

fall 1992

aware.

free

a publication of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

HOLY COW!

Barbara, come and
look at this multitude
of voters, er, I mean
"homosexuals"...



I think they
can vote, too,
George.

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KCSU

Well, here we go. This is our last gasp before what seems to be the most promising presidential election in twenty years. All us registered voters have to take a deep breath, enter the booth, pull the lever, and live with ourselves for the next four years. Hopefully, by next issue, we will have a **DIFFERENT** president. One who may stop the military witch hunts on gays and lesbians. One who supports civil rights legislation that will finally encompass everyone, instead of everyone but gays and lesbians.

Many people in our community don't trust Bill Clinton because they feel he waffles on this issue. They think he will say anything to get into office. I feel strongly that they are wrong, and I pray they are. I don't believe, if he is elected, that Clinton will snap his fingers and legalize gay marriage. Or gay adoption. Or many other basic civil rights we don't have. It would be impossible for any one person, whether he wanted to or not, to achieve any of those things overnight. What I think he **WILL** do is **LISTEN**. This is more than any other president we have had has done on issues concerning our community. Don't forget, Bill Clinton is the first presidential candidate from either major party to **OPENLY COURT THE GAY VOTE**. He pursues in public a political platform that will finally give AIDS research the prevalence it has been denied because of homophobia and hatred. I believe he is a fair man, who will listen to our grievances, give them thought, and pursue the right course of action for everyone. I believe he will honestly try. I pray that he will succeed.

If he **IS** elected, our work will have just begun. Grassroots advocacy groups across the country will have to pour on the heat to get things done, just to even out the overwhelmingly powerful clout of corporate America and the fanatical right. They, unlike us, have been organized for years. All their little soldiers are in place, while most of us don't even know how to hold our guns yet. Don't think that just by voting, your job is over. Far from it. We have a long, hard, uphill battle ahead of us, and it will take all of our spirit, determination, love, and anger to finally be free.

November 3 is fast upon us. As I have said before, if we can unify our numbers as a **VOTING BLOCK**, we have the power to swing this election any way we choose. George Bush is no longer an option of any kind for the lesbian and gay community, unless we want to return to Victorian times. If you have registered, **DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE**. If you want change in our lives and rights for us and **OUR** children (some of us do have them!), **DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE FOR BILL CLINTON**.

For once, I agree with Richard Nixon. He recently said that if you are going to vote for Bill Clinton, then give him as much support as possible by **VOTING DEMOCRATIC ALL THE WAY DOWN THE LINE**.

Peace,

Julian



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aware.

a publication of the GLBSU

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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 largely depends on you: your thoughts, ideas, and creativity should be the cornerstone of this publication. Your submissions make this publication a living, growing document that reflects the concerns of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in our region.

We encourage *everyone* to participate and do 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 spatial 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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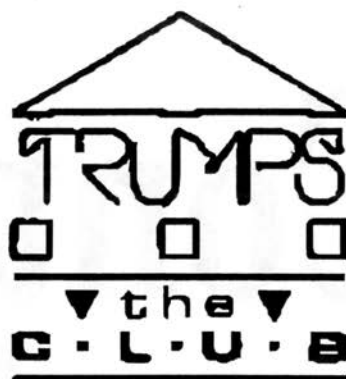
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Monday	Weekend Recovery Day		
	Bloody Marys	\$1.75	5 - 10
	Angel's Drag-Tending party		10 - 3
Tuesday	13-Flavor Day—All Schnapps	\$1.25	5 - 10
	Angel's Drag-Tending Party	1 0 -3	
	Tiffany Michael's Talent Night	11:30	
Wednesday	Tequila Hump Day - Tequila shots	\$1.25	5 - 10
	Margaritas	\$1.75	5 - 10
Thursday	13 Flavor Day - All Schnapps	\$1.25	5 - 10
	Alternative Dance Night		
Friday	Weekend Kickoff Tea Party		
	Ladies Night		
	Long Island Teas	\$3.00	5 - 10
	Beer Bust	\$4.25	9 - 12
	Super Shooter Specials and Giveaways		10 - 3
Saturday	D D D Y A O Party		9 - 3
	Super Shooter Specials and Giveaways		10 - 3
Sunday	Beer Bust	\$3.00	10 - 2

Manson Family Values

George Bush gives straights a bad name.

by Carolyn

Once upon a time, sick to death of hearing childhood traumas rehashed over the electronic airwaves, I toyed with the idea of starting a support group of my own called "Adult Children of Normal People." I gave up the notion when everyone—including my spouse and my shrink—assured me that I would be the only member.

Which puts me in a unique position to talk about family values. I come from what George Bush and his cronies would call a "normal" family. I have two parents, of different sexes, who were and still are married. To each other. I have a sibling whom I'm on good terms with; thanks to a stubborn weight problem, we end up equalling the statistical average of 2.5 children per family. I went to Sunday school, church, and softball. I grew up in a state so conservative they didn't even have Daylight Savings Time.

And the Republican Right's concept of family values is not only completely meaningless to me, it's morally bankrupt.

Think about it. If you define "family" in terms of legally and clerically sanctioned heterosexual marriage, with children and two Oldsmobiles, you're leaving out



Squares on parade: The writer and spouse march in support of Knoxville Pride. Photo by Brenna Betzold.

everything that makes a family worth having. Instead of love, commitment, support, and emotional and spiritual growth, some politicians want to define families in terms of sexual practices, legal documentation, and preserving one's DNA strain. Who wouldn't fit?

- Homosexual couples.
- Marriages with more than two partners.
- Anyone who doesn't want to leap into the old gene pool.
- Single parents who aren't desper-

ately looking for an opposite-sex mate.

- Anyone who refuses to stay in destructive or abusive relationships with a spouse or parent.

The American family is only worth preserving if it has meaning, if it's the supportive, loving atmosphere that allows all its members to flourish. It's not worth preserving if its only purpose is to divide us, to create a cultural underclass, to edge millions of us out of the American dream of self-determination.

What would they replace the honorable estate of the family with? Social and governmental regulation of the hearth, bedroom, and body. Limiting birth control and eliminating options in case

birth control doesn't work. Making divorce and unmarried cohabitation more difficult. Legalizing discrimination on the basis of sexual preference (on November's ballot in several states).

Instead of trying to divide us, a real conservative would try to *conserve* traditional American values: Respect for others' privacy and opposing views. Helping people *plan* their families, and valuing our young people even after they're born. ▲

aware's Election Picks

*You want the Democrat.
Just take our word for it.*

THIS YEAR, WHAT COULD BE MORE DEMOCRATIC THAN TO VOTE FOR A DEMOCRAT ON THE FIRST TUESDAY IN NOVEMBER?

That's right, *Aware* advocates an across-the-board thumbs-up to all Democratic candidates on the ballot this fall. Here is a list of names to vote for on our local ballot: Nancy Stewart, Troy Goodale, Wayne Ritchie, Harry Tindell, Frank Bowden and Joe Armstrong. If you don't remember their names, remember the party: **VOTE DEMOCRATIC**. While such strict partisanship is normally deplorable, there is an urgent need this year, and good reasons, for pulling every donkey lever you see.

For starters, only the Democratic Party has addressed the need to end discrimination against GLBs. The Clinton/Gore ticket pledges to sup-

port federal civil-rights legislation for GLBs, to crack down on hate crimes against us, and to repeal the military's ban. They also pledge substantive action to improve our nation's response to AIDS and to make health care more available to PWAs. Never has there been such a broad platform supporting GLB rights, much less one that stands a good chance of winning.

The second best reason for voting strictly Democratic this year is that the Republican platform too closely resembles the Oregon initiative on the ballot this fall which would actually take rights *away* from GLBs. While the real culprits are folks like Pat Buchanan, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Jesse Helms, Orrin Hatch, and the like—most of whom aren't even interested in elected office—their stranglehold on the Republican Party is very real. Obviously there are good Republicans and conservatives, whether they sympathize with GLB issues or not. But we need to send a strong message to our political brethren in the Republican Party: *take your party back*. Give those Inquisitors the boot and offer this nation something we can bank on to truly represent America's great diversity.

To those who say the GOP platform doesn't matter much, that it's just empty rhetoric—it's a deal with the devil if you ignore the evidence and vote for Bush anyway. Just because it's hard to believe that anyone could take their hateful rhetoric seriously, that doesn't mean it can't happen here. If we allow ourselves to get used to the rhetoric and accept it too easily, the reality won't be too far behind.

Even with a Clinton/Gore Administration, our



troubles won't be over. As noted above, many of these Salemites are only marginally attached to any political party. These people are not going to go away just because their man gets the boot. Their ranks run deep all across this nation and are massing quietly for a future onslaught even as we speak. The folks in Oregon, for instance, are making plans to take their anti-gay campaign nationwide, following the example set by Operation Rescue. The most extreme elements make no bones about the virulence of their intolerance. In Sunnyvale, California, a man named Jay Grimstead is leading a growing movement called the Coalition on Revival. This group is promoting, among other things, a death penalty for homosexuals. **THESE PEOPLE MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.** Hate is a disease, and it is communicable. Look at Bosnia-Herzegovina if you have any doubt about it.

What can you do? First and foremost, you must vote. Beyond that, get involved. Just look through our listing of local organizations in the back of this publication. Knoxville Pride presents opportunities to organize community-wide celebrations year 'round—and even 1993's Pride Week won't happen without more involvement. The GLBSU offers support groups, political action, movies, lectures, and discussions as well as activities geared solely toward having fun. The Knoxville Gay Liberation Front offers even more direct political action and visibility through broadsides plastering telephone poles throughout the Fort Sanders area. Submit articles, poetry, short stories, photos and art to *aware*. (Better yet, we could use someone to handle our advertising!) Just find something you're comfortable with and do it! Get political! Get involved!

On a national scale there is plenty to do. There's the March on Washington in 1993. We need the kind of showing and spirit Washington hasn't seen since the civil rights rallies of the 1960s, regardless of who's in office. Even Clinton won't be able to affect change unless this nation is given dramatic proof of just how many people are being left out.

But the most important thing you can do for yourself this fall is **VOTE**. Stand and be counted! Use your political voice while you still have one! **VOTE!** ▲

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Who are these people?

by Biff Howard

Family values will never be the same again in the Newquist household. Plagued by obscene phone calls, power failures, and the occasional sniper, this is one family guaranteed to leave you laughing through even the worst of times in *Little Murders*, a truly cruel comedy by Jules Feiffer now performing at Theatre Central.

Directed by founder Mark Moffet, *Little Murders* is an apt choice to mark Theatre Central's fourth anniversary in Knoxville. Located at 131 S. Gay Street in the Old City, this shoestring theatre has established a niche for itself with a year-round season of comedies, thrillers and first-run originals, with actors who live up to their material.

Robbie Griffith and Margy Ragsdale play Carol and Marjorie Newquist, proud parents of Kenny and Patsy, played by Jim Conn and Brenna Betzold respectively. Patsy has just arrived home with her new beau, Alfred, (Glen Glover)—whom she intends to marry in order to “save” him. Alfred, you

see, is a self-confessed apathist, a man who's come to the decision that there is no use fighting back against anything. Not even wedded non-bliss.

The news of impending marriage looms large and ominous over this family, for whom fighting back is a favorite sport. Carol, who hates his name (“Don't call me ‘Caroll’ he screams, “Call me ‘Dear.’”) and derides all Patsy's boyfriends as “swish,” is anything but pleased. Even the mother is pulled into the fray by the time the vaguely happy couple announce that they don't want God in the ceremony. And Kenny? Well, let's just say he has other matters on his mind, like interior decorating, finishing the erotic book he carries around, and remembering to zip his fly.

Throughout the action, three experts are brought in to fix the family, all played deftly by Tom Booker. In his first incarnation, he's the aptly-named Judge Stern, brought in



The bride's nightmare: Brenna Betzold, Margy Ragsdale, Robbie Griffith, Tom Booker, Jim Conn, and Glen Glover.

to lecture the couple about leaving God out of the ceremony. As Reverend Dupas, Booker plays the biker peacenik preacher performing the wedding, with a message of ultimate tolerance and a nudge and a wink for poor Kenny. Finally, enter Booker as Lt. Practice, who literally climbs the walls as a man harried by a string of 365 unsolved murders in the area as the whole world seems to go insane around the family in the end.

This is ensemble acting at its best. The pacing is fast, as it usually is in a Theatre Central production, and the timing is impeccable. The audience is included in the sense of threat looming over the Newquist world.

Ragsdale delivers dizzy, rapid-fire dialogue as the proud mother, who runs sobbing from the room at random only to return moments later

glowing maternal. One high point: Ragsdale dragging out the photo album to show Alfred pictures of "Patsy's dead brother Steve," scattering the family and leaving everyone with a squirmy, clammy feeling.

Griffith does a fine job as the family's Archie Bunker, losing his head at one point in a remarkable rant about putting electric barbed-wire around neighborhoods. As the new-comer to the family, Alfred comes across weak until you realize he's an emotional brick wall. His gleeful intensity is a welcome break as he describes the games he played on the feds who were intercepting his mail.

In a performance that seems to suit her well, Betzold exudes a kind of strength that really fuels the play, radiating a fierce determination to fight back at all costs. "I'm tired of being Mother Earth!" Patsy shouts convincingly. Conn makes the most of his smaller part, a delightfully simian creature sulking about the stage with his porn. And his conversion to Rev. Dupas' "brand of faith" is hilarious.

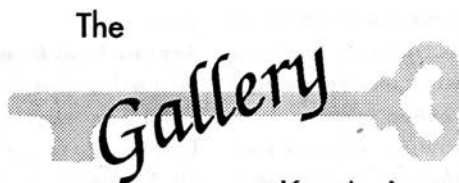
Last but not least, Booker amazes with his transformations, from his raging bull of a conservative judge to the coming-apart-at-the-seams Lt. Practice. Booker steals the show

during the wedding as a Don't-worry-be-happy moon child. He punctuates the ceremony with his own editorials, asking Patsy if she will, "love—that horrible word again—let's say 'communicate.'"

By the end, Patsy is true to her name, and her martyrdom is successful. Or is it? The play ends with the family sinking into a kind of nirvana, seemingly ready to accept any kind of madness the world throws their way. You might even say the Newquists prove so strong that the world breaks around them, leaving them to sit around the supper table a close-knit family once again. ▲

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at Key Antiques
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Gallery Shows
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Sam & Diana

While most polls say Americans seem poised to accept the notion of "gay rights," differences exist regarding just what constitutes legitimate rights for gays. Some say we already have all the rights we need. Others are willing to include us in non-discrimination language and legislation, but that's it.

The loudest opponents of same-sex marriage say it would demean heterosexual marriage and undermine traditional family structure. They also argue that legitimized same-sex unions for legal purposes would ocause those legal channels to be abused. These opponents to same-sex marriages are generally the same people who equate homosexuality with promiscuity. This irony is generally left unexamined, but it points out at a glance how ill-disguised intolerance can be.

There is great need for legitimizing unions between same-sex couples. On the legal front alone it would extend to gays the rights all heterosexual couples have: to file joint tax returns, execute last wills and living wills, etc. AIDS has brought this home for over a decade now: parents deny lovers access to sickrooms and deathbeds all the time, and there is no legal recourse for the surviving spouse to any personal effects or assets, sometimes even if they were co-owned, after the death of their lovers.

But despite the lack of legal sanction, same-sex marriages have occurred since long before our present debate began. Metropolitan Community Church, for one, performs marriage ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples. Same-sex marriages also exist as a state of mind, whether the couples call themselves spouses or longtime companions, just as they have always existed without sanction or ceremony among heterosexual couples. Faced with hostile families who can legally wreck their lives, many couples seek legal council, draw up contracts, and create whatever

er legal documents necessary to protect their unions. In some cases, these legal documents can be contested, with precedent stacked against gay couples in favor of their families. But, as one couple in East Tennessee has found, there is a legal

A Marriage by Any Other Name...

way to beat the system—and the ties that bind these two women are perhaps stronger than even the most fundamentalist of heterosexual marriages.

We met Sam and Diana at a Knoxville Pride meeting one Tuesday this summer, and afterwards settled into a booth at Stefano's on the UT Strip to eat and to talk. The following interview took place while we were waiting for our pizzas to arrive.

Aware: So, how long have you been together?

Sam: We were married through MCC in holy union eight years ago. July 22 was our anniversary. We'll have been together, in November, nine years.

Are you both from this area?

Diana: I'm from New Jersey.

Sam: I'm from Arkansas. We met in Mississippi. Her family is not receptive to our relationship at all. My family, on the other hand, is very receptive.

We got to thinking about legalities. Diana has a heart condition—what would I do if she were hospitalized, knowing her parents would do anything to try to cause me heartbreak? What if she died, or were in a condition where they could come in and take over, keep me out, make life-and-death decisions for her, attach our property, things that they have no rights to. And we tried to think, "What is

the best option for us? What can we do?" You know, you can have a will, which they can contest. You can have a living will, which no one will pay attention to in Tennessee if they decide not to. There's not much left.

It just so happens that Tennessee is one of the few states who will allow adult adoption without parental consent.

Even for an adult adopting an adult?

Sam and Diana: Correct. Yeah.

Sam: And I know for a fact that in Florida and Mississippi she would have had to get her parents' permission—naturally, when you have someone who's not receptive to the relationship to begin with, they're not going to make things easy for you. So I contacted an attorney here and he said, you know, no problem, and we paid the money...

Diana: I think it was about \$138.

Sam: Well, we had several things done at one time. I had to have my name changed back to my maiden name—I've been married and have a son. I had to go back to my maiden name so that she could carry it. I think the whole thing was like \$400 or \$500. I think the name change for me cost more than the adoption did, if I'm not mistaken, but I would say it's somewhere around \$300. It's going to depend on the attorney that you get to do it.

Diana: Basically all the judge was concerned with was the main influence and supporting person, or something to that effect, and were my parents involved at all, and of course the answer was "No." It took a grand total of about 2½ minutes. He signed the

decree and that was it.

Sam: Didn't lie whatsoever. Didn't have to. Because everything was true.

How long did you talk about this before you did it?

Diana: The adoption was this past April. We talked about it off and on for at least three or four years.

So how'd you find out about it?

Sam: I asked my attorney.

About adoption specifically?

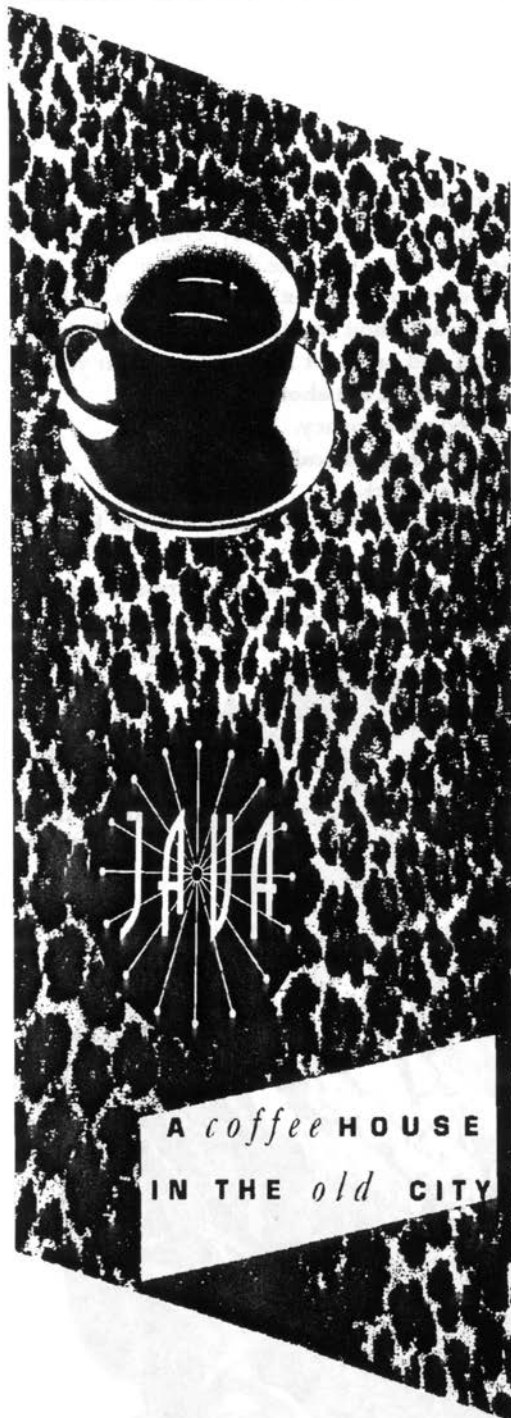
Sam and Diana: Yes.

So it just occurred to you that you could beat the system by...

Sam: By adoption. I asked about parental consent, and they said no, not in Tennessee, because they

waived that part of it, because if you're over 18 years old, you're adult. And I think you should have that





option in every state. If you're an adult, you can make that kind of decision for yourself.

Diana: For most people who would consider adoption, one or both sets of parents are not the receptive type, who would cause some sort of a hassle in the first place. So the one thing you don't want to do is turn around and have to ask somebody for permission when they hate you anyway.

You took her name, so you are the adopted, right?

Diana: Right.

How are the legalities as far as your parents leaving anything to you?

Diana: I don't know. Because they won't. I doubt that they will, anyway.

So they've formally disowned you?

Diana: Basically, yes. They only call me if someone is dead or in the hospital, though they waited three days to call me and tell me my grandmother was dying.

Sam: Her brother lives here in Knoxville.

Do you have a good relationship with him?

Diana: No. I've called him three or four or five times to find out how he was doing. I've got a nephew I've never seen. He's never bothered to call me; the last time I saw him was at my grandmother's funeral about seven years ago.

Sam, you're on good terms with your family. Do you both visit with your family in...

Sam: Yes, in Mississippi. The whole family lives there.

So, as to the adoption, are you waiting for any more paperwork?

Diana: No, it's all done. Everything has come in as far as the legal documents.

Sam: She has a new birth certificate, new Social Security card, new driver's license, everything.

Diana: All with the name change. All the numbers stay the same.

I've already asked you if you know anyone else who's done this, haven't I?

Sam: No, but I know a couple who had a name change just so they would both have the same last name. They're good friends of mine. One's a pro-

fessor who taught Diana. They just changed their last names; they haven't gone in for an adoption.

It's not one of those things you just run out and do because you think it's going to last forever, and it's over in a year. I wouldn't suggest that anybody do it unless they've been together a *long* time and know that this is something that's going to be forever. It's not like, you know, two Hets get married, and then they run off and get a divorce.

Did you check into how to dissolve it if that time ever came?

Diana: No, because it's not going to.

Sam: There is no such time.

You were saying that it would be harder than divorce.

Sam: You would have to go through something similar to legally disowning someone.

Which could definitely be unpleasant.

Sam: Yeah, well, it's definitely a lifetime decision.

So, what legal advantages did it give you?

Sam: It does give us an edge with the IRS. If she supports me and I don't work, she can claim me as a dependent. But she doesn't get any other break. This is the first year that I won't claim single head of household, because my son is over 18 and married now. For Diana, now she can claim me as a dependent and claim single head of household legally, and there's not a damn thing they can do about it. I'm her mother.

Was it hard deciding who would adopt whom?

Diana: No, because I wouldn't want her considered to be in my family for anything. *I* don't want to be considered in my family.

Do you joke, mother/daughter stuff?

Diana and Sam: All the time.

So you're now legally Sam's son's sister. And her grand-daughter's aunt.

Diana: Yeah. That's why we call me "Aunt Granny" around the house.

What if suddenly there were a social revolution in this country and same-sex marriage were legitimized? Would you go through a process reworking your situation?

Diana: Dissolving the adoption? Probably not.

Sam: We wouldn't be able to. I couldn't marry my daughter: that would be incest.

We tease around all the time, like: "Don't smart-mouth your mother" "Show your momma some or "Come here you little mother-fucker!"

There are a lot of people who know I've adopted her, including her boss.

Okay, now, switching tracks: What kind of prospect do you think the future has regarding same-sex marriage?

Sam: I don't know if there will ever be a same-sex marriage where you'll go to the same place and get the same certificate that everybody else gets. I don't even know that you should. It's something I don't even want to go into.

I think that there should be some legally sanctioned union, available to homosexuals the same way that it is for heterosexuals. We pay our taxes—a lot of them, over the past few years. I think that's a fundamental right.

So, for you, a legally sanctioned, same-sex partnership would entail...

Diana: Joint tax returns, inheritance, survivorship rights, custody rights, that sort of thing. ▲



AIDS AWARE:

The Shameful Legacies of George Bush

by Rochester

On October 10 this year, during the three-day display of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington, D.C., a candlelight march wound its way past the White House on its way to the Lincoln Memorial. The President was at home for a change, cramming for his first debate, as the crowd of nearly 250,000 chanted "SHAME!" and "Three more weeks [of hell]!"

George Bush has been more than remiss in leading the fight against this disease. But the issues are complex, and many of the damning aspects of the Bush Administration's failure to respond to AIDS have never been exposed in any responsible way by the mainstream media. On the eve of the November election, it is time to set the record straight. The following is an attempt to highlight the shameful legacy of an administration that has put the lives of all Americans at risk by crippling our nation's AIDS response with greed, diversion, hypocritical morality, and an overall lack of coherent vision.

Perhaps one of the most underreported acts of political warfare in the last four years is what Bush did to the National Institutes of Health. When the Bush administration asked the director of the NIH to step down in April 1988, it wasn't clear just how devastating this action

*Anonymous testing
is increasingly a
thing of the past,
while official lists
grow and basic
civil rights are
ignored.*

would be. But from that day until the nomination of Bernadine Healy as NIH director in February 1991, the institute charged with overseeing much of the research and development of public health measures in the United States went without a director. The reason? George Bush subjected every applicant to a Pro-Life litmus test to stifle work on such procedures as RU486 and fetal-tissue research, two areas in particular that show broad promise in

treating everything from diabetes to Alzheimer's disease.

The effect? Not one qualified person wanted the job. Faced with the prospect of such a director and a literal lack of leadership for over a year and a half, the ranks of the top researchers at NIH and its satellites such as the National Cancer Institute were decimated by those who jumped ship. Prominent laboratory heads left, often taking with them dozens of their staff, seeking the greater freedoms of the private sector. The result was a brain drain that has crippled the Institutes and from which it will take years to recover.

On a related front, Bush continued the shameful legacy of Ronald Reagan in his handling of the Robert Gallo coverup. Gallo is the

American who claimed to have discovered HIV as the cause of AIDS when he really stole the virus while it was on loan from the Pasteur Institute in Paris. Historical credit for the discovery was only part of the allure: the lucrative aspect of getting credit is the matter of who gets to own the patent for the HIV blood test, a multi-million-dollar industry largely subsidized by govern-

ments around the world. This year, after years of legal wrangling and several lengthy probes, Montagnier has finally been given full credit for HIV's discovery.

But the probes hardly addressed the issue of what should be done about Gallo, who continues to head much of this country's HIV research. One of Gallo's underlings was found guilty on four counts of scientific misconduct, but Gallo's own record remains clear. As one member of the independent probe stated, "I'd like it well known that we don't agree with NIH's decision" on letting Gallo off relatively unscathed. Another panelist is even more direct: "It'll be a cold day in hell before any of us will consult for the U.S. government again." (*Science*, Vol. 256, 8 May 1992.)

If Gallo is any indication of how George Bush weighs the interests of big business over valid science and human life, the Orphan Drug Act of 1983 should come as no surprise. Designed to give pharmaceutical companies incentives to develop drugs for which there is only a small demand (treating illnesses afflicting 200,000 patients or fewer) the Act has become a goldmine for the makers of the few drugs approved for use against HIV: AZT and its close relatives ddI and ddC. Since these drugs were first marketed before AIDS spread beyond the 200,000 patient mark, their makers, under the Act, are entitled to seven-year monopolies protected for production and sales of the drugs within the United States. Never mind that everyone knew from the start AIDS would top the 200,000 mark long before the seven-year period expired. The

George Bush weighs the interests of big business over valid science and human life.

Burroughs-Wellcome corporation in particular has reaped astronomical profits from the sale of AZT, the most expensive drug in history, developed and in large part distributed at taxpayer expense.

In 1990, three years of work establishing compromises between biotech firms, drug

companies, politicians and consumer groups succeeded in persuading legislators to amend the Orphan Drug Act to rectify its inequities. In November 1990, George Bush vetoed that legislation, letting Dan Quayle's Council on Competitiveness come up with the official line that allowing the monopolies to be broken would "endanger the success of the program." The list of charges against the Bush Administration goes far beyond the scope of this article, but a short rundown of remaining charges is in order. George Bush, and by extension his government, is responsible for the following shameful atrocities:

✓ Changes in the definition of AIDS have been held up indefinitely by lack of leadership. Such a change would entitle more people to the medical care necessary to treat AIDS and its related diseases, and to give epidemiologists better tracking statistics. Testing rights have been decimated. Anonymous testing is increasingly a thing of the past, while official lists grow and basic civil rights are ignored.

✓ Educational initiatives and studies have been neutered if not halted outright. The problem? Issues of morality surrounding condom and needle distribution, homosexuality, and demands for teaching abstinence in the name of sex education.

✓ The U.S. denies visas to anyone wanting to come to this country who is HIV positive regardless of why they want to come, whether it's to seek treatment, visit relatives, attend conferences, or any other reason. The International AIDS Conference, which was supposed to be

held in Boston this year, was moved to Amsterdam in protest of this policy.

✓ PCP pneumonia prophylaxis was not contraindicated for AIDS patients until midway through Bush's term, despite the fact that doctors had known since the beginning that PCP was the leading killer of PWAs.

✓ The President's Council on AIDS has been utterly ignored despite a list of proposals that have been on the table for years—proposals most leaders in the fight against AIDS have endorsed. Few were surprised when Magic Johnson left the council in protest; mostly we were surprised it took him as long as it did. Magic's replacement by Mary Fisher is highly questionable. Anyone who can stand up as Fisher did at the Republican National Convention and say that gay issues and AIDS issues must be kept separate is out of touch with reality.

✓ Funds for AIDS research at the Centers for Disease Control have been cut back by millions.

✓ Housing and Urban Development funds earmarked for housing debilitated PWAs have been held up for no apparent reason. In particular, the Ryan White funds have been in limbo for years, depriving thousands of housing and home health care.

Regardless of who wins the White House, the shameful record of the present administration cannot be allowed to continue. AIDS issues cut across almost every other issue being debated this election year, from basic civil rights to health care to the economy. Without a coherent and humane plan, all our problems stemming from the AIDS crisis will only continue to spiral beyond our ability to control them. It may already be too late. But too little or too late, there is no excuse for not trying. When you enter the voting booth this November 3, remember that your one seemingly insignificant flick of the finger can change the world. Let's change things for the better. ▲

They snatch on the right, but are still
hungry
and they devour on the left, but
are not satisfied...

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"The Public is suspicious of newspapers, but its suspicions don't save it."

— Simone Weil, 1942

At the Sign of the Cloven Beaver the attack is on against the "Liberal Media," a war that began long before this presidential campaign and promises to be in our faces for a long time to come. Never mind that the majority of the press in this country is in the hands of corporate conservatives, surprising numbers of whom have worked for Reagan, Bush, and the CIA. Bring out the devil, give him advocates, and have at.

There is no truth to the

AT THE SIGN OF THE CLOVEN BEAVER

Do you dance with the devil by the pale moonlight?

by June Cleaver

assertion that the press is, or even *should* be, objective. To be truly objective, one must show all sides and reach no conclusions. Balance such as this requires, as *Advocate* editor Masha Gessen describes, that Hitler's rants about Jews be given equal weight as a typical Zionist's opinion—the rest is up to you. Gessen states that pure objectivity dictates that "a story about homosexuals [would include] quotes from people who believe we don't have the right to exist." So much for giving people light and letting them find their own way.

"Equal Time" is a pipe dream. Even if we could be fair to all opinions, we lack the language to do so. Everything is so radicalized today that we have little common ground when we seek true dialogue. There is a

Newspeak for every group, every organization, every viewpoint. It goes along with our penchant for acronyms: words themselves establish code, loaded language like land mines scattered across our newspapers and peppering our broadcasts. By stripping language for special purposes, we neuter our etymology, the referential feature that flows naturally from places in the human psyche beyond mere historical consensus.

At the Sign of the Cloven Beaver, people are "bashed," politicians "ripped" and "slammed," hapless targets "just don't get it," and no connection is ever made between the sentiments informing the phrases "Clean House" and "Ethnic Cleansing." Sports metaphors invoke war rhetoric, and war metaphors invade

political debate. Everything is turned on its head, telling the truth but pointing the finger to someone else. With the Sign, it's a case of Bad-Dog-Barks-First, diverting attention from one's guilt by being the first to point out a crime. If you're the first on the scene with righteous indignation, it's easier to blame whoever you want.

Not since the Sophists have we had so many men marketing "truth." Now they add the label "Lite" to everything, and in this at least there is no deception. Our punditocracy is based on graft and nepotism, circular credentials, unnamed sources, and rotating membership in tag-team commentary. If you can successfully label something "political" it's fair game. When aren't things political? When they're personal. Make a personal assault and call it political, and nobody will question it. Or make an unfounded allegation and drop in under pressure, but never, ever take it back. All's fair, true to metaphor.

If our national sense of humor is lost, perhaps it is because humor exists only in shades of gray...

"Lighten up!" say bulldog Limbaugh and his legion of Ditto-heads, just prior to calling the homeless "human refuse" and hissing pronouncements that "liberalism is heinous." If our national sense of humor is lost, perhaps it is because humor exists only in shades of gray, a color virtually banished

in the New World Order. Perhaps the unenlightened should heed their own advice.

Our artificial vocabulary exists in the service of a virulent nationalism, whose prime interest is to demoralize the world's family of nations with the threat of war and certain defeat. So much for family values. Even our constitutional threats today are not what they seem. In particular, the separation of church and state exists to protect us from more than the threat of Christian Fundamentalism. It also exists to keep the state from becoming a church in its own right, with the flag as a holy object, the president its high priest, and civil rights a heresy against something Clarence

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Thomas calls "Natural Law." The horrific thing about our present administration is that it doesn't even seem human, but a Great Beast that is more concerned with ciphers than civility. So, Mr. Bush, do you dance with the Devil by the pale moonlight?

The advantage for Bush, of course, lies in defining the terms and getting away with it. Any attempt, for instance, to praise Jimmy Carter or condemn the Gulf War is called "revising history." Bush wants an end to history; let him write the book and 'nuff said. His unholy alliance with the Far Right lends a final blow to meaningful dialogue—as far right as he has placed his agenda, everything looks like the extreme left by comparison.

If the press were to look at things with a little less piousness about abject objectivity, perhaps we could discover some perspective. In the Sixties, the advice was "Don't trust anyone over 30!" Three decades later, the same people are still the problem, only now they're over 60. Look at

*... a color
virtually
banished in the
New World Order.*

the ghosts who have come back to haunt us: Vietnam, Kissinger, Nixon, et al. We have been living a sixties nightmare for the past four years: a CIA director has become president and made himself the most powerful man on earth. A man who has built his life around studying the KGB is in control.

Just what does the CIA specialize in? Meddling. Destabilizing governments. Propaganda and breeding discontent. Setting up puppet regimes and coddling dictators. It is all about power, a phallic, patriarchal power shafting us all. So when Bush takes his "in your face" campaign on the road and promises to "target America," to do for us what he has done for the world, believe him.

Isn't it odd how Glasnost only works for the folks defeated in the Cold War? Do you ever wonder just what is in those top-secret files, the truths that are being kept from us, and why they are being hidden? We don't need more objectivity in the United States. We need to end the lies. ▲



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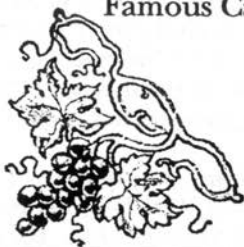
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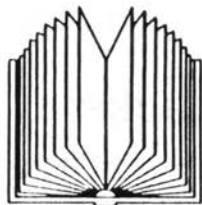
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A True Queen's View

by Kelly Rafaiidolatobadii

My oh my, where *has* the summer gone? Seems like just yesterday we were frolicking naked in the out-of-doors. Now that it is getting cooler I'll have to drag out the sweaters and the wool skirts to keep my assets warm.

Now, I've seen ladies get hot over strippers before, but, English Derby, I thought you were going to pass out from heat stroke before you got that dollar bill in his G-string. Take long, slow breaths, dear. Isn't it nice to know what money can buy these days?

Congratulations to Magnolia Blossom on winning Knoxville's first Homecoming Queen contest. You put up a good fight in the dressing room looking for that wig. That scene deserved three pulls and a twist of Tiffany's gray tape. Speaking of Tiffany, congratulations on the arrival of the 6 lb., 5 oz. Texas toddler Christopher Tyler, born on October 2, 1992.

Hey dudes and dolls, have you heard the song "There's a Hustler in My House"? Let me tell you, any resemblance to any Block Queens, real or imaginary, is truly coincidental. And Ms. Deceit, remember when we saw each other in the "T Room?" Girl, my advice to you is: Don't

just squat there, get down to it, on your knees, there's nothing to it, blow... Just don't let security catch you again. Readers: crunchy peanut butter and latex don't mix.

MCC will be hosting a seminar on "How to Avoid Potty Mouth" and "Self Defense in God's House." Thanks guys; we obviously need these. Seriously though, congrats to Jim Richards on his new pastoral appointment. The GLBSU wishes you the best of luck. We always look forward to working with MCC.

Who was seen recently at Hawkeye's in the company of a male nurse? My spies saw you shaking hands, the most you've had since the Statewide Picnic last year. Speaking of new couples, I see K.K. with a certain pretty little brunette lately. What's up or down, ladies? Just don't park your Toyota in a spot where I can find it, because I need new spark plugs for my own new Toyota.

Ms. Teasing and Tantalizing, you shouldn't pay any attention to those rumors. Your thighs are not too fat. Besides, whoever started those rumors is just jealous. People can be so rude! Especially some redundantly-ex officers.

I found a dusty old throne. I

took it to an antique dealer and it dated back to the early 1800's. I tried to claim it, but the Queen Mother insisted that it was hers—and since she had bought it new, she wanted it back. Just as well; something is needed to liven up those parties.

Cace Daniels, the Lucious Lady of Everlasting Lip Locking Luxury, was seen performing at Backstreet in Hotlanta. Karen White and Chaka Kahn look out. It may have just been slow number, but I'll never tell anyone how you hurt your back. Angel Collins is in one of her moods again. She keeps going on and on. She always looks fabulous, of course, but what were she and Tina doing spying at I.C. King?

You'll never believe what Crystal Decanter just told me... Never mind, 'cause I can't repeat it in print!

Always remember to wear a glove when you love.

Kisses, condoms and dental dams,

Kelly

P.S. To my straight girlfriend "The Dominant Mistress of Crossroads Funnel Cakes," Robert and I both know you're really wearing a wig because snakes won't hold a wave. It ain't easy being easy, is it?

THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CONNECTIONS WITH, OR EXIST IN SUPPORT OF, THE LOCAL GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC)

Corner of Weisgarber and Lonas. Worship services 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 8:00 p.m. at the University Center on the UTK campus. Call 595-7242 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

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Organizational meetings are in progress. See Calendar or call Printer's Mark (524-1259) for details.

aRK (aids Response Knoxville) 2928 Magnolia Ave. Call 525-AIDS for more information.

LAMBDA LITERACY CIRCLE A literary and philosophical discussion group. Meets every month at the Printer's Mark Bookshop. 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.

P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Knoxville chapter of an 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

KNOXVILLE GAY LIBERATION FRONT A broad-platformed, direct-action political group against the manifestation of hierarchies and social inequalities. Committed to fighting for its right to identity. Call 595-8638.

Organizations

OCTOBER

27 - GLBSU Movie Night. *Common Threads*, check UT listings.

- **Amnesty International Meeting.** 6 p.m. at Printer's Mark, 524-1259.

NOVEMBER

1 Jan Lynch Exhibit. 60-photo display at the Candy Factory through November 25.

3 GLBSU Meeting. Topic- Our Relationships with Our Parents. Also, officer nominations. 8pm U.C. **Remember to vote!**

4 Knoxville Pride Meeting. Candy Factory Community Room, 7-9 p.m.

10 GLBSU Meeting. Speeches and officer election. 8 p.m., U.S.

12 GLBSU Meeting. Planning committee meets; all welcome. 8 p.m., U.C.

17 GLBSU Movie Night. *Oranges are Not the Only Fruit*, check UT listings.

24 GLBSU Meeting. Meet the new pastor of MCC. 8 p.m., U.C.

DECEMBER

1 GLBSU Meeting. NAMBLA and Age of Consent: Where do we Draw the Line? 8 p.m., U.C.

5 World AIDS Day March. Downtown Knoxville. Call 523-2437 for details.

7 Knoxville Pride Meeting. Candy Factory Community Room, 7-9 p.m.

8 GLBSU Final Fling. Call 595-7242 for more information.

Calendar



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