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Meeting Draws Support From Region

Keynote Speakers Announced For Conference

MEMPHIS--An April 5th regional planning meeting for Conference '80, the Fifth Annual Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men, brought people together from all over the Southeast to help plan and organize the Conference, which will be held August 1-3 at the Rivermont.

The Planning Committee decided on three keynote speakers -- Barbara Grier, Lea Hopkins and

Leonard Matlovich. Writer and publisher Barbara Grier, who wrote for years under the name "Gene Damon," is co-founder of Naiad Press, the largest Lesbian-feminist publishing company in the country. Lea Hopkins, written about in the April issue of *Essence Magazine*, is author of *I'm Not Crazy, Just Different*. Leonard Matlovich, well-known for his discrimination difficulty with the U.S. Air Force, will speak about what needs to be

done today and tomorrow in the Gay rights movement.

Various workshop topics were discussed briefly, and topics for workshops will be drawn to a large extent from evaluations of previous SE Conferences. Free space and spontaneous workshops will occur also. Films will be shown throughout the Conference. A dance and a concert will be held, but performers have not yet been announced.

The Conference theme will be "Aware and Active," reflecting the tone of the Lesbian/Gay movement in the 1980's. The theme and logistics of the Conference are geared to be non-exclusionary in nature.

Two local fundraisers have been announced for Conference '80. A "variety show" will be held April 24 (Thursday) at the Pendulum, 92 N. Avalon, and a yard sale has been scheduled for Saturday, May 3, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at 155 N. Bellevue (rain date, May 10). Anyone wishing to donate articles for the May 3rd yard sale may deliver them to 155 N. Bellevue or call the Gay Switchboard, 726-GAYY (7 p.m.-1 a.m. nightly). A recent fundraiser at The Listening Room raised about \$100 for the Conference.

The cost of Conference '80 could be as much as \$10,000, planners say. Conference organizers in other Southeastern cities will sponsor fundraisers also. Offers for help have been received from Atlanta, Chapel Hill, Louisville, New Orleans, Huntsville, Nashville, Clarksville, Athens (GA) and others.

FM-100 Invites Response To DJ's Remarks

MEMPHIS--In a locally unprecedented move, WMC FM-100 has offered members of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights in Memphis the opportunity to record rebuttals to DJ Ron Jordan's stereotypical characterizations of "Bruce Puce" and "Ben Gay."

Jordan has recently caused concern among area Gays by telling "fag jokes" on the air. (Recently, Jordan said, "Do you know what they call a Gay bar with no tables and chairs? -- A fruit stand.")

WMC's actions may have resulted in part from the March 12 meeting in Washington of the Federal Communications Commission in which broadcasters were ordered to listen to all groups that are significant elements within their service areas, including Lesbians and Gays and the handicapped. Acting on a petition filed in 1977 by the National Gay Task Force and 143 Gay organizations from all 50 states, the Commission ruled that broadcasters must listen to the concerns of Gay organizations to determine what community needs should be addressed in programming.

The Commission ruled that stations are not obligated to seek out Gay or handicapped groups. These or other significant community groups must make themselves known to a broadcaster. The broadcaster then decides whether the element is significant in the community. Once a broadcaster decides that the Gay community, for example, is significant in its service area, the situation will be obligated to contact representatives of the Gay community in future ascertainment surveys.

The FCC requires broadcast license holders to ascertain the

problems, needs and interest of significant elements within their broadcast service areas. In 1976, a list of 19 community elements was established, including the Gay community. The TGCHR in Memphis recently contacted the

FCC Broadcast Complaint Division about the Ron Jordan show on FM-100, and TGCHR's media committee believes that numerous complaints by Memphis area Gays may have contributed to the response from the station.

Buses To Leave From Memphis

ERA March On Chicago

MEMPHIS--Buses are being sponsored from Memphis to the National March for ERA Ratification in Chicago on Saturday, May 10. At least one bus, and sponsors are hoping for more, will leave from Memphis State University at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 9, and will return on Sunday at 11 a.m., and the cost will be \$40. Any additional cost will be minimal because lodging will not be needed. Reservations may be made by calling the ACLU at 521-9875 or NOW at 458-1661.

The push for passage of the ERA in Illinois is a crucial one because only 24 months are left to acquire passage by 3 more states. Buses will be carrying people from all across the nation to Chicago to

push for passage of the ERA by the Illinois legislature.

The marchers will assemble at 9:30 a.m., May 10, on Columbus Drive between Monroe and Jackson Streets and will march south on Columbus Drive to the Roosevelt Drive end of Grant Park. A rally will be held at the Old Band Shell Area following the March. Participants are urged to dress in white.

Local organizers are urging all who can to reserve a space on the bus -- women and men. Donations and sponsors for others are needed to ensure a significant showing from the Memphis area. Local NOW contact, Betty Irwin, emphasizes the importance of Illinois as a "key state" in ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment and urges local support of the March.



GAZING

A Dangerous Situation

By Bill Johnson

This editorial started out to be titled "Barbara Vandemark's Memphis" and was to criticize the tactics used by a neighborhood group to save *their* neighborhood from "deterioration" by attempting to close a bar and restaurant catering to a Gay clientele.

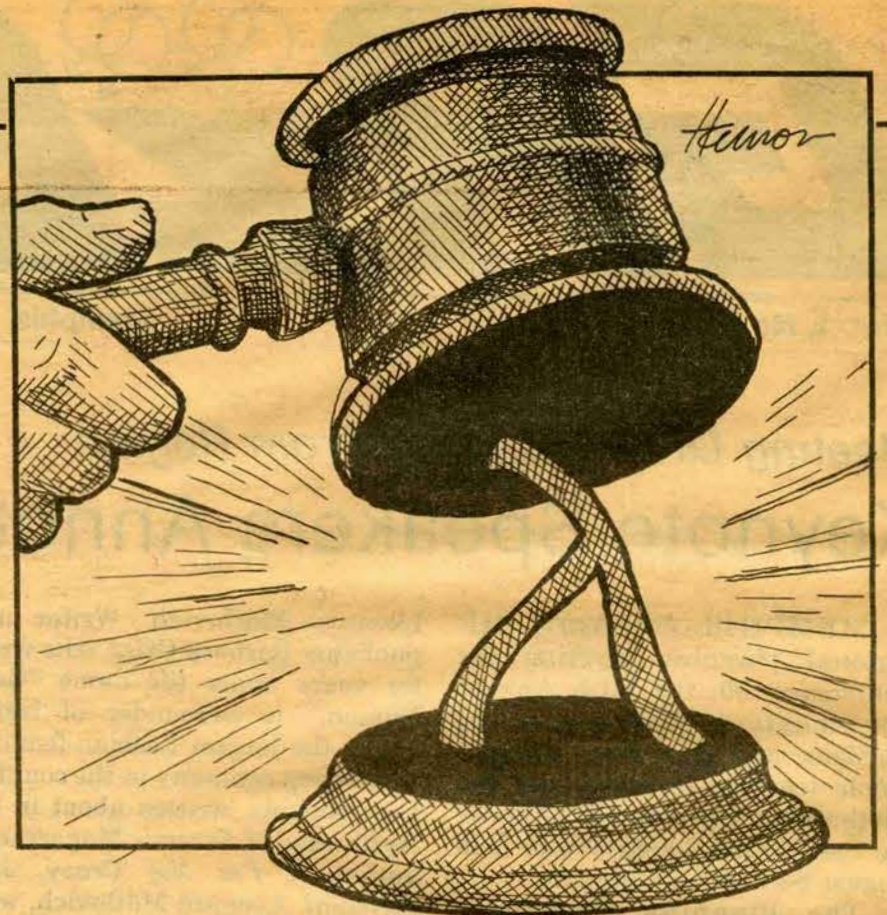
But I changed my mind. It is useless at this point to further elaborate on the use of homophobia as a tool against the Gay community; we all know that the threat of the word homosexual can round up homophobics to rally around any flagpole. And we all know the problems we face.

It is impossible to number the ways they can trap us. Most Gay people cannot stand up and fight back; the threat of job loss prevents that. It is devastating to plead a case to a homophobic judge; "queer" is a sentence that passes all others. And it can tear your soul out to hear a police officer stand up in court and tell blatant lies about you -- you remember that officer, the one who threw you into the back of that squad car yelling "faggot" and hauled you away to a destiny of

further official abuse and harassment -- and all because you were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

And the beat goes on. Last week while having breakfast at the Dutch Pancake House, I overheard two men at the table next to mine talking about the "porno-ring" recently uncovered in the Memphis area involving men and adolescent boys. The conversation turned immediately to "queers" and how we are always raping little boys and murdering them. (Lesbians are an entirely different story with that type of mentality because they too frequently enjoy the fantasy of two women "doing it" with each other.) I was reminded of a friend's story of being confronted with the question, "Don't you feel guilty about John Gacy?" to which he replied, "No, do you feel guilty about Charles Manson?"

Senator Howard Baker believes that Gay rights matters should be "dealt with on an individual basis." Representative Robin Beard believes that Lesbians and Gay men have legal channels and recourse for



any supposed injustice. Memphis Judge Robert Love believes that a person in his court is guilty until proven innocent. What a trio they make!

Would Howard Baker be in office if he had a male lover? How would Robin Beard feel if he were Gay, had been arrested in a Gay bar for "public drunkenness" after two club sodas, and then face in court a judge who just happened to be one of the men I overheard in the Dutch Pancake House last week? And the judicial system is full to the brim

with Robert Loves, too many of whom believe that Gay is guilty, regardless.

(I was smarter than I thought when, in the sixth grade, I refused to pledge allegiance to the flag of a republic that proclaimed "liberty and justice for all." Believe me, there was neither liberty nor justice for me after that.)

Whenever homophobia is used to injure our Lesbian sisters and our Gay brothers, no matter how "liberal" the users may claim to be, a very dangerous situation is created. Until we are able to be ourselves in the light of day rather than the way others would have us be, there is no liberty for us. Until we are protected by the laws of the United States, there will be no justice for us. The situation is becoming more and more dangerous.

On April 29, "Christian" fanatics will march and lobby in Washington in an effort to further legislate the way they would have us be. They will lobby to further deny individual freedom and the American right to freedom of thought and choice. And by their sheer numbers and visibility, they will very likely succeed.

A 6-Month Anniversary

The Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights was 6 months old last month. Because Memphis Gay Media, publishers of *GAZE*, is an offspring of TGCHR, we would like to express gratitude to "the Coalition" for the many wonderful things they have done in the short time they've been organized. Without TGCHR, we wouldn't be in print.

TGCHR is responsible, also, for the Gay Speakers Bureau, whose members have spoken on several radio programs, one TV show, and in several classroom situations at MSU, Shelby State, Southwestern and elsewhere in an admirable effort to educate the general community about Lesbian/Gay lifestyles and destroy many of the prevalent myths about homosexuality.

TGCHR and affiliated groups are responsible for securing and helping to plan the Fifth Annual Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men in Memphis on August 1-3, 1980. The Conference will bring Lesbians and Gay men from all across the Southeast and elsewhere together for a weekend of learning, sharing and communion.

Various support groups have been formed by TGCHR. Its members are also responsible for reorganizing and vastly improving the quality of the Gay Switchboard. And, thanks to TGCHR, 1980 will see Memphis' first full-scale Gay Pride Week celebration (June 21-28).

TGCHR runs an ongoing correspondence with Memphis area Representatives and Tennessee's Senators, and maintains communications with other Lesbian and Gay organizations for a sharing of information and ideas. Locally, a questionnaire has been prepared and will soon be mailed to the city and

county mayors, the city council members and other local politicians concerning their viewpoints on Lesbian/Gay rights and possible legislation. Within the next few months, a proposal for a local Gay Rights Ordinance will be presented to the city council.

TGCHR meetings provide a platform for local speakers to meet with interested members of the Lesbian/Gay community and discuss various issues. Gordon Lawhead, for example, will speak at the April 21 meeting about the relationship between local media and the Gay community (he is public affairs director of WHBQ-TV, Channel 13).

These are but a few of many Coalition activities. There is much more that needs to be done. TGCHR is non-discriminatory on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, creed or color and is non-exclusionary in policy. Annual dues of \$15 are requested to help finance activities, but the underemployed or unemployed are welcomed to participate without stipulation. Provisions for the physically challenged will be provided at any TGCHR meeting or function upon request.

All are welcome. Meetings are held every first and third Monday evening at Meeting Room B of the Main Library, Peabody at McLean. Further information may be obtained by writing TGCHR, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

By Marcia Kearn

ABC Cancels "Adam And Yves"

TUPELO, MS--According to an article in *The Commercial Appeal*, the Tupelo-based National Federation of Decency began to protest the proposed broadcast by ABC-TV of the program "Adam and Yves" just at the time ABC decided not to air the show. The show features two homosexual lovers.

The NFD newsletter urged subscribers in its March issue to petition ABC affiliate stations and contact network officials in protest of the show. ABC officials called NFD headquarters about two weeks ago saying the program would not be aired.

GAZE

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Sodom And Gomorrah

By Scott Correll

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18:1 - 19:11 is perhaps the single most important factor in the Christian tradition condemning homosexual practices. The Church has taught that homosexual practices had brought a terrible but divine vengeance upon these two cities, and the people have accepted this teaching to be excellent authority on the subject. But is this traditional belief truly founded in the Bible?

The attribution of homosexual practices is based on the demand of the Sodomites to Lot when they said, "Bring them" the two angels who were visiting Lot, "out unto us, that we may know them." (King James Version, hereafter KJV, Genesis 19:5) The Hebrew word for "to know" used here is *yadha*. Of the 943 uses of *yadha* in the Old Testament, it is used only 10 times without qualification to denote sexual coitus. With possible exception of this text, *yadha* always refers to heterosexual coitus. The Hebrew word normally used for homosexual coitus and bestiality is *shakhabh*.

Therefore, it is logical to interpret "know" in this verse to mean no more than "to get acquainted with."

Since Lot was a *ger*, the Hebrew word for resident alien, and may have overstepped his rights by receiving and entertaining two foreigners whose intentions might have been hostile toward the Sodomites and whose credentials had not yet been explained, the Sodomites were well within their rights to demand of Lot to "...Bring them out unto us, that we may know them," or so they could get acquainted and find out the reason they were there.

Even if one insists that "know" in this verse means "sexual knowledge," how do we not know that it was women who asked "to know" the two strangers. Moses, the author of Genesis, does not state who; he only states, "And they called unto Lot,..." (KJV, Gen. 19:5). Verse 4 tells who was at Lot's house, "...all the people from every quarter." Sodom was a city which held women in great accord, and, since "all the people from every

quarter" were at Lot's house, it is safe to assume there were many women there. It could have very well been women who asked Lot to let them "know" the male visitors.

Lot then bargains with the Sodomites. "Behold now, I have two daughters who have not known men; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof." (KJV, Gen. 19:8). The Hebrew word for "known" in this verse is again *yadha* and clearly implies sexual knowledge, heterosexual knowledge at that. It can be argued that Lot's offer of his two virgin daughters in place of the visitors is for heterosexual satisfaction in lieu of homosexual satisfaction in order to divert the lust of the Sodomites into less inordinate channels. But why would a father offer his virgin daughters for the sexual gratification of his neighbors and fellow citizens? Surely not for the homosexual satisfaction of the women of Sodom, especially if homosexuality was such a great sin. And if it were men who asked for the strangers, why would Lot think the heterosexual knowledge of his daughters would appease the desires of the homosexual males? It can reasonably be explained the offer of his daughters to be the most tempting bribe he could offer on the spur of the moment to appease the crowd.

Assume the word "know" in this passage to mean "sexual knowledge" and to further assume it to mean "homosexual coitus." The traditional Christian teaching is Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because the men wanted to have sexual intercourse with the two male strangers at Lot's home. This can not be the reason for their destruction because the 18th chapter of Genesis speaks of the angels stopping at Abraham's home before going on to Sodom and

Gomorrah. The angels tell Abraham that they have been sent by God to destroy these cities "...because their sin is very grievous." (KJV, Gen. 18:20). It had already been revealed that Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed before the Sodomites even asked Lot to let them "know" the strangers.

If Sodom and Gomorrah were not destroyed because of their homosexuality, then what was the nature of the sin in these twin cities? Moses states clearly in the cities were wicked and grievously sinful, but there is not evidence in this or any other passage that homosexuality was prevalent in these cities. Sodom is referred to throughout the Old Testament as the symbol of great sins, sins of such magnitude as to merit the exemplary punishment of total destruction. Ezekial 16:49, 50 (KJV), for example, states, "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister, Sodom: pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness were in her and her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me; therefore, I took them away as I saw good." No homosexual reference is made. To further confirm that the sin of Sodom was not connected with homosexual practices none of the passages which traditionally condemn homosexuality in either the Old or New Testament makes any mention of the Sodom story.

God did not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of exceeding homosexual practices, but He destroyed them because the people were exceedingly proud, very haughty, overtly gluttonous, extremely lazy, and very selfish.

(Credits to: *The Church and the Homosexual*, by John J. McNeill, S.J.; c. 1976, Sheed Andrews and McNeill, Inc., Kansas City, Kansas, and Rev. Charlene Taylor and Exhorter J.R. Finney, II, UFMCC, Memphis.)

'Gays And The Church Of The River

By Hunter Johnston

Rev. James M. Barr, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the River, says that no one is "defined-out" at his church. Gays and everyone else are welcome.

Although on the national level the Unitarian Universalists have an Office of Gay Affairs, the Memphis church is not oriented towards social action. Individual congregations elect board members which govern their local church. The membership here is very diverse, bridging the conservative and the liberal, making agreement on any one plan of social activism difficult.

Rev. Barr says he knows of several Gay people in his congregation. Asked whether he thought they were accepted or tolerated, he said that they are active in the work of the church and had headed several church committees. "I would say that's acceptance," he said.

Two Gay members, no longer here due to a job transfer, invited local members into their home on several occasions and made it clear that they were living together as a couple. At one time they approached Rev. Barr for his support in proposing the formation of a Gay Rights Chapter to the Church

Board. Rev. Barr declined his support, but he emphasizes that he is not opposed to Gay Rights organizations and encourages anyone interested in one to join and be involved. He doesn't feel, however, that his church should be involved -- not just with Gay rights, but with any issue. "We just don't celebrate *any* particular lifestyle," he said.

Although he has never been asked, Rev. Barr says he could not officiate a "marriage" between people of the same sex. He would also decline to bless an unlicensed heterosexual marriage. Rev. Barr, who has a law degree from the University of Virginia, says, "I won't marry *anyone* until they hand me a legal marriage license first."

Asked about his interpretation of Romans 1:26, 27, Rev. Barr said that he believed Paul was against sexual acts between members of the same sex. He points out, though, that Paul was so convinced of the eminent second coming of Christ that he also was against heterosexual marriage. "You have to admit the Bible is not complimentary of homosexuality," he said, but he made it clear that he would be "opposed to Gays being treated any differently from anyone else" in his church.



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Because I live, you shall live also. John 14:19

BOOKS

Tales And More Tales Of The City

For two years Armistead Maupin captivated the city of San Francisco with a series of articles in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. These articles, a continuous "soap opera" about life in America's Gayest city, are gathered in *Tales of the City* and now, volume two, *More Tales of the City*.

Larger than life are Maupin's tales, and they are frivolities of people and places -- some real, some not, but all hilarious. In Maupin's words, "I draw on my own life as much as possible, often recreating whole incidents and conversations. I had no grand scheme in mind except to capture as clearly as possible the mammoth practical joke of urban life in the '70's...I didn't write anything that didn't happen. God knows in San Francisco you don't have to make it up."

"Tales" didn't start out Gay -- that is, not specifically Gay -- when the series first appeared in the *Chronicle*, but Gay life and Gay

episodes soon took over (it was in San Francisco, after all). Consider the following episode from "More Tales," but please, don't rush out to buy the book before you finish reading.

"Hi," said Michael sleepily.

"Hi. I won't stay long. You sound tired."

"No, please. I need the company."

"Good." Jon pulled up a chair next to the bed. "I had a great idea today."

"What?"

"We're gonna paint your apartment!"

"Swell. I'll be the stepladder."

Jon smiled. "Look: I brought you some paint samples from Hoot Judkins." He held one of the cardboard strips in front of Michael's eyes. "I kind of like this putty color."

"Mmm. Faggot fawn."

"Cut it out."

"Well, it is the color of the year. Three years ago it was chocolate

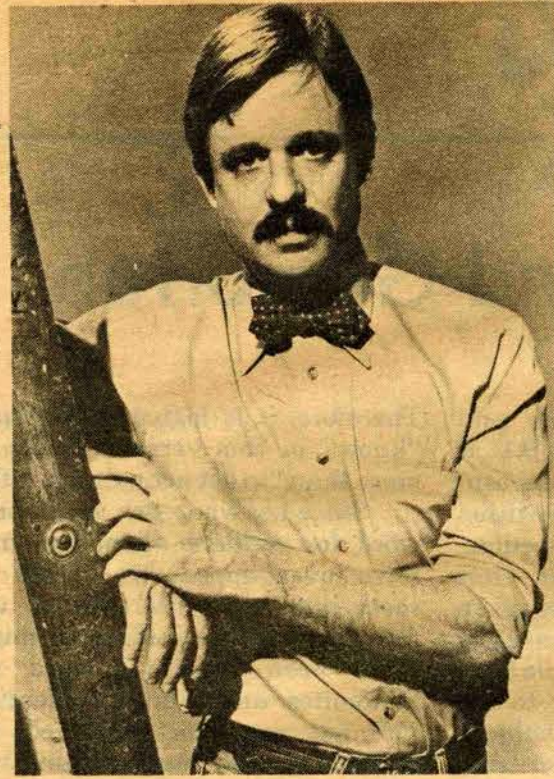


photo by K.K. May

Armistead Maupin

brown, then forest green. It was handy, anyway. If you woke up in a strange bedroom, at least you knew what year it was...Look, Dr. Kildare, painting my apartment is definitely above and beyond the--"

"Bullshit. If I'm gonna live there, that cosmic orange of Mona's has gotta go!"

The impact of Jon's words registered in Michael's face instantly. "Uh...isn't this a little premature, Jon?"

"Haven't you always wanted to shack up with a doctor?"

"Jon, I'm so fuckin' flattered I could--"

"I'm not flattering you, asshole. I'm asking you to marry me."

Silence.

"So?"

"Jon, you can't...haul me to the toilet."

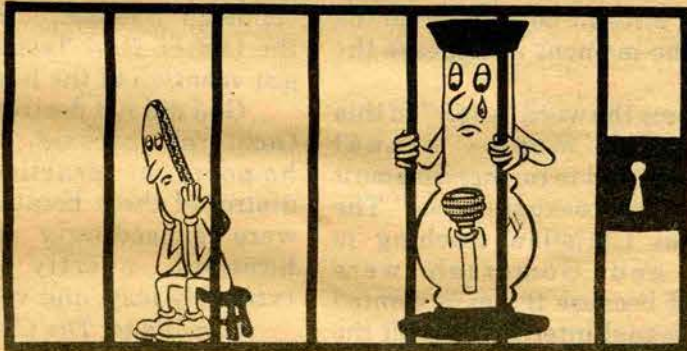
"Says who?"

"This isn't *Magnificent Obsession*. It doesn't work like that. You're gonna take all the mystery out of our unnatural relationship."

"I'll risk it. What about it?"

Are you still there? Good. See, I told you the book was funny. It costs \$6.95 and is worth every penny of it, and, risking my reputation with another cliché, you won't be able to put it down. If you can't find it in your neighborhood bookstore, it's available from Harper and Row, 10 East 53rd Street, New York, NY 10022.

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The New Underground Sound

By Regina Russell

Less reminiscent of the '60's than prophetic of the '80's, the new Memphis underground sound plays to a candlelit crowd at The Listening Room. The atmosphere is intimate, the people are warm, and the music is Memphis in 1980.

The history of Memphis music could fill volumes. Though virtually ignored by America and perhaps overshadowed by Nashville's country sound, Memphis is as famous in Europe as London, Paris or New York, because of its own, unique style of music. From the birth of the blues at the foot of Beale Street to the now legendary performers -- too numerous to mention -- who played for pennies at Club Paradise and Lafayette's Music Room, the Memphis sound has always predicted a musical movement just a step ahead of itself.

Not so much "Gay music" as music for the sake of good music, who-the-hell-cares what your sexual orientation is music, The Listening Room's performers evoke a feeling of "we're saying something to you, and we're saying it well." A night at The Listening Room is an event to remember.

Singing to a crowded room at a tribute to the Southeastern Confer-

ence of Lesbians and Gay Men on March 11, Mona Lee did a *cappella* wonders to a number of folk songs, followed by the trio of Dorothy, Charlie and Tracy whose combined vocal and guitar-playing originality sent a wave of surprise and delight throughout the audience.

Huddled among that row of buildings that houses Circuit Playhouse on Poplar Avenue, The Listening Room (1955 Poplar) sports an air of underground-ness. A non-profit venture, the coffeehouse is operated by volunteers and supported by donations. The relaxed decor and the open-mike policy emphasize the community purpose. The concept of The Listening Room is a statement of where we are and where we're going in relation to our city's musical heritage -- a statement that Gay people have played a big part in that heritage and, at last, can do it openly.

The dog has finally caught its tail. Memphis music has come to terms with itself, and it can be found at The Listening Room.

NOTE: Since the writing of this article, The Listening Room has moved to a new and better location at 2224 Central Avenue.

BOX 3038

Letters to the editor should be short. Address to: Editor, **GAZE**, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld by request. We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Remembers The Way It Was

This past weekend some friends of mine were in Memphis and brought back several copies of **GAZE**. Knowing that I am interested in Gay liberation, they bring me any new info they can find.

Since it has been some years since I have been in Memphis, I had no idea what has been going on in the community. Well do I remember my first visit to a Gay bar, the old "Showboat Lounge" back in the sixties.

Instead of being like the person in the letter entitled "Closet Happy," we should be proud there is such a paper as **GAZE**. Many of us here have to stay in the closet, and then there are those of us that try and carry on for the rest. Well remembering what we had to go through in the 50's and 60's to exist, I know all about losing jobs "because."

So my hat is off to all of you at **GAZE** for the good work you are doing keeping us informed. Best wishes from myself and all your brothers and sisters here in this area.

Bill McHardy
Boyle, Mississippi

Likes Gay People

I read **GAZE** newspaper for the first time this past week. I am very impressed -- and very happy to see Memphis has a Gay publication. I am a "straight" female, but very much interested in Gay rights, bars, publications, counseling -- helping in any way -- I love Gay people -- truly beautiful people -- inside and out!

Enclosed find a check for \$6.00 for subscription to your newspaper.

Thank you -- and best of luck in future publications!

Martha Walker
Memphis

MSU "Nothing More Than A Front For A Football Team"

It is hard to conceive of Memphis State as a university. A university is supposed to be a place where learning takes place, learning in a basic "education" sense and learning about different kinds of people and different ideas and lifestyles.

MSU continually denies its students access to anything different from the straight-and-narrow, ultra conservative ideals coincidental with those of the Southern Baptist Church. Is this supposed to be a *state* university? Why, then, does it cater in its approach to a singular and limited type of "education?"

I am aware of the difficulties encountered by the Gay student

group on campus. The administration, in a hackneyed thought pattern, fears "advocacy" of homosexuality by recognizing its Gay students. It is their ignorance that keeps them running scared, and they want to ensure that the student body maintains that ignorance. Maintaining ignorance never struck me as educational. Perhaps MSU's administrators could use a degree or two from a *real* university.

MSU is nothing more than a front for a football team, and not a very good one at that.

I am a faculty member at MSU and, for reasons obvious, cannot allow my name to appear with this letter.

Name Withheld
Memphis

Not Happy With "Closet Happy"

I find it hard to believe that anybody can look around and proclaim happiness in the closet. "Closet Happy" (March--**GAZE**) indicates in one breath that he/she has equal rights and in the next breath, cannot even sign a name to the letter.

It reminds me of the time I listened to one Gay man talk for an hour about the trauma he had been through -- job loss, etc. -- and wrap up his horror story with a dissertation about these new "militant" Gays threatening his rights.

Like your editorial "Us Guilty Queers And The American Dream," we won't have our rights until we make heterosexists stop denying us those rights. We won't accomplish that by sitting in a closet and trembling everytime the word "Gay" appears in the newspaper.

Nancy Kiditch
Poplar Bluff, Missouri

Yellow Ribbons, Lavendar Ribbons

Driving around our fair city, one can see many yellow ribbons tied to trees, doors, and mailboxes. I see people every day wearing yellow ribbons on their lapels, and a large local newspaper office even has a yellow banner flying beneath Old Glory. We all know, of course, that these symbolize our concern and sympathy for the American hostages held in Iran by a small group of radicals who support the vicious, intolerant ideas of a self-righteous leader, the Ayatollah Khomeini. We are rightfully concerned, and our nation as a whole seems to support the efforts made to free these people who are held against their will.

I wonder, however, if you have looked past those yellow ribbons and seen the pale, almost invisible,

lavender ribbons. There are so many more of these than there are of the yellow variety. Each of these symbolizes one of the millions of Americans being held hostage in their own closets. They are captives of the influence a small group of vocal radicals has over our nation. They are victims of a group that supports the vicious, intolerant ideas of such self-righteous, self-appointed leaders as Anita Bryant, John Briggs, Jim Bakker and Jerry Falwell. These leaders are constantly attempting, often successfully, to bring the hostages to public trial on false charges of debauchery, immorality and tyranny. Like their counterparts in Iran, these captives are innocent of the charges.

The next time you are out, look past those yellow ribbons and try seeing the lavender ones. Perhaps you have one of your own, or you might even be forcing someone to wear one.

Hunter Johnston
Memphis

Clarifies Scriptures

I agree with you in your article "The Rage and Outrage" (February issue) in respect that the Christian Church and community as a rule has been very self-righteous in its approach to homosexuality. I would like to share with your readers some thoughts concerning the scriptures (Leviticus 18:22 and Romans 1:26, 27) referred to in your article.

Leviticus 18:22 is part of the Mosaic Law which is just one of 613 laws listed in the Mosaic Laws. A close examination of this book will

show them to be a survival manual for the Hebrew people. Survival was the order of the day in the writing of these laws. When we look at this particular scripture closely, we find Leviticus 18:22 not to be an anti-homosexual law, but rather a law for procreation for that day. That is why Moses did NOT use the Hebrew word for homosexual in this scripture.

Romans 1:26, 27 has continuously been jerked out of context by so many people that it is incredible! When looking at these two scriptures in context, they are located in the heart of a letter to the Romans by the Apostle Paul and he is talking entirely about the idolatrous practices going on in Rome. He makes that point absolutely clear in the 25th verse by saying, "For they changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator." Any history book that covers religious practices of Rome during A.D. 58 (the time of this writing) will prove the supposition concerning the practice of idol worship of false gods and animals.

I hope these few thoughts can help someone who has doubts as to what these two scriptures are really saying. I further believe research of these scriptures show how the vast majority of Christendom's concepts of a book written in love for all humanity has and is being constantly used and distorted to feed the prejudices of the masses.

Keep up the good work at **GAZE**.

Exhorter J.R. Finney, II
District Secretary
South Atlantic District, UFMCC
Memphis

Positively Gay



Positively Memphis!!

Gay Pride Week

JUNE 21-JUNE 28, 1980

Candidates Take Stands On Gay Rights

NEW YORK—The National Gay Task Force released in March its first survey of presidential contenders on issues of concern to Lesbians and Gay men.

Five questions were asked of each candidate of the Republican and Democratic Party, touching on access to administration officials, consideration of presidential appointees without regard to sexual orientation, support for a Gay rights platform plank in their party, issuance of an executive order to prohibit discrimination by the Federal Executive Branch, and the support for the Gay civil rights bill in Congress (HR 2074).

Democratic party candidates responding include President Carter, Senator Kennedy and Gov. Jerry Brown. Republican respondents include George Bush, Howard Baker and John Anderson. Neither Ronald Reagan nor John Connally responded, but both are on record concerning Gay rights issues. Neither Senator Robert Dole or Rep. Philip Crane acknowledged or responded to the letter. Brown and Baker, though no longer in the race, can be considered in light of their present positions of power.

Carter

Carter's response to NGTF's letter indicated that he had taken positive steps during his administration on Gay rights issues. "As a candidate," the letter states, "the President was the first major Presidential contender to openly discuss Gay concerns. He stated his opposition to employment discrimination in the federal government because of sexual orientation."

The letter, written by Carter campaign committee chairman Robert Strauss, states "...one of President Jimmy Carter's major legislative successes...the Civil Service Reform Act...prohibits discrimination in federal personnel actions based on private, non job-related behavior such as sexual orientation. It is estimated that this provision prohibits discrimination because of sexual orientation in approximately 95% of all federal jobs covered by the civil service system."

Kennedy

Kennedy responded favorably to all questions asked on Gay concerns. "We affirm the right of all

Lesbian and Gay Americans to full participation in the social, political and economic life of the country without fear of prejudice or reprisals based on sexual orientation. To support this commitment and give life to this principle, we call for an Executive Order prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in all government programs and further we support the enactment of legislation to protect the civil rights of Gay people and the repeal of all laws which are used to stigmatize persons on the basis of sexual orientation...My Administration would support federal legislation to end employment discrimination on the basis of sexual preference."

Brown

Brown states that "one of my first acts as President would be to sign such an Executive Order which is consistent with the Executive Order signed by me as Governor of California (prohibiting job discrimination by the government)...I have previously called for passage of H.R. 2074 and its companion legislation in the United States Senate. My administration in California is working with the Gay and Lesbian community and legislative leaders for passage of similar legislation, and I would continue that effort as President."

Anderson

"The Anderson Administration -- both in its appointments and the policies it will formulate and pursue -- will be open to all Americans and will be sensitive to their needs, irrespective of race, creed, affectional preference, or any other arbitrary distinctions...I am committed to the cause of equal rights for all our people. Unlike some of the other Republican presidential candidates, my convictions with respect to individual rights and personal privacy have been publicly tested. In 1977, an amendment was offered to a Legal Services Corporation bill on the House Floor that would have prohibited federally-funded legal assistance in cases arising out of disputes over the issue of homosexuality...I steadfastly opposed the measure."

Baker

Howard Baker did not respond to the questions in NGTF's letter. He states simply, "I believe there is a fundamental tenet that says every American should have equal protection of the law, and an honest opportunity to prosper and to live in peace in our society...I do not believe that this should become an issue that sharply divides the American people."

Frequent failure to respond to calls and letters from TGCHR in Memphis further indicate Baker's lack of concern with Gay rights issues.

Bush

Bush's response, written by committee associate director Rob Quartel, is very brief, stating that "George Bush has expressed opposition to any discrimination against or harassment of Gays. He does not support specific civil rights legislation dealing with the issue because he believes constitutional safeguards and existing legislation adequately address the issue."

Connally

According to an article in the Washington Star, Connally has said that homosexuals should be given full protection of American laws, but probably shouldn't serve in certain sensitive government jobs. "They're human beings, entitled to the protection of the laws of this country," he says. "They are entitled to the same treatment and protection of their rights as everyone else." Asked if he believed in full employment protection, he said, "I doubt I would go that strongly. I would be worried about having Gays in some sensitive spots, say the National Security Council, or the intelligence agencies because I think they are subject to pressures that perhaps others are not."

Reagan

Reagan did oppose California Proposition 6 (the Briggs Initiative); however, he did so after being assured by Cal. Attorney General Evelle Younger that California already has adequate laws to protect children from teachers "seeking to indoctrinate them into homosexual conduct." Reagan also said that he did not approve of teaching a "so-called Gay lifestyle in our schools."

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TGCHR

TENNESSEE GAY COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

needs YOU!

BOX 3038 MEMPHIS TN. 38103

Classifieds

Rates for classified ads are 20 cents/word. \$3 min. Phone numbers count 2 words—zip codes free. Deadline for ads is 28th of month preceding issue date. Payment must accompany ads: make checks payable to TGCHR. There is a \$2 charge for use of GAZE P.O. Box. GAZE, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

TENNESSEE GAY COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS meets regularly at Meeting Room B, Main Library, Peabody at McLean, 7:30 p.m., 1st and 3rd Mondays. Join us!

WANTED: Specific examples of discrimination based on sexual orientation, race, sex, religion, etc. Confidential. GAZE, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

CATHOLIC AND GAY? Dignity-Memphis is for you. Write to Dignity, Box 3733, Memphis, TN 38103.

MEMPHIS GAY SPEAKERS BUREAU has speakers for your group, classroom, organization. Write MGSB, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

INTEGRITY is forming in Memphis for Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians. Write Integrity, Box 12856, Memphis, TN 38112 for information.

WANTED: FEMALE TO share apartment and expenses. Call Terry at 398-0250 between 9 a.m. and noon.

RFD--A COUNTRY JOURNAL of special interest to Gay men. Send \$2 for sample copy postpaid to RFD, Rt. 1, Box 92E, Efland, N.C. 27243.

GAY RIGHTS NATIONAL LOBBY, the only fulltime lobby at Congress for Gay civil rights. needs your help. Write GRNL, 1606 17th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

GAZE always needs writers, staff artists and production people. Interested? Call Bill Johnson at 744-4453 Tues.-Fri. evenings after 7 o'clock, or write us c/o Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED Lesbians and Gay men interested in a national organization and/or publication write Henry White, 3150 Johnson Road, Apt. A-5, Steubenville, Ohio 43952.

WEST MEMPHIS GAYS! I would like to meet other Gays in suburban Crittendon County. Write Jack Bossert, c/o this newspaper.

LOOKING FOR A GAY ROOMMATE? Have something to sell? Just looking for information? It pays to advertise in GAZE classifieds!

WANTED: Gay/Lesbian teachers for confidential interviews for series on Gay professionals. Anonymity assured. GAZE, Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

GAY PARENTS are forming a "parents-who-are-Gay" support group in Memphis. If you are Gay and have a child, write c/o this newspaper to Gay Parents Support Group.

Gay Memphis

COTTON GIN, restaurant, 2158 Union, 278-7498.

COUNSELING SERVICE, Holy union, pastoral, couples, being Gay, etc. By appointment only, noon-10 p.m., Tues-Fri. Call 358-5433.

DIGNITY, Box 3733, Memphis 38112.

FRENCH CONNECTION, piano bar & restaurant, 598 Marshall, 526-1038.

FRONT PAGE, bar, 267 S. Cleveland, 726-9813.

GAY ALTERNATIVE, radio show, WEVL-FM 90.3, Sundays, 3 p.m.

GAYGUIDE MEMPHIS, directory, Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

GAY MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP, Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

GAZE, newspaper, Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

GEORGE'S, bar, clothing and toy stores, game room, and movies, 600 Marshall, 526-1038.

INNER MAN, personal development group for all people, Virginia Hornsbuckle, 346-1998.

LISTENING ROOM, coffeehouse, 2224 Central Ave. "Lambda Night," Tuesdays.

INTEGRITY, Box 12856, Memphis 38103.

MARSHALL AVE. EMPORIUM, available for private parties only, 526-1038.

MEMPHIS GAY ACTIVISTS, 1738 Morlye Pl. 2, Memphis 38111, 744-4453.

MEMPHIS GAY SPEAKERS BUREAU, Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

MEMPHIS GAY SWITCHBOARD, 726-GAYY, 7 p.m. — 1 a.m. nightly.

MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY GAY AWARENESS GROUP, Call 726-4299.

MEMPHIS WIMMINS ALLIANCE, 10561 Hwy. 64, Arlington, TN 38002, 382-3849.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF MEMPHIS, 2035 Central, 358-5433.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH CHRISTIAN GROWTH CLASS, Wed., 1:30 p.m. Call 358-5433 for location.

PENDULUM, bar, 92 N. Avalon, 725-1530.

PHASE III, bar & after hours, 25 S. Cleveland, 726-9813.

PSYCH-OUT, bar, 76 N. Cleveland, 25-9842.

SHARON'S, bar, 1474 Madison, 278-21.

SOUTHEASTERN LESBIAN NETWORK, Box 41132, Memphis 38104, 382-49.

TENNESSEE GAY COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, Box 3038, Memphis 38103.

TOWNEHOUSE, bar & restaurant, 13 Monroe, 523-9912.

WOMENS CRISIS LOAN SERVICE, 11 Hwy. 64, Arlington, TN 38002, 382-3.

Coming Up!

APRIL 17--TGCHR Steering Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m., open to everyone. Call 726-GAYY for location.

APRIL 20--Conference '80 Planning Committee meeting, 155 N. Bellevue, 2 p.m. All interested persons welcome.

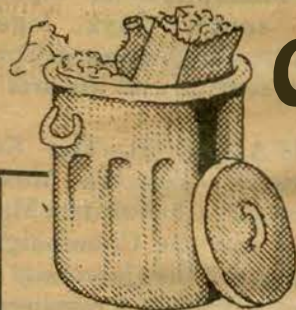
APRIL 21--Gordon Lawhead, Public Affairs Director of WHBQ-TV will address the TGCHR about Gays and the local media; 7:30 p.m., Main Library, Meeting Room B, Peabody at McLean. Public invited.

APRIL 24--Variety show to benefit the 5th Annual Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men at the Pendulum, 92 N. Avalon; call 725-1530 for information.

MAY 3--GAYardsale, 155 N. Bellevue, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; all proceeds for the S.E. Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men (rain date: May 10).

MAY 9--Buses will leave from MSU for National March for ERA Ratification in Chicago. Call ACLU at 521-9875 or NOW at 458-1661 for information. March will be on Saturday, May 10.

MAY 19--Linda Ott, National Convention Project, will speak to TGCHR concerning 1980 presidential conventions; 7:30 p.m., Main Library, Meeting Room B, Peabody at McLean. Public invited.



don't throw us away!

When you've read GAZE, pass it on to a friend. Then send us your comments and letters. GAZE, P.O. Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

The Pendulum

92 N. Avalon
725-1530

Closed Mondays
Tuesdays - no cover

Wednesdays - no cover
beer bust if you want

Thursdays - no cover

Fridays & Saturdays
\$3.50 beer bust 9:00-12:30
show 11:30

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show 10:30 - no cover

Benefit Variety Show
for Southeastern Conference
of Lesbians and Gay Men
Thursday, April 24, 10 p.m.
\$5.00 (includes beer bust)

Under New Management!

April, 1980-GAZE-7

Subscriptions to GAZE are \$6.00 per year. Our subscriptions list is strictly confidential and is not given or sold to anyone. GAZE is mailed in a plain envelope. Make check payable to: TGCHR, Memphis. Mail to Box 3038, Memphis, TN 38103.

Name _____

Address _____

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RICHMOND, VA--A Lesbian mother denied all parental rights and currently appealing that decision has petitioned the Virginia Supreme Court to place the appeal on the "privileged docket" of the court, citing the uncertainty for the child as cause for the case to have priority status.

"It is the only case where parental rights have been terminated solely because (the mother) is a Lesbian," said ACLU attorney Marsha Lowry. Lowry defined the loss of parental rights as meaning that the parent "becomes a legal stranger to the child." The parent cannot visit, call, or have any contact with the child, and the child cannot be adopted.

ALEXANDRIA, VA--A federal judge ruled on Feb. 26 that homosexuality is sufficient ground for denying US citizenship to a Springfield, VA man who immigrated from Germany 13 years ago, according to a report in North Carolina's *The Front Page*.

In a lengthy report detailing homosexuality as "licentious living...likely to lead to...moral decay," US District Court Judge Oren R. Lewis denied the naturalization request of Horst Nemetz. Immigration and Naturalization officials consider the case an important test of the ambiguous criteria for citizenship.

ATLANTA--The first national conference for Black Gay men, titled "Man's Work," was held in Atlanta in February for the purpose of "establishing a viable national network by and for Black Gay men and the Black community at large.

The conference included consciousness-raising seminars, organizational planning sessions, and a keynote speaker. Workshops included communications topics, education, senior Gays, legal defense, political impacting, prisoners, religion, sexism, and the arts.

CHAMPAIGN, IL--The Seventh National Women's Music Festival has been scheduled for May 29 - June 1, on the Champaign-Urbana campus of the University of Illinois. The NWMF is a registered student organization of the university.

The presentation of positive statements and images of women is emphasized in the Festival. Along with workshops, daily open mike settings, jam sessions, dances and feminist merchandise and craftwares will be available. The scope of music will be from jazz to folk to classical, and among 13 featured performers are Alive!, Meg Christian, Holly Near, Terry Garthwaite, Julie Homi, Teresa Trull, Robin Tyler and others. Among the workshop topics are

various aspects of music, production, politics, theatre and dance.

Additional information may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to NWMF, Box 2721 Station A, Champaign, IL 61820, or by calling (217) 333-6443.

BLOOMINGTON, IN--The Seventh National Convention of the National Women's Studies Association will be held May 16-20 at Indiana University in Bloomington. The theme is "Women: Educating for Change."

The Convention is oriented toward those who educate others -- whether through the media, community action or schools at any level. It is designed to explore and celebrate concerns of women from a diverse mixture of backgrounds and lifestyles. Activities include panels, discussion groups, rituals, art exhibits, athletic events and theatrical performances.

For further information, write Jean Robinson, Women's Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405.

SAN FRANCISCO--The Fifth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews will be held in San Francisco August 29 - September 1, 1980. The Conference will include a variety of workshops. Formats to be included are organized symposia, facilitated discussions, and open discussion hours.

"We expect to give Conference participants a warmer welcome than they received in Israel last year," said Aaron Cooper, chair of the Conference Planning Committee. "In Israel, the orthodox rabbi-nate harassed the Conference to the point of driving it underground, and the Jewish National Fund rejected a donation from the world Jewish Gay community for a 3,000-tree forest that was to be dedicated during the Conference."

Additional information and registration materials can be obtained by writing the Conference Registration Committee, P.O. Box 5640, San Francisco, CA 94101.

MSU "Support" Group

By Ric Sullivan

In October, 1979, a group of twenty Memphis State University students and staff members met to form the only Gay-oriented group on campus. Originally titled the Gay Support Group, the group was forced to change its name to the Gay Awareness Group and then the Gay Awareness Discussion Group because of the administration's concern that "support" and "awareness" implied the University's advocacy of Gay lifestyles.

Dr. Maxine Bernard, staff representative of the Center for Student Development, indicates the group are "because students stated a need to...discuss common interests and problems." Second-year law student Cliff Coats feels the group performs two functions. The primary purpose is "offering peer support...in an alternative situation" to help Gay men and women deal with aspects of their sexuality. Cliff also sees the group acting as a "threshold group" to "provide an impetus for more political group." Dr. Bernard emphasizes, however, that the group does not exist as an independently-chartered campus organization.

Students have attempted twice in the past to form a chartered Gay organization on campus. Neither attempt was successful.

Meetings of the Gay Awareness Discussion Group are organized around a different discussion topic each week. Recent topics include homophobia, resolving religious conflicts, coming out, the impact of homosexuality on heterosexual culture and Gay and Lesbian relationships in the family. A member of the group assumes responsibility for facilitating an upcoming meeting and the group mutually decides on its agenda.

At present, the group's primary obstacle is having notices of meetings printed consistently in the *Helmsman*, the MSU newspaper. Only several notices have appeared since the group formed. In February, a notice was printed but the date and location were omitted. The *Helmsman* agreed to print a correction, but failed to do so. Members of the group indicated they are still attempting to have the *Helmsman* agree to print notices of the meetings regularly.

All notices printed in the newspaper must include "personal counseling unit" following the group's name, according to Cliff, who has spoken with Dr. Heitzman, Director of Student Development, regarding the group's publicity problems. Cliff also reported that the Awareness Group is not permitted to post notices of its meetings on campus, reflecting the administration's desire that the group maintain a "low profile."

Despite these obstacles, both Cliff and Dr. Bernard feel the group is growing and is successful. According to Cliff, one member of the group was recently able to tell his parents that he is Gay. A part-time graduate student involved with the group in its formation who wishes to remain unnamed, feels that the Awareness Group can serve as an effective weapon against the University's homophobia. "It provides the opportunity for awareness of ourselves and others without the fear, judgment and ridicule that Gays often encounter, even in the supposedly open environment of a university."

The MSU Gay Awareness Discussion Group meets every Wednesday at 4:15 p.m. in Scates Hall, Room 209-B. Interested faculty, staff and students are welcome.

Conference '80 The Fifth Annual Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men

August 1, 2 and 3
The Holiday Inn Rivermont, Memphis
Registration: \$10

- I would like to register for the Southeastern Conference. Enclosed is my registration fee of \$10.
- I would like to donate money or sponsor other persons for Conference '80. Enclosed is \$_____.
- I will be attending the Southeastern Conference and I am an underemployed/unemployed person. I am enclosing \$_____ as my registration fee (whatever you can afford).
- I would like to be involved in the Conference '80 planning process.
- I would like to organize or sponsor a fundraising event for Conference '80.
- I would like to reserve a room in the Rivermont for August 1 and/or 2. Please send me hotel registration information.

All checks must be made payable to "Conference '80."

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____
Telephone Number _____