincent Astor (wearing a vintage Gaze T-shirt) and Krazi Becki anointed rally-goers with their respective wands and/or swords.

State Sen. Steve Cohen was the only elected official on hand to address the rally.

A crowd began to form along Madison Avenue at Overton Square about an hour before the parade arrived.

Ida Claire won second place in the costume category.

The Memphis Pride, Inc., float

One of the balloon arches.

The Backstreet Memphis float won first prize as best-decorated float and second prize for best use of theme.

MAGY (Memphis Area Gay Youth) marched en force in the parade and were well-represented at all the events.
Motorized vehicles and footpower were not the only means of transportation in this year's Pride Parade.

The Memphis Pride Flag measures 100 feet long and takes about 20 people to carry. This is the third year the Pride Flag has appeared in the parade.

Lily Christine (left) and Laura Lee Love (center) hoot it up during the carriage ride in the parade.

Chi Chi Macarena won the Best Costume prize for the parade.

Festival

Backstreet owner Shane Trice (left) received trophies for first place in the float category and second place in the "use of theme" category from Daniel Forrest, Pride Chair.

A standing-room-only crowd gathered about 5:30 p.m. to see comedian Bob Smith and singer-songwriter Diedre McCalla perform on the Pride stage.

It pays to advertise. Bob Dumais, one of TJN's sales reps, knows that it's true. Actually, the T-shirt is a promotional item for the new movie South Park. The Memphis Bears offered a free raffle for several dozen of the shirts.

About 20 vendors and exhibitors set up tables and tents at the festival site to sell items and distribute information.

Every Pride celebration should have at least one card-carrying good fairy — in this case TWO fairies. Vincent Astor (left) and an unidentified fairy.
AIDS Auction Should Net $30,000 for FFL

Friends For Life celebrated its 12th annual auction June 27th at the Memphis Botanic Garden. The auction, hosted by the largest auction in its 12-year history. An unprecedented 326 items were donated with a value totaling $75,000. The 500 in attendance were a veritable who’s who, thanks in large part to the incredible entertainment provided by the Jungle Room, by far one of Memphis’ most entertaining and talented groups.

Everyone raved about the Jungle Room and was impressed by the dozens of unique auction items. "After the dust settles, I think we sold about $30,000, maybe a little more," said auction chair Butch Valentine. Tom Proctor got every dollar he could from the live auction bidders in his role as auctioneer, with two round-trip business class tickets to anywhere in Europe, donated by Carlson Wagonlit Travel, bringing an exciting bid of $5,000.

To create higher bidding, we decided to commit the money from the Europe trip toward our building fund. The $5,000 bid by Joe Little put us over the top for what we needed for our down payment. We’re going to put a plaque in the Friends For Life office in his honor.

Kym Clark was wonderful as the Honorary Auction Chair, and her sparkling personality added to the atmosphere. The food, donated by Arizona’s and Sekisui Restaurants, was delicious and the free wine and Bloody Mary’s provided by Star Distributing, helped to loosen things up.

Butch was really excited about the day. "The auction committee and the volunteers did a super job, and trust me, you have no idea what all is involved with an auction," Butch said with one yourself. They were incredible.

I was especially proud of the coverage the auction received from The Commercial Appeal, "I think we’re doing good," and Channels 3, 5, and 24.

The media is taking our events very seriously, and their interest helps to raise AIDS awareness among mainstream Memphians, which is one of our major goals with our programs," said Butch.

It was unanimous this auction was the best ever, and when asked if he would chair the auction again next year, Butch didn’t hesitate. "Please! Let me know how my T-cells are doing after this one!"

The Pride Festival

Continued from page 1

Pride was a huge stage and played to a most appreciative audience. Smith’s humor, based on his life as a Gay man, struck a chord with almost everyone who heard him. Later, singer-songwriter Diered McCalla brought both songs and messages to the Festival. McCalla’s brand of urban acoustic popfolk music was delivered with an honest heart and was received as such by the appreciative audience.

Organizers says about 2000 people attended the festival this year — on a par or slightly higher than previous years. One of the things that made this year’s Pride Festival unique is the fact that it was staged in a very public place (Overton Square). Previous Festivals had been staged at places like the former Holy Trinity Community Church covered parking garage and the Wallenberg Shell at Overton Park.

There wasn’t virtually no negative reaction either at the parade or the Pride Festival, although The Commercial Appeal failed to cover either event in its Sunday editions. Several local TV stations did provide media coverage, however. Proceeded by the annual Gay Pride Boat Parade June 18 and followed by the annual picnic sponsored by World of Wonder, Navigo at Te-To-Tom Ranch, this year’s Pride Weekend was arguably the best ever.

Pride Weekend was also marked by large crowds at the many entertainment venues and the many other events that took place throughout the Memphis area. The Festival was also marked by the dedication of a new building for the Friends For Life organization.

The Festival was a huge success, and the organizers are already planning for next year’s event.

Aloysius Home

Continued from page 1

designed to complement the existing building and features some of its design elements. (See pictures on page 14). A rear courtyard will allow residents an open-air environment for socializing.

The building was built by Memphis’ Housing and Community Development and Aloysius Home, has purchased a 16-unit apartment building across the street from the Friends For Life Office to provide permanent housing with a less structured environment. The agencies purchased the building for $300,000.

A 10-year federal grant of $710,000 will assist in renovating and managing the apartments. That facility will allow homeless people with AIDS who have families to remain together. Two of the apartments will have two bedrooms while the remaining apartments are available for two single people.

In related developments, there are movements to merge the services and staff of Aloysius Home and Friends For Life. A formal merger of the two organizations could happen as early as September 1999.

Ruth Brown has been hired by Friends For Life to replace Tom Reden as executive director of that organization. Brown will serve as director of both agencies.

Brown served as interim executive director after the resignation of Aloysius Home’s founding executive director, Dr. Jeff Shaw, last year. She was offered and accepted the position of permanent executive director in March.

Lee Martin has assumed the newly created position of director for both agencies.

From the Friends For Life side, FFL Fund-Raising Coordinator Butch Valentine will assume fund-raising duties for both agencies and FFL Volunteer Coordinator John Hill will recruit and manage volunteers for both agencies.

Rumors that the two agencies were exploring the possibility of a merger have been circulating for a month or more. Sources say that if a merger eventually takes place, both entities will survive, but Friends For Life would be the managing partner. There would be a merger of board members from both organizations at the same time.

A special meeting of the board of directors of Friends For Life has been scheduled for the next month. At preimtise it was unknown what purpose that meeting was to be. See pictures of the groundbreaking of St. Joseph Hall on page 14.
Amnesia’s Pride Weekend

Amnesia
Memphis
featured special entertainment for Pride weekend.
Pictured right are Chichi LaRue with Catalina Super Stars Cole Tucker, Steve Rambo and Mark Mason. Below, Cole Tucker wowed audience members both performing at Amnesia and at the Pride Festival.

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Arkansas Court Sidesteps Final Ruling On Same-Sex Acts

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — A group challenging the constitutionality of Arkansas’ law against sodomy can continue with its court action against the state, the Arkansas Supreme Court ruled.

In its June 24 opinion, the court ruled against a request that the law be thrown off the books.

The court overturned a chancellor's refusal to grant a motion by the state attorney general’s office and the Pulaski County prosecutor to dismiss a lawsuit challenging the law that criminalizes specific-consensual acts between persons of the same sex.

The court disagreed with their arguments that a constitutional challenge must be postponed until someone is arrested and charged with violating the sodomy statute.

The justices ordered that the case be transferred to circuit court, with jurisdiction to decide the constitutionality of criminal laws. Any such declaration could be appealed to the Supreme Court.

The suit that seven homosexual men and women filed in Pulaski County Chancery Court asked Chancellor Collins Kilgore to declare the sodomy law unconstitutional and to bar enforcement of the statute.

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund hailed the decision.

We look forward to the next step in this case — the chance to show that the sodomy law violates the privacy and equal protection rights of Lesbian and Gay Arkansans,” said Lambda staff lawyer Suzanne B. Goldberg. She had argued the case since it was filed in January 1998.

The suit said members of the group had performed and would perform in the future sexual acts barred by the statute, and that they feared prosecution.

Sodomy is a misdemeanor under the law, punishable by up to a year in jail and a $1,000 fine.

The suit says the law violates their rights to privacy, as well as their rights to equal protection under the law since the statute does not prohibit acts of sodomy between heterosexuals.

On appeal, the attorney general’s office and Pulaski County Prosecutor Larry Jegley argued, among other things, that their offices were immune from lawsuits, that the chancery court was not the proper place to file the lawsuit and that the law should be challenged only in defense of a prosecution.

Arkansas Court Sidesteps Final Ruling Florida Judge Says Law Covers Gay Couples

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A circuit judge has ruled Florida’s domestic violence law covers Gay couples.

“‘To hold otherwise would undermine the efforts to safeguard, regardless of gender, the rights of victims of domestic violence,” Judge Ronald N. Ficarrotta wrote in his ruling.

The ruling came in the case of David Baker, 39, of Tampa, who was charged with violating a domestic violence restraining order taken out by his former partner, David Lozier, 39.

Public defenders asked the judge to dismiss the case against Baker, saying the injunction was invalid. They maintained the judge who signed the injunction wrongly recognized a homosexual relationship as family.

“The court, in issuing this injunction, recognized a homosexual relationship as a ‘family,’ which violates the longstanding policy of the Florida Constitution, statutes, Legislature and courts,” Baker’s lawyers wrote.

Florida does not recognize marriages between same-sex partners.

Ficarrotta said Baker and Lozier, who lived together for seven years, sharing a household and joint bank accounts, did live together as family.

Legislators, who expanded the domestic violence law in 1991, intended to protect all members of a household, he said in his order.

But the study did include responses from more than 2,500 Black and Latino men, and GMHC’s director of AIDS prevention, Richard Elovich, said that represents a huge step in reaching out to a population that is considered most vulnerable to HIV infection.

Thirteen percent of those surveyed said they are HIV-positive, 73 percent said they are negative and 13 percent said they didn’t know.

The 13 percent infection rate coincides with city Health Department estimates. But no firm data is available, because although New York State passed legislation last year that required HIV testing sites to report their infection rates, a controversy over how the regulations were to be carried out has kept them from being implemented.

The study found Black men reported the highest HIV rates — 17 percent. Latino men were next with a 15 percent infection rate, followed by white men at 13 percent. Men under 24 were the least likely to have been tested for HIV.

Elovich said GMHC’s prevention message has matured with the AIDS crisis, from monolithic slogans like “Use a condom every time” to getting men to think about how to reduce their risks.

We ask men now, if you didn’t use a condom and you assumed your partner was the same HIV status as you, how did you know? We’re really focusing on consciousness-raising rather than slogans,” he said.

The study was done annually to track trends. This year’s volunteers have already begun interviewing, and intend to include 1,000 women in the survey, he said.
Sad to Say... Well, once again I had to miss all the splendid activities for the Pride Weekend.

Happy to hear... I heard that everything was a smashing success. Congratulations to the Memphis Pride Committee for its dedication and hard work in bringing the Gay Community such an important weekend.

Sad to say... We oftentimes forget why we celebrate Gay Pride throughout the country in the month of June. It is to remember what happened in New York City 30 years ago during the Stonewall riots that followed a police raid on the club. It was the beginning of our Civil Rights campaign.

Happy to hear... For the first time, the federal government has given landmark status to a Gay site, putting the Stonewall Inn on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sad to say... People are so gullible when it comes to the information spread forth on the Internet. Some of the stuff is pretty amusing, such as the chain e-mail regarding free trips to Disney, the sick little girl who would receive 3 cents for her health care for each e-mail she received, and the intense lobbying effort to prevent a 5 cent charge for each e-mail. False. False. All of it False! And when something is promoted on-line that can affect someone’s health, don’t count on it for a Yankee minute. It seems that at-home HIV tests sold through the Internet give flawed results. The Internet ads falsely state the kits are approved by the World Health Organization or the FDA, and gives instant results. False! The FTC recently tested these in-home kits using a known HIV-infected sample and in every case, the kits signaled the user as HIV-negative. If you have used one of these kits, please, go to the Health Department for proper testing. These false results have given thousands a false sense of security.

Happy to hear... Or if you prefer, use the only FDA-approved at-home testing kit, the Home Access Health Corp.’s Home Access Express HIV-1 Test System. You can buy this kit over the counter at most pharmacies, but they don’t give instant results. You mail in a drop of blood on a special card to the company’s laboratory, and later call a hotline to learn the results. And if it does show you to have HIV, please do something about it. Trust me, and learn from me, deny and denial only makes matters worse.

Sad to say... Now the Republican-controlled House of Representatives has passed a weakened version of a gun-control law passed earlier by the Senate in response to the public’s outcry over the Columbine massacre, making it even easier to buy firearms at gun shows. And on top of that, as part of a bill relating to juvenile crime, the House voted to permit the posting of the Ten Commandments in schools and other state and local facilities. They reason it will help “promote morality and work toward an end of children killing children.”

Happy to hear... Maybe these Republican Righteous Wonders should pass legislation requiring the teaching to this country’s children how to pray while looking down the barrel of a firearm.

Sad to say... One of the side effects of having a long-term infection such as HIV is involuntary weight loss and muscle wasting, internally as well as externally. Your body needs the proper amount of lean body mass to function properly.

Happy to hear... The wasting syndrome may become a thing of the past with the use of oxandrolone, an anabolic steroid. The combination of the drug and progressive resistance exercise reduces three times a week showed remarkable results in tests involving 24 HIV-positive men. After eight weeks of therapy, many patients showed an average gain of 15 pounds of muscle gain with tremendous increases in strength.

Sad to say... I have long said that the issue of same-sex marriages will follow the same path as interracial marriages. Society’s reaction to same-sex marriages is the same now as it was to interracial marriages.

Happy to hear... Alabama became the latest brick in the wall of injustice to fall when its lawmakers voted to finally eliminate the ban on interracial marriages. The amendment will take effect if approved by a majority of Alabama voters in a special election in October (I don’t know, I won’t be holding my breath)

Sad to say... The nomination of San Francisco business man, James Hormel, to the ambassadorship to Luxembourg had been held up in the Senate by Republican Righteous Wonders just because he was Gay, forcing Clinton to appoint Hormel to the position while the Senate was in recess. While I find this tactic sadly amusing, it really pissed off Sen. James Inhofe, a conservative Republican (of course) from Oklahoma. Inhofe has vowed to hold up all nominations until the White House agrees to strict limitations while the Senate is in recess. Inhofe described the meat-packing plant heir as a “Gay activist who puts his agenda ahead of the agenda of America.”

Happy to hear... Like Inhofe isn’t it? It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to see through this ploy.

Sad to say... Coffee stains the teeth.

Happy to hear... But a couple of cups of coffee a day keeps the gallstones away but it must be caffeinated. A study of 64,008 men found that those who drank 2-3 cups each day had a 40 percent lower risk of gallstones than those who did not drink regular coffee while those who drank four or more had a 45 percent lower risk. Just thought you’d like to know.

Sad to say... Religious/Republican Righteous Wonder Pat Robertson criticized Scotland on his 700 Club television show because the country tolerates homosexuality. He referred to this gentle country as being a “dark land,” saying, “In Scotland, you can’t believe how strong the homosexuals are. It’s just unbelievable.”

Happy to hear... Well, I think it’s unbelievable he said something so stupid and so does The Bank of Scotland. To show their outrage, the bank broke off a deal with the highly opinionated RW to launch a U.S. telephone banking service in cooperation with the religious broadcaster’s financial services company. (Well, I guess any man in a skirt needs to be strong.)

Sad to say... Two new studies show that years after the powerful new AIDS medications virtually eliminated the virus from the bloodstream, it forces the virus into hiding in the body and continues to infect new cells. The meaning is this... though some with HIV are told their viral load is clinically undetectable, it pertains only to the blood. The HIV continues to live in the brain, eyes, and even the testicles, suggesting the virus will never completely disappear with current medications.

Happy to hear... Can’t think of anything to say.

Sad to say... Summertime brings us heat, and with the heat come the bugs. It’s really annoying when you are trying to enjoy a cookout with the constant zapping sound of bugs getting vaporized by those blue-lighted bug zappers.

Microbiologists are now saying that when a bug gets zapped, it creates a microbial mist up to six feet away!

Now when you consider that on average each fly carries about two million viruses and bacteria (including the bacteria that causes cholera and typhoid), and that one fly can leave more bacteria on food than hundreds of cockroaches, and that flies have a natural desire to walk around on manure, you just may think about moving your picnic table.

Happy to hear... It’s probably not as bad as it sounds since we human beings carry “many millions of organisms around on our bodies’ (such a pleasant thought), but just be aware of an unexplained added flavor to your bar-b-que.

Phelps

Continued from page 7

Doesn’t your hate crimes (law) say you can’t interfere with people’s rights because of their religion?” asked Phelps-Roper. “Do we not have the right to practice our religion?”

The group, which also says it has received several death threats from Canada, was incensed Friday when its Ottawa hotel reservations were canceled.

“It was because of our activities,” Phelps-Roper said.

Anna Ballard, operations manager of the Victoria Park Suites in Ottawa, said management chose not to risk exposing other guests to potential confrontations.

The decision was made for safety and security, Ballard said.
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What Was the Role of the Stonewall Riots in the Lesbian and Gay Liberation Movement?

A word that once brought to mind only a resolute Confederate general has taken on mythic proportions in Lesbian and Gay culture. But the widespread appropriation of the name "Stonewall" doesn't dilute the importance of what happened in the summer of 1969 in New York City. The event for which so many groups and products have been named is still a hot topic of debate in Gay circles, with much disagreement about what actually precipitated the violence and what part it played in making Gay liberation possible.

June 28, 1969, the police raided the Stonewall Inn, a dingy, Mafia-run "private club" on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village with a predominantly Gay clientele. The charge was illegal sale of alcohol. It was the second time that week the bar had been targeted by the police, and other Gay bars had also been raided in prior weeks. Police officers lined up the Stonewall's 200 patrons to check identification. Most were free to leave, but the staff, as well as three drag queens and two male-to-female transsexuals, were detained. (It was illegal for the crowd on the street to growl. One person threw a rock through a window, and eventually, garbage cans, bottles, and even a parking meter were used to assault the building. Someone set a fire with lighter fluid. By newspaper accounts, 13 people were arrested and three police officers sustained minor injuries in the confrontation.

Later that night and into Sunday morning, a crowd again gathered in front of the ravaged bar. Many young Gay men showed up to protest the flurry of raids, but they did so by hand-holding, kissing and forming a chorus line. "We are the Stonewall girls," they sang, kicking their legs in front of the police. We wear our hair in curls/We have no underwear/We show our pubic hair." Police cleared the street without incident this time, but another street altercation occurred a few days later.

Even more significant, though, was what happened later in the summer. At the end of July, Gay activists circulated copies of a flyer calling for a mass "homosexual liberation meeting." The headline of the flyer read, "Do you think homosexuals are revolting? Yes but your sweet ass we are!" The alliance that formed from the meeting held on July 24 adopted the name Gay Liberation Front (GLF), its members viewed themselves as radicals breaking away from the accommodationist thinking of homophile groups like the Mattachine Society. Among GLF's demands were not only an end to police harassment but a broader vision of Gay rights: job protection for Gay employees, the repeal of sodomy laws, and local and national anti-discrimination laws.

Soon, new other organizations, like the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), and a host of Gay liberation publications, like Gay Power, emerged, first in New York and then across the country. Estimates suggest that, at the time of the riots, there were a few dozen Gay organizations in the United States. Within a few years, the number had risen to more than 400. With this surge of Gay activism came a new visibility. In the fall of 1969, Time magazine profiled "The Homosexual in America" for a national cover story on the nascent Gay movement.

Today, "Stonewall" is shorthand for a struggle that has mobilized Gay people to action. For example, the protests that followed police raids on Gay bathhouses in Toronto in 1981 are often called "the Canadian Stonewall." Other cities and countries also point to their own "Stonewall" moments.

It almost doesn't matter who threw the first rock on Christopher Street or who was involved in the fight. What matters is that Gay community interpreted events at the Stonewall Inn as revolutionary and used them to create a global Gay political movement.

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

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Two protesters were arrested at the Ohio Statehouse after one of them took down the rainbow flag that represents Gay rights and burned it, authorities said.

Charles Spingola, 43, of Newark, and Donald Richardson, 63, of London, Ohio, were taken into custody during an altercation June 27 between the protesters and Gay rights advocates, said Lt. John Born of the State Highway Patrol. Spingola, accused of taking down the flag and burning it, has been charged with rioting, criminal damaging and disorderly conduct, authorities said. Richardson has been charged with disorderly conduct and misconduct in an emergency, said a Franklin County Municipal Court clerk who declined to give her name.

Spingola and Richardson were both released from the Franklin County jail on bond and were to be arraigned June 28 in municipal court, the clerk said. No other arrests were made and no one was injured.

The incident, reported about 1 p.m. June 27, occurred a few hours after the Gay-rights flag was hoisted at the state Capitol as part of a celebration of Gay pride in Columbus.

Amid cheers from about 30 protesters, Spingola climbed the William McKinley monument next to the flagpole and cut down the flag. Mark Narens, a Columbus lawyer, told The Columbus Dispatch an argument between Gay activists and protesters ensued during the argument, one of the protesters burned the flag. Narens told the newspaper. More people entered the fray and the groups had to be separated by Columbus police and highway patrol troopers before a fight occurred, police said.

Most of the protesters were members of the Coalition of Bible Believing Churches, a group from various central Ohio churches, said protester Steve Bro, 29, of Waverly. The group said it burned the flag in protest of the homosexual lifestyle, which they believe is denounced in the Bible. "Jesus Christ died for them. If they repent, they can be saved," Bro said.

Many members of the Gay support organization Stonewall Columbus, which sponsors a parade and arranged to have the flag raised at the Statehouse, said they were disappointed by the flag burning. "It's extremely demoralizing to see that type of behavior against any group," Jose Rodriguez, a board member of Stonewall Columbus, told the Dispatch. "Sometimes we take for granted that we live in a tolerant community," he said. "Today we learned that bigotry is alive and well in central Ohio."

Flying the rainbow flag shows that Gays are an accepted part of the community, said Jeff Redfield, executive director of Stonewall Columbus. The flag burning left a burn mark on the pavement outside the Statehouse.

By evening, a second Gay-rights flag had been hoisted at the Statehouse and flew below the American flag.

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Published as a public service of The Triangle Journal News.
Twenty Times Pride

by Vincent Astor

Whoops! Everyone miscounted! The first Pride celebration took place in 1980. It consisted of a picnic in Jim Ramsey’s backyard and the first River Ride. Pride was celebrated before that a time or two, but 1980 marks the first annual celebration. Using fingers (and toes) that makes 20.

Yes, darling, that Gay Pride t-shirt was worn 20 years ago. Several individuals, besides myself, who were there in 1980 were also at this year’s festival. Jim Ramsey was one of the organizers. (See the picture on page 22.)

Short Subjects
Crossroads has redecorated. Though the bar has lost none of its glitter (being the glitter bar of the tri-state area), it now harkens back to the Studio 54 aura and is very, very danceable. It remains popular in the tri—state area, and is very, very danceable. I return to the Studio 54 aura...it now harkens back to the Studio 54 aura of the 70s. The music matches it and is very, very danceable.

Pipeline revelers took up their usual station in the heart of Overton Square for the Pride Parade, this year armed with bright yellow fans. Of course, they had plenty of fans to spare and many festival-goers took advantage of the free breeze. Last year, white, this year yellow, will we see the entire rainbow or the entire hanky code before they’re done?

Among the news (and rumours) circulating during Pride were: Steve Wesson (Mule, Gayvon, etc.) plans to return to Memphis from Chattanooga soon; Gail Caskey, originally from Holy Trinity, has returned from California and is completing her ministerial education at Memphis Theological Seminary; Memphis is to get not one (which was expected) but two new bars in the near future. You should’ve been there.

Coming Up
Mystic Krewe of MU benefited for Bluff City Sports Association—hurry! It’s Sun., July 4, at Madison Flame at 6:30 p.m. You will probably get out in time for the A also, Star Wars at Madison Flame, to benefit Holy Trinity Building Fund, Sun., July 18, 8 p.m. I dropped by K. A. Karmas (where Arizona used to be on Overton Park and Watkins) last month for a very fine plate of build-your-own nachos. The owners style this bar as “alternative” with a lot of emphasis on food. It is very Gay/Lesbian supportive and seeking a diverse clientele which will include the very young. I liked what I saw (shut up, Hester Sue).

The folks at In The Grove recommended that I drop by sometime to hear The Jungle Room, a very up-and-coming local band which plays there. I recently discovered that Chuck Parr, who has sung at previous Pride festivals is part of this group. I’m going to try to get by soon.

I’ve also never given the nod they deserve to the famous Bouffants, who turn up just about everywhere and are always willing to be part of a benefit. Look for them at A Place at the Table in August. Look for them in Tunica. Look for them just about anywhere.

Passages
Terry Hopper, an old acquaintance of mine, lost the battle to AIDS-related complications recently. He always wanted to write an article aimed at younger people on what it was like to spend lots of time at the VA hospital with a lot of needles stuck in you as a result of unprotected sex. He was an uncomplicated soul, just a plain sweet man. He will be missed.

Beforehand
Just a word about the 20th Annual River Ride. I got very verklemmt a time or two. I missed those people who used to always go and were that night elsewhere, and I treasured those who I saw. The captain remembered that first boat ride like I did. We had to stop and take on more beer in the middle of the river because we drank more than an entire showboat of square dancers. The Memphis Queen Line has enjoyed having us for all these years because, though we drink plenty, we’re never rowdy and they never have to worry on our cruises.

Rufus Thomas was just fabulous and the weather was just about the best we’ve ever had. Next year, the boat ride comes of age. And it was sweet of them to ask for calliope music again. Another word about the religious service held June 13, 20th Annual River Ride. Episcopal Church hosted a service called Diverse People Living Peacefully. The service was organized by the Coalition for Gay & Lesbian Religious Affairs. Over 150 people attended and there were 18 participants, 12 of which were clergy, representing Episcopal, Presbyterian and Congregational/United Church of Christ, Metropolitan Community Church, Living Word Christian Church and Holy Trinity Community Church.

Rev. David Fikes, rector of Grace St. Luke’s, opened and closed the service; Rev. Scott Howell of First Congregational Church—water—stops along parade route; members of Integrity-Memphis & the Mystic Krewe of Memphis United for lots and lots of help; and Allison Tate and Star Queen for entertainment and MC, and thanks to lots of other volunteers.

Individuals Who Made This Possible:
Daniel Forrest—Chair, Carol Molder—Co-Chair, Events Chair; Susan Taranto—Treasurer; Jim Ramsey—Parliamentarian, Parade Coordinator; Angela Smith—at-Large Board Member, Vendor/Advertising Coordinator; John DuBannon—Stage Manager; Scott Miller—Decorations; and Cindy Robbins—Security.

The Impartial Panel of Float Judges:
Lisa Buckner—InsideOut Lifegym; Rev. Ed Hammett—Hollywood Trinity and Botanica; Richelle Harrington—Playhouse on the Square (thanks for the use of the balcony); and moi.

The Trophy Winners (First & Second):
Best Costume—Chic Chi Macarena, Ida Claire; Best Parade Spirit—Women’s Action Coalition (WAC), University of MS Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Association; Best Walking Group—Safe Harbor Church in Jackson, MS, P—FLAG; Best Float—Backstreet, Amnesia; Best Vehicle—one More, “Have A Nice Day”; Best Use of Theme—Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY), Backstreet.

See Quick Clips on page 37
Homosexuality and Violence

In connection with the manhunt for alleged Gay serial killer Andrew Cunanan, a reporter called me to ask whether there was any evidence linking male homosexuality and violence. This struck me as one of the more fatuous questions I have been asked over the years, but I politely mentioned a couple of studies that have looked at the issue. These studies found that, as far as I can tell, there are no significant differences in the sexual orientation of gay men compared to heterosexual men. The reporter seemed disappointed; probably he had wanted some scientific evidence to back up his notion that your average homo is a budding ax-murderer.

One of the two studies was conducted by sociologist Lee Ellis and his colleagues at Minot State University in North Dakota. A large number of men and women were asked about their sexual attractions, their history of criminality and violence, and their propensity to react violently to a number of hypothetical situations. The Gay men were more likely to be attracted to the same sex, but Gladue and Bailey found no differences in any of their categories. Given the prominence of Lesbians in some sports, one might imagine that there is a subculture of Lesbians who are more competitive than heterosexual women, but if so, that doesn’t translate into a safe generalization about the “average” Lesbian. As with so many other traits, Lesbians seem more diverse and harder to categorize than Gay men.

The lower physical aggressiveness of Gay men is another example of a sex-atypical trait associated with homosexuality, for hundreds of studies, across many cultures, have documented that men are generally more aggressive and more criminal than women. In my view, it fits well with the notion that sexual orientation, especially, is part of a package of traits that are influenced by sex-atypical biological processes. This supposition is bolstered by animal experiments: both decreased aggressiveness and same-sex partner preference can be induced in male animals of several species by treatments that influence the prenatal sexual differentiation of the brain. But others may see the connection as a consequence of complex social interactions during childhood and later.

As to whether the lower aggressiveness of Gay men is a “good thing” or a “bad thing,” that depends very much on circumstances. If it promotes peaceful living and cooperation, fine. If it causes us to let our rights be trampled on, not so fine. The debate surrounding these issues in the Gay male community replicates a debate that has occupied feminists for decades. But in the Gay male community, there’s an added wrinkle, because becoming stereotypically masculine is often seen as a means of attracting other Gay men. Aggressiveness, in our community, is something we both love and hate.

There is one kind of violence where there may be a real connection to male homosexuality, and that is sexual homicide—killing a person during or immediately after sex. According to one study conducted in the 1970s, this very rare crime involves two men about as often as it does a man and a woman—more often, in other words, than the overall prevalence of homosexuality would predict.

One could speculate that the perpetrators of such crimes are men who are in extraordinary conflict about their same-sex urges. One incident that I experienced, many decades ago, bolstered that belief: a man I had picked up threatened me with a knife immediately after we had sex, while declaring over and over again that he wasn’t Gay. A quick 911 call sent him running, but the incident helped teach me the advantages of monogamy. Gay sexual homicide should teach us all the importance of overcoming homophobia, including the homophobia lurking within some Gay people.

Prosecutor Recommends Life Without Parole In Killing Of Gay Man

By Jay Reeves
Associated Press Writer

ROCKFORD, Ala. (AP) — Prosecutors plan to seek a life sentence for a man who admitted murdering a Gay acquaintance over what police described as an unwanted sexual advance.

District Attorney Fred Thompson said the recommendation of life without parole was part of a deal that led Steven Eric Mullins to plead guilty to capital murder June 24 in the slaying of Billy Jack Gaither.

But Circuit Judge John Rochester did not rule out the possibility of the death penalty for Mullins.

Rochester will make a decision after a final hearing Aug. 2, the same day co-defendant Charles Butler Jr. is scheduled to go on trial for capital murder in the slaying of Gaither, 39, of nearby Sylacauga.

Police say Mullins, 25, and Butler, 21, plotted Gaither’s slaying for two weeks after he made a sexual advance.

Gaither was abducted on Feb. 19, stuffed into his car trunk and later beaten to death with an ax handle. Police said his body was burned atop a pyre of old tires, where a passerby found it smoldering beside a creek.

"I kidnapped Mr. Gaither, forced him into the car and killed him intentionally," Mullins told the court in a barely audible voice.

His statement, given at the judge’s prompting, was brief and he did not describe a motive.

Mullins, an unemployed construction worker known for bullying people in bars and wearing combat boots and racist T-shirts, acknowledged that he was not forced to plead guilty.

During a separate hearing, Butler withdrew an insanity defense he asserted earlier, but maintained his innocence.

President Clinton compared Gaither’s murder to the dragging death of a black man in Texas and the fatal beating of Matthew Shepard, a homosexual Wyoming college student who was lashed to a fence.

One of the victim’s brothers, William Gaither, said he would like to see both men get the death penalty. But his father, Marion Gaither, disagreed.

“I don’t believe in the death penalty,” he said. “I think it will be harder for them in prison.”

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The religious right’s odious “Truth in Love” campaign began last summer with full-page ads in major newspapers. Now this crusade, which claims that people can “walk away” from homosexuality through faith in Jesus, has moved into its second phase with a TV ad.

Lesbians and Gay men are riled up about the hostile climate these ads create, a climate that increases crimes. But the new ad may do further damage, and not just to Lesbians and Gay men. By implying that AIDS is a “Gay disease,” the TV ad is a menace to the public health of communities experiencing AIDS emergencies.

If you haven’t seen the ad, you can view it online at the Web site of the Human Rights Campaign (www.hrcusa.org). Here’s the gist of it: A white woman sits in a chair to her. “My son Michael found out with her grown son perched next to him. “I’ll forever be grateful that [my mom] loved me enough to tell me the truth.”

Nineteen years into the AIDS epidemic, it seems incredible that religious zealots still refuse to educate themselves about HIV and AIDS. Their ignorant belief, based on very early ideas about the disease, remains simple: AIDS is the consequence of (read: punishment for) homosexual sex. (Of course, they always ignore the invisible homosexuals — Lesbians — most of whom remain at low risk for contracting HIV.)

What is infuriating is that the Christian right is spreading its ignorance via the most powerful and persuasive of all media. Though it isn’t the main point of the ad, the underlying message of the “Truth in Love” TV spot is that heterosexuals don’t get AIDS. So much for the “truth.”

To date, the anti-Gay TV ad has aired only once, on a Washington, D.C., station on Mothers’ Day. According to a spokesman for the Center for Reclaiming America, the organization responsible for producing the ad, the nation’s capital was chosen for the debut because “that’s where the policymakers are.”

Lesbian Notions
by Paula Martinac

The Triangle Journal News is pleased to publish obituaries of members of our community to make note of their passing. See page 2 for information on how to make submissions.

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Gina Gershon: Head Dick

Sexpot Gina Gershon, who gained Lesbian icon status with her turn as the butch plumber who checked out Jennifer Tilly’s pipes in Bound, has scored a new one-hour drama created by Ally McBoshetuber producer, David E. Kelley. Gershon plays the lead character, named Glenn Hall, who runs a private investigation agency. The role was originally written for a man — until Kelley figured out that Gershon was Mr. Right and performed a gender-change on the gumshoe (the name stayed the same). Actress Paula Marshall, who was the best thing about the short-lived Cupid series, plays angel to Gershon’s Charlie. Snopswill air Sundays this fall on ABC.

Conservatives Oppose Airing of PBS Documentary on Gay Issues

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP) — Idaho Public Television’s decision to air a documentary about how some schools deal with Gay and Lesbian issues is drawing fire from the Idaho Christian Coalition.

And members of the state Board of Education, like Chairman Harold Davis of Idaho Falls and state legislators like Senate President Pro Tem Jerry Twiggs of Blackfoot, are being pulled into the fray that could come to a head at a special Board of Education meeting. “When are we going to see a halt to the misuse of taxpayer money to promote the radical left’s pro-homosexual agenda?” asked Nancy Bloomer, executive director of the Christian Coalition, in a press release issued this week.

Bloomer said the content of the program is not as objectionable to her as the fact that it is being aired on a television station that is partially funded by tax dollars.

OHIO FALLS, Ohio (AP) — Public Television Ohio’s decision to air a documentary about how some schools deal with Gay and Lesbian issues is drawing fire from the Ohio Christian Coalition.

And members of the state Board of Education, like Chairman Harold Davis of Ohio Falls and state legislators like Senate President Pro Tem Jerry Twiggs of Blackfoot, are being pulled into the fray that could come to a head at a special Board of Education meeting.

“I’m putting all this material together one more time in the hopes that homosexuality may come to a halt. I’m putting all this material together one more time in the hopes that homosexuality may come to a halt.”

Bloomer said the content of the program is not as objectionable to her as the fact that it is being aired on a television station that is partially funded by tax dollars.

Open Letter

Continued from page 10

manizing traditions” used to persecute homosexuals. Please, Jerry, let the Spirit of Truth set you free again.

Thank you for meeting with me last year to hear the evidence that we are God’s children, too, but it was obvious from your (and your avalanche of anti-Gay rhetoric that followed) that you were not taking that evidence seriously.

Today, I begin a series of open letters to you reviewing the evidence one more time. Where I am wrong, correct me and I will confess my error. I hope you will do the same. I hope you will be a genuine public dialogue. I’m hoping that TOGETHER we can negotiate an end to your tragic misinformatin campaign against us. If you refuse to accept the evidence again, if you insist on continuing your false and inflammatory rhetoric, then we will have no other option but to mobilize people of faith across this nation to conduct a serious nonviolent direct action against your untruths in the spirit of Gandhi and King.

In this series of open letters, I’m going to do my best to summarize how you are using the issue of same sex marriage as a sin. I’m putting all this material together one more time in the hopes that you will change your mind and heart about us. In the meantime, you know that it wasn’t data that changed your mind about segregation. It was knowing its victims and sharing their suffering.

As always, you will never realize that you have chosen the source of even worse suffering in the lives of those you love and serve.

Please, Jerry, read Chapter I of your autobiography once again. After years of blindly and enthusiastically supporting segregation, you heard God’s voice, admitted your error, and changed your ways. Now, after years of blindly and enthusiastically supporting anti-homosexual ignorance and bigotry, will you stop long enough to hear God’s voice again? 

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Gay Rights Still Tear at United Methodist Church

by Kevin O’Hanlon
Associated Press Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Rev. Jimmy Creech, who was tried by the United Methodist Church for performing a Lesbian marriage, said he will continue to defy church doctrine and perform such ceremonies.

“I will continue to do what I feel is right,” Creech said. “I can only be faithful as a pastor and act with integrity.”

Creech made the comment as he and hundreds more United Methodists gathered in Lincoln to attend the church’s annual state conference, which runs through Sunday.

Creech drew the ire of church officials when he performed a union ceremony for two Lesbians in 1997 in his Omaha congregation.

Creech was tried and acquitted last year on charges of disobeying church rules in a case that drew international attention and plunged the world’s 9.5 million United Methodists into a debate over church doctrine concerning Gays.

At least 17 petitions and resolutions, many of which would make the church more open to Gays and Lesbians, were scheduled to be discussed and voted on during the conference.

The measures would remove the church’s condemnation of homosexual practice and abolish its ban on same-sex union ceremonies.

They would not be binding if passed. But they would be forwarded to the church’s General Conference, which is to meet next year in Cleveland.

At the time of Creech’s trial in Kearney, the church’s ban on performing same-sex commitment ceremonies was listed in the denomination’s Social Principles, which are printed in the Book of Discipline.

There was debate over whether that prohibition had the weight of church law. Church officials have since ruled that it does.

Creech was not reappointed to his pulpit and is on a voluntary leave of absence.

He lives in North Carolina, but he still a member of the Nebraska clergy and is answerable to Nebraska Bishop Joel Martinez.

Creech is facing a new round of complaints for performing a union ceremony for two Gay men in Chapel Hill, N.C., last month. The complaints are under review by Martinez.

Creech said he is not worried about being stripped of his duties.

“I’m not worried about what consequences there may be for me — that’s up to the church, and leave it up to the church as to what it will do as a response,” he said.

In his “State of the Church” address June 3, Martinez called for unity.

“Our ongoing differences on the death penalty, abortion and homosexuality should not prevent us from being the welcoming refugee, the immigrant or the homosexual into our parish,” he said. “Our differences on issues ought not to justify our theocracy in leading people to faith in Christ.”

The church is the nation’s second-largest Protestant denomination after the Southern Baptists.

The General Conference includes clergy and lay delegates from across the nation, and is the only body that can set church policy.

Doug Williamson, the Nebraska Wesleyan University religion professor who defended Creech at the trial, said that he believed about half of the church’s members supports the full inclusion of Gays and Lesbians.

A church historian, Williamson said the Methodist Episcopal Church, the predecessor of the United Methodist Church, openly supported slavery in the 1830s.

“And now we look back and can’t even imagine our church would have ever supported that,” he said. “It’s hard to know where it’s going to lead, but I think in the long term, the church will embrace Gays and Lesbian people as full members of the church.”

Creech, whose conference name tag said “Jimmy Creech, Leave of Absence,” said he knew his actions would be controversial when he performed the 1997 ceremony. But he said he believes the church ultimately will allow Gays and Lesbians full inclusion.

“It’s going to be a very difficult and painful struggle,” he said. “But I think that’s inevitable.”

Presbyterian Committee Recommends Allowing Gay, Lesbian Ministers

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Gays and Lesbians are one step closer to being eligible to become ministers in the Presbyterian church.

In a 2-1/4 vote, the Church Order and Ministry committee of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recommended striking a clause from the church’s constitution that, in effect, prohibits homosexuals from being ordained.

The clause requires clergy to live within standards that include “fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness.”

A specific prohibition on the ordination of “self-affirming, practicing homosexuals” contained in a 1978 policy that was updated in 1989 would be removed.

“I am pleasantly surprised by this,” said the Rev. Don Stroud, a Gay man who was ordained before the 1978 policy was adopted. “I am a Gay man that was blessed to be called by the church.”

He said a policy excluding homosexuals in effect says that “my right to serve the Lord is based on me being heterosexual and not the grace of God.”

The issue now goes to the full 56-member assembly later this week during the denomination’s annual meeting. Approval would require a simple majority.

If the measure passes, it then goes before the ordained Presbyterian ministers and elders nationwide for approval. The majority of 173 presbyteries, or regional governing bodies, must agree to the change.

Opponents have argued that practicing homosexuality goes against biblical principles by which the church should abide.

“It is scandalous to the gospel the way these people behave,” the Rev. Stephen Moss, a committee member, said during the heated debate. “I know of no other behavior that the Scripture forbids that is upheld by the church as proper.”

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has about 3 million members.

Northwest Methodists Affirm Worth of Gays, Lesbians

MOSCOW, Idaho (AP) — Northwest Methodist leaders have affirmed the “sacred worth” of Gays and Lesbians and acknowledged their right to participate within the church.

The Methodist’s annual Pacific Northwest legislative conference here attracted more than 1,000 Methodist leaders, who considered legislative proposals on everything from foreign sanctions on Iraq to the creation of a U.S. Secretary of Peace.

The June 18 vote asked the United Methodist Church to replace negative ecclesiastical language on homosexuality with a statement of support for Gays and Lesbians within the church.

Their decisions aren’t binding, but will serve as recommendations to the church’s highest legislative body, which meets next spring.

At last year’s Pacific Northwest conference, Methodist leaders heard a statement condemning Gays and Lesbians, despite the fact that the church’s rules prohibit it.

“Inclusion congregations” also are popping up around the country, created by Methodists who support wider roles for Gay and Lesbian church members.

Seventy-four Pacific Northwest pastors and more than 100 lay members of the church signed petitions this year asking the church to be more inclusive of its Gay and Lesbian members.
Quick Clips

Continued from page 30

Honorable Mention—Stiltwalkers (who were they, anyhow?), Inz & Outz, "Just Married" pickup truck, Integrity-Memphis, and Playhouse on the Square.

It was also good to see one of the community’s best friends, Steve Cohen, speaking at the rally. Whew!

Aftermath/Afterglow

Even after the later start and fabulous weather, Pride was far from over. Emerald Theatre Company showcased winners from its first annual Gay Playwrights Competition. I will sale. Next, July 16-17, 23-25 is Celebrating Our Independence which is more contemporary works about Gay and Lesbian lifestyles.

As I normally whine, there just isn’t enough of me to get everywhere, so I couldn’t get by the live music at Backstreet. The headliners — Amber, Pure Sugar and the ever-popular Anita Ward — rode in limousines in the parade and performed later that evening. I am positive that Kym Clark was also in the middle of everything.

I didn’t get to Te-To-Tam ranch for N-Cognito’s annual Pride picnic either. The time I went it was a blast.

I perhaps will be forgiven for taking the chance to interview Chi Chi (that’s chichi) LaRue and three of her leading men from Catalina Video. Star Cole Tucker rode the Amnesia float and was doing a lot of pressing the flesh (and vice versa) during the festival.

I, having never met anyone in this business, didn’t know what to expect when I met them in the dressing room at Amnesia. What I found was a complete absence of pretense and attitude backstage. Chi Chi began directing erotic video 12 years ago and uses her drug penma to promote her films. Some take from one day ("The orgy scenes are the easiest, you just get a bunch of guys and let them go.") to two weeks to film. There is a certain amount of acting going on, but the closeups can’t be faked.

"My feedback [in a scene] is respected at Catalina," said actor Steve Rambo. "It’s easier to do when I’m into the person [read "turned on"] but I’m always aware of where the camera is and whether my arm is in the way. I’m very comfortable with Catalina."

Mark Mason admits to being an exhibitionist. He also admits that his video work is done for fun. He is professionally a paramedic and works on the lot. He is pro-

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LET’SHOOKUP

Down—to—earth GM, likes swimming, bowling, movies and having fun. If you’re interested in meeting me, give me a call. (Melbourne) 16705

If you want statistics, you will have to get them from me in person; if you want impressions, well, the lust quotient was extremely high as a result of these men. I also found all four to be very personable, sensible professionals who enjoy their work (and it shows)

Mustin’t forget that I said hi to Kirby Kincaid, Sofonda Peters and Jo Anne Badley and got a glimpse of Lady Bunny (of the enormous hair). Thanks to Frank Cooper and David DaPonte for arranging the meeting. We have always had a good rapport.

Final Round

Memphis Pride events generate the same excitement for me as the gatherings in London.

That in itself is plenty to be proud of and to build upon.

Ta, ta.

V. A.

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SERIOUSLY INTO SPORTS SWGM, looking for friendship, enjoy swimming, tennis and all other sports. 11746

ARE YOU GENIUS? Mature SWM, 7’, 280 lbs, very lazy, very dependable and seeking the same. Hit me up (Huntsville) 18188

FREE LOOKING for Guy, 20—30 who are interested in anything that looks good, for friendship and possible relationship. I am the sexiest, saddest or anything like this. (Nashville) 15673

CAN YOU TAKE ME DOWN? Adventurous, 27—year—old county SWM enjoys the outdoors, camping, cooking, ACT 2 and Lowbie Club, looking for fun and fellowship. 18178

WHAT’S LIFE ALL ABOUT? 21—year—old SWM, 5’11”, 170 lbs, looking for serious relationship. I am a man who likes taking, dancing, bowling, dancing, going out and having a good time. Contact me at 552—3168 (Knoxville) 15579

MISSOURI

I want to be the one you can be yourself around and have a good time with. (Springfield) 10724

ALABAMA

WILD TO WILD: I’m new to the lifestyle and looking for some hot guys who are honest, discreet, understanding and willing to show off to others. Contact me at 706—282—2277 (McCalla) 15544

SLIM SWM, 6’1”, slender, slim build, lives on the west side of Birmingham, looking for someone to get together with. (Birmingham) 10459

IS MORE THAN SEX 35—year—old BM, 5’7”, 120 lbs, looking for a serious relationship, sexual or otherwise. (Macon) 10471

HARRI MASCULINE MAN SWM, 5’1”, red—haired/brunette, the area for a couple of months, looking for similar Guys. 55—65, if this sounds interesting to you, give me a call. (Birmingham) 10853

TAKE ME AND BREAK ME 35—year—old SWM, 5’7”, brown/brunette, athletic build, looking for other hot, smooth—shaven males, 5’5—7’, to take me and break me into the lifestyle. Show me everything. Must be honest, discreet and a non—smoker. (Birmingham) 10724

HONEST AND DEPENDABLE 35—year—old SWM, 5’6”, 165 lbs, bronzed/muscle, bromance, muscle, smart, funny, intelligent, athletic, home movies and quiet nights at home. Looking for Guys, 30—35, for friendship and possible relationship. (Montgomery) 10409

GETTING IT TOGETHER 31—year—old SWM, 170 lbs, fun—loving, honest and Looking for someone to start a life with. (Birmingham) 10409

I’M KIND OF NEW TO THIS GMW, 40, looking for an affectionate partner, to experiment with. (Lansdale) 10724

LEONARD CAMELIO ACTIVITIES Gay White Man, 6’1”, 170 lbs, seeks new friends, camping, horse riding, swimming and a little tennis. Easy going. If you answer, give me a call if you’re interested. (Romine) 10724

HAIRY MASCULINE MAN BM, 5’11”, red—headed/brunette, the area for a couple of months, looking for similar Guys. 55—65, if this sounds interesting to you, give me a call. (Birmingham) 10853

TALK TO ME, LET’S TALK 35—year—old SWM, 5’7’, brown/brunette, athletic build, looking for other hot, smooth—shaven males, 5’5—7’, to take me and break me into the lifestyle. Show me everything. Must be honest, discreet and a non—smoker. (Birmingham) 10724

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27—YEAR-OLD GMW, 6’6”, 190 lbs, smart, friendly, wants a serious relationship. Leave me a message and I’ll get back to you. (Memphis) 10724

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© Mark Mason admits to being an exhibitionist. He also admits that his video work is done for fun. He is professionally a paramedic and works on the lot. He is proud of the whole thing and he enjoys the celebrity and meeting new people.

I asked about live sex performances, and he said no, “You have to keep a little mystery.”

Cole Tucker is a man with a mission. He is a firm believer in 12-step programs who enjoy their work (and it shows). He is an ironclad responsibility of video actors like himself to only portray safer sex. He uses his celebrity (and people certainly pay attention) to get a strong message to society. It is worth a story be published in a later issue of TIN. His website is http://www.cole—

A NEWS—TO—NOTICE

Memphis Pride events generate the same excitement for me as the gatherings in London.

That in itself is plenty to be proud of and to build upon.

Ta, ta.

V. A.
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COTTON PICKIN' SQUARES: Gay/Lesbian Square Dance Club • Meets Thurs., Prescott Memorial Baptist Church 2258 Eley, Memphis 38104 • 272-2116 or 325-6156.


4F: Leather/Leguy group • 3663 Applin Lake Dr.

Friends for Life—HIV Resources: HIV/AIDS Services Organization • 1854 Madison, Memphis 38107 • 218-0565 or 218-AIDS.

Holy Trinity Community Church*—Workshop for Hope—Newsletter • 855 South Front St., Memphis, email: stjohnst@memphis.earthlink.net. Meet: Sun. 3:00pm Summer; 9:30am Winter.

Integrity Memphis*—Meets the 3rd Tues., Healing Service/Eucharist, 6pm; Dinner, 6:45pm; Mtg. 7:30pm • St. George's Episcopal Church, 100 N. 2nd, 525-6602.

Into the Light (Women's AA)*: Memphis Lambda Center @ 2736-7397.

J & M Lambda Support Group*—Memphis Lambda Center @ 901-427-1500 for information.

Living Word Christian Church—Worship Service Sun. 10 am • 946 North 2nd St., Memphis 38104, 272-0767.

Loving Arms (Services for HIV, Women & Their Children)—Sandra Tankersley, PO Box 5686, Memphis 38173-0686 • 275-0767.

Memphis Area Gay Youth (MAGY): Box 91259, Memphis 38109—1259; www.m decaycenter.org, e-mail: info@magy.org.

Memphis Bears Club—PO Box 111094, Memphis 38111—1094; 272-4823, e-mail: memphiscubs@msn.com, memphisbears@msn.com.

Memphis Center for Reproductive Health—Heather Burtren@aeneas.com

Memphis Gay & Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC)—Box 41074, Memphis 38174—1422.

Memphis Lambda Center*—Meeting place for 12-step recovery programs • 1488 South 2nd St., 272-7304.

Memphis Pride, Inc.: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered Pride Events—MGLCC, PO Box 3811, 272-5924, 272-5483, e-mail: memphispride@aol.com.

Memphis Transgender Alliance/VOT*—group contact: BarbA. Jansen, Box 11052, Memphis 38111-0052.

Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite—Box 41822, Memphis 38174—1822.

Mythic Krewe of Memphis United: Box 39485, Memphis 38184.

National Organization for Women (NOW)• Box 40982, Memphis 38187—1803; e-mail: memphilan@hotmail.com.

New Beginnings (Adult Children of Alcoholics & Codependents)—Memphis Lambda Center @ 2736—1379.

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG): 3161 South Front St., Memphis 38104, 272-2670, 272-6293, 527—1461, or 527—3674.


Patricia Goodner, M.Ed.: Licensed Psychology Counselor; Simmons, Keilman & Associates, 3990 Main Rd., Ste 207, 527—1098.

Pennsylvania State Troopers*—Memphis, PA 1528 Madison Ave., 276—7397.

Philadelphia Lambda*—3402 Poplar Ave., 272—6535.

Phoebe Adkins Bereavement Counseling Center (PBCC)*—4459 FANS, 2200 Nations Plaza, Memphis 38104, 869—0300 ext. 1 » Sliding fees scale available.

Sherron Lambse, LCSW, MSW: Individual & Couple Counseling—Box 170301, Memphis 38177—0301; 527—9107.

M. Todd Puckett, M.S.: Individual & group counseling • 1580 Poplar Ave, Ste. 125 • 888-6500 ext. 1 • Sliding fee scale available.

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