



Knoxville Pride, Inc. Pride Week 1992

Even as we speak...

(See inside for details!)



Editorial

Greetings.

Oh, the tangled webs.....

I can think of dozens of other cliches to attribute to the last six weeks, but we don't have the room to run them. The time period has been, to say the least, frantic.

We started off with *An Event In Three Acts*, which we can't possibly give enough follow up to. But we have expanded *Aware* to 24 pages for this KNOXVILLE PRIDE edition, and we felt that the wonderful interviews Julie Hagerty and David Sheperd so graciously gave us were better than anything we could hope to produce with our time restraints. We tried to ask questions you wouldn't see in most local publications, and left the answers in their own candid voices. We are very pleased with the final product. We hope you are, as well.

Almost immediately after the closing ceremonies of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt (for the best coverage of that, check out the last *Brass Check!* Bravo!), Rochester and I ran to the organizational meetings of Knoxville Pride to work on coverage for this year's Pride Week Celebrations and Parade. Little did we know that yours truly would end up being one of the officers for this year's festivities and *Aware* would be producing their press kits. Everyone involved has really busted ass to pull this week off, so everyone out there needs to enjoy the open air we've struggled to buy. This year begs to be even bigger and better than last year!

The GLBSU itself is holding up remarkably well, given the wringer it's been put through. We said farewell to our President Tiffani, hello to President Tom, and goodbye to President Tom. We had to skip 3 scheduled meetings due to the UC's closing early during the break, and now poor Frank has had to scurry to find a place for the planned GLBSU film festival. Only to run up against **UT SUMMER ORIENTATION** in the midst of a tuition hike. Hang in there folks, it has to calm down soon!

Lastly, *Aware* itself is changing again, although what the changes are is largely a mystery to *Aware* staffers. Fred Duncan, who has served us above and beyond the call of duty for well over two years now, and who deserves more credit than he gets (the check's in the mail... really!), is always coming and going and going and coming, but as of this date, he's coming. I mean he's going to continue as Fearless Ad Man, able to leap commercial interprise in order to sign the dotted line! And another thing, we are now getting seasonal stirrings from people interested in writing for us, so the twenty-four page format may just become a permant kinda thing. Me personally: I am looking to cast off the editorial mantel, so I can return to writing my column and working on features, so if anyone's interested please drop us a line! (Houston McBeck, where are you?)

Peace,

Julian & Rochester





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Rochester

GRAPHIC DESIGN

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with special thanks to
Joe, Jim & Dan

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SUBMISSIONS

The editors of AWARE seek to open new channels of communication to the gay, lesbian and bisexual community in Knoxville. What we communicate is largely dependent upon you. Your thoughts, ideas, and creativity should be the cornerstone of this publication. With your submissions this publication becomes a living, growing document that reflects the concerns of gays, lesbians and bisexuals in our region. The editors of AWARE encourage everyone to participate in AWARE. Recognizing the need for discretion AWARE does not require real names to accompany submissions. If you wish to remain anonymous you may choose to submit your articles either without a name or with a pen name. Due to budgetary and spacial limitations not all submissions may be printed. The editors of AWARE reserve the right to edit all submissions. The opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s).

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

KNOXVILLE GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE CELEBRATIONS

5

C O V E R

Editorial - Julian Marr 2

Heart Strings Interview #1: Julie Hagerty 8

Heart Strings Interview #2: David Sheppard 11

At the Sign of the Cloven Beaver

 15

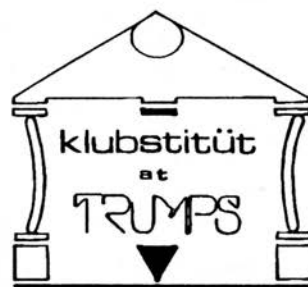
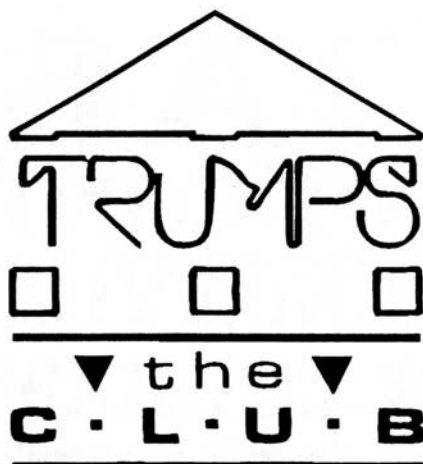
by June Cleaver

A True Queen's View 19

A Different View 21

GLBSU

- ▼ Community
- ▼ Integrity
- ▼ Commitment



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Monday	Weekend Recovery Day		
	Bloody Marys	\$1.75	5:00-10:00
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	Angel's Drag-Tending Party		10:00-3:00
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	Super Shooter Specials and Giveaways		10:00-3:00
Sunday	Beer Bust	\$3.00	10:00-2:00

EVEN AS WE SPEAK...

...News from the front lines:

by June Cleaver

Writing this with a view towards having *Aware* distributed at the Knoxville Pride Parade, I can only predict that as you read this, throngs of supporters are coming out to show their true colors, lining Market Square Mall with lots of local color. Pride Week has gone well, so far, better than many people expected, I would say. Over 150 people attended the kick-off party this past Sunday at the Holiday Inn World's Fair Site and all reports say it was an outstanding success. Since the remaining *Aware* staff, all of two people, were unable to



Pride Parade 1991 - photograph by Brenna Betzold

attend, we invite anyone who did witness the kick-off to write about it and send it to us for inclusion in the next issue.

Positive ripples have followed in the wake of our opening splash. Outspoken radio and television personality Colvin Idol gave a speech that wowed the crowd, and this week followed up

on his pledge to wear Pride's pink triangle/red ribbon pin on the air. In addition, kudos go out to Holiday Inn: not only did they give us a sweet deal for the Kick-off party up front, they later donated \$170-something to Knoxville Pride, which essentially made the kick-off party a gift to the gay and lesbian community. Thanks also go to the

entertainment for the party: Deborah Landau, the band S.L.S., Tony Carlyle, Angel Collins, and Brandy Davis.

The GLBSU Film Festival, alas, was not to be. The story is too long to tell, especially since it didn't happen anyway, but rumorists and blame-mongers beware: there are only circumstances to blame, not individuals. In a nut-shell, Orientation tied up all UT facilities, and budget restrictions limited the other options that all fell through as well. At any rate, the free evening afforded Pride officers the chance to call a meeting, *in medias res*, at which we took stock and pulled the organization tight.

In this spirit of turning bad things to good, it was decided at the meeting to reverse another reversal: our inability to have Heritage Night catered. We had a bake sale instead. It was a modest success, but success is, after all, the operative word. Along with the food, t-shirts and triangle/ribbon pins were sold, and two Jan Lynch photographs were auctioned off. Heritage Night as a whole was an unqualified success.

At this year's Heritage Night, approximately 150 people gathered in the 6th floor Community Room of the Candy Factory to hear a series of speakers give their perspective of Knoxville and East TN's gay and lesbian heritage. It was simply incredible. Our local political heritage was detailed beginning with the Gay People's Alliance, which sprang from the same climate that produced the anti-Vietnam War fervor in the early 1970's. The dates, places, organizations and faces detailed are too numerous for this issue to list, but we hope to do some work publishing a compilation of our history in future months.

Also heard were personal perspectives from all walks, lesbian and black experience include this year, some of whose testimonials reached back to the 1950's and earlier. *Aware* welcomes all such personal testimonials, and strongly encourages you to send yours to us. All history is personal if it has any real meaning, and we would like to catalogue as much history of gay and lesbian life in East TN as possible, publishing what we can of it as time and money permits.

So! Are we having fun yet?! Congratulations Knoxville on another successful year of Knoxville Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebrations! Check out the proclamation on the facing page!



Proclamation

*By Executive Order of the
Honorable Dwight Kessel, Knox County Executive
it is hereby proclaimed:*

KNOXVILLE PRIDE DAY

- WHEREAS, June 27, 1992 is to be known as KNOXVILLE PRIDE DAY; and
- WHEREAS, this is a day of recognition of the Gay/Lesbian members of our community; and
- WHEREAS, in the true fashion of America, people of diverse views can air their views and pursue their beliefs; and
- WHEREAS, Knoxville's Second Annual Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade will be held on June 27th in an effort to create a more aware community for all citizens to work and live together,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DWIGHT KESSEL, KNOX COUNTY EXECUTIVE, do hereby proclaim June 27, 1992 as KNOXVILLE PRIDE DAY to recognize the rights and diversity of all people as they celebrate on this day.

Let all within the reach of this proclamation heed its directive(s).

His Honor the Knox County Executive


Dwight Kessel

*County of Knox
Knoxville, Tennessee*





Photo
by Jan
Lynch

AWARE CONVERSations:

An Event in Three Acts Remembered

From the editors: As a footnote to our recent Event in Three Acts coverage, *Aware* offers you two conversations with some prominent people involved with the Heart Strings production when it recently toured through Knoxville. The first interview

Julian Marr and Rochester conducted with Julie Hagerty, star of such movies as the original *Airplane!*, and the more recent *What About Bob?*. In the second conversation, Julian Marr spoke with the show's producer, David Sheperd, who is also the

director of the Atlanta AIDS Fund at the Metropolitan Atlanta Community Foundation, which is a partner in the National Community AIDS Partnership.

Enjoy!

JULIE HAGERTY TALKS WITH AWARE:

HEARTSTRINGS AND AIDS ACTIVISM - MAY 8, 1992

Introduction by Rochester.

[There were a lot of people out, backstage of the Civic Auditorium, as well as throughout the house. A general whirl of preparation, catered by volunteers, and in fact, volunteers everywhere milled about in groups receiving instructions and waiting for their part to come; and then there were the crews, stage crew, music crew, tech, wardrobe and directorial, not visibly stressed by the laborous tasks of putting on a 35-city run. They seemed to feed off the expectations of the volunteers who outnumbered them, the expectation that something good would happen tonight.]

We met Julie Hagerty as she arrived in the big holding pen basement of the Auditorium/Coleseum facility, where the food was spread across tables like at a Revival. A large gospel choir consisting of a cross-section of local black churches, lent their spirit, dressed in black and white clothes for their appearance in the show. We were introduced to Julie and taken on a snaking

route through the Auditorium's chambers until we arrived at her dressing room for the evening, or at least where she would change out of her travelling clothes for now. We were really taken aback at how easy she made access to herself for the press. Her part on stage was equally accessible. And, as we found out in an empty dressing room, while waiting for the cokes she had requested, her accessibility was focused on why she was there. Her concern, to borrow from a popular phrase, was "seamless." Her conversation follows:

AWARE: When did you begin your AIDS activism?

JULIE: A friend of mine died 10 years ago. I've watched a lot of my friends die.

I've done as much as I can. I think anybody should do as much as they can, and it doesn't matter how big or how small. Anything matters. Every little bit helps. And so I got with Heartstrings two years ago, and started doing the show and they asked me to come back this year and I was just thrilled!

AWARE: I saw you knew a lot of people when you arrived. Is this like a family to you?

It's like a real family, and I just think they're just extraordinary in what they're doing because they're going to 37 different cities and they educate people. It's like

having a big present come to your city, because they're educating people as well as teaching people about this plague. And I think there's this stigma around it, and there shouldn't be a stigma. People are dying and need help. That's the only issue that there is. Period.

AWARE: What's the role of celebrities in activism?

JULIE: I think what Elizabeth Taylor has done for this disease is brilliant. She's done so much, she's gotten people going, she's got people on the bandwagon. She has the power to do that and she used it wisely. I don't think there should be adversity about somebody helping, or saying "Well! Why should she help?"

Why shouldn't she help? She's getting something done. If somebody can get something done, do it!

AWARE: That's one of the things about the Freddy Mercury "Concert for Life." Once it was announced that he had died I didn't see it hit anywhere in the media about his sexual lifestyle because that was just not the issue. It's finally getting to the point where the focus is being taken off of that after so many years. Whether a person is homosexual or not has nothing to do with it, but a lot of people attempted to attach that, for instance, to Magic

Johnson. There were a lot of people making allegations about him just because he had come down HIV-positive.

JULIE: It just shouldn't be an issue. People are sick. Period. And we need to find a cure. Period. End of saga. The focus should be on finding a cure, helping people who are sick. It's not a gay thing, it is not a "someone who is heterosexual gets it," - People are sick. We need a cure. Period.

AWARE: Do you feel like the federal government is doing enough?

JULIE: No.

AWARE: How much of an election issue should AIDS be and will it be this year?

JULIE: I don't know, but I think it should be an issue.

AWARE: About Hollywood and their responsibility to reflect what's going on in the world of reality, their portrayals of gay and AIDS issues. It's obvious the arts community, the performance arts community especially is involved with this. Do you think Hollywood is going to follow along?

JULIE: I think just *people* who are in the arts are involved; I don't think there is... I just bless anybody who helps. I don't care what they do, or where they live. Anybody who gets on the bandwagon helps, where ever.

AWARE: I like a lot of the spirit we've found with Heartstrings, being associated with it and trying to help out with it. "Politics" has been completely left out of it. It's amazing to me, as angry as I get how well everyone involved has done that, keeping politics out. Everyone who's worked with AIDS has got to have some anger, but I've not seen any of it here tonight.

JULIE: I think it's not productive. I think productive is just to get up and DO. If you sit around and smolder about it, it will eat you up.

AWARE: I've found it fairly distasteful, the things coming directly out of Hollywood, where they follow the mainstream stereotypes more than they follow the actual things that have happened. They flare things up for salability rather than for educational purposes, and that's been rather irritating.

JULIE: It's very, very difficult when you're talking about a fiction. To make a documentary is one thing, but you can't beat somebody up for doing fiction. If somebody sets out to do a documentary, it's one thing. But it's really hard to judge.

AWARE: You're an incredibly generous person. Thank you very much for the time. Break a leg!



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DAVID SHEPPARD TALKS WITH AWARE: MAY 8, 1992

Interview by Julian Marr.

AWARE: What is your history of activism?

DAVID: My activism has not been gay activism, my activism has been AIDS activism. What I fold into that is a very strong human rights message. I do that with music... I'm concerned about all human rights, not just specifically (gay rights). I'm often interested in side issues which also have a human rights potential for abuse. I've done shows for Amnesty International, though of course most of my work has been around the issue of AIDS.

AWARE: At Aware, we do represent a gay/lesbian/bisexual (GLB) group, providing articles and information for a mainly GLB audience, people who are looking for something they're not going to get from the local newspapers, questions and answers that will give them information where they don't have to try to read between the lines to understand what's really going on.

DAVID: What really helps is to have articles in publications that directly give that perspective. Otherwise, it's not heard. If one is not speaking for oneself, no one else is. And then you are caught in a situation where you're always trying to read between the lines, even people

who are sympathetic often are not as willing to be as specific and as direct. There's a comfort level that just isn't there.

When I started this project, I knew that there was not enough money in our gay community to create the kind of financial success that I felt was necessary to have impact. So we put a lot of effort into outreach. Interestingly, some segments of the gay community resented that.

AWARE: We often have the same prejudices as heterosexuals have, just reversing the places, and it's not right, either. That's a real hard thing to get people to understand that they're doing.

DAVID: It is hard to stay in touch with that. I found that we were accused of being homophobic. There were eight of us who started it, and six of the eight were gay men. It wasn't an organized group, it was just some individuals that had gotten together and decided to pick on us. They could see that it was going to be a big and wonderful and accepted and successful event, and so they wanted the gay community to get credit for it.

They wanted me to say that six gay men got together and made the whole thing happen. I refused to do that because

it wasn't true. I said, I'm happy to say that eight people came together and six of those eight people are gay men, one is a housewife, and one is a local businesswoman. But I think it's something the community should take pride in as a whole as opposed to saying that this is *our* event and it's also *our* disease. It sort





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of reinforces that.

AWARE: You look awfully relaxed to be having a show about to start.

DAVID: I am. I mean, this is the eighteenth city (on the Heart Strings tour), so I've done this, and I have a competent staff.

AWARE: You'd like the gay community to just take pride that we've finally gotten other people to take notice, considering how hard (AIDS) has hit our community and how devastated our community has become by that. For the most part the segments of the community that were the most severely hit were the ones that were the most "out," the most public with it. It's kept the people who were in the closet much more closeted and it's been divisive among the gay community itself to the point where it's hard for us to all pull together to do anything to begin with when it started. The "straight community" - if you want to use the polarity there, - wasn't helping because it didn't affect them. It was like "It's your problem, you handle it." We have to get past that, and they're finally willing to help now.

DAVID: What the crisis has done, - and I can see it in the way many of the cities have handled the event, - if they do this event the way it's programmed to be done in that community, outreach is a very, very critical part of its success. So what happens is that if they are successful, suddenly we find the straight community and the gay community in a dialogue together and working together and getting to know each other and out of that comes a lot of understanding. It's lack of communication, that lack of dialogue, that inhibits us from caring about each other, or being concerned about each other. The reason governments have spent so much money in propaganda is that it's harder to kill the enemy you *know*.

Like during the Cold War, if you show the

Russians with their children, walking arm-in-arm, doing the same things we do, you're less likely to hate them. The things we do to keep ourselves apart and the things we ourselves do to keep ourselves apart, to feel safe and secure...

AWARE: Language is such a pervasive part of the polarity involved. Black/White, Good/Bad, Old/Young, Gay/Straight. Once you use the labels you've drawn up sides.

DAVID: You know, it's interesting you bring this up because we were in San Antonio and we all went to... We have members of our cast who are gay and members of our cast who are straight. Black, white, Asian, Hispanic: it's a mixed bag, and we went for that. We often ask when we go into a community, we say, "where can the cast go out if they want to go dancing?" And so many times they'll just immediately think that the whole company is gay. And so we ask, where are places the straight members of the cast might enjoy, you know, some of them may not want to go to a gay bar.

And so they (the San Antonio organizers) said there's this wonderful club here in town that everybody goes to. So everybody went to this one club. It's called the Bond Exchange. It was the most fascinating thing. There were straight people, gay people, black people, jocks, sophisticated people, married couples, students, every imaginable (type). The thing was, that it was a *good* club. And nobody cared who was with whom.

It was an amazing thing, and I thought, wouldn't it be great if people just went to places because it was a good place to go and a fun place to go. It was a very healthy environment. A lot of those labels just weren't a part of this environment. It was really very refreshing. It was a very healthy kind of thing. I loved it. It was good.

AWARE: We have dozens of clubs right now



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and they all have their peculiarities. There are a few clubs here that, depending on what night you go there, will have a different crowd every night. People have a tendency to be more comfortable in their own set.

DAVID: You know, it's interesting. In the show we deal with a lot of issues. We don't preach, we don't talk down to people, and we don't...

People have an opportunity to see a lot of different views and a lot of different ways that people are together. It's been really interesting going from very big cities to smaller cities. Like in Little Rock, Arkansas. I was sitting there thinking, now how are they going to take *this*? If you present ideas and things to people in a non-threatening way, they're much more susceptible (to the message.)

We have a number in the show called "Coming Out of the Dark." It starts out with dancers who are in couples, male-female couples, and at some point in the number, it breaks into a man and a woman, two women, and two men. It's a beautiful, beautiful dance. It's moderately sensual, but not offensive, not erotic - sensual but not erotic - when you hear the lyrics with the dance. It's gotten tremendous response in cities where I thought it would be very... Yeah. So.

A

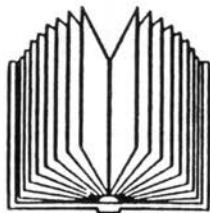
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AT THE SIGN OF THE CLOVEN BEAVER:

CAUTIONARY TAILS IN THE AGE OF FAMILY VALUES

by June Cleaver

By the time you read this, good children, who knows to what depths the concept of "family values" will have been plumbed. On the surface, who could argue with the concept? Sounds okay to me, except that every time I hear the idea promoted, that's all I hear, those two words, which I refuse to repeat just yet because they hurt in some undefinable way, like the sensation of chewing Reynold's Wrap.

We, who have called ourselves "family" for a generation already, have always known about such values. In particular we know how hollow they can be. In the mouths of parents they have made "coming out" an act wrought with fear and the danger of losing the people we have been taught to love.

Many of us have supportive families, but many more of us have had to find new families. We have learned that there *are* such values, and we all need them, values such as love, acceptance, respect and support. But many in the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual (GLB)

Family have had to leave the biological MAN-WOMAN-OFFSPRING to find anything having enough of these values to be called "family."

The control of labels carries with it an implicit responsibility to keep them *inclusive* instead of *exclusive*. Our present poverty, if you think of it, is not of values, but a poverty of *imagination*.

Let's get down to it, shall we? What we are dealing with has nothing to do with either families or values, and everything to do with power. Dan Quayle, the fall-guy for Bush with a tiny little mind of his own, exemplifies a little-documented but endemic obsession within the Patriarchy about childbirth: it's a kind of womb-envy, really. A woman has the power to create on a level of such complexity and mystery that a man has to unlock secrets of hormones, build sky-scrapers and 11th Street Connectors, just to feel adequate; and even then such men fester with envy. To counter the female mystery, men created a totem of the penis, which they claim rules the creative power of the womb. Homophobic men and women fear and deride

"alternative lifestyles" because these lifestyles expose the lies behind a power structure they feed on, a power structure they own stock in which they praise as the foundation for civilization as we know it, - as if that were necessarily something to want responsibility for.

To protect this power structure, the womb must be controlled. Women must know that their places in this scheme is the receiving end of a phallus, that meta-mystical controller of the womb, the original magic wand. If it takes rape to make this point, the courts won't stand in the way. A woman *needs* a penis, like it or not.

At the same time, any man who isn't putting it to a woman isn't doing his part in the struggle to make man the master of creation. Homophobia is all about the power perceived in these ancient mysteries, the maternal mystery which is real, and the paternal mystery which is a mental sleight of hand. Mother Earth raped by the plow, to create food to create more people, even though our kind does not live by bread alone and the fertile

mysteries of topsoil are being exiled. It's as much to say if we don't seek the desert, the dark night of our souls, the desert will seek us. The esoteric is a threat to the ithyphallic Patriarchy, the one-eyed, single-minded beast. That's why GLB issues seem a kind of penultimate heresy against humanity to a homophobe.

The present debate is centered around the idea of doing what is best "for the children's sake", which is the pathetic plea made if pressed to explain why their agenda of "family values" is important. *Take them at their word.* HE who controls genital relations controls generations. Whether it's Dan Quayle manipulating a photo-op at an East TN Cracker Barrell, or whether he is talking about the "importance of fathers" and mocking "life-style choices" under cover of Murphy Brown, - in San Francisco, of all places! - can there really be any

doubt? Our incumbents have a final solution for everything.

At the Sign of the Cloven Beaver, folks got hot under the collar, and still do, over Darwin and the things he told us. They got hot not because they disagreed so much, but because Darwin exposed them for the ancient race they are, and showed exactly what they've been up to all these centuries. Posturing like apes, those at the Sign of the Cloven Beaver prove that the real reason humans stand erect is to look more threatening, to free our hands for weapons and tools, to dominate at all costs.

Theirs is the sign of a cave dwelling race who started the drive to be "number one" a long time ago by ridding the world of Cro-Magnon and Neanderthal. Then later they attempted the same against the Cherokee and Sioux, the Aztec and any other indigenous people who lacked a certain sophistication of



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belligerence. Even now they are throwing African-Americans into holding pens, conveniently corralled on their reservations, their concentration camps, their projects, whatever. The Project is not new. And now the Sign is so powerful that nothing must stand in its way, neither Blue Whale nor Spotted Owl, not biodiversity nor cultural diversity.

At the Sign of the Cloven Beaver, they used to paint their images on dark cave walls, as if capturing animal spirits, true essences. By the strobe of flickering torches and lamps, they imagined the images *moving* across the cold stone, and called them real. Later they used stained glass. Now they use TV.

What have we to fear? On the one hand,

the threat posed by the Sign of the Cloven Beaver has no centrally located organization, though a few aspire to create such, and the organic conspiracy which threatens us all is as dysfunctional as the "family" it represents. On the other hand, all of us either personally know or have heard from friends of the havoc dysfunction can wreak, and "wreaking" is a strong suit at the Sign of the Cloven Beaver.

So watch your ass. Big Brother certainly is.



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Murphy Brown: Progress & Backlash

From the

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Bulletin

An openly gay character named Rick joined the staff at "FYI" (the series' fictional news program). The show sensitively provided insight into heterosexual angst (Murphy's straight boss, Miles, became worried after he dreamt about Rick) while slamming false stereotypes about gay men.

In real life, gay staff on shows such as "FYI" are increasingly open about who they are. Unfortunately, Rick only appeared once this season. Ask that Rick and other gay and lesbian characters be included as *regulars* by writing Diane English and Joel Shukovsky, Executive Producers, Murphy Brown, 4000 Warner Blvd., Burbank, CA 91522.

Copies to Jeff Sagansky, President, CBS Entertainment, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036.

Flash: In April the American Family Association targeted *Murphy Brown's* biggest advertisers for "promoting homosexuality" on TV (and both received hundreds of complaints). To counter anti-gay censorship, ask for further sponsorship of shows with gay and lesbian characters and story lines. Write to Chairman Charles M. Harper, ConAgra, Inc., One ConAgra Drive, Omaha, NE 68102, fax 402/595-4665 (Healthy Choice foods, Morton frozen foods) and to Chairman Henry Wendt, SmithKline Beecham, P.O. Box 7929, Philadelphia, PA 19101, fax 215/751-4306 (Aqua Velva, Calgon bath products, Massengill douches, Contact decongestant).

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A True Queen's View

by Kelly Rafalidolatobadii

Viva, Las Vegas!

While sitting through our cold spring shivering under many layers of comforters, trying to persuade the landlady to turn up the heat to 58 degrees, I remember a vacation we took to Las Vegas. It was July, then. It was 110 degrees. Nevada was in a drought.

We stayed at the world famous Stardust Hotel and Casino, which was a big mistake. Construction? *No, we don't mind.* All those butch tanned construction workers in hardhats. No problem. Our room was worse than the rooms at the hotel that was condemned the other month. We had no air conditioning in the room. We changed rooms the next day. The air conditioning was a little better, but the cracked plaster and peeling paint was awful. We went to the casino and played the slots. Our luck was good. We ate steak and eggs for 99 cents. Was this heaven? We walked from casino to casino trying our luck. Circus Circus was a huge hotel and casino that had a real circus in the front lobby. It also smelled like a circus. They had a grand buffet for \$5.00.

The only thing grand about the buffet was that they were able to push 10,000 people thru the buffet line each day.

The Mirage Hotel is just what the name implies. A beautiful oasis in an ugly city. The palm trees, the waterfalls, the volcano that erupted hourly, the white tigers, and the huge fish tank behind the reception area were all splendid. *KUDOS.* Caesar's Palace had half-naked cocktail servers wearing little greek togas. The odds were great and the drinks flowed freely.

On our third day we decided to take a bus trip to Laughlin, which is sometimes called Little Vegas. The name says it all: *Laughlin.* What a joke. When we arrived there were about 300 buses lined up in front of the casinos. We had tickets for a free buffet at the showboat so we went and ate. It was okay, for being free. The casino was so busy we could barely move around. We walked to the other casinos. It was so hot that my flip-flops melted around my feet. We got back on the bus to go back to Vegas. There were about 50 little blue-haired ladies on the bus and we were all so tired and worn out from our excursion we just wanted to get back to our

hotel rooms in Vegas. It was now 3:30 in the afternoon and it was getting hotter. The bus driver got up to the top speed of 30 miles an hour while giving us a big story about overheating in the middle of the desert if we went any faster. The air conditioning on the bus was just not doing the job. It was *so hot.* One lady pulled a piggy bank/slot machine out of her purse and we were all in the back of the bus putting pennies and nickles in it when someone got the jackpot and it spit coins everywhere. Twenty little ladies were under the seats screaming, giggling, and chasing coins everywhere. The bus driver must have thought there was a riot going on. It was so hot. We started auctioning off brochures to be used as fans. It was *so hot.* We all started clapping, screaming, and cheering when we passed a bus that was going slower than we were. *It was so hot.* Someone started humming an old song: riding across the desert on a bus with no name...*it was so hot.* Just thinking back I have just three things to say...let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...

Love,
Kelly



ORGANIZATIONS



Knoxville Pride, Inc.
P.O. Box 52452
Knoxville, TN 37950-2452

ORGANIZATIONS

The following is a list of organizations that have connections with or exist in support of the gay and lesbian community locally.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC) - Corner of Weisgarber and Lonas. Worship service: Sundays at 6 p.m. Call 521-6546 for more information.

GLBSU (The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Union of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville) - Meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at the University Center on the UTK campus. Call 524-0748 for more information.

POLITICAL ACTION ALLIANCE - A branch of the GLBSU, the Political Action Alliance meets on the first Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. Call 524-0748 for more information.

GALA (The Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association) - call Kurt Haas at 595-7949 for more information.

LAMBDA LITERARY CIRCLE - A literary and philosophical discussion group. Meets every month at the Printer's Mark Bookshop. For more information, call 595-7949.

GAY AND LESBIAN HELPLINE - Listening, information and referral available to any person experiencing difficulties due to their sexual orientation, or other people's perceptions of them. Operates 7-11 p.m. nightly, staff permitting. Call 521-6546.

GAY GRATITUDE GROUP - An open, non-smoking

Alcoholics Anonymous open to Gays and Lesbians, held at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 3219 Kingston Pike, Mondays and Fridays at 7 p.m.

NAPWA (National Association of People with AIDS) - Knoxville Chapter of an organization that provides crisis intervention, social activities and direct emergency support for people with AIDS. For more information, call 637-3139.

P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) - Knoxville chapter of a national organization that runs support groups for anyone associated with a gay or lesbian person. For more information, write to P-FLAG, Box 20153, Knoxville, TN, 37940-0153.

KNOXVILLE PRIDE, INC. - A Gay and Lesbian organization dedicated to promoting National Pride Week and celebrating the culture that is uniquely ours.

AWARE - A publication of the GLBSU at UT Knoxville. Printed on a six-week schedule, *Aware* provides an open forum for the local gay, lesbian and bisexual community. Regular features over the past year have included: *A Different View*, covering music, art, film and writing; *AIDS Aware*, covering the political and philosophical impact of the AIDS pandemic; *A True Queen's View*, covering gossip, travel and humor; and occasional salvos fired by the ever cryptic "June Cleaver."

QUERY - Tennessee's only Gay Newsweekly, providing our community with much needed information to keep us up to date with the world at large and how it affects us.

A DIFFERENT VIEW

Adventures as a gay audience

By Julian Marr

He'sbaaaaaaaack! That's right, it's America's Favorite Hand Puppet, Dan Quayle, spouting out more of what George himself is too scared to say, but any second grader could say better (how do you spell "potato," Dan?)! Here I was, finally thinking nothing was going to make me angry enough to whip up an article, when Danny boy up and takes SEVERAL pot shots at our community (don't let 'em sidetrack you with "alternative lifestyles," WE know what he REALLY means!).

I mean, really Mr. Quayle, who do you think you are? Just because your daddy bought you a political office doesn't make you a politician, much less a statesman! You should really be more careful in your choice of targets. The only reason the populace hasn't raked you, naked and screaming, across hot coals for your stupidity, is because most of them are too busy working for a living to pay any attention to you. That's unfortunate, as most of them

just assume you are an idiot, because if they paid attention to you, their fears would be confirmed, and then you would have to spend the rest of this term grounded to your room (without TV privileges)!

Let's get down to brass tacks. You and George tried to blame all the woes of the world on Saddam, then on Congress, then on Johnson and those liberal sixties policies, then on Congress again, then on Murphy Brown (who, by the way, gets better ratings). We still didn't believe you, so now you get back up and try again. This time, however, you pick an enigma called "the cultural elite" and say that "they know who they are!" What makes you think we'll believe you this time? What you and George have yet to understand is that the American people DO know what they want. They want you to quit lying to them, especially when the lies are so transparent.

What you fail to grasp, Dan, are your own contradictions. You say that the founding fathers of this country provided us with this

wonderful document called the Constitution, which is a contract between the American people and their Government. You say that this document still stands as it did 200 years ago despite the battles over interpretation, and that our forefathers would be proud of the work you and George have done under your interpretation of it. Then you say in the same speech that the "Cultural Elite" are trying to destroy your version of the Constitution, and our forefathers would be appalled. If you knew anything about American History, you would realize that our forefathers WERE the "Cultural Elite" of America! Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Paine and John Hancock were far from everyday people! They were considered by the rest of the world to be aristocracy, and were treated as such. And yes, Dan, they were ELITISTS. One and all. Philosophers, visionaries, dignitaries, financiers, gentlemen as well as snobs.

It takes that kind of headstrong person to stand

up to a fascistic government that exerts too much control over it's people, as Britain's did over the Colonies, and as yours does over us.

It takes an elitist, cultural or otherwise, to stand up and say "hey, you LIED to us George! You said NO NEW TAXES, George! We're not going to pay them, George!", before the American people will take up arms and resist. You can only push your constituents so far before they say NO MORE and re-exert their control, as the "Cultural Elite" in America today have righteously started doing. Hopefully, this revolution in attitude will shift the tides and get you out of office for good.

I expect a servant of the people, not someone to act as a surrogate father. No, I demand a servant of the people. I have a contract which guarantees me one. It's called the Constitution, and it was written by better men than you, Dan. You'd better remember that, because I damned well will.

No matter what else you do this year, folks, PLEASE VOTE. Let's strive to make our republic a little more democratic. VOTE. It's not just your RIGHT, it's your OBLIGATION.

Ciao.



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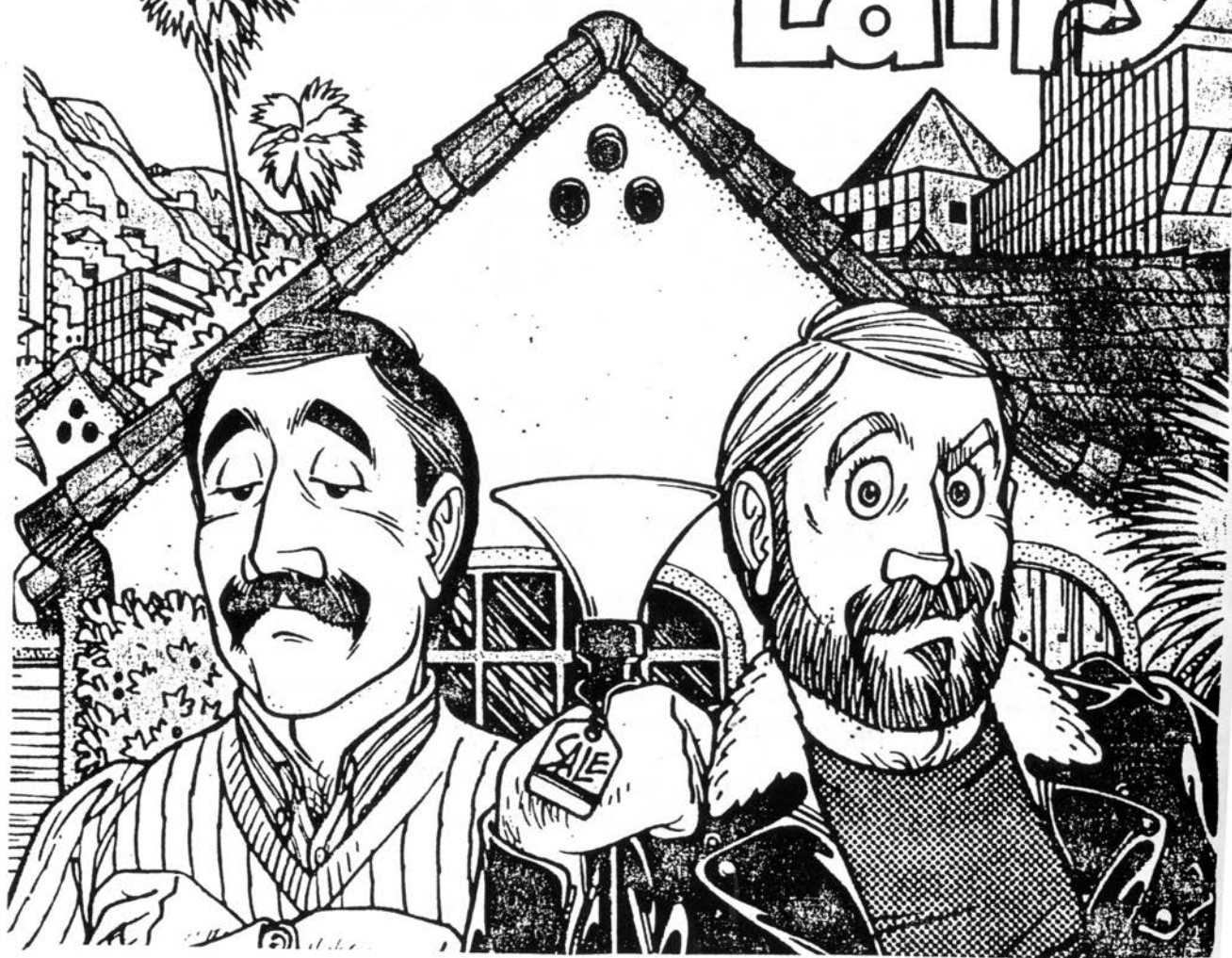
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