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KNOXVILLE PRIDE WEEK '93

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
JUNE 19TH - 29TH 1993



Charles Richard Resources ==

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

June 1993

Dear Family Members,

We at Knoxville Pride are proud to host Knoxville's 3rd Annual Knoxville Pride Week and Pride Parade.

Knoxville Pride is a human rights organization formed to promote understanding and tolerance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members of the greater Knoxville area and surrounding communities. we produce educational events and media campaigns designed to encourage awareness of and respect for Knoxville's gay community. We work to decrease homophobia and anti-gay violence and support actions against the passage of resolutions and/or laws which would discriminate against a large portion of Knoxville's citizens.

This year's celebration of Knoxville's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people hopes to bring together thousands of Tennesseans in the spirit of community and harmony. In this time of change and controversy, it is especially important to show our pride in ourselves and our community. We welcome and encourage participation in all events by both gays and gay supporters. We urge all family, friends and advocate groups from outside the gay community to participate as well.

As always, volunteers are both needed and appreciated. We need aid in general setup and cleanup for all events as well as peacekeepers to help organize and direct during the Parade. Call the Knoxville Pride line, 637-9838. Leave a message if necessary and we'll contact you as soon as possible.

Remember to patronize our advertisers. Show them how much we appreciate their support of our celebration. Most of all, have fun and be proud!

Sincerely,

KNOXVILLE PRIDE

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T-SHIRTS!

T-shirts of our cover design in 6 colors will be on sale throughout Pride Week for \$12.00 each. They are available in M, L and XL. All proceeds go to support Knoxville's Pride Week and future Knoxville Pride events.

WE HAVE A WINNER!

Congratulations to Tina Chandler, the 1993 winner of the Miss Knoxville Pride Pageant held on June 4th at Trumps. Stepping down was 1992's reigning Miss Knoxville Pride, Mallory Bishop. Mallory, along with Tiffany Michaels, organized and hosted this year's pageant. Many thanks go out to them from Knoxville Pride. If interested in competing in next year's pageant, contact Knoxville Pride at P.O. Box 52452, Knoxville, TN 37950-2452 or call (615) 637-9838.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR ADVERTISERS

The Businesses and Individuals who have chosen to advertise in the PRIDE WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS are supporting our community. Please support those who support us. Likewise we can make available, to those interested parties, a list of businesses and individuals who chose not to advertise. It is always important to know who *is* and who *isn't* supportive. A special thanks to all who are.



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SO WHY DO WE HAVE A PRIDE WEEK ANYWAY?

by
Ron White

If the 1990s are to be the decade of gay causes, it has only been in the past year that our issues have exploded into national focus. The love that dare not speak its name is now in the forefront of common parlance. Such an achievement could only be dreamt of in the two decades following Stonewall. And while our detractors are vociferous and legion, those who support us have grown into a powerful force few ever imagined possible. We seem every day to be closed, on the verge of civil rights recognition and a more tolerant society. The feeling many of us walked away with from the 1993 March on Washington was one of greater security and faith in future justice. And with the seeming inevitability that the ban on gays in the military will be lifted, there are a lot of positive signs out there. So why are our local Pride events all that important anymore?

The answer is that the struggle has only begun a new phase, a stage in which the stakes are higher than ever. Every stride we have made has been matched by our detractors, in particular the "Christian Supremacists" and those who use them to gain power. Enough justice has prevailed so far that the Supremacists show signs of losing their overall battle against us—but the Extreme Right has been busier than a lot of people realize, and today they have only just begun to fight.

In response to their numerous losses, they have accelerated their grass-roots agenda to take over the political process, using hysteria against gays as a wedge for their broader platform against sex education and racial integration, while promoting prayer in schools and censorship of the arts. They are trying to unbalance us with swift actions, such as the anti-gay resolutions they pushed through the Commissions of Knox and other Tennessee Counties.

As a return for their investment in such symbolic actions, they build their numbers and develop strategic skills in order to press their agenda directly on the political process. They then share these skills with upstart chapters across the state. At the same time, they are taking over party precincts and grooming "stealth" candidates to run for political office at all levels, candidates who hide their affiliation to get elected. Once in office, they are free to push their agenda from an even greater position of power.

Meanwhile, our local county commission battle has spawned pro-gay coalitions where none existed before. The local activities of the Christian Coalition and

the Eagle Forum were distressingly similar to those which wrought havoc in Oregon and Colorado. In response, two local coalitions in particular have decided not to wait for the next move from the right. First, the original gay and lesbian coalition that met during the two weeks before the commission vote has continued to meet under a new name, Liberty and Justice. Though the group is small, its members represent a range of lesbian, gay and bisexual organizations from the area and bring a great deal of resources together in one place. Liberty and Justice is currently working with members of the community-at-large who have formed the Human Equality Advocates Regional Taskforce, (HEART). The focus of the coalition of secular and religious community leaders is broader, encompassing gender and race; church and state; and environmental issues; as well as lesbian, gay and bisexual issues. HEART is anticipating the support of delegates from other organizations, such as local NOW and NAACP chapters. Both coalitions see the need for positive action now instead of reaction to future "Christian Supremacist" challenges.

These organizations have already shown their potential. Both were instrumental in supporting and suggesting volunteer plaintiff for the recent lawsuit challenging the state sodomy law. (James Tallent of Knoxville Pride and Chad Presswood of the Knoxville Gay Liberation Front are the two plaintiffs from East Tennessee.) And both coalitions have been very helpful to Knoxville Pride in coordinating Pride Week events.

This is community cooperation at its best—except for one particular: far too few people are doing far too much of the work!

This Pride Week we hop every single person in the Knoxville lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community will make every attempt to take advantage of the events we are offering. In particular, we need a strong showing for the Parade and Rally on Saturday, June 26. Other secular and religious organizations outside of our community-proper have been invited to show their support by sending contingents to the parade, so the turn-out may be quite a sight. But what will it mean if our own brothers and sisters aren't there to speak for themselves?

That is why Pride Week is so important. It serves as a testimonial in a society that still wants to pretend we don't exist. It serves to give courage and hope to those still closeted and to those who feel alone with a truth about themselves of which they are afraid. It serves to expand the network of friends and lovers who call themselves Family. And it serves to energize all of us in our important struggle. Others can support and fight for us, but in the end, only we can win the fight.

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Sunday June 20th

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Wednesday June 23rd

12PM Talent Nite & Beer Bust

Friday June 25th

3rd Annual Masquerade Ball

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Saturday June 26th

"Misty Knight"

Sunday June 27th

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Heritage Now

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Student Union on UT campus, though barely three years in existence, has a local heritage that dates back to the early seventies. In the winter of 1971, over two-thousand signs were placed around the UT and Fort Sanders area to publicize the group's first organizational meeting.

The meeting, held in the Shiloh Room at the University Center, drew about 35 interested people. Unfortunately, because the group was not recognized by the University, only two organizational meetings were allowed on campus. Kyle MacDaniel and Norris Dryer formulated a constitution for the Gay Student Union and focused its weekly meetings toward getting the University's recognition.

Upon application, both recognition and appeal were denied the group by UT. The University cited two reasons for denial: both the Crimes Against Nature Statute, and conspiracy to violate that statute. Off campus, the group adopted the title of Gay Liberation Front, with the stated purpose "to end repression against homosexuality." The group twice more appealed UT's refusal to recognize a GSU, and were twice denied that same year of 1971.

One very supportive and recognized group during this time was the UT Religious Liberals. This organization sponsored at least one and perhaps more open discussions on various aspects of homosexuality, which were attended by both gays and straights. Even without official university recognition, many of the more liberal faculty members were very supportive and several classes in the psychology, sociology and philosophy departments invited the GSU to address the classes. There were also one or more open forums held at the Pope John the 23rd Catholic center. During this time, it was decided by the leaders of the organization that an easily identified logo was needed. They chose a logo that was being accepted by many of the new gay and lesbian organizations nationwide: the Lambda.

After the Stonewall Riots, the symbol of Lambda was chosen by activists for its "scientific kinetic potential," a symbol for change, and as a subtle sign of recognition that associated itself with ancient Greek sexuality. Lambda was placed on flyers and signs in all the activities the group participated in thereafter, including the South-East Regional Gay Conference and the 1973 All-Ohio Gay Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

These two and their local supporters soon gained control of the troubled organization and what resulted was, you guessed it, trouble. They became members of the UT Socialists Alliance and felt very strongly that the Gay Liberation Front should add a strong socialist agenda to its political philosophy. These meetings

often disintegrated into heated and emotional confrontations concerning aspects of raising both gay consciousness and overall political consciousness. After one especially nasty meeting, one member attempted to run over another with his car in the parking lot next to the Epworth Church, now the Laurel Theatre. Fortunately, no one was physically injured but mentally and emotionally, the organization was in serious trouble.

Within this period, however, several very important events occurred. First, a bar and restaurant called "Irelands," located on Cumberland Avenue where Wendy's is now, fired several allegedly gay people for apparently no reason other than that they were gay. The GLF picketed the restaurant in what was certainly the first activist stance by gays and lesbians in Knoxville history. This action was given considerable attention in the media. Unfortunately, no known re-hirings occurred. Second, the RPTC building on the UT campus was fire-bombed and third, the University Center was damaged by vandals. The overall atmosphere on the UT campus and in the Fort Sanders area was tense and unlike any previous period in the city's history, at least since the Civil War.

Soon afterwards, anti-war protesters in Knoxville mounted a massive protest march against American military involvement in Viet Nam. The GLF debated over combining gay politics with other social agendas. On the day of the march, a contingency of approximately 100 gays and lesbians joined the thousands in a walk from Circle Park up Cumberland to Market Square Mall. After anti-war speeches were made, the lines of the march were re-assembled, this time with the Gay Liberation Front in the lead. Leading those protesting the war were signs proclaiming "Gay is Good!" and the symbolic Lambda. News coverage the following day gave the appearance that the entire march was made up of thousands of proud gays and lesbians.

For a brief time, the energy from the march stayed with the GLF before internal strife and dictatorial leadership tactics pulled at the group's sense of unity. A second gay coffee house was started on weekends at the Epworth Church. The coffee house was intended as a clear alternative to the bar scene. It lasted only a few months due to lack of interest and also, probably, the overall problems within the organization. Lesbians, dissatisfied, broke away to form the Lesbian Collective, because the GLF no longer seemed to fulfill their needs. The Gay Liberation Front disbanded soon after.

A last attempt was made for a student group on the UT campus by the Gay Peoples' Alliance in 1973. Although appeals ran all the way to the Board of Trustees, sodomy laws again were cited for rejection. The Gay Peoples' Alliance soon fell victim to the changing times. The Vietnam War was over and the age of activism was dead. In its place evolved several discussion groups, so-called

Continued on Page 13

Schedule

Saturday, June 19th -- Women's' Dance

Time: 8 p.m. till ...
Place: Laurel Theater
1538 Laurel Avenue
(on the corner of 16th and Laurel)
What: A women only get-together and dance. Beer & wine, set-ups available.
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Sunday, June 20th -- Kickoff Party

Time: 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Place: Holiday Inn
World's Fair Site
Downstairs Ballroom
What: Performance by local artists including Quack with a Q and Underwear Meat Clock. Cash bar (IDs required).
Admission \$2.00. All proceeds support Pride Week '93.
Sponsored by: Knoxville Pride
For more info call 637-9838.

Monday, June 21st -- Heritage Night

Time: 8-10 p.m.
Place: The Candy Factory
World's Fair Site
Community Room
What: Speakers and presentations on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Heritage, both general and specific, to Knoxville and East Tennessee. Catered by Charles Richard Resources. There will be a silent auction of "gay-oriented" items during the evening.
Sponsored by: Knoxville Pride and Liberty & Justice
For more information call 637-9838 or 521-6546.

of Events

Wednesday, June 23rd -- AIDS Awareness Night

Time: Various
Place: Carousel, Trumps, Ol' Plantation and Snakesnatch Lounge
What: Booths and tables staffed by NAPWA volunteers with information and condoms. "Safety Patrols" throughout the evening.
Sponsored by: NAPWA
For more information call (615) 281-AIDS.

Friday, June 25th -- Bar Nite

Time: Various
Place: Carousel, Trumps, Ol' Plantation, and Snakesnatch Lounge
What: Events planned by local bars for Pride Week.
For more info check local phone listings.

Saturday, June 26th -- Parade and Rally

Time: 11:30 to between 3 and 4 p.m.
Place: Market Square Mall to the City County Building
What: Gather in Market Square Mall at 11:30, line-up at 12:15, 1 p.m. step-off. Rally with local speakers at the City County Building after the Parade.
Sponsored by: Knoxville Pride
For more info call 637-9838

Sunday, June 27th -- MCC Picnic & Services

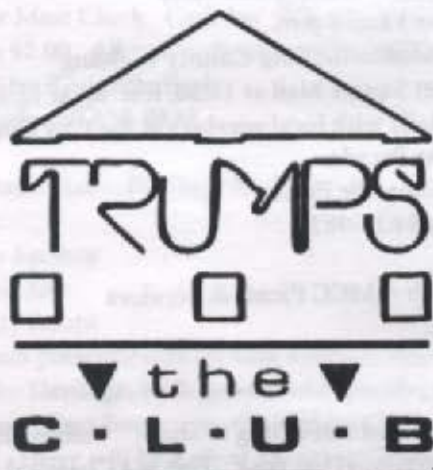
Time: 12 noon - 7 p.m.
Place: Concord Park
Shelter #12
What: Picnic "BYO meat and something to share." Volleyball all day. Services at 6 p.m. at the park. This is a Chemical Free Event.
Sponsored by: Metropolitan Community Church
For more info call 521-6546.

Tuesday, June 29th -- Stonewall Day Observed

consciousness-raising groups called "rap sessions" which met in peoples' apartments. There were also potluck dinners and a gay information referral service similar to our present gay hotline. Twelve years elapsed before the community would again have an organization for gay and lesbian people. This was the Knoxville Ten Percent, which involved itself in a number of community programs such as "Adopt-a-Spot" for city beautification.

Much of the existing movement toward the formation of a "community" is owed to the contributions of these early civil rights organizations. Learning from their successes and mistakes has made for a more diversified political consciousness, which current organizations have tried to embrace. If it weren't for these ground-breaking groups with their consciousness raising and networking, we would now be repeating mistakes instead of converging to seek solutions to the issues we deal with in our community today.

This article is reprinted from Aware, August 1992, with permission from the editors. Aware is a free publication addressing all aspects of the community. For more information call 637-9838.



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ARK (AIDS RESPONSE KNOXVILLE). 2928 Magnolia Avenue. Call 525-AIDS for more information.

GAY AND LESBIAN HELPLINE. Information and referral available to anyone experiencing difficulties because of their sexual orientation. Operates 7-11 p.m. nightly, staff permitting. Call 521-6546.

GLBSU (THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL STUDENT UNION OF UTK). Meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at the University Center on campus. Call 573-3658 for more information.

HEART (HUMAN EQUALITY ADVOCATES REGIONAL TASKFORCE). As a result of the March 22nd Knox County Commission meeting, a group of concerned persons have united to form this group. Call 637-5071 for more information about the group and/or to get on the mailing list.

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE. An open coalition working in conjunction with HEART in support of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. Contact Jim Richards 521-6546.

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

KNOXVILLE PRIDE, INC. A gay and lesbian organization dedicated to promoting National Pride Week and celebrating our culture. For more information write to P.O. Box 52452, Knoxville, TN 37950-2452 or call 637-9838.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC). Located at the corner of Weisgarber and Lonas. Worship services Sundays at 6 p.m. Call 521-6546 for more information.

NAPWA (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS). Knoxville Chapter. Provides crisis intervention, social activities and emergency support for people with aids. For more information, write to P.O. Box 50291, Knoxville, TN 37950.

NOW (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN). Political action group for the advancement of women's issues. This group devotes some portion of its time to lesbian and gay activism and has a chairperson of lesbian issues. Write P.O. Box 9660, Knoxville, TN, 37940 or call 995-90672 for more information.

P-FLAG (PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS). Knoxville chapter. Has support groups for anyone associated with or related to a gay or lesbian person. Write Box 20153, Knoxville, TN 37940-0153 for more information.

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ACTIVATE YOURSELF

by
Traci Williams

Upon arriving in D.C. for the march on Friday night and braving downtown traffic, our travel group of four became infected with a short-term virus known as "spectatoritis." Moving into Saturday, we had been mastering the Metro and arguing over how to get where and at whose expense, among other things. We photographed others in radical dress and those who carried unusual messages on posters and body parts. But through it all, our illness remained. We were observers, not participants. The thought had not occurred to us that our mere presence in Washington would not be fulfilling enough. Somehow, though, it wasn't. We needed a cure.

That cure came in the form of The Dyke March, which took place at 7 p.m. Saturday. We were waiting anxiously at Dupont Circle by 6:30 p.m.

When march coordinators began requesting volunteers to help marshal the event, I and one of my companions volunteered.

As we had never marshalled before, we were briefed as organizers handed us red strips of cloth to tie around our arms. The other women in our group caught up with us, and after limited seconds of power play and partner manipulation (not a sexual act), one red band was relinquished to another member of our group. Two of us would marshal and two would not. Or so it seemed.

Shortly after the march had begun (an incredible march, filling any city blocks with beautiful dykes), the two of us who marshalled joined hands with other marshals, blocking traffic and feeling powerful. Suddenly our friends were breaking ranks, joining hands along with us. The four of us stuck together until the performance before the White House, where a group of Lesbian Avengers standing on milk crates proceeded to eat fire. As marshals, we joined hands around the performance to protect the fire eaters from the encroaching crowd. As marshals, we had front row seats.

As marshals, we felt as though we had done more than walk down the

streets and be counted.

The experience was far different the following day when we were mere marchers. (I say that with no intent to belittle the bravery and patient endurance of marchers; I am merely explaining the contrast.) As marchers on Sunday, we were indeed part of a powerful crowd, but it was not the same empowering experience as the night before.

This phenomenon holds true everywhere, not just at marches. The more involved we become, the more active we are, the more empowered we will be. Though every movement needs both sheep and shepherds, the movement for lesbian, gay and bisexual rights is by no means overcrowded with shepherds. We need brave leaders who will stand out to the world and stand up for the community. So don't just follow the crowd, **activate yourself!**

This article is reprinted from Common Ground with permission of the author. Common Ground is a newsletter focusing on lesbian and women's issues. For more info, call 522-7803 or write P.O. Box 2126, Knoxville, TN 37901.

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If you wish to submit a design for next year's Pride Week, contact Knoxville Pride at (615) 637-9838 or P.O. Box 52452, Knoxville, TN 37950-2452.

• LOOK FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS •

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June '94

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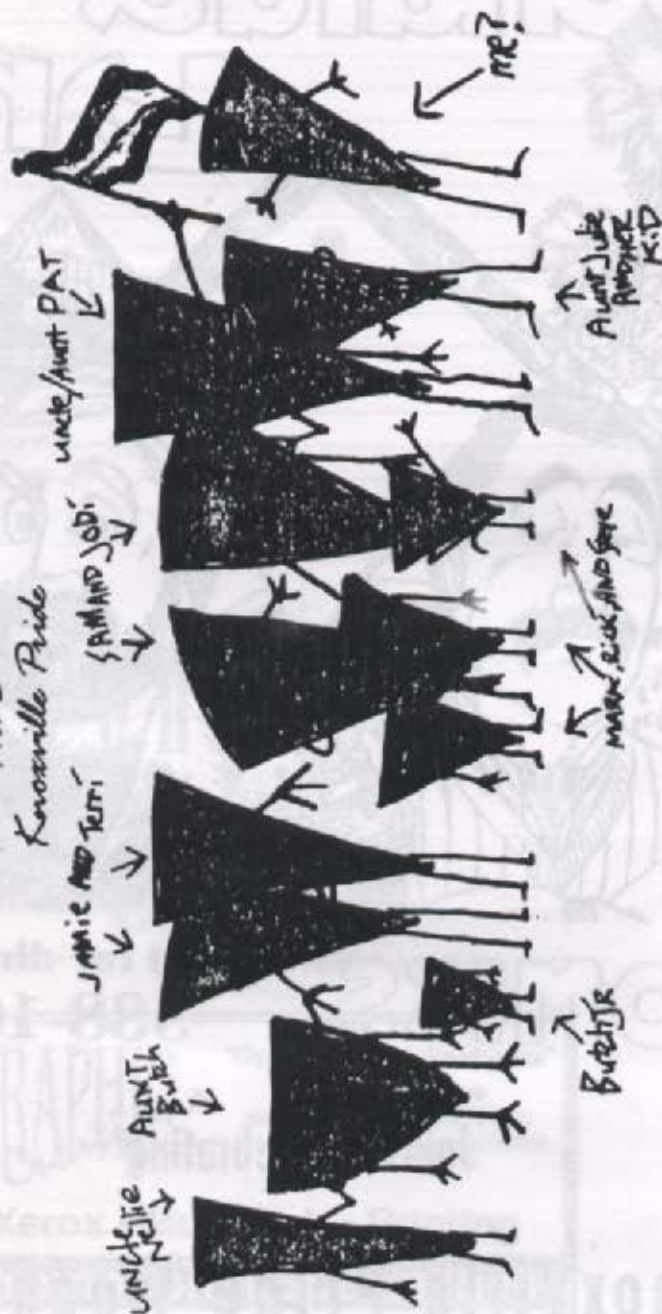
Knoxville Pride Week '93

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WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

from
Knoxville Pride



KNOXVILLE PRIDE WEEK '93