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1ST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Are Homosexuals
Revolting?
You Bet We Are! Pg.3

GAITY

50¢

... reflecting gay life in the south

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Carter Sidestep Plank, But Will Sign Gay Rights Bill

Former Georgia Governor and Democratic presidential frontrunner, Jimmy Carter, has announced that he would sign the national Gay rights bill if elected president. Carter made the announcement on May 21 while campaigning in San Francisco.

"I will certainly sign it," Carter said, "because I don't want to single out homosexuals for special abuse or harrassment."

Carter's position on gay rights has been unclear in the past. Three weeks after making a positive statement, Carter told a reporter he hadn't made up his mind on Gay rights because he "didn't know how we could deal with the issue of blackmail."

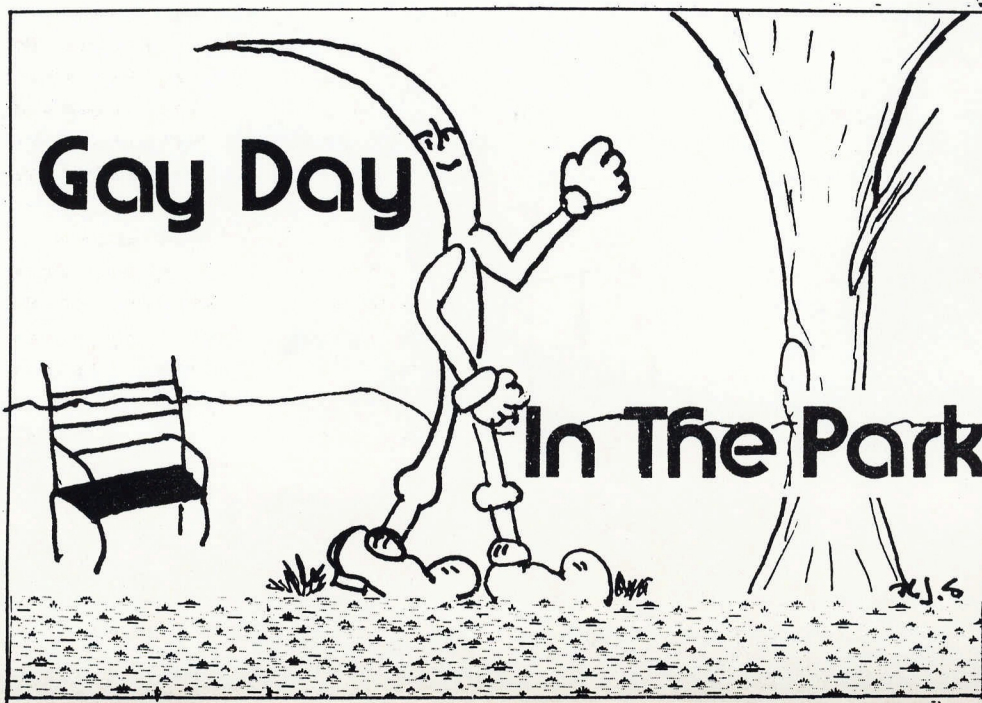
Despite Carter's current favorable position, the gay rights issue will not be included in the Democratic Party Platform, according to the National Gay Task Force. "It is understood that Carter himself called his staff in Washington and asked that the gay rights issue be included," the Task Force said. However, Stuart Eisenstadt, Carter's chief issues coordinator, objected on the grounds that this would be a "divisive issue" within the party at a time when unity is imperative.

Carter has said, "I oppose all forms of discrimination against all individuals, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. As President I can assure you that all policies of the federal government would reflect this commitment to ending all forms of discrimination."

California Governor Jerry Brown, the only Democratic presidential contender that has not conceded Carter's victory, signed into law last year a bill that repealed California's sodomy laws.

The Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church, has announced his support of Carter. Perry cited Carter's "commitment to civil rights for all people" as one reason for his support.

Dance, Picnic Accent Memphis Gay Pride



Two events are scheduled in Memphis during Gay Pride Week that will bring gay people together in an atmosphere of unity and friendliness.

At noon Sunday, June 27, a gay picnic will be held at Audubon Park. The gathering will be at the southwest corner of the park at Goodlett and Park Ave. The picnic is being sponsored by the Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force of the Memphis chapter of NOW. The MCC Study Group of Memphis is also supporting the event. Everyone is invited; bring your own food. If it's raining, grab your waterproofs and come anyway.

A women's dance, also sponsored by the S.&L. Task Force, will be held at 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 26. The dance will be held at the student center at 3625 Mynders Avenue. Beer will be provided, with donations appreciated. A live musical group is scheduled to play, and there will be taped music for dancing. The dance is for women only.

Front Page

Hosts Benefit

A fund-raising benefit for GAIETY was held on Friday, July 11, 1976 at the Front Page, 267 South Cleveland. The benefit raised \$288.35 for the newspaper.

Titled an "Extravaganza", the program featured female impersonators such as Loretta, Sabrina Lea, Vickie Marie, Melina, Dan Boudreaux, Danny Boy (a male impersonator), with special appearances by Cass Michaels and Ms. Tara Wells. Special entertainment was provided in the way of production numbers. Mr. Dennis was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Intermission activities included a Banana eating contest won by Ms. Donna Migdalski (eating 16 bananas) with second place going to Mr. Bobby Roberts (eating 15 bananas). Ms. Migdalski won a \$10.00 bar tab courtesy of the Front Page. Roberts received a year's subscription to GAIETY as well as two free passes to the "Queen of the Butterflies" pageant courtesy of the "Butterfly Cabaret."

Lesbian Mother Awarded Child Custody By Court

A lesbian has won custody of her two children in a precedent setting decision by a Portland, Maine court. Carol Whitehead has fought a custody battle with her former husband since 1971, when she was awarded custody of the children after getting a divorce.

Maine Superior Court Justice Harry Classman said life at Ms. Whitehead's home "appears to adequately meet the social, psychological, physical and moral needs of these children." The children are 10 and 7 years old.

NOW Opens Switchboard

In conjunction with National Gay Pride Week, a Gay Switchboard will be opened in Memphis on Friday, July 25. The switchboard will be handled by volunteers trained in crisis intervention by Pat O'Shaughnessy, director of the Memphis chapter of Help Now. The switchboard will be in operation from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. daily. The switchboard, sponsored by the National Organization of Women Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force, will be for information referral as well as crisis intervention.

Whitehead said the children's father has harrassed them by repeatedly trying to regain the children through the courts and by extra-legal means. To escape the harassment she and her family moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where she says the father, who calls Ms. Whitehead a "sick lesbian," tried to kill her.

According to Ms. Whitehead, the children's father helped support them for one year after the divorce, but he stopped all assistance in 1973.

Shortly after moving back to Maine, the man tried to remove the children by means of a Georgia custody paper. The paper was invalid in Maine but the action prompted Whitehead to contact an attorney. The Maine Gay Task Force established a defense fund to help pay legal expenses.

A judge ordered her ex-husband to stay away from the children, but Whitehead was in constant fear that the father might try to abduct the children without her knowledge. "I have been a good and loving mother," she said. "The children are being used as pawns in a war against me."

Commenting on her victory, Whitehead said the decision "gives you faith in the system. It's a marvelous kind of Bicentennial present."

At NOW Meeting Lesbians Entertain, Inform

Some 80 women attended a program given by the Lesbian Task Force at the June 1 meeting of the Memphis chapter of the National Organization for Women.

The special program consisted of several short plays and dramatic readings. First was a one-act play by Djuna Barnes, "Gone to the Dogs." The woman was played by Johnnette Shane and the man by Mary Jo Cowart.

Following this, Gwen Demian read an original essay, untitled but called by the author a "dramatic dyke piece," concerning the stereotype and roles problem.

Last was a dramatization of Judy Grahn's prose poem, "The Psychoanalysis of Edward the Dyke." The cast was: Edward - Bonnie Barringer, the Doctor - Snoop McSwain, and Narrator - Mary Jo Cowart.

After the entertainment, a short report was given on the progress of women's and gay liberation.

The Abzug bill is still in committee. It is not yet dead, but has no companion bill in the Senate.

The EEOC has ruled that it has no jurisdiction over job discrimination due to sexual orientation.

Of the presidential candidates, Humphrey has the best record of support for the gay movement. Udall supports the Abzug bill.

When asked his views on repeal of sodomy laws, "Carter's grin disappeared. It's not just another Carter's grin joke," the speaker said, "He was obviously uncomfortable." (This happened during a filming of the "Tomorrow" television show.)

The National Gay Task Force is hitting the media, especially television. Coverage of gay-oriented news is inadequate, and the image of gays ourselves

Gay Bars in South Targets for Mafia

Florida and Georgia police fear a "bloodbath" may be the result of an effort by organized crime to take over the gay bars and discos in the South. The Advocate reports that police sources have named three men killed already in "execution-style killings." These slayings were in Atlanta, Miami, and Fort Lauderdale. One of the dead men was reported to have owned "Mother's Place," a popular Atlanta nightspot which the mob was attempting to take over.

The police source told the Advocate that they have "received information that there may be an attempt underway by organized crime to take over gay bars in the area. People have told us that there will be a lot of bloodshed."

as seen and broadcast by the programs is both stereotypical and presented in a way designed to be condescendingly humorous. However, NBC has apparently decided to cash in on what it may perceive as this year's gimmick, and has declared that it will concentrate on upgrading the media image of gays this coming year. It is seeking stories of gay interest for possible programs.

There is some progress in abolishing sodomy laws at the local and state levels.

The last news item concerned the Task Force itself. Effort is being made to rechannel energy from the consciousness raising groups to projects involving the community. One project is a survey of mental health professionals to ascertain their attitudes toward the gay lifestyle. Of 400 preliminary questionnaires sent out, 100 have been returned. About half seem sympathetic, and these people will be interviewed in greater depth.

Navy Discharges

Ensign Berg Plans Appeal

Ensign Vernon Berg III has been ordered discharged immediately with an "other than honorable discharge" by the United States Navy. An administrative board recommended Berg's discharge on the basis of his homosexuality after a Naval Review.

Ensign Berg, in a telephone interview with Gay Community News of Boston, stated

Gay/Straight Meet Causes

San Antonio Hassles

Allocation of federal funds for a conference to foster gay/straight understanding has resulted in pickets, belittling local news stories, and bomb threats that forced the conference to move from its original site.

The funds were awarded to the Forward Foundation, a San Antonio minority rights group.

The Commissioners Court of Dallas County, 280 miles away, blasted the use of "\$50,000" in Federal money to "promote immorality." Only \$5,000 had been allocated.

The conference did meet, despite the harassment, on May 1 and attracted over 400 participants. Del Martin, Elaine Noble, and Karen DeCrow were among the speakers. Those picketing included a Baptist pastor running for state legislature on the American Party ticket and a nun with a "STOP ERA" button pinned to her habit. When the pickets sat down in violation of a municipal ordinance, conference officials called the police to disperse them.

Rebuked By Bishop

Gay Asked to 'Worship Elsewhere'

Louie Crew, college professor and founder of INTEGRITY, Gay Episcopal Forum, was publicly rebuked June 4th by the head of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Bishop Bennett Sims attacked Dr. Crew for his alleged determination to give his "views and grievances wide public attention." Dr. Crew has been asked by his local church to worship elsewhere.

Despite warm support for Dr. Crew from his former church in Orangeburg, S. C., the elected board of laity at St. Luke Episcopal Church in Ft. Valley, Ga., told Crew, "We would all be pleased if you would find some other place of worship...." Bishop Sims added that Crew's public exposure of support from the South Carolina church had served to "disrupt the peace and good order of the church."

Dr. Crew has been summoned to a consultation with Bishop Sims and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Atlanta for a "confrontation" that

Bishop Sims says is "not directed to his identity as a homosexual." Dr. Crew is obtaining legal counsel to attend the occasion with him.

Dr. Crew has been a communicant of St. Luke's since September of 1974 and Bishop Sims has acknowledged that Crew's communicant status is valid. At one meeting in the presence of the Bishop, Dr. Crew's priest, Fr. Cecil A. Cowan acknowledged, "I want to kill him." At the next meeting, Fr. Cowan agreed to be Crew's priest only if Crew promised never to mention Fr. Cowan by name or allusion in anything he might write or say.

The church claims to respect Crew's identity as a homosexual but does not wish to "endorse or promote" Dr. Crew's effort to help other gay people through INTEGRITY.

Until the matter is decided the church of St. Paul in Orangeburg, S.C., has invited Dr. Crew to re-establish membership there. The Orangeburg church remembers Dr. Crew with "great fondness" for his contribution to their worship services and to his community as a "brilliant educator." The confrontation with the Standing Committee and Bishop Sims should take place around the end of June.

Experiment Ends

Bookstore Closes

June 26 will be the last day of business for the Memphis Community Bookshop. The store at 1907 Madison has been operated for the past two and one half years by a collective of seven Memphians. The store is being closed because increased expenses have made it economically unfeasible. At this time there are no certain plans to reopen elsewhere, but there is a possibility that the Center for Dialogue, also housed at the store, will continue to arrange programs in other locations.

The bookshop collective was active in many areas of community political activity. They tried to become involved by providing progressive books, films and speakers for the community through the bookstore and Center for Dialogue.

Although the shop itself cannot continue, the collective feels that their goal was, in part, accomplished. There are those here in Memphis who will not soon forget Cassee Coker's songs to getting to see Sappho Was A Right On Woman and Amazon Odyssey sitting on the shelf just waiting for the Lesbian-Feminist starving for something better than a "Ms." magazine.

that with an "other than honorable discharge...I won't be able to get any veterans' benefits." The Navy has agreed to pay Berg 13 cents per mile for gas to his official place of residence, which is in New Jersey.

Although the local Navy Chief of Staff has given Berg an "adverse fitness report" (meaning his work was unsatisfactory) the department head of the Civilian Personnel office, where Berg had worked for the past eight months disagrees with the fitness report. The department head plans to submit a written affidavit affirming Berg's good work record and has agreed to defend Berg's job performance in public hearings.

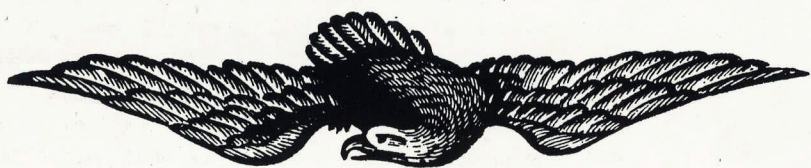
Berg will appeal his discharge and fitness report to the Board for the Correction of Military Records. He will also go to the federal courts to challenge his dismissal on the grounds of being a homosexual.

Ensign Berg and his lover, Lawrence Gibson, also dismissed from his position as a civilian Navy teacher, were leaving Virginia Beach, Virginia shortly to return to civilian life. Their plans are not definite but will include a national speaking tour.

Since January 28, Ensign Berg has fought the discharge through the Navy's review processes. Berg's lawyer, E. Carrington Bogan of New York, flew to Washington in an attempt to get a temporary restraining order in the U.S. District Court, but Bogan was unable to do so.



Another American Revolution



by Dennis Mainord

July 4, 1776. A group of men representing the thirteen British colonies in America publicly declare that these colonies "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states." The stifling hand of oppression has gone too far. The colonists, resenting among other things the fact that they have to support British soldiers (reminders of the omnipresent oppressor) decide to fight back. Taxation without representation? British control of American trade? No! This is the beginning of a new type of person - the independent American!

June 27-28, 1969. A group of homosexual men and women publicly demand that gay people deserve every freedom, every "unalienable right," including liberty and the pursuit of happiness, that heterosexual Americans take for granted. Once again, the stifling hand of oppression has gone too far. This time, it is the homosexuals who have decided to fight back. Unwarranted raids on gay bars? Discriminatory practices against gay people? Continuous entrapment and harassment? No! This is the beginning of a new type of homosexual - the fighting homosexual!

The drafting of this gay declaration of independence took place at the Stonewall, a bar located on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village, on Friday night and Saturday morning, June 27 and 28. New York City police raided the bar, apparently for selling liquor without a license. The bar was closed down, the bartender was arrested, and most of the customers were released.

One observer of the ensuing riots related his version of what happened. He said that the patrons were permitted to leave the bar one by one, but instead of leaving, many waited outside on the street. As more gays were released, a crowd began to form. At first, the crowd was relatively peaceful. But a shift in mood occurred when the paddywagon rolled around to cart off the employees and several of the more outspoken "queens." The paddywagon left, followed shortly by three patrol cars loaded with prisoners. It was then that the crowd became violent.

People began hurling money and objects at the police and the officers quickly locked themselves inside the bar. The door was knocked open, closed after the police grabbed a gay protestor, and then smashed open again. Someone managed to squirt some lighter fluid into the bar and set a match to it. Just then police reinforcements arrived.

The riot for that night was over. Inside, the bar was a shambles. The mirrors, jukebox, cigarette machines and toilet were all smashed. Even the sinks were stuffed with paper. The television was stolen and later discovered at the police station. The police could not have been the vandals.

The Stonewall was open again Saturday night, but the prevailing mood was one of more confidence. The crowd did not contain itself inside the bar, but marched down the street proclaiming "gay power." The Tactical Police Force (a SWAT team?) met the gay group and pushed them back down the street. One observer said, however, that several gays simply walked around the block and returned another way.

Sunday night saw no violence, but again the gays were out in force, in the park, on the steps, on the street, everywhere. The Stonewall riots had ended, but Gay Liberation was ready to begin in earnest.



Of course there were revolutionary groups formed before the events of 1776. The Sons of Liberty, along with certain American merchant groups, are examples of organizations that tried to foster a revolutionary spirit in the colonists. Thomas Paine urged revolution in his widely read pamphlets Common Sense and The American Crisis when he called on "ye that love mankind! Ye that dare oppose not only the tyranny but the tyrant..."

Before the events of 1969 took place, there were homosexual organizations that had been formed. As early as 1950, the Mattachine Foundation was founded by a group of homosexuals meeting in secret in Los Angeles. In 1952, also in Los Angeles, ONE, Inc., an organization for homosexual men and

women, was created with publishing as its main goal. In 1953, the Mattachine Foundation became the Mattachine Society, when its national organization ended and splinter groups sprung up in several large cities.

The Daughters of Bilitis, the nation's only all-female homosexual organization (until Radicalesbians) was created in San Francisco in 1955. The East Coast Homophile Organization came into being in 1963, followed by the North American Homophile Organization. Others included the Homophile Youth Movement (HYMN) and California's Committee for Homosexual Freedom.

One of the more successful organizations for homosexuals was SIR, the Society for Individual Rights, created in San Francisco in 1964. With revenue obtained from dances, picnics and other projects, SIR opened a downtown San Francisco office to assist gays.

Probably the most widely read newspaper "reflecting our lifestyle" is the Advocate. Now available by subscription and at newsstands all over the country (even Jackson, TN!), the Advocate began in 1967 as The Los Angeles Advocate, an offshoot of PRIDE (Personal Rights in Defense and Education).



During the course of the American Revolution and shortly thereafter, there were groups that met to determine the type of government that the new country should have. After the failure of the Articles of Confederation, the Constitutional Convention met and drew up the document that was to become the basis for the government and the entire legal system of the United States: the Constitution.

Perhaps one should not go so far as to compare the Gay Liberation Front with the Constitutional Convention, but the GLF was a group that appeared in July of 1969, immediately after the Stonewall riots, to attempt to determine the best way to keep gay activism alive.

They first met at a place called Alternate U., a school that claimed to offer courses that could not be found elsewhere. Alternate U. designated one night a week as Gay Night. In time, the GLF moved to another location because of interference from non-homosexual radicals who attempted to direct the course of GLF.

One of the unique problems facing GLF was in determining its philosophy - would the GLF be concerned with oppression of all minority groups or would it limit itself to homosexual problems? How radical was the group to become? Would the group label itself as gay leftists or left-wing gays? In spite of disagreements over policy, the GLF emerged as a powerful and successful organization - successful not only in raising funds but also instrumental in the election of New York's Mayor Lindsay. Although GLF originated in New York, San Francisco and Berkeley were not far behind in creating their own GLF groups.

In December of 1969, the Gay Activists Alliance, a group breaking away from GLF, was formed. GAA policy was different from that of GLF in three areas. First, GAA decided to use no violence except in cases of self-defense. Whereas other groups advocated abolition of the capitalist system, GAA vowed to work for civil rights within the existing system. Finally, GAA stated that it was concerned with homosexual issues and would not ally itself with non-homosexual causes.



The Treaty of Paris, signed in 1783, ended the American Revolution. The thirteen colonies had obtained their goal - independence from Great Britain.

Two hundred years later, sadly, the Homosexual Revolution has not ended. The Homosexual Revolution will not end until we all have won what we should have been granted in the beginning - that which is rightfully ours: the freedom to live our lives as we see fit, freedom from discriminating laws, freedom from unscrupulous police harassment, and freedom from attitudes that relegate us to the position of second-class citizens in a country where "everyone is equal."

Information taken in part from The Gay Militants, Donn Teal, Stein and Day, New York, 1971.

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Anniversary Waltz

With the first anniversary of GAITY, the time seems appropriate to thank all of the people who have made the newspaper possible. First of all I want to thank the Memphis Gay Community. Without the people of this community, GAITY would not be needed, wanted, or published. You all showed your support in a very tangible way on Friday night, June 11, at the GAITY benefit extravaganza. Thanks to everyone, we raised \$288.35.

I also must thank the staff. That is to say the devoted few volunteers who have spent 1-o-n-g hours putting the paper together. These people deserve a special laudat.

Finally, I must thank the one person who believed in GAITY before anyone else ever did... she thought I was crazy, but she believed in me. -GP

A Dangerous Precedent

A recent ruling by a Federal Appeals Court in San Francisco seems to have effectively negated the recent policy statement by the Civil Service Commission concerning their non-discriminating hiring practices toward gays. The ruling stated that the advocacy of gay rights causes and public admission of homosexuality constituted "flaunting" of homosexuality and can therefore be a just cause for dismissal from a civil service job.

The utter foolishness of this ruling is appalling. The court has effectively said that a gay person may work for the civil service and may not be discriminated against only so long as he remains in the closet...only as long as he does not work for political change within the system...only so long as he lies to his friends and to himself.

This is a case that has received almost no publicity, but it is an important case because it could undo all of the progress that we, as gay people, have been fighting for over the past eight years. It is certainly a case that bears watching. -GP

Prayers and Peanuts

Many presidential candidates have said that the one major function of the President is to "set a tone" or "chart a course" for the country to follow. This is certainly true as the infamous regime of Richard Nixon so painfully illustrated. Presidents, Nixon included, often use religion as an indicator of what we can expect from them.

A lot of questions were raised about John Kennedy's Catholicism. Could the Pope dictate policy to him? Events proved otherwise, but the question was a worthy one. Religion is fine as a personal belief, but no kind of religion should dictate the policy of this country. The elements that make up America are too diverse.

Despite Carter's positive attitude about the Gay rights bill, he has said, "I believe in the Bible, and the Bible states that homosexuality is a sin." Whose Bible? Troy Perry's? Henry Kissinger's? Madeline O'Hare's? The fact is that almost anything can be attributed to that complex Hebrew chronicle. Jimmy Carter would be President of a lot more than Baptists. Indeed, fundamentalist churches are distinctly a minority in this country, and their adherence to a rigid interpretation of the Bible is considered outdated and even ludicrous by millions. Jimmy Carter may sign a bill, but can he fairly govern a nation with at least 20 million "sinners?" Not just homosexuals, but the vast majority in this country are "sinners" by fundamentalist standards.

The simple fact is that a rigid adherence to the Bible is inadequate at best as a philosophy for guiding this nation. Carter would do a lot better to adopt a humanist philosophy, one that would please and serve the people, not some ancient patriarchal god that so many reject.

Carter is surely a better prospect for the Oval Office than Do-Nothing Ford or Six-gun Ronnie. But the implications of how his fundamentalist faith could influence major world decisions is frightening. Anyone for prayer? -LL

Featuring More

"First Anniversary" That's quite an accomplishment! Many people said GAITY would never make it. The Gay community of Memphis was simply too apathetic to support a local paper. It had been tried before.

However, all that was before Gary Poe. There was no real reason why a gay paper shouldn't go over in Memphis. Being a relative newcomer, he held no preconceived notions as to what could or could not be done. So, with a single-minded dedication Gary Poe created GAITY. His zeal and determination were infectious. People began to look forward to reading the next issue and were concerned when problems delayed publication.

Soon, more volunteers showed up to offer articles, poems, artwork, or just their time--anything to help. Throughout the year Gary pumped his own money into GAITY to keep it alive. Now, one year later, advertising revenue is still greatly needed. It must if we are to meet costs and stay alive. No one at GAITY receives any salary. It is a labor of love.

Now I will be assisting Gary as the Feature Editor and also as an advertising representative. In the coming year I hope to utilize my experience as a journalism major to give the paper an even more professional look. Look for more timely Gay news, more interesting feature-articles, more regular columns and more probing editorials.

Starting this month are Cass's Corner, about interesting people, places and things, and Making the Rounds, a monthly summary of what's going on at the bars.

In conclusion, GAITY is your paper. It needs your support and your help. If you know something of interest to Memphis' Gay Community, please share it with us by calling 726-4299 or dropping us a line to P.O. Box 3620, Memphis, 38103.

Thanks and Have a Gay Day!

-GS



Movie House Brings Memphis 'The Baths'

by Larry Laughlin

Saturday Night at the Baths, already over one year old, finally ran for one week at the Movie House on Poplar in May. Given the hype about the Continental Baths (Bette Midler, etc.) and its supposed politically minded owner, Steve Ostrow, it was natural to expect little more than an elaborate commercial.

The Madison Avenue awakening to the marketing potential of the 1974 wave of bisexual/gay "chic", was bound to result in films capitalizing on the trend (already passe; it never seemed to reach Memphis, but does anything?)

A Very Natural Thing tried hard - maybe a little too hard. Saturday Night at the Baths succeeds a little better, but is still shy of satisfying the urgent need for a truly fine film that expresses at least one aspect of the gay experience.

The film raises some poignant, meaningful issues but fails to explore them with any real depth. It centers around Michael Lawrence (Robert Aberdeen), an attractive straight man who applies for a job as a pianist at the Continental Baths. It is his first encounter with the gay subculture and all the old fears and hypes are there. He is somewhat reassured after meeting Scotty (Don Scotti), the emcee of the show. Scotty is a lithe, sensual gay man who Michael feels could pass for straight." Scotty shows an interest in meeting Michael's lover, Tracey (Ellen Sheppard), and invites them to a gallery opening attended by an artsy Village crowd observing photos of muscle-men. Tracey and Scotty have an immediate rapport and linger while Michael leaves for some piano practice. Later the three of them meet at Michael and Tracey's apartment and have a happy, stoned good time. But when Scotty tries to approach Michael, he isn't able to cope with it.

Slowly Michael becomes a little more comfortable with the baths scene. The many shots of the ever-packed dance floors, the pool, and the patios, make it clear that women are welcome at the Continental Baths. Michael even joins Scotty for a football match between the Bath staff and some members of the police department (!) which supplies the film with its most hilarious moments.

The fun ends when Michael makes a remark about Scotty's first gay experience being the reason Scotty isn't "normal." Tracey is as offended as Scotty and she encourages Michael to overcome his prejudices.

Michael goes to Scotty's apartment to apologize and ends up relating an all too common incident from Michael's childhood that taught him, "guys don't touch other guys." Michael is shaken by the memory and in response to a question from Scotty he confesses that he loved his friend.

For reasons she cannot understand, Michael asks Tracey to stay away from his debut at the Baths.

In the film, the show consists of three female impersonators (received with much enthusiasm and applause from the largely gay Memphis audience), a singer, and a sensuous choreographic number by several nearly nude male dancers. A brief interlude showing a male couple making love in a shower suggests what is going on elsewhere in the establishment.

With the show a success and Michael relaxed, he and Scotty end up on a quiet, romantic terrace overlooking the neon New York night. Here, finally, Michael opens up to his sexual feelings for Scotty. They kiss, but the film fails to show anything further, despite the fact that there is a fairly explicit love scene in the beginning of the film between Michael and Tracey.

Given the thrust of the movie, this is inexcusable and frustrating. Perhaps the scene was avoided to prevent shocking the sensibilities of the pseudo-hip heterosexuals for whom this movie appears to be geared. (The marquee reads, "You could forgive him if he were with another woman, but could you go one step further?") Of course, censorship may be the reason, one learns to expect that sort of thing here in the Bible Belt.

There are also several technical flaws. For instance, right at the most intense moment between Michael and Scotty the sound boom appears and looms at the top of the screen!

The movie is still an acceptable and entertaining attempt to portray a straight man's gradual acceptance of the gay potential in his personality. Indeed, if middle-America ever accepts gayness in films it will be through slick, glossy productions such as this one.

At times the dialogue is trite and awkward; but, at

other times it shines with natural spontaneity. Robert Aberdeen is adequate as the central character but lacks the magnetism for which the role begs. Ellen Sheppard is completely winning and natural, and her warmth radiates from the screen. Don Scotti is a dream fulfilled: sensual, sexy, subtle and warm.

If the movies can overcome a history of homophobia and finally produce films about real, loving, complex characters who are also gay, Don Scotti may well become America's first (really) gay superstar.



Members of the ProVisional Theatre use a minimum of props, relying instead on their talent to convey the message.

Alternative Theatre at M.S.U.

By Buddy Haynes

The most exciting, electric theatre Memphis has seen in quite some time occurred when the Provisional Theatre Company of Los Angeles visited Memphis for a two night stand at Memphis State University. Brought to the city by University Programs, the group performed two different pieces. Tuesday night, June 15, they created an America Piece and on the following night the group presented Voice of the People.

This second production combined mime, dialogue, and folk music to bring across the point of the history of the country over two hundred years; not the glamor of the history, but rather the real story of the common American. There was great emphasis on the poor

of the country, the jobless, the indigent. The courageousness of these people was clearly expressed through the script and the emotions:


"If you and I must fight each other to exist, then we cannot love each other very much."

"When I see other people suffer, I suffer. So when I work to help them, I am working for myself."

The most disappointing thing about the performance was the meager turn-out. The group certainly deserved the standing ovation they received from the audience; they deserved much more.

This group of ten or so people not only love to perform, but they love each other - on stage as well as off. The feeling that they were just like one big happy family came across so strongly that one would like to run up and join them in that love.

The next time Provisional Theatre of Los Angeles comes to Memphis run....do not walk to see them. To miss this group is to miss some of the most exciting theatre brought to life in our city in a time.

★★

The lower case Greek letter lambda is a scientific symbol for activism. That is why it was chosen by the Gay Activists Alliance. It was first used by oppressed Jews in Egyptian captivity as a secret symbol of unity. It has since become a widely-adopted symbol of gay pride.

SWAMPTRASH

by Rona Baresit

To all of you who were waiting for my scintillating expose on the popper racket here in "Big M" I apologize. The part of my column last month dealing with that subject was omitted as a matter of editorial discretion. It seems that there is currently a good deal of discussion as to the safety of the so-called "legal" poppers. So, rather than appear to "endorse" the sale or use of any one product, the piece was cut. So be it. That's why I'm the columnist and G. P. is the editor.

Lurking In The Swamp

It seems that at the beginning of every summer word goes around that Michelle Rollins is going to open a gay bar. Last year it was all very fun, the bar even had a name (The Warehouse) and Michelle went along with the joke. However, then as now, there is no truth whatsoever to the story.

However, it is confirmed that Gene Brown is planning on opening a bar in the mid-town area, to be called "The Back Door." He has told me that he already has financing and that he will be the managing partner in the operation. As of our last conversation, he did not have a specific location, but he was hopeful that he would be open sometime in the fall. Wouldn't it be a hoot if Gene got the old store on Cleveland and we had the Entree, the Front Page and the Back Door all in a row?

Congratulations to the owners of the Butterfly Cabaret, formerly B. J.'s, The Patch, etc. Reliable sources tell me they wish to change the appeal of the bar to attract more gay men as well as women and they are putting in much time and \$\$\$ toward this end. If I might be allowed a suggestion, I think the first thing they should do is fix up the outside so that it doesn't look like the "black hole of Calcutta." Well, much luck ladies!

Floating Tidbits

From what I hear, the Cosmopolitan Health Spa on Mendenhall is the closest thing to the Club Baths Memphis has ever had. You wouldn't believe the action that goes on in their steam-room! I know one guy who has met his last "three boyfriends" there. (He's much too suave to use a limiting word like 'lovers'.)

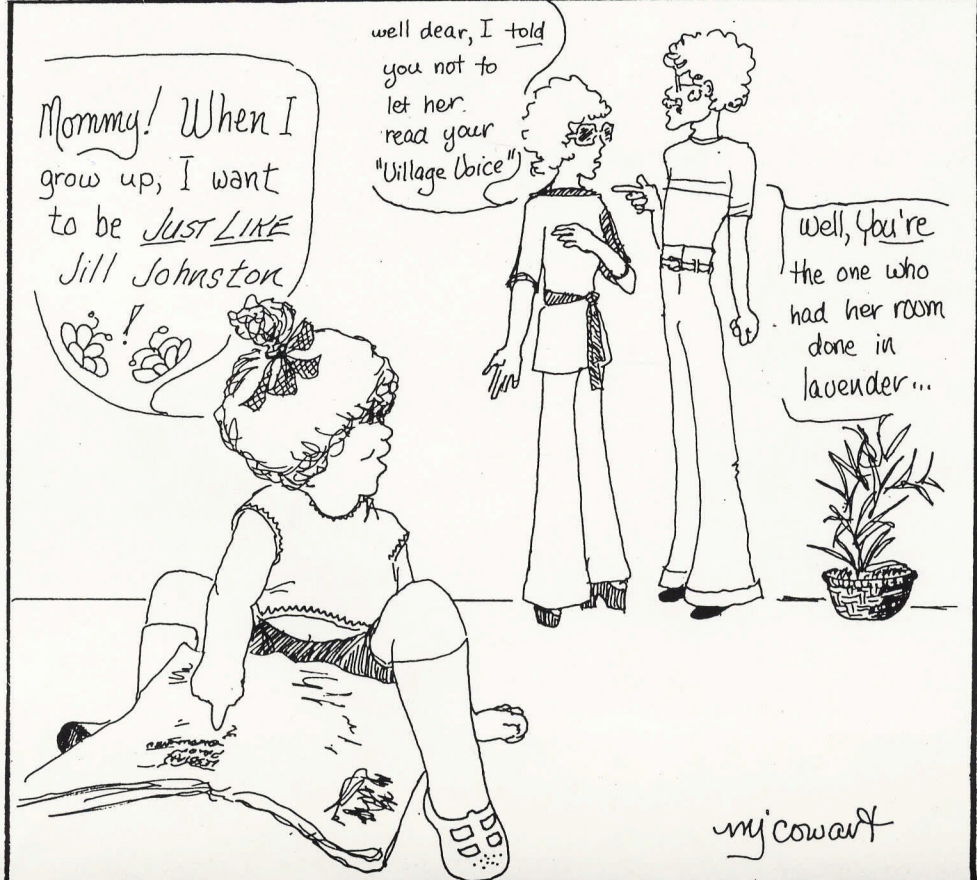
Congratulations to Corky and Miss McWherter. Memphis' loss will be Atlanta's etc.

To Ray Jean: I know I keep promising to print something nice about you, and believe me, when I think of something I

To Joe S.: I still don't believe you sat out front of the Rain Check honking your horn!

To Richard L.: Again I acquiesce to your demands, as always; however I can't yet duplicate your generous offer of "civility", ergo: my continued absence. Discretion is the better part of valor.

So long for now.....Coming next month: Going Gay at School.



COMING OUT?

Butterfly Cabaret

1382 Poplar

Sunday \$.25 Beer No Cover Charge
Tuesday Beer Bust \$2.00 9-12

JS.76



The Making of Brendon Beauregard: A Manifesto

"...free at last, free at last, think God Almighty, I'm free at last." - old negro spiritual.

As a child, Brendon Beauregard shrouded himself in a soft pink illusion as ethereal as crep myrtle turned to cotton candy trees by a dizzy summer sun. For his grandmother, he sang promises in

white-fence-picketed ditches. For his mother, he was a solo act. For his father, he swept poolroom floors when not wiping beersweat from formica countertops.

Thrice elected king of the Halloween Carnival (the highest honor primary schoolers can bestow on one of their own kind) and twice coronated (someone decided he had been king long enough) he had more gold stars than anyone else. He kept them: Inviolable...

When newly a man, with only a child's knowledge, he grasped for glaring greens and reds: A brighter world. Cavorting gave way to carousing, a more substantive pleasure, one that exerted new muscles, leading to new definitions about himself.

And the word "man." Confidants preferred to ignore the changes knowledge necessitates ("Let's talk of pleasanter things.") Although unable to talk about it, he soon became quite proficient at doing it. Innocence breeds self-righteousness...

Wailing; then yowling; then purring jukeboxes soon became a fixture in his new world - the only one he could own. Hit a button, you get a song. There were men, too, rolly-polly men wearing patent leather blurbs of whiteness on their feet (overcast by reflections of hugging-too-tight- pink-poly-estered rumps.) Their sleek, smooth lovers with Jaguar godies: Copyrighted walks, talks, smiles, wiles... in this world, there were those who lit cigarettes and those who had cigarettes lit. Period. Since he enjoyed doing both, he soon just lit his own...

Until tired of being fondled by old men with fat wives and one and a half cars bought and paid for; tired of predator turned little boy, hand in forbidden places, pleading ignorance or alcohol; tired of screaming queens masking bitterness with affection like lemon drops, all too sugary..

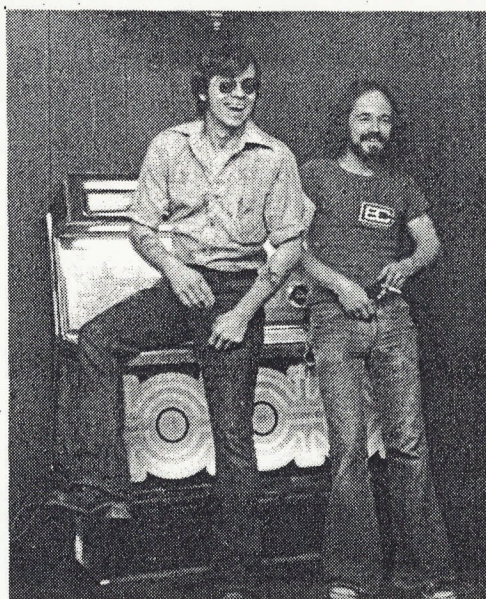
Tired of not being able to take, to have given. Tired of watching eyes take to groping crotches with swift, subtle strokes, darting back and forth, up and down. (Tired of being a solo, unendingly alone, unutterably alone.....) wine drunk, hope in dregs, the full-bodied bouquet of romance long since dissipated; staleness permeating, crippling, maiming...

Until finally left to crawling down well-worn footpaths, taking refuge at nocturnal waystations, trapped in a maze and bathed in the cold, cold reality of a neon sign carving want ads in the sky, he moved to Minneapolis and became an accountant. Death is its own reward.

GAIETY TAKES A HUMOROUS LOOK AT WHO YOU KNOW:



'Ray Jean Really Goes for Some Dogs! (Love - Rona)



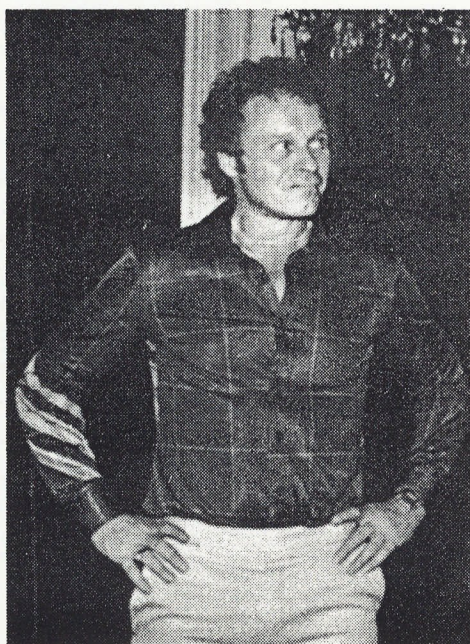
The Dynamic Duo get ready for their first customer.



Did you say that Phyllis resigned?



Oooh!! GAIETY has the sexiest editors!



At least Danielle was never a misfit.



SEE HOLBROOK'S STATEMENT

Gay Bio-Chemist Discusses Medical Aspects of "POPPERS"

by Arnold Klassen

It has seemed to me for some time that somebody should write a paper about poppers-amyl nitrate-for the gay community. Nobody has done it, so here goes. I know quite a bit about the subject: I'm Ph.D.-style biochemist and gay. My sources include the British and United States Pharmacopias, some chemical papers, and lots of in-and-out-of-lab experience. I do not claim to be an authority in medicine or pharmacology, but I have read a lot of papers in those areas too. So, you Docs out there, if I write something that's wrong, please correct me. Or, better yet, write an article about amyl from your gay medical perspective.

What amyl nitrate is should be understood at the onset. It is a member of a group of chemicals called "alkyl nitrites." These chemicals are made by treating any alkyl alcohol with sodium nitrate and sulfuric acid. Alkyl alcohols include methanol (Sterno), ethanol (the most popular drug in earth), isopropyl alcohol (Rubbing alcohol), and isoamyl alcohol (whence poppers). Medically, isoamyl nitrite was invented in the late days of Victoriana and became the miracle drug for the treatment of angina pectoris, sort of a charley-horse of the heart muscle. They did some pretty strange things in the process of testing it as a drug (as they generally do). The only recorded death due to amyl that I've read about was that of an English lady whose doctor injected her with a couple of cc's of the stuff (one must assume that she died happy). How poppers became connected with sex is anybody's guess. The physiological effect of inhaling amyl comes from the fact that it dilates the peripheral blood vessels (skin, for instance). The inhalee feels warm all over, his (men use it more) heart goes faster to compensate for the slight drop in blood pressure, and (I suspect) he (or she) forgets about everything else except the most Urgent Matter At Hand.

The usual question that my gay friends ask me about amyl is, "Is it safe?". Well, there are several considerations to be taken into account with regard to drug safety. There is, of course, the question whether any drugs are safe. However, there are much more able proponents of natural health around than myself; that's not really the topic of this article. One important consideration about safety is, "How pure is it?" The stuff in the ampules bought via pharmacies is required by the FDA to be 95% pure. One way to evaluate purity is by the aroma. The stronger the smell of dirty socks, the less pure. Super - pure amyl nitrite is a very,

very pale yellow and smells sort of like apricots. It takes some fairly sophisticated lab equipment to make it that pure, so most of what's available, including the ampules, smells pretty strong. And, amyl breaks down with time; a way to prevent this is to store it in the freezer. Another way of testing purity is to see how small a hit it takes to get you off---the smaller the better. The next question about safety is "How much do you use over a short period of time (an evening, say)?" Moderation is important with amyl as it is with any drug. If it is used in super-excess (it takes a lot), amyl nitrite causes a temporary blood condition called methemoglobinemia, which is pretty much like carbon monoxide poisoning.

Now, how's your health? If you have a heart condition you're pretty stupid to use a heart stimulant, right? After all that scary stuff, I'd like to comment that as a drug, amyl nitrite may be safer than aspirin. It would certainly be harder to kill yourself with it. And, by the way, those headaches the next morning are due to the impurities in the amyl you used. As I said, the less it stinks, the easier it will be on your head.

In closing, I would like to make it clear that I am in no way advocating the use of amyl nitrite except at doctor's orders. It is a controlled substance, and therefore illegal to use otherwise. But there are some products being advertised and sold as various kinds of "aromas" which people seem to be using as poppers which are "legal". I'll call them pseudo-poppers. What these chemicals are are probably other alkyl nitrites besides isoamyl nitrite (one of them says "butyl nitrite" on the bottle). Now, the dirtiest, least pure, "street" liquid is probably safer than these pseudo-poppers. Sniffing this stuff is no safer than sniffing glue (glue fumes attack your liver, pseudo-poppers hit your nerves). The only reason that these chemicals are "legal" is that the Food and Drug Administration never imagined that people would breathe them for a rush (the FDA doesn't control paint thinner either). It is a matter of fact that you can get a rush off any toxic gas. And besides all that, if you're into having your apartment smell like a locker room, isn't it a lot more interesting to do it the natural way? So please, gay brothers and sisters, if you must use them, use these pseudo-poppers only as a room perfume. (Reprinted from Gay Community News, May 15, 1976)



Welcome to Cass's Corner. It's just a little crossroads in my life where I meet the most interesting people.

Have you ever been to MCC? I had my first experience recently and I was really bowled over. You know how a lot of churches are...Well, this was so different. At 6 p.m. Sunday, they had their pot luck dinner. The food...well, you just wouldn't believe it-all sorts of vegetable, meat and salad dishes. Yes, even deserts for those of us who are so big it doesn't make any difference any more (tactfully, no names mentioned here.)

MCC holds special activities too. Monday the group went to see JAWS.

Mercy! The very first time the fish attacked (remember the girl?) someone touched me from behind. There I sat with Coke in one hand and popcorn in the other. Well, the Coke hit the floor and the people five rows back got free popcorn.

After that, every time I heard "that music," I sat everything down on the floor and grabbed the nearest hand. Once it was Dee Dyke, once it was Rik, and then there was this straight guy who sat down in the wrong row.

I had a lot of fun, but the movie was so effective that I wouldn't even wash dishes when I got home.

Did you know there's a little spice shop at 19 North Cooper in the Earth Shoes Building? You can buy spices and teas there in any amount...at a fraction of what you would pay at another store. It's called Maggie's Pharm. Maggie is a real sweet girl (a real one!) who will even blend special spices, herbs and pot-pourris for you. Go by and see Maggie. Tell her you read about her in GALEITY.

If you fruits like vegetables, there's a real neat special market in the Curb Market at Poplar and Cleveland. It's located in the backrow of the market and is identified by a cardboard sign printed in crayon saying Baretta's Farm Grown Vegetables.

This family grows all of the produce they sell and bring it to the market. The lady is real friendly. We sat and talked for an hour. The prices are cheaper than most others in the Market or anywhere else. Open only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, they spend the other days at home.....farming.

Meet you next month, same time, same corner!!!

Love and Lashes...CASS

GALEITY Spotlights: Chris Arnold

Ask anyone, "Who is Christine?" and unless they're blind, deaf, dumb, or just plain stupid, they know; often even if they're straight; especially if they're a policeman.

Chris usually makes his home at the Entree Nait. He strays to other bars occasionally, but not for long.

"Ed Gamble opened the Entree in 1968 and I became sort of a permanent fixture. As long as the Entree exists, I will always call it home. I get letters and cards addressed to me there. Once in a while, people will come in from another part of the country and say So-and-so said to ask for Christine. It's nice."

Most people don't know a whole lot about Chris. Can you

imagine this fantastic talent running around Pine Bluff, Arkansas (a few gracious years ago) all blue and green eyes, no wig, and a bandanna in his hair? Imagine the local root beer stand, quiet and peaceful, when a red convertible drives in (top down, naturally). A loud voice screams, "Anybody wanna f---k a sissy?"

People are always wondering what to make of Chris. He can be witty and sad in just one statement. He is an impersonator, not a drag queen. He is always thereto help the right purposes. If he likes you, you know it. If he does not like you, you really know it.

One of his favorite sayings (a little out of context) is



Making The Rounds with Gary Salles

The most newsworthy item on the bar circuit this month is the extension of beer-selling until 3 a.m. A recently adopted policy of the Alcoholic Beverages Commission now permits the selling of beer in any establishment until 3 a.m. Previously only those establishments with liquor licenses could serve beer until that time, putting undue restraints to competition on those establishments who only served beer.

The BUTTERFLY CABARET: 1320 Poplar (formerly B.J.'s) Friday June 19th saw the grand opening of Jeanette Edwards & Dot Thompson's Butterfly. With free show and free draft, approximately 100 persons had a very good time. For the early crowd the Butterfly will open at 12 noon Saturday and Sunday. Sundays from 2-5 draft beer will be 25 cents and this Sunday, the 27th there will be dancing with music being provided by a live band. On Tuesdays there will be a Beer Bust & Show for \$2.00. Fridays and Saturdays the show starts at 10 p.m.

The ENTREE NUIT: 265 S. Cleveland. Memphis' oldest Gay bar has recently remodeled and continues to be a popular spot for those enjoying a quieter congenial atmosphere and the shuffleboard table is usually active in the early evenings.

The FRONT PAGE: 267 S. Cleveland. The scene of much activity and renewed interest lately as Jimmy Shankle (affectionately known to most as "Jucie") becomes the sole owner. Now opening at 4 p.m. seven days a week, F.P. will stay open 'til 3 a.m. on weekends and whenever the crowd warrants during the week. Jucie plans on expanding the

downstairs and remodeling some this summer while planning on opening the upstairs (for real) in the fall, serving mixed drinks and varied entertainment. Also, a special bicentennial celebration Friday, July 2 featuring free draft, set-ups and a Mexican Buffet 9-11 p.m.

GEORGE'S THEATRE LOUNGE: 1786 Madison, continues to pack them in for their Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon Beer Busts featuring some of the finest female impersonation anywhere in the south. Closed on Mondays, George's is available for private parties, offering complete beverage and catering services.

THE PSYCH-OUT: 76 N. Cleveland. Ms. Sharon Wray maintains the P.O.'s popularity with occasional "theme parties" such as "50's Night", etc. Also featuring "Pitcher Night" on Wednesdays, with 72 oz. pitchers of draft for \$1.50. Although catering to a large female crowd, the P.O. is always friendly and draws an especially cruisy crowd on Saturday afternoons.

THE RAIN CHECK II: 112 Jackson Ave. The hottest disco-bar in Memphis on weekends is changing its weekly fare to include on Tuesdays and Thursdays. FREE draft from 9-10 p.m. and 1/2 price

beer and set-ups from 10-11 p.m. This Sunday, June 27th will see the Mr. Raincheck Contest with 10 contestants competing in Swimwear, Jeans, and Whatever (?). Emceed by Tara Wells & Guest Starring Memphis' own favorite Diana Ross, the first place winner will receive \$100. The R.C. opens nightly at 9 p.m. and stays open on weekends until the crowd leaves.



"Mess with me all you want to -- but mess with my money or my man and you're really in for trouble."

One thing I have found out about Chris over the years is that he is really a very deep person with an opinion about everything.

"If a person wants to become a professional impersonator, Memphis is not the place to do it."

"When I'm doing drag it's not that I think I'm a woman, 'cause I'm not. I try to look and dress like one, but I'm always trying to put the "lady" image across. I mean, how would it look if I got out there and shook udders and ass to "Lady Bump?" I'd look like an elephant giving birth. I'm fat and I try to play it up. But I try to reach all of the audience.

"In May of 1975 with the little incident at George's, I thought my days of doing shows were over. Now I realize I have more time to get myself ready. It was also in this period of time that I realized how badly impersonators were treated in this city. Drag queens are cheap, but honey, talent isn't."

Chris succeeds on stage. Last year he won fourth runner-up in the Miss Gay Mid-South, first runner-up in Miss Gay Memphis, fourth runner-up in Miss Gay Tennessee, and first runner-up in Miss Entree Nait.

One thing Chris discusses with no one is his age.

"Whatever age the person I'm with wants me to be, is how old I am."

Chris thinks impersonators have the right to be a little bitchy sometimes. "We have to, it's our only defense."

Chris loves Memphis, but sometimes gets fed up with it.

"They tear down 25 or 30 beautiful landmarks to pave way for the expressway. But then the zoo won't move. The zoo is so funky that even the monkeys go to the Parkway House."

What would Chris do if he had unlimited cash to open a business? He has several ideas. For one, Chris would like to open a gay department store like the one he saw in San Francisco last year. They offer every possible style of clothing.

Christine. Almost an institution in Memphis. You may like him, love him, or hate him. But you can't ignore him.

Gay Student Association Formed At Memphis State

by Gary Salles

There are over 75,000 gay people in the Memphis-Metro area. Only about 2500 of these people go "out to the bars" regularly. What are the rest of these people doing? Where do they go? How do they function in this society?

This fall Memphis State University will take a giant step on behalf of all gay people in the area and look into these questions. How? Through two organizations: The M.S.U. Gay Student Association (GSA) and the Memphis Area Gay Initiative Council (MAGIC).

This year marks the eighth anniversary of the famous "Stonewall Riots" in New York. For those too many people who don't know, the Stonewall Inn was a sleazy little bar on Christopher Street in the area known as Greenwich Village. It was described by the Mattachine Society of New York (MSNY) as "...more than just a gay gathering place. It catered largely to a group of people who are not welcome in, or cannot afford, other places of homosexual social gathering.

"...When it was raided, they fought for it, the most tolerant and broadminded gay place in town."

Yes, for the first time gay people fought back against oppression. Since then, the event has become known as the official beginning of the Gay Liberation Movement.

It is therefore significant that Memphis State publicly acknowledge its involvement in the fight for freedom of all people, including gays, in conjunction with Gay Pride Week in Memphis.

There are several reasons for the formation of a Gay Student Association. The first and most important is support for its members. Gay people are bombarded with the propaganda of a straight culture telling them that they are "sick," "inferior," "unfortunate victims," "a faggot," and so on. How many of you went through school thinking you were sick and that you were the only one who liked "fooling around" with others of your own sex? There have always been other gays around, why didn't you see them?

There are approximately 2300 gay people on the M.S.U. campus. The majority of these are still cowering in their closets. Only infrequently can a straight person be sensitive enough to the gay experience to be able to give genuinely positive, accepting, non-judgemental support. Gay people must do this for themselves and groups can be a vehicle for doing this. Members can feel that if they become a target of gay oppression the group will come to their aid.

A second need to be fulfilled by the GSA at Memphis State is that of social contact. The possibilities for developing a genuine, human relationship are inhibited, if not actually prohibited, by the traditional gay meeting places. The GSA will offer an alternative to the bars. Although the space has not been agreed upon yet, it will be a comfortable, relaxing place where gay people can be free to be themselves and meet each other with dignity and respect. We hope to offer a variety of coffee-houses, dances, a student lounge, and library. We hope to take occasional outings together away from the campus environment.

For many members, these first two needs are all they expect or want the group to meet. However, the GSA will

go much further, sponsoring consciousness-raising (CR) meetings "to discover our identity as gay men (and women), to recognize our oppression in a straight society, and to seek a collective solution to mutual problems. We as gays must redefine ourselves in our own terms, from our own heads and experiences, because no political philosophy designed by white heterosexual men can be adequate for us."

As a public service to the school we will have a speakers panel of volunteers who will go into a class when invited to educate straight people about who we are and why we demand our liberation.

And finally, GSA will be a political organization. It will not, however, demand political activism from anyone not so inclined. To this end the GSA will be a charter mem-

ber of the National Gay Task Force and the Gay Activist Alliance. I envision our immediate political involvement in the form of collective support for the University's Affirmative Action program.

In conclusion, although the GSA is primarily concerned with Gay students, the support of every person in the Gay community is needed if the GSA is to be a viable organization. It is not trying to compete with any bar or social organization. We hope to be an exciting alternative.

If you are a gay student or have questions about your sexuality, contact the M.S.U. Gay Student Association, currently operating under the auspices of University Programs, Room 412, University Center, Memphis State University, 38152, or contact Gary Salles c/o GAIETY at 726-4299.

JUGIE'S FRONT PAGE

You are
Invited
to a
Bicentennial Celebration
Free Draft Beer, Setups, Food
Friday, July 2, 1976 9-11 p.m.

\$2.00 Beer Bust

Tuesdays, 7-12 p.m.

J.S. 76

Renee Williams Claims Title as Miss George's 1976

by Gary Salles

Congratulations are in order to Miss Renee Williams, winner of the 1976 Miss George's title, and to all the contestants and staff of George's for presenting one of the most entertaining and well organized pageants Memphis has seen in several years.

This year's event, hosted by a casual Don Resegnall, co-owner and business manager of George's featured eight local beauties: (1) Miss Tracy Lee, (2) Miss Stellina, (3) Miss Laura Lee Love, (4) Miss Tamika, (5) Miss Jo Ann, (6) Miss Shelby Harper, (7) Miss Renee Williams, and (8) Miss Meredith Hutton.

With emphasis on the actual competition, the number of guest entertainers was kept to a minimum, providing a variety of talent during the interludes in the contest. Among the performers were Miss George's 1975, Belle Starr who repeated her talent number from the previous pageant: a medley of Broadway show tunes; the exciting Miss Michelle Danielle with her exotic costumes; and finally from Florida, the beautiful Miss Sheila Sexton (better known as Mr. Tommy Toussaint to some) and the Pantomaniacs, a duo of virile, young dancers who accompany Miss Sexton in her review of Broadway musical hits.

Judging this year's contest were five regular patrons of George's, each a professional in their own field. To insure complete impartiality



Michelle Danielle kept crowd excited between competition.



Left: A very happy Miss Renee Williams, Miss George's '76 and her second alternate, Miss Meredith Hutton. Right: Renee does her award-winning "Woman Can't Live by Bread Alone."



none of the judges were notified of their selection until the afternoon of the contest. Those chosen were: Ms. Anita Kaminsky, a nurse at LeBonheur Children's Hospital; Mr. Jerry D. Cagle, manager of a local "beauty boutique;" Miss Dixie Dolly, well known in Memphis' Gay social circles; Mr. Al Reid, and Ms. Helen Washington, former dancer with Issac Hayes and president of the Helen Washington Dance School.

When asked what the single most important quality was they were looking for in Miss George's '76, most commented that they were looking for "the most convincing male portraying a female" and for their talent "as a performer." Ms. Washington stated she was looking for the contestant who was the "most feminine, sexy, lady-like and congenial person."

The diversity of the talent competition provided one of the most interesting shows I have ever seen. The performances ranged from Stellina's hilariously grotesque role of "King Kong" to perennially favorite tear-jerkers, such as Laura's "My Way," and "Are you Lonely?" Another overwhelming audience pleaser was Jo Ann's "Do You Know Where You're Going To?" and her ever popular "Corner of the Sky" from the musical Pippin. It is interesting to note that this year many of the contestants avoided a common pitfall in pageants and did not perform "for the judges" but in-

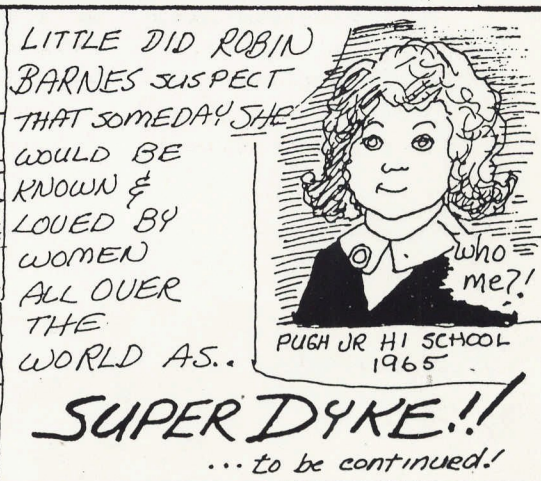
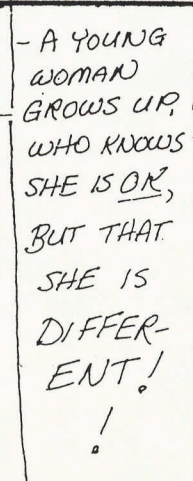
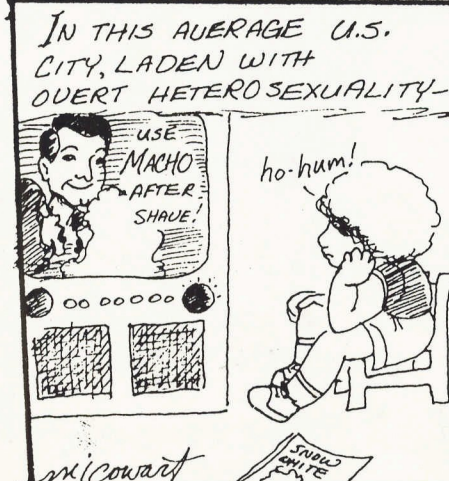
stead directly to the audience. Congratulations and a plus for professionalism in Memphis.

In addition to her title, Renee also won the award for best talent with her bitchy rendition of "Woman Can't Live By Bread Alone" by the Honeycombs and the moving "I Promise To Wait My Love," by Martha Reeves and the Vandellas.

In an exclusive interview Renee, also known as Randy Williams a graduate student at Memphis State said that she owed her style directly to Kitty Litter and Lily White. Achieving her first title in three years of female impersonation, Renee considered giving it all up until she saw these two and "found herself."

Renee's casual wear consisted of a smartly styled Khaki jumpsuit of 100% cotton, accented with a visor and a bicycle bag of blue and tan leather and tan sling-back pumps. For evening wear Renee chose a flowing peach jersey gown with an empire waist, covered by a pink chiffon duster accented at the collar by pink ostrich feathers and highlighted by gold accessories.

Presenting the trophies to Miss Jo Ann (First Alternate), Miss Meredith Hutton (Second Alternate), and the 1976 Miss George's was Miss Belle Starr, Miss George's 1975. In addition to her trophy Renee also received \$100.00 and her entry fee to the 1976 Miss Tennessee Pageant.



Canada Cleanup

Brings Bar Raids

An effort to "cleanup Canada" for the Summer Olympic Games in Montreal has resulted in increased police harrassment against gay bars and baths in recent weeks.

About 142 people have been arrested in bath raids in Ottawa and Montreal. In two bar raids the police supposedly looking for drugs, entered with guns and rifles.

Denis LeBlanc, President of Gays of Ottawa, said, "We know.....from remarks made by policemen during the raid.... that this is a concerted, national effort aimed at 'cleaning up' Canada for the Olympic Games." LeBlanc said that the effort is not directed at gay groups alone, since leftist groups and other organizations "which might demonstrate" at the Games are also being harrassed.

Gay groups such as the 27 member National Gay Rights Coalition, are planning protests at the national level. A picket by Gays of Ottawa was held in front of police headquarters. LeBlanc said that "we are not a disruptive or subversive element" and that there were no plans to quarrel with or disrupt the Olympic Games.

"The liberation of homosexuals can only be the work of homosexuals themselves."
-Kurt Hiller, 1921

SCORE BOARD

I love you, Bitch. 5/11/75.

Roger, Leaving much unsaid, which for now, may be the better way, Jimm S.

Phyllis, It's so nice to know that you took the job as Sabrina and Chuck's campaign director?
-Michelle

On the good ship lolli-glub..

Is it true Jimm's theme song is "I wish I were an Oscar Mayer weiner?"

Is it true when Loretta went to Pickwick she returned and became manager of her ex-lover's ex-bar???? But I've seen her driving a new cougar.

Is it true that "Pierce" asked Ms. "A" to marry her?

Phyllis owns a piece of the sidewalk?

Congratulations to GAIETY on your first year. May you enjoy continued success. Your friend, Mike from Dallas.

Remember the Alamo (Court)!!!

Is it true that between Phillip and Michelle, Chuck couldn't take it?

Gary C. from MCC - I'm glad I met you and thanks for the "experience" in Arkansas.

Rik, You know that the way to my heart is through a can of shaving cream.

Richard, really. Me vicious?

Rona really does bare it. She was wall-to-wall and Jimm was tree-top-tall.

JRM- They say it takes two to tango...I guess you're just a faster learner than I.

Johnny: You ought to go on and take out that full-page ad. But pay for the others first.

Happy Birthday, Phillip! Love, Wayne.

Tell someone you love or (?) how you reel. Put an ad in this space for only \$2.00. Call GAIETY at 726-GAYY(4299)

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9pm - 10pm - Free Draft

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"Where God Does Not Discriminate"

SALUTES

**GAY
PRIDE
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June 27, 1976

**PICNIC
Audubon Park
NOON
"Join Us"**

(P. S. - Happy Anniversary GAILETY)