at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville

November 1991

Is Anybody Out There??



EXAMINING
THE
FUTURE
OF
KNOXVILLE'S
GAY
COMMUNITY

SEE THE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

Editorial

Well, it looks like our very own "Queen Victoria" has been re-elected as mayor. Yes, that's Miss Vicky Ashe, the gal with verve and style. You know her. You've heard the rumors. Someone told me she's fond of young boys. Someone else told me she was picked up for questioning some years ago in a public park in Nash Vegas. She supposedly was picked up by Nashville police in an area that's infamous for its marvy gay cruising. Whether these tales are true or not, they sure make for some interesting listening. And you'd be surprised how many people have tales to tell.

What a gal! Our Miss Ashe! She's so cool she can't be bothered with the gay and lesbian community. She's so fresh she can't be expected to declare something as trivial as Lesbian/Gay Pride Day. You know what, guys and gals? I think we should give Miss Vicky a warm welcome back. I think everyone of us should call her up two or three times a week for a nice, long chat. Tell her how much you liked her stylish pant-suit outfits that she wore on the campaign trail. Then, while you're at it, ask her why the hell she keeps ignoring the gay and lesbian community. Ask her why she won't even look at a copy of QUERY or AWARE.

You know, I don't know if she knew who he was at the time, but at a Mayor's Night Out meeting last spring, Miss Ashe shook hands with Ken Gregg, a white supremacist from Loudon County. We have got to keep our poor innocent Miss Vicky from awful men like Mr. Gregg! Can't we get her on Love Connection or something?

See, we need to put some excitement into this girl's life. So make sure you call and write to her constantly. I mean, does our very own Queen have a thing for dallying around in closets or does she just have some hangers tangled around her feet? You tell me.

Last night, I had a dream. I was a Trumps bumping and grinding with Vicky to "Love Will Never Do Without You." Then, I was at the Miss Knoxville Pageant and there was Contestant #3, our Miss Ashe. She looked too hot in her blue sequined gown belting out "New Attutude." Then, Miss Vicky was on the Tonight Show getting married to a tiny guy named Tim. Gee, wouldn't it be grand?

But you see, the point is this: Miss Victoria Ashe may have her social etiquette down pat, but she made one glaring faux pas. She's ignored us queers, and she's pissed off us queers. Are we going to let her get away with dissin' us? Hell no!

Tom Jackson, Editor



WARE publication of GLSU

EDITOR
Tom Jackson
LAYOUT
Joe & Becky

ADVERTISING Fred Duncan

EDITORIAL BOARD
Julian Marr
Rochester
Paul Porter

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Steve Wachter
Kelly Rafaildolatobadii

All Material printed herein is copyrighted ©1991 by the Gay and Lesbian Student Union (GLSU) at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN unless otherwise stated.

SUBMISSIONS

The editors of AWARE seek to open new channels of communication to the gay and lesbian 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 and lesbians 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).

> GLSU/AWARE PO Box 16119 Knoxville, TN 37996

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHAT'S IN STORE



Examining the Future of Knoxville's Gay Community

5

C O V E R

Editorial	2	
Remembering A Friend	9	
They're Not Gay, They're Funny	yabe 11	
Aids Aware: Women and HIV	13	

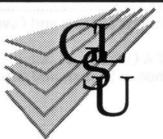
"TUNA, O MY TUNA"

The Bizarre World of Greater Tuna

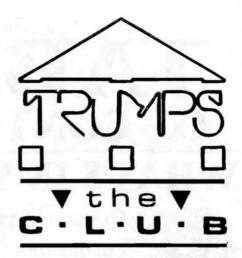
17

Co-Dependency, The Series











4541 Kingston Pike, Knoxville TN 584-4884

Monday	Weekend Recovery Day		
C	Bloody Marys	\$1.75	5:00-10:00
Q.	Angel's Drag-Tending Party		10:00-3:00
Tuesday	13 Flavor Day All Schnapps	\$1.25	5:00-10:00
	Angel's Drag-Tending Party		
Wednesday	Tequila Hump Day - Tequila shots	\$1.25	5:00-10:00
	Margaritas	\$1.75	5:00-10:00
Thursday	13 Flavor Day All Schnapps	\$1.25	5:00-10:00
Friday	Weekend Kickoff Tea Party		
81	Long Island Teas	\$3.00	5:00-10:00
	Beer Bust	\$4.25	9:00-2:00
	Super Shooter Specials and Giveaways		10:00-3:00
Saturday	D D D Y A O Party	al depot be	9:00-3:00
	Super Shooter Specials and Giveawats		

WHAT'S IN STORE?

Examining the Future of Knoxville's Gay Community

by Wes Lambert

"We're Queer, We're Here, essence, the Get Used To It!" This was community is called upon just one of the many cries to provide support for its of more than four hundred members, create security marchers who took to for those "coming out", Knoxville's downtown and fight a wealth of streets roughly three misconceptions, myths, months ago to celebrate and outright lies about Gay Pride Week. In a what it means to be gay. conservative Southern city where ignorance is often allowed to breed hostility, such visibility for gays and lesbians carries tremendous significance. Now is not a bad time in the wake of such success to step back and ask, "what now?".

What is the future of the gay community in Knoxville? Such a question offers very few immediate or simple answers. One certainty, however, is that future success depends on the ability to meet specific challenges responsibilities. As a community, gays and lesbians face plenty of both these things in Knoxville and around the world. In gay

"We're Queer, We're Here, **Get Used To** It!"

Each and every one of these tasks requires people, time, money, and finally, a commitment. Do we have what it takes? Are there poeple willing to be vocal and visible? Is the money there to back up their words? Since the Gay Pride March. Knoxville's gay community has lost Corky Reese and Michael

Smith, the driving forces behind the march. Plans for a community center have been put on hold. The Knoxville chapter of Queer Nation that Michael was starting is also on hold. The people with the answers to these questions and problems are the leaders. It is often by their actions that the gay community becomes visible and is judged.

Perhaps one of the most visible people on the scene right now is Bob Galloway, the pastor of Knoxville's Metropolitan Community Church for the past seven years. His opinion of the gay community here is optimistic with a healthy awareness of its problems.

"We have good support systems, but people are often not involved for the long haul. We need people to step forward and say, 'I will be here to provide support in

Continued on page 6

the future'," Galloway said.

He believes the hunger for community among gays and lesbians exists. The turnout at the parade demonstrated that need. One problem he sees for the future is the need for a firmer moral ethic within the gay community. The community as a whole needs to say what is acceptable. He cites the examples of violence within relationships and the casualness still involved with the spreading of the AIDS virus.

Galloway expressed the need to overcome fear. A feeling that "everyone is out to get us" is not healthy because allies can be found in very unlikely places. For example, when the MCC offices were burned one of the first offers for help came from a Catholic priest. He also expressed hope that people would realize the tremendous help to the gay community that can come from the "unglamorous one to one work" of coming out to friends and family.

For the future, Galloway sees the need for a small group of individuals in the community with a narrow and specific focus. One person trying to cover all the bases leads to inevitable burn out.

One person trying to cover all the bases leads to inevitable burn out.

"We also need to tap into the professional community for support and money. If people would give each month what is given to the bars, the gay community would have ample support," he said.

One motivating factor for the loss of the leaders in the gay community may be frustration at the pace of change and progress. James Talent of Knoxville Pride cites this type of burn out as a definite problem faced in Knoxville.

"There is frustration at seeing what is
going on in other cities.
Atlanta has a gay men's
choir and organized
baseball games between
the major bars. When a
choir was formed here
everyone dropped out
before the first
performance. There is so
much fear of visibilty,"
said Talent.

He hopes working with Knoxville Pride, which promotes self-worth and fights negative images, will help lessen these fears. In this sense the parade had its best effect. The six week effort before the parade showed that unity can exist here,

and the parade day demonstrated that visibilty isn't always hand in hand with violent opposition.

Bob Galloway referred to the Gay and Lesbian Student Union as "bright star" Knoxville's gay community. Kurt Haas, GLSU President, hopes that the student union is helping to alleviate the loneliness felt by gays on campus. The individual efforts of those who are coming out is a key to breaking apathy and a lack of visibilty in Knoxville's gay community. The coming out process makes gay rights and issues personal to friends and family, Haas said. Real changing of attitudes is on this level. There must be a balance. however, because there is empowerment in large group efforts that makes people think 'they may not be in my backyard, but they're somewhere.

Haas believes that one area needing attention is young people in the gay community. Plans such as a community center would

benefit them the most, lesbians in professional community.

As gays fight for basic rights and acceptance, every change, large or small, will consist of individual efforts. Maybe its time to stand up and do your part.

cannot be ignored in the gay community is the response to AIDS, AIDS response Knoxville has been Knoxville for six years now. Dan Headrick, Director of Client Services for aRK feels that the community should be tapped into to remove the stigma of testing HIV positive.

"There are cities but people must ask if wherethe mayor can stand Knoxville is ready for such and say that AIDS is not a a move, he said. Money gay disease. We have a for such projects can come whole new segment of the from the enormous population being infected. resources of gays and Mainly, young people and the women who felt they were safe," Headrick said.

> For the future, Headrick belives much more must be done on campus where information should be distributed.

> "Just one thousand people on that campus giving out information would have an impact. They also need to learn to say condom," Headrick said.

This article began with a question about the An area that future of the community. No one person can affect every change proposed or follow all the advice given. This is why operating in community is important. As gays fight for basic rights and acceptance, every change, large or small, will consist of individual resources of the gay efforts. Maybe its time to stand up and do your part.



CAROUSEL II

THE SHOWPLACE ...

WITH SPACE

Knoxville's Premier Gay Bar Presents .

The Best Female Impersonations Shows Friday, Saturday, & Sunday with Show Directress Shannon DeVaughn & Special Guest

Aids Benefit December 1st in honor of Francine Wilson Soup served from 5 to 6. Shows from 6 to 8.

Admission \$5.00. Tickets on sale now.

Call for more info

The Voluptuous Cruella De Ville and Tony and Michael are Waiting to Serve You

Sun., Wed., Fri BEER BUST 9:00 - 2:00

1501 White Ave. . Knoxville . 615/522-6966

Wednesday is Talent Night

Vic & Bill's

24 Hour Restaurant Best Deli Sandwiches in Town at Reasonable Prices

COMMUNITY CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 1991

GLSU Meeting - November 26 - 8:00 pm Showing "Common Thread" in the Library Auditorium.

World Aids Day - December 1 - A reminder to everyone - wear your green armbands.

GLSU Meeting - December 3 - Swim/Christmas Party at the UT Aquatic Center.
Call 524-0748 for more information

GLSU at the University of Tennessee - meets Tuesdays at 8 p.m. - University Center.

Call 524-0748 for more information

aids Response Knoxville - offers PWA support group, grief and bereavement support group, HIV+ support group. Call 523-AIDS for more information.

Metropolitan Community Church - Corner of Weisgarber and Lonas.

Worship Service: Sundays at 6 p.m. Call 521-6546 for more information.

Political Action Alliance of the GLSU meets on the first Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. Call 524-0748 for more information.

GALA (Gay And Lesbian Alumni Association) - Call Kurt Haas at 595-7949 for more information

Remembering A Friend

by Paul Porter

In the early morning Wednesday, of hours September 25, a valued and respected member of the gay community was murdered in his home. His name was Frank Wilson, better known to us as and working at the Carousel. I unfortunately did not get the chance to meet her before her untimely death. I did however talk to two of her closest friends from her past who know her and what kind of person she was. Both Toni Carlisle and lamie Chambers had a lot to say about Francine and the circumstances surrounding her death. I spoke with Toni first.

AWARE: Toni, how many years did you know Francine?

TONI: We met sixteen years ago and we were friends all the way through.

AWARE: How would you describe your relationship to Francine?

TONI: We were very close for about ten or twelve years and then we got busy and didn't spend as much time together, but I thought about her often. When we were younger, my lover and her lover

We did everything together.

AWARE: Can you truth! describe what kind of a person Francine was?

TONI: She was outgoing. I miss her a lot.

about the case?

about sex because she was he picked her up. never desperate thanks to her items that belonged to her as matter? well as the fact that he stole her car. He had told the police that she was gay.

dated a lot. We used to spend into it in the interview. He said the weekends at her house. God told him to tell what he did. But he is not telling the

> AWARE: Did Francine know her attacker?

TONI: Idon't think so. Francine when she was in drag friendly to everybody. She did It was out of character for her not have an attitude so to get into drag on a Tuesday everyone liked her. I have not night since she worked early in met one person who didn't the morning at a professional like her. She was also a caring, firm in town. She was careful open, honest person who was about who she spent time with in her own home. I don't think AWARE: There is a lot she was in drag when she was of speculation surrounding the picked up. The struggle took circumstances of Francine's place in the den where there death. What are your views were pictures of her in drag. She was found in shorts and a t-TONI: I don't believe shirt. It is possible that he saw for a minute that she had to the pictures and began to attackhim to get a sexual favor. concoct a story in his mind Francine was never forceful about her being in drag when

Francine's AWARE: good looks. I know from my family and other public figures own gut instincts that there that knew her stated to the was more to it than sex. The media that she was not gay. policefoundpawntickets from What are your views on the

TONI: I know for a fact that he had only come into earlier, her lover and mine were town recently for the UCLA best friends. I can see where game. I spoke with my friends they would not want to out her in town and they said he had because of professional reasons, been around for about six but Francine was proud of being were best friends so we double months. Then he brought God gay. But it doesn't really matter whether a female impersonator is straight or gay, just as long as they do a good job.

Before I left, Toni made the remark that we may never know for sure what really happened. Toni also expressed concern that this guy may not get life for what he has done because the straight court system may go easy on him because he rid the world of one more fag. Francine was a great person and a great entertainer.

I went to see Jamie Chambers next and he had a statement he wanted to make which I will quote.

"I had known Frank since 1970 and he prefered to be addressed as Francine and have the pronoun 'she' used when speaking of her. We started working together in 1972 when we were cast together at The Hideaway where Lynn Fontaine was the show director. She now works at ARK. I went to the Carousel in either 1974 or 1975 where I was the show director for the next seven and a half years. Francine came there shortly after I did and worked there for the next eight years.

"The thing that really upset me over the press surrounding her death was the article in the Knoxville Journal where Hazel made the remarks about Francine not being gay.

Her job at the Carousel was not a hobby. It was a legitimate second job. Francine was proud of being gay and I find Hazel's remarks really offensive. It seems to me that she has some problem with gay people. It's okay to take their money but support them, no way. As for her sister's statement, she has not seen Francine in fifteen vears. How could she know what was going on in her life?

"Francine did a lot of benefit shows for the community and for gay pride events. She was a good, fair, decent, honest person who would help you out whenever you needed it. She worked as a loan officer in a bank a long time ago and some people approached her to falsify records so they could get a loan and she wouldn't do it. They went to her boss and told him that she did shows at the Carousel and he fired her. So she kept a low profile after that but she never gave up her pride in her gayness. So on that point, I can understand to a certain extent Hazel's remarks, but to flat out deny her gayness is wrong.

"Francine was a hard worker. She worked two jobs for years, saved up some money and bought the land and built the home she died in. She had a lot of determination, intelligence and she was really bright.

"Over the years, Francine and I did a lot together. We both won awards for Miss Gay Knoxville, Miss Gay Valentine and she competed in pageants around the state. It seemed like every year we were winning Miss gay something or another!

"As for the murder case, I don't want to comment about what I think happened because it would only add to the conjecture surrounding the case. It's up to the police and the D.A. to find out the truth. However, I think she would want the facts revealed. I feel that this guy knew exactly what he was getting into. She always said, 'Honey, it may not be tuna fish, but it's tuna salad. It's just a little farther back in the bow!!"

Francine's family was unavailable for comment on the issues addressed although they maintain that she was not gay.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial staff of AWARE.



THEY'RE NOT GAY, THEY'RE FUNNY. An Interview (sort of) With Quack With A Q.

by Julian Marr

They took me in and fed me beer. We were off to a good start. I had arrived only two minutes late (a miracle by Gay Standard Time), and they were in the midst of a rehersal. They, of course, are Quack With A Q, Knoxville's most intriguing new performance group. As I entered, Leslie Grasa (keyboards and vocals) leaned out of the kitchen to see if I wanted a beer. The others were sitting around the room waiting for the new drumming prospect to call.

"Eric went by to pick him up, but he wasn't there," said Tom Jackson (most lead vocals). They were hoping he hadn't changed his mind. "We can't kick him out," said Leslie, "because he's

cute!"

Tom and Kurt Haas (backing vox and keyboards) agree. I was stunned that they all agreed on something. But then Eric Karnowski (bass guitar and backing vox) says he never agreed to it, so their record isn't broken. Don't get me wrong, they're not always fighting, they just disagree a lot. I asked them about being thought of a a gay band, and they were most emphatic. "We are a comedy performance group. It just so happens that 3/4 of us are gay, that doesn't make us a gay group," said Eric.

They don't necessarily classify themselves as a band, either. They also perform original poetry, as well as an enterpretive version of Green Eggs And Ham. We take a break so they can reherse their "first original song". It's called "I'm In Love With An IBM Machine", and it's quite funny. I then asked the INEVITABLE interview question, "how did you get started?". Through the cacophany of answers, this is what I pieced together: They met at a party at Christian Lange's (local photographer extraordinaire), and started hanging together. They went to the Torch one Saturday for coffeehouse,

and Leslie thought it was all TOO depressing. She found out Eric played bass, and voila! Originally, it was Eric and Leslie and Diane (the bitchy one), but Diane's in Russia, so Tom and Kurt came in. Eric writes the music, and the rest is all collaborative.

"Soon we plan to add an electric

trombone," said Kurt. (Say what?)

Their performances to date have been at the Torch coffeehouse, the Pseudopalooza at Club 121, and they recently headlined the GLSU/GALA Halloween Benefit. They hope to some day play the White House, or possibly the Hollywood Bowl (but

only if Cher opens for them).

I asked about their band name, and had to sort through another verbal bombardment (they don't talk all at once, they just overlap a lot). The name, so to speak, was originally given to them by Kelly and Heather Robinson, who dubbed them "NOT!". This somehow transformed vis-a-vis usage, to Quack, which is supposedly the same as "NOT!" (you tell me.). Diane transformed this into Quack With A Q, and so, they were.

By now, Eric has to leave, and the new drummer STILL hasn't shown. They decide to reherse Green Eggs And Ham for me, and then hey call it an evening. Leslie calls the new drummer (Tom Greene), and finds out he was waiting after all, but on the other side of the building where they

were supposed to meet.

Since the interview, Tom has joined them on drums, and, according to people at the benefit, works really well with them. If you haven't seen Quack With A Q yet, do so. They may not be "gay" or play gay material, but they are a guaranteed good time, and besides, their version of "Vogue" is not to be missed!

-Ciao.

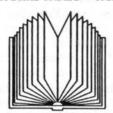


As many choices as there are readers.

OVER 60,000 TITLES OVER 20 OUT-OF-TOWN NEWSPAPERS

SPECIAL ORDERS . SHIPPING ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES

MON-SAT: 9:30 to 10:00 SUNDAY 11:00 to 7:00



Davis-Kidd Booksellers

The Commons 113 N. Peters Road • 690-0136



ENTERTAINMENT
POOL TABLE
ON PREMISES PARKING

Sun., Mon., Tue., Wed., and Thurs. 8pm-3am
Friday & Saturday 10-6
Fri & Sat after hours 3am - 6am
Membership card required after hours

Cruz'n' for a
Good Time!
Patio Open Nightly
Sun & Wed 8 pm - 2 am
DEED DIICT © 2

BEER BUST \$3

Mon., Tues. & Thurs.

\$1.25 Longnecks • \$1 Set-ups • \$1 Drafts

No Cover

Sunday • Monday • Tuesday • Wednesday • Thursday

Live DJ & Dancing

837 N. 5th Av. • Knoxville • 615-637-7132

AIDS AWARE

WOMEN AND HIV

By Rochester

INTRODUCTION

As the AIDS epidemic enters its second decade, all the denial and ignorance of the previous decade are finally hitting home. All the fear-driven energies of this country have been spent against HIV infected groups instead of against the disease, and those who see disease as metaphor have been quick to craft only the easy metaphors of morality and condemnation. But the true metaphor of all plagues is that infectious disease is the great equalizer: we are all human, all capable of infection, and all capable of being affected.

One of the most important realizations to date is that women now have the fastest growing rate of HIV infection in this country. This article is the first in a series of articles on issues relating to HIV in women. Why should AWARE cover women's HIV issues when lesbian transmission has proven almost negligible and the effects of the epidemic are still ravaging the male population with suffering, discrimination and hatred? Shouldn't we relax our efforts and let women take over caring for their own as we were left to take care of ourselves? The answer is decidedly NO. For one thing, while the increased spread of HIV outside the gay male community may provide a bit of relief from the discrimination caused by the "gay-disease" perception, and while the spread may bring in help from previously uninvolved sectors of society, there probably will always be those who will blame the gay male community for the disease. Besides that, women's issues are closely tied on human rights grounds and women's groups have always been some of our strongest allies. In the end, HIV is everybody's problem. We can't divide into HIV camps without coordinating overall efforts. And finally, it is our moral obligation to stay strong and continue our activism and volunteer efforts. As an organized and aware community, we have the most experience on all fronts, education and activism, as well as overall concern.

Everyone is encouraged to read the articles in this series, to respond with questions, suggestions, and with the kind of concern Heterosexual America lacked in the first decade of the disease. Straight, bisexual, gay, black, white, Hispanic, or whoever you are, this concerns you.

PERSPECTIVES

Even though HIV-related infections were originally lumped under the term GRID, Related (Gay **Immune** Deficiency), women have been a part of the epidemic since the very beginning. From 1979 through 1981, 27 cases were reported in women, though none received publicity, and few doctors were willing to recognize them as belonging under the same diagnosis, simply because the original name for AIDS biased them early on. Today, women only account for 12% of all AIDS diagnoses under the current CDC definition, but the rate of AIDS has increased by 29% in women as opposed to 18% in men. In some US cities, AIDS is the leading killer of women. In central Africa, the rate of HIV infection in women is already 50%.

There is reason to believe, however, that the HIV infection rate in women in this country is grossly underestimated. The current AIDS definition published by the CDC is based on the OI's (opportunistic infections) studied in caucasian gay and bisexual men. In fact, the entire medical profession exhibits a profound gender bias in favor of men that brings a

Continued on page 14

great deal of accepted science into question. The US ranks last among developed countries in the percent of GNP provided to medicine, and of the funds our government provides, only 13% is ear-marked for study of diseases that affect women, who make up over half our population. Women generally have different complications due to AIDS than do men, and yet all of our conclusions about diagnosis and treatment for AIDS come from predominantly white male studies.

The March 4th issue of the "American Medical News" reported: "James W. Curran, MD, director of the CDC's HIV/AIDS division, acknowledged that gynecologic manifes-tations may occur in HIV infected women. But he said there is no scientific evidence conclusively linking HIV infection to any lifethree ening illness specific to women." This mix of political hedging and science is pervasive in America. What this brand of psuedo-science implies is this: "since we've done no studies on women, we don't know; since we don't know, it's unproven; since its unproven, why bother?" The burden of proof is shifted to activists instead of to the politicians who give out research dollars. President Bush says that enough is being spent on AIDS. Pharmaceutical Where? companies who produce government subsidized bitterpills? Testing? Politics? Not enough money is being spent on medical research, education,

treatment and prevention, that much is certain.

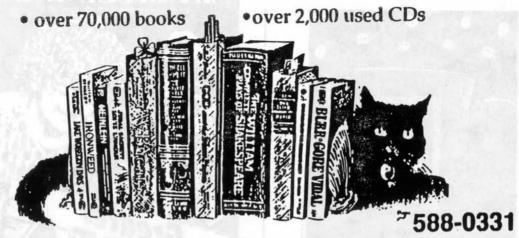
The single most important change in the works that will help women and minorities is a new AIDS definition proposed by the CDC. Instead of diagnosing AIDS only in the presence of a handful of gender-related Ol's specific to white men, the new definition will make the AIDS diagnosis applicable to anyone HIV+ with a T-cell count below 200. regardless of the presence or absence of other diseases. This change will negate the gender/ race disparities we presently have and enable treatment to begin on many who are being neglected. It will enable greater access to federal health programs and make more people eligible for AIDS-related insurance claims and benefits.

The original schedule was to enforce this change January 1, 1992. And yet, in the October 7, 1991 issue of the "American Medical News," one small paragraph, three sentences in all, announced a CDC decision to "postpone for several months" beyond January 1992, the implementation of this new definition. No explanation for the delay was offered. Can there be any doubt an election year is at hand? The delay may be due to the expectation that the new definition is expected to increase AIDS caseloads by over 50% automatically. There is no reason to suppose anything other than politics is responsible for the delay. Most likely, the change will be a Bush hat-trick, pulled out only at the right moment, after he is attacked for not caring. Accompanying announcement, we may hear the first presidential declaration of a major health crisis, once again "affirming" that Bush really "cares." Beyond that, we can assume a federal funding response that will likely favor increased testing. revolutionized as a prime-time issue and an election-time litmus test, rather than a response favoring research for things that matter.

Meanwhile, people are dying, being discriminated against, denied equal access to health care, denied insurance benefits, generally overlooked. and society's better-half, the traditional care-takers and peace-makers, are being left out in the cold. We need responsibility and caring from our government before we can expect if from the medical establishment we have addicted to federal funds and ensnared in politics. In the next issue, we will look at what we know medically about the crisis of women with HIV, what is becoming apparent despite the lack of investigation, and most importantly, where we need to go and what we need to know to avoid the greater calamities that may be in our future.



BUY SELL TRADE



Edward McKay Bookstore

M-THURS 9-9, FRI-SAT 9-10 SUNDAY 12-9

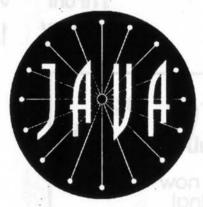
Graphic Creations now does screen printing!

We offer • very competitive prices • great graphics & artwork • quick turnaround time and the same great service you've come to expect from

See Walt for a quote today! Call 522-6221

Company C





A coffee house

IN THE old CITY

1091/2 SOUTH CENTRAL KNDXVILLE TN 37902 TELEPHONE 615 525 1600



Oct. 18 - Nov. 30

Tickets \$8
Students with I.D. \$5
Reservations and Information 546-3926

Subscribe to Aware ONLY \$10.00

per year!! (12 issues)

Please make your check or money order payable to the Gay and Lesbian Student Union.

Send To:

AWARE

P.O. Box 16119 Knoxville, TN 37996

For More Information Call: 524-3613

"TUNA, O MY TUNA!"

The Bizarre World of Greater Tuna

by Julian . Aarr

Theatre Central, at 141 S. Gay, on the fringe of the Old City, is celebrating their third anniversary in Knoxville by bringing back the play that started it all for them, Greater Tuna. The farcical romp tramples through the small town of Tuna, Texas, stomping on some stereotypes and laughing all the way.

We are introduced to the many unusual inhabitants of Tuna courtesy of Glen Glover and Ed White, who play some twenty characters between them. The rapid costume changes are matched only by the jokes, they start off with a bang, and don't slow down until it's over. Some of you who are familiar with the video version of Tuna will want to see the stage version. It may not have as many characters onstage at the same time, but the pacing and performances keep the audience riveted, not to mention that there are many differences between the two versions.

Director Mark Moffat has put together a real crowd pleaser in this incarnation. Both Glover and White have an impeccable sense of timing, and each get in their share of scene stealing.

The show starts with Radio Station OKKK beginning it's broadcast day with host personalities Thurston Wheelis (Glover) and Arlis Struvie (White), but soon expands to cover the entire town of Tuna, as we share a day in the life. The characters range from the simple cartoon of Elmer Watkins (eyebrow maestro Glover) to the simply ugly Charlene Bumiller (White), whose hips are so big she has to lie down and "groan" into her jeans.

Among the many high points are the scenes with Petey Fisk (White) of the Greater

Tuna Humane Society, in his attempts to give away a small hyperactive dog named Yippy, played almost musically by the voice of Gover. It's simply funny as hell, there's no other way to put it.

And then there's Vera Carp (true fish, indeed), socialite, and Vice President of the Smut Snatchers of the New Order, played with absolute camp by White, in her not so subtle power plays with the Reverend Spikes, whose eulogy reading is the shining jewel for Glover. Here we have true comedic chemistry on stage. Vera's noisy distractions, not to mention the loudest stage snore I've ever heard, play well off of Glover's greasy "velvet Elvis" version of Jimmy Swaggert.

Many scenes are played right to the audience, and some include them in the festivities, which is a real hoot. Some audience members at the show I saw, however, overstepped the bounds of etiquette by yelling every line they knew along with the cast. This isn't Rocky Horror, kids. That's just plain RUDE.

But even with the audience sometimes interfering, White and Glover forge ahead, and seem to be having a blast every step of the way. That in itself is so refreshing to see that it makes this show worth every penny.

Greater Tuna will be playing an extended run through December. Admission is \$8 and \$5 for students. Call 546-3926 for more information and to make reservations.

Who knows? A show like this is liable to put Theatre Central on the map. On it. On it, on it, on it!

CO-DEPENDENCY, THE SERIES

By Paul Porter

As I promised in the last issue, I am bringing you readers more information on co-dependency. In this issue, the segment is about the twelve promises. These are here to affirm what we are doing to improve our lives as well as feeling accomplishment at our efforts. So, here they are:

- 1. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness.
- 2. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.
 - 3. We will comprehend the word serenity.
 - 4. And we will know peace.
- 5. No matter how far down the scale we have gone we will see how our experience will benefit others.
- 6. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.
- 7. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain insight in our fellows.

- 8. Self-seeking will slip away.
- 9. Our whole attitude and outlook will change.
- Fear of people and economic insecurity will leave us.
- We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us.
- 12. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

These can help you in striving towards your goal of being a whole, happy person. I'm getting there myself and I feel pretty damn good about who I am and where I'm going with my life. I hope that this series is helping those of you readers in need. I would greatly appreciate your feedback. Please write to me in care of: GLSU/AWARE, P.O. BOX 16119, KNOXVILLE, TN 37996.



The Gay and Lesbian Student Union

at the University of Tennessee

invites you to join .



· The Diversity

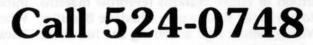
The Education

· The Exchange

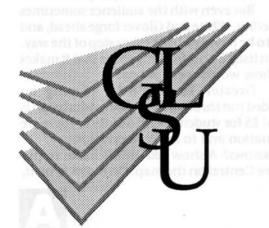
· The Friendship

· The Events

· And More . .



for more information





Bookshop

414 Eleventh Street * 37916 615-524-1259

Books: New, Old, and Rare Complete new book ordering service Free rare and out of print book search Large gay/lesbian/bi-sexual book selection

Magazines:

The best of the alternative and small press Literature, arts, politics, music, and gender including: Lambda Book Report, James White Review, Advocate, Our World, On Our Backs, and Off Our Backs

Coffee, Tea and Moon Pies: Fresh ground French roast and espresso, Regular and herbal tea, and fine Tennessee pastries

Cultural Center:

Poetry Readings and discussions Workshops and meeting space (Call or stop by to reserve a space)

HOURS

Tuesday thru Thursday Noon to 8 P.M. Friday and Saturday Noon to 10 P.M.

Uncommon books of every description

AWARE CLASSIFIEDS

AWARE is now accepting classified ads. If you have something to say, sell, or service, send it in!

Rates: \$5.00 per eack 25 words

Send ads to:

AWARE Classifieds

P.O. Box 16119 Knoxville, TN 37996

Enclose Check or Money Order.

Please Folks,

Keep them clean



Everyone is encouraged to wear a green armband.

